

OUR VIEW

America should imitate Oregon on voting by mail

Norma Paulus would be proud. And she would be amazed. As secretary of state from 1977 until 1985, Paulus was the prime mover of Oregon's voting by mail.



U.S. Sen. Ron Wyden, D-Ore., is a vocal champion of Oregon's vote-by-mail system, which he would like to see expanded to the entire country.

Oregon's U.S. Sen. Ron Wyden and U.S. Sen. Amy Klobuchar, of Minnesota, have authored legislation to make the mail ballot more prevalent.

For Wyden, this has been a long slog. He first introduced this legislation in 2002. "I've never had the interest that we have now," he said during a March 23 interview.

In this climate, Wyden argues that the pandemic offers a stark choice. "Either people are not going to be able to vote or they vote by mail. If those

are the two choices for America this fall, that is not a close call."

Like the bottle bill, public beaches and statewide land use planning, voting by mail is one of Oregon's emblematic, pioneering achievements. Initially, it was a Republican proposal, opposed by labor unions that influenced the Democratic Party.

Under Paulus, counties were allowed to use the mail ballot for nonprimary or nongeneral elections. When counties took advantage of the new mode of voting, turnout increased by factors of three and five, Keisling said.

In 1995, the Oregon Legislature enacted Keisling's bill to allow voting by mail, but Gov. John Kitzhaber vetoed the legislation.

Months later, a surprise allowed Keisling to make

history. When Bob Packwood resigned from the U.S. Senate in 1995, county clerks across Oregon urged Keisling to conduct the sudden, special Senate election by mail ballot.

The special primary in 1995 and the general election in early 1996 became the first federal elections in America to be conducted by mail. Turnout was high —

58% in the special primary and 66% in the general. Wyden became Oregon's new U.S. senator. In 1998, Oregon voters by a margin of 2-to-1 approved a ballot measure mandating voting by mail in all Oregon elections.

Keisling has continued his advocacy within the National Vote At Home Institute, of which he is founder and a board member. His 2016 article in the Washington Monthly ("Vote From Home, Save Your Country") is an extensive history of the national discussion of mail balloting.

In the most recent development, Wyden's biggest opponent is the voting machine lobby. Of digital voting, the Oregon Democrat says: "A voting machine with remote access software is the equivalent of putting an American ballot box in the Kremlin." He disparages the voting machine lobby, saying: "They lied to me, to The New York Times. They stonewalled Congress."

Wyden measures his progress by how many Republican senators who

now say they are thinking about his proposal.

The emergency package in Congress in response to the coronavirus includes \$400 million to help states with elections, but Wyden and Klobuchar believe more help is needed.

"In times of crisis, the American people cannot be forced to choose between their health and exercising their right to vote," the senators said in a statement. "While this funding is a step in the right direction, we must enact election reforms across the country as well as secure more resources to guarantee safe and secure elections. We will continue to fight to pass the Natural Disaster and Emergency Ballot Act of 2020 to ensure every eligible American can safely and lawfully cast their ballot."

An adverse moment in history reinforces the case that voting by mail makes abundant sense.

It's time for America to imitate Oregon.

This editorial reflects the opinion of EO Media Group leadership.

COLUMN

We're not going anywhere

A couple of weeks ago I wrote a column titled "Things to be grateful for in the age of COVID-19."

I have to admit, in the last week it has been more of a struggle to feel grateful.

Like most Americans (or, at least, the extroverts among us) I have grieved the loss of normal activities I used to enjoy, from game nights with friends to seeing a movie at the theater. I don't know the next time I'll be able to visit my parents or go on a date or attend church.

If that were all that were wrong with the world right now I'd tell myself I had some new shows and new books I wanted to catch up on anyway. But I worry for my friends and family who work in the health care industry and are therefore

at elevated risk of exposure to COVID-19. I also worry about friends and family members who have lost their jobs.

That list includes several longtime co-workers who were laid off last week, as EO Media Group had to cut 47 positions across a dozen newspapers to make up for the sudden plunge in advertising revenue we have experienced.

The cuts included multiple positions in our Hermiston office, and I'm sick over losing every one of them.

Despite the blow this has been, the Hermiston Herald and East Oregonian will continue to print.

These institutions, more than a century old, have withstood catastrophes of all varieties, from the influ-

enza of 1918 to the Great Depression to wars and natural disasters. Once again, we are doing what we need to do to remain viable through these tests, and I am excited about some of the new things we are still discussing about bringing to Hermiston readers in the near future.

We're not abandoning you. I'm not abandoning you. Like everyone in quarantine ... we're not going anywhere.

We live in turbulent times, but our community is still here, and still pulling together.

People are sewing masks for health care workers, distributing free food, going to the store for their elderly neighbors and sharing toilet paper. It's normal to feel sad and worried and it's also OK to look for the silver linings.

Hang in there, everyone.



Jade McDowell NEWS EDITOR

Out for a stroll



Staff photo by Jade McDowell

A turkey wanders around the parking lot of Campus Life, across the street from Hermiston High School, on Monday afternoon. The large, inquisitive bird made her way around town Monday, including visits to shops downtown and to peer in the windows of the police station.

CRYPTOQUIP

This is a simple substitution cipher in which each letter used stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Solution is accomplished by trial and error.

Clue: H equals R

KV DSJ'HF MSBN MS ES VKTN ZTN

KTMFHQKFR Z YFQFT-VSSM EJD,

K'N YZD KM'Y Z MZBB SHNFH!

If you're told to go find and interview a seven-foot guy, I'd say it's a tall order!

Answers Cryptoquip

Cryptoquip grid with letters and numbers for solving.

Answers

Super Crossword

For Hermiston Herald information 541-567-6457 • info@hermistonherald.com 333 E. Main St. • HermistonHerald.com

SUPER CROSSWORD: THE THIN, THE FLAT, THE ROUND

- ACROSS 1 Reddish-brown pigment 7 Nitpicky know-it-all 13 Fleet leader 20 Instead (of) 21 Win over 22 Bishop's district 23 User's storage component 25 Gives approval 26 Rock's Brian 27 "My true love — see" ("Oh! Susanna" lyric) 28 Without, to Jean-Luc 30 Shrubby expanses 31 Disorder 33 NBAer — Gasol 34 Occasion to say "King me" 36 Pasty luau food 38 Baseball card stat 40 — flight (go by jet) 41 Zing diversion 48 Sauce giant 50 Brew source 51 Hotsy — 52 Crown 54 Diver's gear 59 "The Girl With the Dragon Tattoo" heroine 61 Prefix with dose or ton 62 Less lenient 64 "Entertaining Mr. Sloane" dramatist Joe 65 Participant in the sport Ultimate 68 Yellow transport 69 Draw — on (take careful aim at) 71 — Brothers ("It's Your Thing" group) 72 Hanoi's home, briefly 73 It enables a motorist to stop 76 Bog bird 78 Naive 79 Brazilian soccer star 80 Ship-deck 48 Sauce giant 82 "Hmm, let — ..." 83 Former NBA star Ming 84 Spiro who served with Nixon 86 False tale 87 K-P hookup 91 45's place 94 "Mickey" singer Basil 98 Gives help 100 In the style of 101 "Try — might ..." 102 It includes the sacrament 106 Nellie of social reform org. 108 Film-rating org. 112 Paris' mother 113 Author Jaffe 114 He defeated Romney 116 Put — (deceptions) 117 Like space debris 119 Commonality of seven answers in this puzzle 122 Turn loose 123 Gathering, as bees 124 Lie sheltered 125 Fair — (blond) 126 Dictation-taking pros 127 Mad Hatter's party pieces 42 French battle site of '44 43 Clairor's area 44 Newly rich people 45 Ordinal suffix 46 GPS options: Abbr. 47 Wound from a mult 49 With 65-Down, charge to log on 53 Bel — cheese 55 Witches 56 In a careless manner 57 Animated film featuring Seinfeld's voice 58 JFK landing: Abbr. 60 Fumble 61 Around June or July 62 Sault — Marie 63 Your, once 65 See 17- or 49-Down 66 Grating 67 Elegant tree 69 Smallish batteries 70 Bibliophile's love: Abbr. 73 It takes vids 74 Film holder 75 Wild plum 76 Wolf cries 77 — do-well 80 Goal 81 Lender's expectation 84 Co. that owns Moviefone 85 Potpourris 88 Discomfort 89 Cage of film, informally 90 Smell 92 Fire 93 Goal 94 Simple top 95 First act 96 Kidman of Hollywood 97 Accustoms 99 Sluggish tree-dwellers 103 PLO head 104 Missed, as a bull's-eye 105 Writer Binky 107 Loo, briefly 109 Mile markers 110 Body part below a shin 111 Useful thing 114 "This is bad!" 115 "Zip — 'Doo-Dah" 118 Knight of TV 120 Yang go-with 121 "That — lie!"

Super Crossword grid with numbers for clues.

SUDOKU

Sudoku grid with numbers.

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK ★★



EASTERN OREGON EVENTS

The place to find everything happening in Eastern Oregon.

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Weekly Sudoku grid with numbers.

Answers Weekly SUDOKU

Hermiston Herald

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