

Reaching across the aisle in the Oregon Legislature

Policy disagreements, partisanship and the walkouts can give Oregonians a distorted picture of what their Legislature is like. Journalists — and certainly this editorial page — tend to highlight conflicts, not the places of accord.

We were struck recently by what state Rep. Daniel Bonham said during a committee hearing about a resolution to honor former state Rep. Mitch Greenlick. State Sen. Tim Knopp, R-Bend, is one of the resolution's sponsors.

Bonham is a Republican from The Dalles. His district includes a large part of Central Oregon — Sisters, Culver, Madras and the Warm Springs Reservation. Plot Bonham and Greenlick along an ideological line and there would be a big gap between them in how to solve many of Oregon's challenges. Bonham would be on the right. Greenlick, a Democrat who represented Multnomah and Washington counties beginning in 2002, was on the left. Greenlick died while serving in office on May 15, 2020.

They became friends. Bonham was appointed to the Legislature in November 2017 to fill a vacancy. He came into the session in 2018 trying to find his way in the new role.

He happened to stay in the same hotel for the session as Greenlick and his wife, Harriet. They fell into the habit of exercising together in the gym and joining each other in the pool. And talking.

"I got to know Rep. Greenlick more on a personal level than any-

thing else," Bonham said. "What really impressed me was just his care and concern for helping somebody brand new to this role that truly was trying to find their way. And despite the fact that we were not of the same party affiliation or shared the same views on how to solve health care problems we had many wonderful conversations.

"I will say we probably talked more about the kids, the grandchildren and the great grandchildren than we did about public policy. But his care and his compassion for others was just evident in his approach to life. And we saw it come through in very passionate ways both on the floor and in committee and even over lunch.

"I wanted to take the moment to stop by your meeting here today and to offer my words of just gratitude to the Greenlicks. Again I don't know how you talk about Mitch without talking about Harriet. I don't know how, at least from my experience. They were such a team. I am grateful for their friendship and for the kindness that they showed me. I give my absolute support to SCR (Senate Concurrent Resolution) 3 and encourage everyone else to take a moment and read through it and remember and honor our good friend Mitch Greenlick."

Should county step up effort to reduce juvenile crime?

It only seems right to offer juveniles a second chance in many cases if they break the law. But even before that, it would be ideal to prevent the crime from ever occurring.

Deschutes County has a formal juvenile crime prevention program. Its results were reviewed and its future plan was approved this week by the county's local public safety coordinating council. The program possibly builds a case for expansion.

The program has two different, primary components. We don't have the space to talk about both. One is family-based interventions. In the interventions, the program works with juveniles, 12-17, who are not in the justice system. Juveniles who might be descending into trouble are identified by school officials and others. The program attempts to harness the strengths that each family has and build on them. It had aimed to serve 20 individuals for the last two years and ended up serving 25.

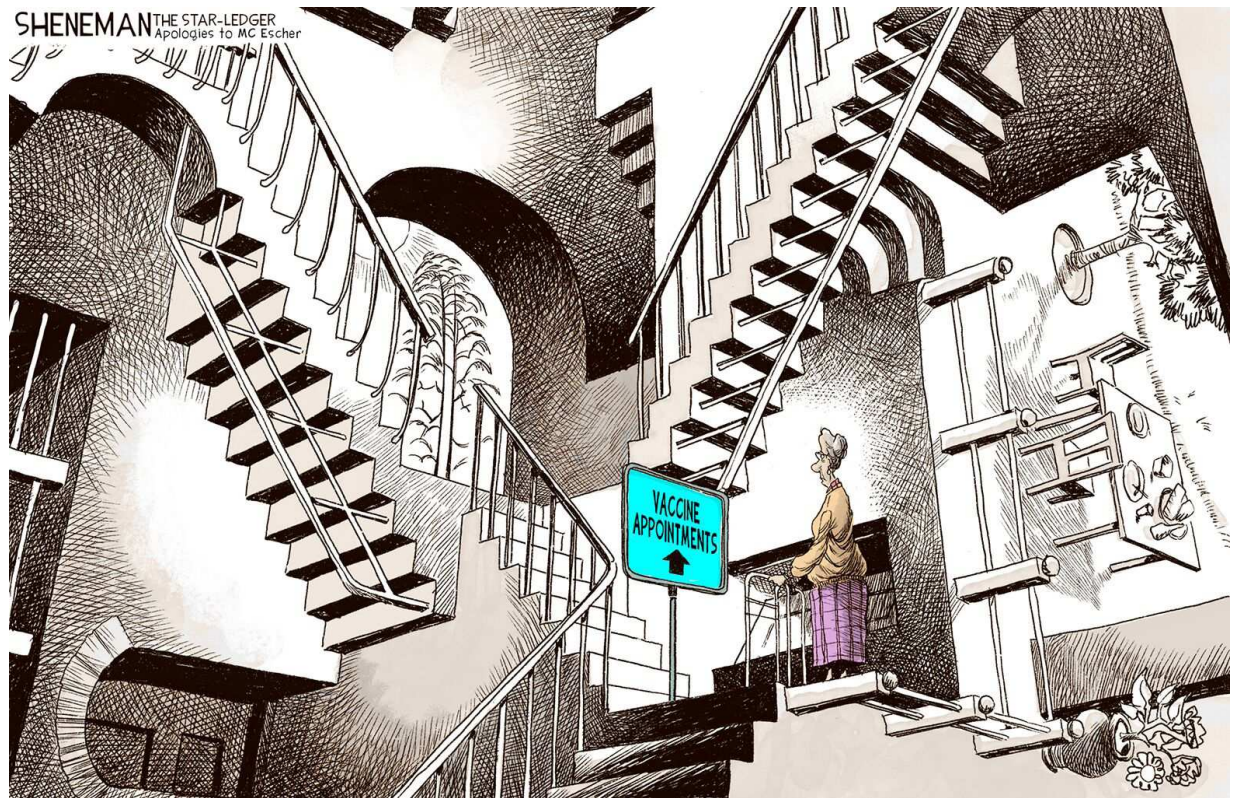
Did it work? On some levels, yes. Something as intangible as family function is difficult to measure and you can't determine for sure if it actually prevented a crime. They do

look at things such as how a family is communicating. Is it in raised voices? They look at supervision levels. Do parents know where their children are? The belief is that the families do show improvement.

Some juveniles targeted by the program do end up committing crimes. That does not necessarily mean the program is a failure, though in those cases it was not a success.

The program's budget is expected to stay about the same for 2021-2023 that it was for the last two-year period — about \$200,000. The money comes from the state based on a formula.

We wondered if the county or other local government agencies should kick in a bit more. One issue for the program has been bringing someone in full-time who speaks Spanish who also has familiarity with the kind of family therapy the program does. The program did use an interpreter over the past two years. Another issue could be expanding the program, even slightly. Is there the need? Are there more families that could benefit? That wasn't discussed during the county's public safety committee meeting.



My Nickel's Worth

Oppose Stevens Tract bill

A Salem representative's bill to bring the rest of the state-owned Stevens Tract into the urban growth boundary can only increase the growing pains Bend residents are suffering. Past UGB expansions have mostly resulted in expensive single-family homes, and this proposal doesn't appear to be different.

House Bill 2282 would only require 5% of the 262 acres to be affordable housing. Bend is still far from completing the infrastructure and planning needed for the UGB expansion approved in 2016. Reed Market Road, an arterial for Stevens Tract, is already heavily congested despite recent improvement.

Placing housing around the city's edges increases traffic congestion and emissions, and risks creating large low-income "projects."

Instead, we need more mixed-income housing and mixed-use development in the urban core close to public transit.

In other places, such as Mumbai, India, where I am from, a developer may redevelop a property only with the approval of 70% of the people who live on the property.

The developers are required to provide housing for all current residents. The new buildings are taller with some commercial, luxury flats, units for middle-income families and small habitations for the homeless who resided on the property.

The public should be involved in an open process to determine if there are higher local needs and uses than onetime funding for the state school fund and then transferring development rights to a powerful individual.

Other uses should also be considered, such as a large park, which could be an asset to an already congested

Bend. Please ask Representative Jason Kropf to oppose HB 2282.

— Robin Vora is a candidate for Bend Park & Recreation District Board and lives in Bend.

Gun coverage didn't include enough views

The Bulletin's recent Sunday front-page story on increased gun sales in Oregon, and here in Bend, read more like an NRA handout than a legitimate news report.

Reporter Suzanne Roig linked increased sales to perceived new Oregonian fears about their personal safety because of what "they've seen on television in Portland and throughout the country."

She quoted the Jefferson County sheriff saying that having an "armed citizenry is a good thing."

She included a Bend gun store owner's unsubstantiated claim that firearms and ammunition are flying off the shelves because the Biden Democrats want "to take away our guns."

Nowhere in her report did Roig seek out any group or individual who may be even mildly critical of this gun mania; who is more worried about gun-wielding citizens who may take the law into their own hands.

The notion of more states, 21 in all, and now including Montana and Utah, allowing owners to carry a concealed firearm into their state capitols is terrifying.

Having lived and worked for many years in Canada and the U.K., I can attest to the benefits of living in societies where citizens and police forces aren't armed to the teeth.

As for the guntrader who told Roig that "he prays for America," I do as well.

But I do so not because of a fear of protesters but because he's loading up

our fellow citizens and putting us all at greater risk in the future.

— John Owen, Bend

Why not a park instead?

The Stevens Road Tract is a square-mile section of land southeast of 27th Street and Stevens Road. The urban growth boundary now includes 380 acres of this parcel, which is scheduled for a high density mixed-use development.

The remaining 260 acres is still outside the UGB. I would like to recommend this acreage be entirely set aside as a park.

This land borders ranches and homes that are usually 10 or 20 acre minimum sizes, and a large-scale park is one of the best ways to transition from high density development to rural acreages. Currently, the northwest side of town has the beautiful Shevlin Park and the new Riley Ranch Park.

I have visited both parks in recent months, and they are both are heavily used. The southeast has no public park on a similar scale. This proposed park would be larger than Riley Ranch, but much smaller than Shevlin. Thousands of houses have been added to southeast Bend, and thousands more are planned on the Stevens Road Tract.

This portion of the Stevens Road Tract is one of the last large sections of open land in this part of town. Our community recently celebrated 100 years since the establishment of both Shevlin and Drake parks. One article thanked the foresight of our community leaders 100 years ago who set aside that land for parks. Can we have some of that foresight now for our future community? Is there support for the future Southeast High Desert Park?

— Patti Bailey, Bend

Letters policy

We welcome your letters. Letters should be limited to one issue, contain no more than 250 words and include the writer's signature, phone number and address for verification. We edit letters for brevity, grammar, taste and legal reasons. We reject poetry, personal attacks, form letters, letters submitted elsewhere and those appropriate for other sections of The Bulletin. Writers are limited to one letter or guest column every 30 days.

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Your submissions should be between 550 and 650 words; they must be signed; and they must include the writer's phone number and address for verification. We edit submissions for brevity, grammar, taste and legal reasons. We reject those submitted elsewhere. Locally submitted columns alternate with national columnists and commentaries. Writers are limited to one letter or guest column every 30 days.

How to submit

Please address your submission to either My Nickel's Worth or Guest Column and mail, fax or email it to The Bulletin. Email submissions are preferred.

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Oregon citizenship is a needed bridge for immigrants

BY WILLIAM BARRON

Good immigration and asylum policy is hard. There are many perspectives, so much misinformation and racism, and so much at risk. These United States were founded on the spirit of immigration, the world's melting pot. We have swung between open borders to closed, and back again, repeatedly like the swing of a pendulum. To help slow this process, Oregon should create an "Oregon Resident" status to assist immigrants toward their U.S. citizenship while recognizing the value these individuals bring to the state.

Under an Oregon Resident classification, all non-U.S. citizen immigrants in the state would be recognized as legitimate citizens of the state. They would be required to

follow all applicable laws, have valid driver's licenses, pay all appropriate taxes, participate in state medical insurance programs, pay into a state's version of Social Security and vote in local and state elections.

They would have equal standing, as well as responsibilities and obligations as any other Oregon resident, with one clear exception: A conviction for any local, state, or federal laws would result in a deportation hearing and a real probability of being imprisoned and/or deported. After five years of state citizenship the state would act as a sponsor and advocate for their federal citizenship application.

The immigrants in our state need and deserve a clear path to U.S. citizenship. They need ways and means to provide for their families without

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fear of retaliation based on their status, the fear of family separation, or the fear of prosecution only because of their immigration status.

These are people we see every day. These are hardworking, industrious, humble people willing to do the jobs most of us of privilege would not want to do. These are people who do not want to be a burden on society, to the contrary. They want to be integrated into the community and make it better.

Every country needs a strong, secure border to ensure its sovereignty and protect its national interests. Every country needs a strong, consistent immigration policy and a means for

those trying to save its families from tyranny, gangs, and genocide to seek and secure asylum. These are not mutually exclusive. States, counties, and cities that are establishing sanctuary status and policies work against the spirit of an integrated immigration and asylum program. The problem is we, as a country, do not have a consistent, integrated, coordinated immigration and asylum program.

This is where Oregon can lead the way and create a bridge to fill the gap and capture the benefit immigrants bring to our state. It will take bold leadership and a strong commitment to help these people in need. Are we as a state ready to support a state policy on Oregon citizenship? Maybe, maybe not; but if we don't the problems and conflict with wavering fed-

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eral programs will continue.

And who am I? I'm a guy who grew up on the border. A guy who has worked in the cotton fields with immigrants, both legal and transient. A guy who has watched men leave their hoes and race to jump a train heading east in search for better jobs and a better life so they can send money back to their families. Their plight is real, and so is their contribution to the state. Let's recognize them and make them citizens of Oregon and help them become U.S. citizens. #NeverFeartheDream

■ William Barron lives in Bend.