

Wednesday, July 6, 2022

OUR VIEW

Health improvement plan a good idea for area

The fact that Umatilla County staff are hard at work preparing a five-year health improvement plan should be good news to voters, and if the pandemic taught us anything it is being prepared is crucial for the future.

The effort will focus on emergency preparedness, water testing and community health programs. Crafting a plan for the future is, of course, crucial, and Umatilla County elected leaders should be lauded for spearheading the work.

The county conducted health assessments during the past two years and any other data will ensure the information gathered can be put to good use.

The county, and the state, need to have such plans on the shelf and ready. The county in the past has been no stranger to natural disasters — such as floods — and the pandemic rode into the local area with a vengeance and caused death and havoc.

A health improvement plan is just simply a good idea.

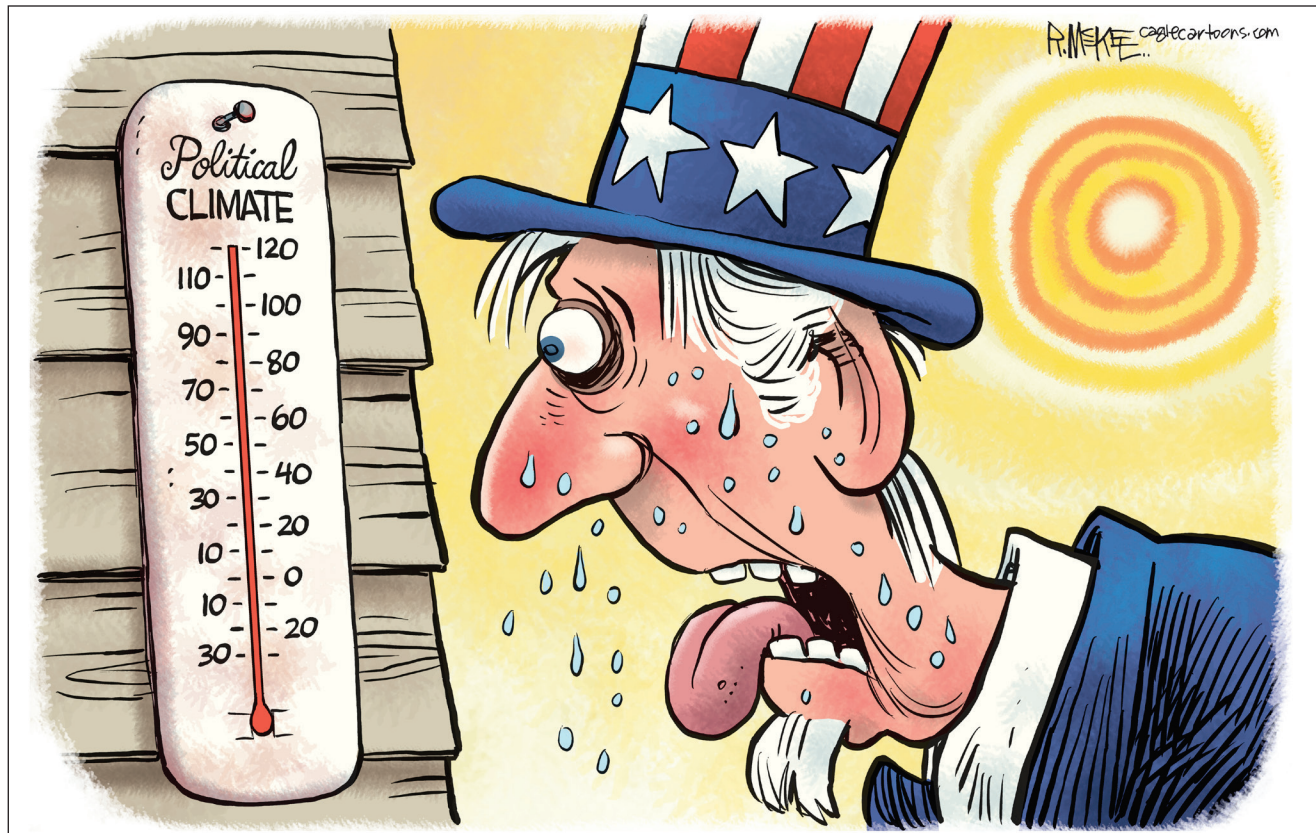
While no one can be blamed for being unprepared for the pandemic, the impact of the coronavirus shows clearly what happens when the unexpected arrives. Neither the U.S. nor the state nor the county was prepared for the onset of the virus and COVID-19, the disease the virus causes.

While overall results were mixed, the state and the county did as well as could be expected considering no one since 1918 had experienced such a terrible challenge. In short, the nation, the state and the local area did as best they could.

Yet we can't utilize a "best we could" theory in the future. In short, doing the best we can isn't a method. It is a reaction to an unprecedented event and preparing now for a future such disaster can go a long way toward saving lives.

Of course, the health plan isn't just about possible crises such as a pandemic. Other items — especially water — also will be reviewed and a plan crafted and that should also be good news to voters. The hope now it appears is to develop and then publish the plan this year and revise it every five years.

Once the plan is published voters should take the opportunity to become acquainted with it and then give feedback to their elected leaders.



COLUMN

Better late than never

I played basketball at Marshfield High School after Title IX was enacted. However, I didn't receive my varsity letter from the Coos Bay school until shortly after my 50th birthday.

While I earned the honor, all I received as a student-athlete in the late '70s was a certificate that said, "Marshfield High School Athletic Department awards this 'M' certificate to Tammy Stockman in recognition of his (note: HIS) participation in basketball." However, I didn't actually receive a physical letter.

When my yellow "M" with purple outlining finally arrived in the mail, it had been 32 years since I last donned a Pirate uniform. All I had were a few photos and fading memories of hearing, "Tammy Stockman, a 5-foot-4-inch guard, drives the lane — she scores!"

Oh wait, there we didn't have announcers at girls' games back then in Coos Bay. In fact, we were relegated to playing in the auxiliary gym, while the boys hit the hardwood in the Pirate Palace, a 4,000-seat gymnasium complex.

Basketball wasn't even an official Oregon School Activities Association sport for girls until 1976, which might explain why I had to buy a T-shirt when I played junior varsity as a freshman. Not only did the guys have spiffy home and away uniforms — OK, really, they were the goofy-looking short shorts — they didn't have to buy them and they were issued practice shorts and jerseys, too.

There were other discrepancies between male and female athletes during my time at Marshfield. The guys received a shoe allowance, were treated to steak dinners during away games and traveled in a chartered



TAMMY MALGESINI
INSIDE MY SHOES

motorcoach. The gals had to buy their own shoes and ate fast food on road trips — we felt like royalty if the budget allowed for King's Table Buffet. And we boarded a regular school bus for a rickety ride to Eugene for games.

As teammates, we knew it wasn't right. However, we didn't know how to challenge a system that clearly dismissed the achievements of female athletes.

And I wasn't the only Pirate who waited decades to get a letter. Far superior athletes were overlooked:

- Fran (Auer-Sichting) Worthen (1972), who won 10 state titles in track and field, and broke the national high school long jump record. After high school, she was featured in Sports Illustrated for her prowess on the track while competing and beating men while running at Southwestern Oregon Community College.

- Linda Prefontaine (1971) played tennis in high school/college and a decade later was ranked among the top 10 competitors in the Ladies Professional Racquetball Association. She is the younger sister to Steve Prefontaine, who certainly received his letter while still in high school at Marshfield.

I ran hurdles and sprints on the varsity track team my freshman year and played three seasons of basketball, "lettering" my last two years. We enjoyed the camaraderie of being a part of a team, doing what we



Tammy Malgesini/Hermiston Herald
Despite playing basketball at Marshfield High School after Title IX was enacted, Tammy (Stockman) Malgesini, pictured as a sophomore in 1976, didn't receive her varsity letter until 2010.

loved — playing a game. But the biggest score was finally receiving our varsity letters. Although, I'd sure like a new pair of Nikes.

■ Tammy Malgesini, the Hermiston Herald community editor, enjoys reminiscing about her glory days as a student-athlete at Marshfield High School — once a Pirate, always a Pirate — and at George Fox College.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Women cannot be equal to men without the legal right to abortion

The overturning of Roe v. Wade is more than its parts. It is not simply a reversal of 50 years of precedent on reproductive rights for women. It is a repudiation of female equality in universum. It is a reclamation of male dominance over more than half of our population.

The right to oppose abortion has never been the issue. Opposing abortion is a reasonable position, and no one should ever feel obligated to terminate a pregnancy. But, abolishing the legal right to do so relegates all women to second class

citizenship.

It is a platitude that if men endured pregnancy there would be no debate. Abortion would be the norm. Simply put, no man could have equal opportunity if some were required by law to undergo nine months of physical upheaval while others were not.

Women cannot be equal to men without the legal right to abortion.

Moral and religious objection should be heard and respected. Personal opposition to abortion is reasonable and proper, but one cannot support laws controlling reproductive rights for women unless he or she is also willing to confess a belief that women are inherently

inferior to men.

Women must have complete control of their own bodies to have equality in our culture. It is reasonable to believe that this is guaranteed by the Fourth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. I believe the debate should not be about abortion, but whether as a society we recognize equality between the sexes.

Joseph Brusberg
Hermiston

Trump is the only example of fraud in the current situation

Where to start? The Jan. 6 hearings that a lot of President Donald

Trump supporters have no doubt been afraid to watch for fear of hearing the damning testimonies of people formerly loyal to the Donald have peeled back one ugly layer after another about this highly incompetent and abhorrent individual.

A person so un-American that he lets his own personal interests and ego come before the good of the nation. So petty and childish that we can almost feel pity for this man child with claims of fraud. He is and continues to be the only example of fraud in the current situation.

The ultimate irony is that the only fraud committed came from him and his lapdogs, asking for donations from those still foolish enough

to believe in his false claims of voter fraud. Millions given for his phony stop the steal campaign. Money that'll never be used for anything other than to line Trumps pocket.

The Democrats can't even get out of their own way, let alone organize choreographed fraud on a multi-state scale. Stop the whining, come to realize that the inability of Trump to even bring about a scant resemblance of a grown man and admit he lost in a free and fair election is the reality.

There is a sucker born every minute according to P. T. Barnum. Trump's lackeys prove that every day.

David Gracia
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