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## Collaboration and community give students opportunity to succeed

To the editor;  
Look around the Morrow County School District and you'll see more than just our teachers and staff having a positive impact on kids. You'll find an entire community supporting and encouraging our students with their time and resources, making sure they have abundant educational and growth opportunities.

I couldn't be more grateful for this atmosphere of collaboration in Morrow County. It gives our students the opportunity to thrive and sets a model for responsible citizenship and giving back.

This collaboration takes many forms. Sometimes it's a local grant to make a school improvement, like the Boardman Chamber of Commerce's recent funding for new equipment in the Sam Boardman Elementary gymnasium.

Sometimes it's a community partner looking out for the safety of our students, like the City of Irrigon's grant-funded walking path along Division Street to give kids a safe path to get to both schools in the community.

Sometimes it's a club like the Riverside FFA Advisory Board raising funds to purchase a greenhouse kit for the high school FFA program or the North Mor-

row County Arts Foundation staging professional theatrical performances in Irrigon and Boardman to expose younger students to the arts.

And sometimes it's a whole group of generous citizens and businesses donating to a cause, like the countless individuals giving to the Heppner Backpack Food Program to provide take-home weekend meals for kids who need them.

The examples are too numerous to list in full detail here, but in both small ways and large, the community steps up time and again to help. These projects enrich the educational and development process and wouldn't be possible without collaboration.

I'm particularly grateful for our ongoing partnerships with the Port of Morrow to create the Amazon Web Services Think Big Space at the SAGE Center.

This project brings cutting-edge science, technology, engineering and mathematics programs to our students. We've been excited to put this space into practice, and this fall our kids have been visiting the labs and had specialist educators come to their classrooms. It's a next-level educational opportunity that not all school districts have.

At the high schools it's supplemented by initiatives like the Student Internship Program, which brings together business partners in Morrow County to allow students to explore career opportunities through paid internships and earn credits all while building their résumés.

After all, the future is what it's all about. We're always keeping in mind the kind of place we hope Morrow County will be decades down the line and how we can help our young people become the leaders they're meant to be.

The COVID-19 pandemic will be far in the rearview by then. But the growth and development opportunities our students are experiencing now will stick with them. I'm extremely proud of our class of 2021 for finishing strong and maintaining a 92 percent graduation rate, even under difficult circumstances.

Once again, I want to thank all of the community partners who make this possible and give the students of the Morrow County School District the best opportunity to succeed.

Dirk Dirksen, superintendent  
Morrow County School District.

evidence of protection from either contracting the disease or spreading it? Furthermore, how can Morrow County or any public or private company mandate a Covid 19 vaccination when breakthrough cases of Covid 19 in some nations equal the percentage of those unvaccinated? "Israel was the first country on earth to fully vaccinate a majority of its citizens against COVID 19. Now it has one of the highest daily infection rates...an average of 750 confirmed cases a day... Nearly one in every 150 people in Israel has the virus." (Highly Vaccinated Israel. Dramatic Surge, npr.org) "Fifty nine percent of Covid 19 patients in Israel in August 2021 were fully vaccinated." (www.beckerhospitalsreview.com)

There is a common sense solution to the "brutal" problem caused by a senseless mandate. Honor the law and grant the religious exemption for all who apply for relief from a brutal mandate.

Stuart Dick, Irrigon

## Look back into history

Let's look back into history, Germany 1933. Hitler became chancellor, or prime minister of Germany. Nazis 'temporarily' suspend civil liberties. And books with ideas considered dangerous to Nazi beliefs are burned. (Today's world: we are deleting history: books, statues, blocking what you are allowed to research.)

1935: Jews are deprived of their citizenship and other basic rights. The Nazis intensify the persecution of political people that didn't agree with his philosophy. (Today's world: you are considered a domestic terrorist; you are not "allowed" to speak up in a public forum without paying the consequences of retaliation, you are not "allowed" to question the science behind anything, do not question the president's or governors' authority)

1936: Jews no longer have the right to vote. (We have not lost our right to vote, yet, but our voting system is being changed regularly to allow fraudulent voting, or voter control)

1938: Jews must carry ID cards and passports are marked with a "J." They can no longer attend plays, concerts, etc.; all Jewish children are moved to Jewish schools, must hand over drivers' licenses and car registrations, must be in certain places at certain times. (Today's time: Their "J" card is now our "V" card, we are dangerously close to having to show our "V card" to obtain our basic rights. LA county is already demanding you have your "V" card before shopping, dining or attending events. And with this new vaccine out for our children, soon if you do not vaccinate your child against a disease that has a survival rate of .009 percent with a vaccine that is only been around for one year, your child is in danger of not only the unknown long-term effects, but not being allowed an education)

1939: Jews must follow curfews; (Today's world: we are not allowed to have a restaurant open past 9 p.m. (the virus knows if you are out late), wear your mask in, but not while your seated, you must make sure you are home safe and sound, you must keep your social distance, you must follow all the "allowed guidelines".)

1940: Jews are forced into ghettos. Nazis begin the first mass murder of Jews in Poland. Jews are put into concentration camps.

(Today's world: Australia, in August 2021, began its concentration camps for the unvaccinated, they are being arrested and detained for "their own good." Do you think America is that far away? They have divided our country already into hate. Hate your neighbor, hate your family, hate your best friend if they don't share your beliefs, this concentration camp would be easy if we all "tattle" on each other.)

1941: Jews may not leave their houses without permission from the police. They may no longer use public telephones. (Today's world: quarantine, you are presumptive positive, you may not leave your home for a minimum of 14 days, you may not even have the novel Coronavirus, but we assume you do. Stay away, your child or yourself has a sniffle and someone around you gets concerned, you are immediately banned from your daily routine and quarantined, segregated from society, lose pay or lose schooling time, over a sniffle. And if someone touches anything we must sanitize behind you, don't touch my belongings or you may get me sick.)

1942: Nazi officials discuss the 'Final Solution.' Their plan is to kill all European Jews, to the government officials. Jews are forbidden to subscribe to newspapers; keep dogs, cats, birds, etc.; keep electrical equipment including typewriters; own bicycles; buy meat, eggs, use public transportation; attend school. (Today's world: if we don't abide by the vaccination rules, we lose our jobs, we cannot pay our bills, we cannot provide a home, we cannot enter a grocery store to buy our essentials, we cannot get an education for our children or further ours. Is today's world version of "Kill The Jews," in the form of a vaccine for a virus that has a .009 percent survival rate, with unknown long term side effects. Is this what Fauci

and Gates meant when in 2011 said, "Depopulation through forced vaccination. The zero-carbon solution." Gates quoted, "The world population (2011) has 6.8 billion people. That's headed up to about nine billion. Now if we do a really great job on new vaccines, health care, reproductive health services, we lower that by perhaps 10-15 percent." A typical vaccine development timeline takes five to 10 years, sometimes longer, to assess whether the vaccine is safe and efficacious in clinical trials, (CDC website) but here we are threatening to bring this to our most vulnerable generation, our children, after one year. The cost of developing a new vaccine can be several billion U.S. dollars prior to the scale up of manufacturing facilities. Whose dime paid for that.

The Nazi government fostered and promoted prejudice. According to the dictionary definition, prejudice is comprised of "unreasonable feelings, opinions, or attitudes, especially of a hostile nature, regarding an ethnic, racial, social or religious group. (The unvaccinated).

The Nazis scapegoated the Jews, blaming them for every societal problem in German society. They published an enormous quantity of propaganda that blamed the Jews for the wrongdoings, mistakes or faults that plagued "civilization;" and declared Jews and others sub-human. (The unvaccinated).

Don't know about all of you, but this sounds like history is repeating itself, one small step at a time.

I am not anti-vax or anti-science. I believe in freedom of choice, I was raised with common sense, and stand proudly with others that feel the same about freedom. My next meeting will be held November 7 at 3 p.m. at Two Old Hags Pizza. We can and must stay loud and stand proud. We cannot let history repeat itself this time.

Dawn Brosnan

## Brutal subject of religious exceptions

To the editor:  
This column will deal with the "brutal subject" (Commissioner Jim Doherty, G.T. Oct. 27,21) of religious exceptions for the Covid 19 vaccination mandate that "should be based on the law" (Co. Emergency Manager, Paul Grey, op. cit G.T.).

The Civil Rights Act of 1964 (Title VII) "protects workers from employment discrimination based on their race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation and transgender status, or national origin or protected activity. Under Title VII, an employer is prohibited from discriminating because of religion in hiring, promotion, discharge, compensation, or other "terms, conditions or privileges" of employment and also cannot "limit, segregate, or classify" applicants or employees based on religion" in any way which would deprive or tend to deprive any individual of employment opportunities or otherwise adversely affect his status as an employee. The statute defines "religion" as including "all aspects of religious observance and practice, as well as belief, unless the employer demonstrates that (it) is unable to reasonably accommodate... without due hardship on the conduct of the employer's business." Undue hardship is not defined in the statute.

The test under Title VII definition of religion is "whether the beliefs are, in the individuals own scheme of things religious. Belief in God or gods is not necessary; monotheistic beliefs can also be religious for the purposes of the Title VII exemption as long as they occupy in the life of the individual a place parallel to that filled by ...God in

traditionally religious persons." The non-discrimination provisions of the statute also protects employees who do not possess religious beliefs or engage in religious practices.

In a nutshell that is the "brutal subject of the law" on religious exemptions from Covid mandated vaccinations. According to Title VII employees are protected against religious discrimination and must reasonably be accommodated unless there is an undue hardship on the conduct of employer's business.

Is there an undue hardship upon Morrow County if they honor Title VII religious exemptions from mandated Covid vaccinations?

The CDC has documented that each and every Covid 19 vaccination does not prevent recipients from contracting Covid 19 or prevent them from transmitting the disease. "Fully vaccinated individuals with breakthrough infections have peak viral load similar to unvaccinated cases and can efficiently transmit infection in household settings, including fully vaccinated contacts." (peer reviewed journal, Lancet Infectious Diseases, Oct. 29, 21, by Joe Calabrese) This is the reason fully vaccinated Commissioner Don Russell contracted Covid 19 and had to be quarantined so he could not spread the disease.

The question that Morrow County and any employer in Oregon and America must answer or face a lawsuit is: How can you claim granting a religious exemption from a forced mandated vaccination will cause an undue hardship when the mandated Covid 19 vaccination offers no

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-Jeremiah 29:13  
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