

# Bigotry will not be tolerated in our schools

A racial slur being used against one of our local student-athletes at a high school basketball game is appalling, and as a community, we must stand together in declaring bigotry will not be tolerated in our schools.

As today's front-page story recounts, the Prairie City boys basketball team had to overcome more than the talent of the opposing team in the district championship game when one of Crane's players used a derogatory word.

And not just any word. Filled with hatred, the N-word seeks to strip the humanity from the people it describes, to return to a time when some people were treated as property.

The comment came after two athletes landed on each other during what had already been a heated game, as Prairie City's players pointed out.

While it's true people may say things they do not mean when in pain or in a tense situation, when the knee-jerk reaction is a hate-filled response, it points to an

underlying attitude as part of the problem.

It's sad enough that bigotry survives under a rock here and there, but it's downright depressing that our students have to endure it in 2019.

So many years after the civil rights movement, after countless contributions by black people to our communities, our country and, it should go without saying, to basketball, it's sad that something like this occurs at a high school sports contest.

Such hateful comments are truly out of place when we're trying to teach our young people positive values such as dedication, teamwork and sportsmanship.

We commend Prairie City and Crane school officials for making positive progress by communicating to address the situation, leading to disciplinary action for the offending student.

Now, it comes down to all of us — parents, teachers, coaches, community members — to ensure the positive progress continues, to make it known that we will not tolerate bigotry in our schools.

## JULIUS CAESAR



## WHERE TO WRITE

**GRANT COUNTY**  
 • **Grant County Courthouse** — 201 S. Humbolt St., Suite 280, Canyon City 97820. Phone: 541-575-0059. Fax: 541-575-2248.  
 • **Canyon City** — P.O. Box 276, Canyon City 97820. Phone: 541-575-0509. Fax: 541-575-0515. Email: toccc1862@centurylink.net.  
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 • **Mt. Vernon** — P.O. Box 647, Mt. Vernon 97865. Phone: 541-932-4688. Fax: 541-932-4222. Email: cmtv@ortelco.net.  
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97873. Phone and fax: 541-542-2161. Email: senecaoregon@gmail.com.  
**SALEM**  
 • **Gov. Kate Brown, D** — 254 State Capitol, Salem 97310. Phone: 503-378-3111. Fax: 503-378-6827. Website: governor.state.or.us/governor.html.  
 • **Oregon Legislature** — State Capitol, Salem, 97310. Phone: (503) 986-1180. Website: leg.state.or.us (includes Oregon Constitution and Oregon Revised Statutes).  
 • **Oregon Legislative Information** — (For updates on bills, services, capitol or messages for legislators) — 800-332-2313.  
 • **Sen. Cliff Bentz, R-Ontario** — 900 Court St. NE, S-301, Salem 97301. Phone: 503-986-1730. Website: oregonlegislature.gov/Bentz. Email: Sen.CliffBentz@oregonlegislature.gov.  
 • **Rep. Lynn Findley, R-Vale** — 900 Court St. NE, H-475, Salem 97301. Phone: 503-986-1460. Website: oregonlegislature.gov/findley. Email: Rep.LynnFindley@oregonlegislature.gov.  
**WASHINGTON, D.C.**  
 • **The White House**, 1600 Pennsylvania Ave. N.W., Washington, D.C. 20500; Phone-comments: 202-456-1111; Switchboard: 202-456-1414.



## GUEST COMMENT

# Cap and trade bad for ag

By Robyn H. Smith  
 To the Blue Mountain Eagle

HB 2020, Oregon's proposed carbon bill, known as "cap and trade," raises significant concerns regarding the direct and indirect impact of the bill on members of Oregon's agricultural industries.

The bill would impose permits and taxes that would result in cutting greenhouse gas emission levels 45 percent below the 1990 levels by the year 2035 and 90 percent below 1990 levels by the year 2050.

The bill proposes an allowance budget, and each year the available allowance would decline. HB 2020 would cap certain carbon emissions and require the purchase of "offsets."

This likely will increase the direct cost of fuel and natural gas for family farms and ranches, transportation costs in the supply chain and costs for food processing.

This would mean not only

could Oregon's gas prices become some of the highest in the nation, but the increased financial burden on agricultural operations will significantly trickle down to every Oregonian's grocery store bill.

Increasing input costs will place another hurdle on Oregon's young ranchers who are trying to start their own business and who are trying keep Oregon lands working.

Working the land is crucial for management and maintenance to combat erosion, invasive species, soil and water quality and fire control.

Cattle ranchers sequentially control carbon emissions by maintaining healthy soil and controlling the fuel levels of wildfires through grazing habits.

"One large Oregon wildfire produces more carbon in the air than Portland can produce in one year," said Oregon Cattlemen's Association's Executive Director Jerome Rosa. "Meaningful change for carbon emis-

sions should start with forest management and wildfire control."

The increased costs as a result of this bill would shift production to other states and countries with less control over environmental regulations, carbon-neutral power supply and fewer human rights and labor laws.

"Oregon's rural communities are committed to environmental stewardship and we don't want to see our state's commodities outsourced to unregulated areas, we don't want to see the cost of ranching and farming in this state outweigh the benefit," said Rosa.

The Oregon Cattlemen's Association encourages anyone who will face increased operation costs by not exempting commercial or agricultural fuels from this bill to voice your opposition.

Robyn H. Smith is the communications director for the Oregon Cattlemen's Association.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Cap and trade would harm ranchers

To the Editor:

I am a lifetime Oregon resident, and have been involved in raising quality beef for over 50 years. I have to use fuel to run my operation. In addition, to reach my doctor, dentist, attorney and banker, I must travel 180 miles round trip. I operate a sustainable ranch, have abundant well-managed timber that will absorb carbon, and I invite anyone to tour my ranch and see the job I have done in promoting stream sides and water use.

Cap and trade will increase my operating expenses, and if you know about the livestock business, you know we operate on a narrow margin. I contribute to the tax base, the schools, the community and the economy of my county. This will not be good for rural Oregon, and I'm certain Sen. Bentz has appraised you of our economy and our

lifestyle. One size does not fit all; please consider that in your deliberations.

Sharon Livingston  
 Long Creek

### 'Maybe everyone should rethink vaccines'

To the Editor:

I am responding to an opinion article in the Eagle titled "Anti-vaxxers put us all at risk," Feb. 13.

In 1986 Congress passed a law that the victims of vaccine injuries could not sue the vaccine manufacturer based on the design of the vaccine. Why do vaccine companies need or get such special protection? No other manufacturer enjoys such protections. Imagine what that does for incentive to design a safe product.

It's a lot like this: Your toaster causes your house to burn down, and then afterwards you find out that toaster companies can't be

sued based on the design of the toaster.

The title alone of the opinion article, "Anti-vaxxers put us all at risk," implies that the efficacy of vaccines is less than 100 percent. If vaccines were 100 percent effective and you get a vaccine and I don't, how could I be putting you at risk?

According to the CBS News article "Supreme Court vaccine ruling: parents can't sue drug makers for kids' health problems" from Feb. 22, 2011, "The Supreme Court ruled Tuesday that a federal law prohibits lawsuits against drug makers over serious side effects from childhood vaccines. ... Within hours of getting the DPT shot, the third in a series of five, the baby suffered a series of debilitating seizures." (https://www.cbsnews.com/news/supreme-court-vaccine-ruling-parents-cant-sue-drug-makers-for-kids-health-problems)

Maybe everyone should rethink vaccines.

Ron Bright  
 Mt. Vernon

**LETTERS POLICY:** Letters to the Editor is a forum for Blue Mountain Eagle readers to express themselves on local, state, national or world issues. Brevity is good, but longer letters will be asked to be contained to 350 words. No personal attacks; challenge the opinion, not the person. No thank-you letters. Submissions to this page become property of the Eagle. The Eagle reserves the right to edit letters for length and for content. Letters must be original and signed by the writer. Anonymous letters will not be printed. Writers should include a telephone number so they can be reached for questions. We must limit all contributors to one letter per person per month. Deadline is 5 p.m. Friday. Send letters to editor@bmeagle.com, or Blue Mountain Eagle, 195 N. Canyon Blvd., John Day, OR 97845; or fax to 541-575-1244.



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