

O EAST OREGONIAN PINION

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OUR VIEW

Officials working to solve homeless issue

The news that a transitional housing project to help solve — at least partially — the growing homelessness problem is good news for the local community.

A joint meeting of area appointed and elected officials last week to develop a plan to address the homeless issue also was a hopeful sign that instead of pushing the problem away, or, worse, ignoring it, key area leaders are on the road to finding a solution.

To some extent, they don't have much of a choice. A 2018 Ninth Circuit Court decision — *Martin v. Boise* — mandated jurisdiction to furnish a place for the homeless if they are not allowed to camp and the Oregon Legislature made the court decision part of state law. Local government have until July 1, 2023, to create shelters in areas where the homeless are not allowed to camp.

There were, of course, other ways area municipalities could have addressed the court and legislative decision. Officials could have chosen to address the issue in the courts and seek some type of injunction on the matter.

That would have been a bad choice. For one, it would have cost taxpayers plenty of cash over an extended period of time, and, most likely, not solved what is an endemic problem.

No, the best way to address the issue is with specific site for a shelter.

The Legislature also is providing some funding assistance, and it appears area elected leaders are taking the issue seriously and want to find a solution fast.

That's also good news.

The homeless situation isn't one that will go away any time soon. There are plenty of different opinions regarding how to deal with the homeless situation, but the best way to handle it now is through a site set aside for those facing housing challenges.

The broader problem — why so many are homeless — is far outside the scope of a single city or town or county.

Area officials who are working to solve the problem should be lauded. We, as a nation and state and county, face an array of different challenges, so prioritizing which challenge should be met and overcome is important.

The work of elected and appointed leaders to face the homeless challenge now also shows a degree of foresight voters should take solace in. Instead of allowing a problem to fester and grow, area leaders want to find a path to success.

That, too, is good news.

EDITORIALS

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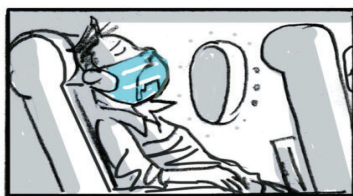
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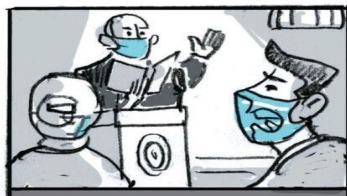
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WHAT I MIGHT MISS ABOUT FACE MASKS



Sleeping on planes with mouth open / drooling.



Yawning undetected.

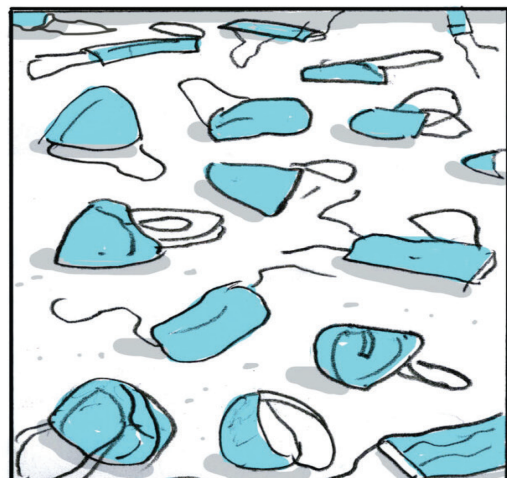


Hiding nervousness, face rash.



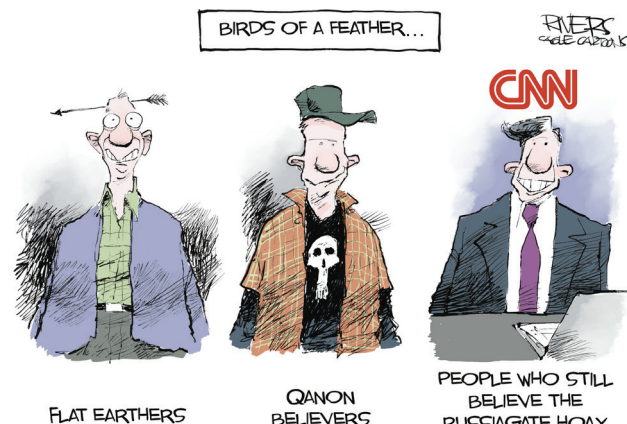
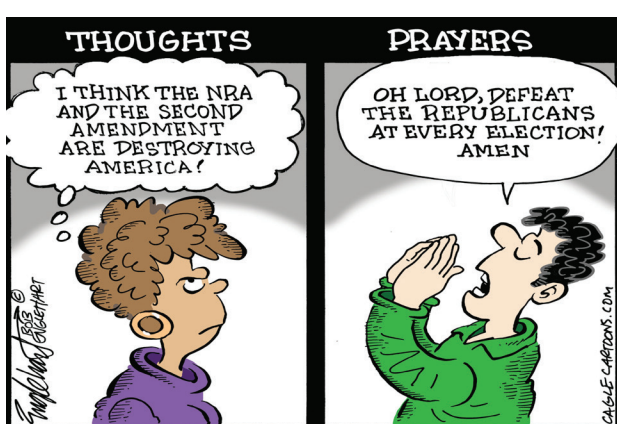
Expressing an opinion without further discussion.

WHAT I WON'T MISS ABOUT FACE MASKS



Everything else.

KUPER



Republicans splintered vote for Oregon governor with messages that didn't catch



RANDY STAPILUS

OTHER VIEWS

With 19 distinctive — not to say sometimes colorful — candidates for governor, Oregon Republicans should have told us something about themselves by their choices in the just-ended primary election.

They did: They are split. Many seem driven by abortion or other culture issues, some are powerfully drawn by regional preferences, but a plurality just want to win in November.

No single overriding motivation appeared to apply overwhelmingly to Oregon Republican voters.

Former legislator (and House Republican caucus chair) Christine Drazen was the clear winner from early on, and she won a majority of Oregon's counties. She led (decisively) in the three Portland metro counties, and her four best counties (in order — Wallowa, Curry, Klamath and Benton) were widely scattered across the state. Her win cannot be called narrow.

What drew Republican voters to her? Likely not the media endorsements (her website's endorsement page didn't even link to them). But she was endorsed by a slew of Republican elected officials and a number of GOP-leaning organizations. She had an extensive county organization, and it seems fair to say she was the closest thing to an (informal) candidate of the statewide Republican organization.

That helps a lot. And she was articulate and likable.

Careful messaging

She did not emphasize hard-edged messages. Her website's tag lines called out "lower taxes, safer neighborhoods, brighter future, better schools" — some-

thing Democrat Tina Kotek could use as easily (maybe with some tweaking of the first one). She did offer some specific policy proposals, but she was not among the candidates with quotable lines on abortion, stolen elections and similar subjects.

Was this the candidate considered by voters as best equipped to fare well in November? Probably that was part of it.

Remember, though, that she received just 22.7% of the Republican primary vote, a support level that looks better only in the context of her 19-person field. Her nearest competitor, former state Republican Chair Bob Tiernan, was not terribly far behind with 17.8%. Seven candidates received more than 5% of the vote.

If there's another contender who might logically be called a Republican establishment candidate — because of service in elected office and as chair of the state party — that would be Tiernan, who won six counties — Clatsop, Coos, Columbia, Douglas, Lane and Tillamook. His second-place vote actually may owe to some of the same factors as Drazen's.

Candidates who lost past major races, such as Bud Pierce and Bill Sizemore, underperformed.

So, there's a good chance electability was heavily on the minds of close to half of the Republican electorate, maybe reflecting both desire to win and a sense that 2022 might not be a good Democratic year.

But that still leaves a majority of the Republican primary voters apparently signaling other concerns.

What powered Sandy Mayor Stan Pulliam to a third-place showing with 10.4% of the vote? There are a few possibilities, but a good bet might be abortion, high profile during the voting period. Though not endorsed by Oregon Right to Life, Pulliam got attention for the edgiest abortion portion stance in the campaign, criticizing his competitors as being wimps on the subject and saying without qualification he

would as governor sign any "pro-life piece of legislation."

Votes for him may be a reasonable measure of the abortion-driven segment of the Republican vote.

Anti-masker fizzles

That seems a little bigger than the climate change and anti-masking approach of Marc Thielman, the former Alsea school superintendent who won a straw poll at the Dorchester event. He had backers statewide — with more than a few signs in Eastern Oregon — but still managed just 7.8% of the vote.

If you're looking for a candidate testing the salience of rural and anti-metro appeal, look at Baker City Mayor Kerry McQuisten. She won seven counties, more than anyone but Drazen, carrying most of the land area of Eastern Oregon with Baker, Grant, Harney, Malheur, Sherman, Union and Wheeler counties. No candidate got a higher percentage in any single county than McQuisten did in Grant (44.6%).

Of course, relatively few voters live in those counties, and McQuisten wound up just sixth in the results. But she left a stronger marker of the east-west and urban-rural gap in the state.

Some messages seemed not to catch on. Nick Hess, who pressed for a traditional conservative style (and was nearly alone in the field to do so), got only 1.1% of the vote.

And if there had been more "electable" candidates and fewer "message" candidates? This primary could easily have seen different results. The instability of the parties — Democrats, too, but especially the Republicans, even in a time of polarization — may be one of the primary lessons of this year's Oregon primary.

Randy Stapilus has researched and written about Northwest politics and issues since 1976 for a long list of newspapers and other publications.

YOUR VIEWS

Don't tell us, show us

"I pay the schoolmaster, but it's the school boys that educate my son." Even Ralph Waldo Emerson witnessed the same phenomenon the world witnesses.

A recent example would be with the Harry Potter books. There were no marketing positions nor communication positions in the beginning. Word of mouth ... American children skiing in Europe heard from English, German and French children skiing about this book filled with delightful surprises about a boy wizard. Vanity Fair ran an article about this children's books popularity

spreading through children seeking this series out.

This will happen when Blue Mountain Community College, focusing on making students stress less, providing great teachers, less secretary positions and less locations if no programs.

Walter McCrae hired Charles Rosenquist, Oregon's very first children's psychologist, who traveled the world. Early on, Rosenquist shared with him about touring this southern college where the work study program was the foundation and hoped to admirably try to replicate in ways at Blue Mountain Community College.

The College of the Ozarks is where jobs are provided that make the college run and working students are left with little debt at graduation. Future BMCC students will seek out great programs taught by great teachers. They will come when affordable and safe housing is available. Better than a thousand days of diligent study is one day with a great teacher. Great admiration for the retired BMCC teachers writing in support of keeping the bar high.

BMCC don't tell us about your great programs, show us.

Sally Walden-Sundin
Walla Walla