letters to the editor

The only hoax

I am sure that most of us have, at times, decided to not buy something because the short-term benefit was outweighed by a long-term downside. We should think of natural gas in this way. Its benefits are undeniable, but then you have to consider climate change. The 31 trillion cubic feet of natural gas that are burned in the U.S. each year produce millions of tons of carbon dioxide. This is enough to be a significant factor in driving climate change.

We have a moral obligation to prevent the planet from becoming a difficult place to live for our children, our grandchildren and generations to come. The sacrifices required of us to gradually reduce the use of natural gas and other fossil fuels over the next 30 years are far outweighed by the benefits of achieving net zero emissions and a clean energy economy.

The only hoax about climate change is the claim that fossil fuels are not the main cause. Richard Barnhart, Eugene

Pure eloquence

Ruben Navarrette, who wrote that President Joe Biden fails as a communicator, owes Biden an apology. Biden grieved — eloquently so — in his tribute to 500,000 American dead as a result of COVID-19.

As reported by NPR, ’Before the brief ceremony, Biden spoke, emotionally and somberly, from the White House. As he often does in moments of tragedy, Biden spoke directly to people who have lost friends and family members. ‘I know all too well,’ Biden said, ‘that black hole in your chest. You feel like you’re being sucked into it. The survivor’s remorse. The anger. The questions of faith in your soul. I promise you, the day will come when the memory of the loved one you lost will bring a smile to your lips before a tear to your eye. It will come, I promise you.’"

Sheer bloody eloquence.

That’s something Donald Trump never did.

Michael E. Peterson, Eugene

Water is the new oil

Warnings of the effects of climate change can seem distant, but we already are beginning to feel its effects right here in Oregon.

It is now almost certain that some Western states will see massive water insecurity on an almost continual basis in coming decades. Climate change and a strong La Niña effect are responsible for nearly 50% of Oregon’s current historic drought that is wreaking havoc on Southern Oregon farmers, fisheries and ecosystems. If we don’t act now to reduce Oregon and America’s greenhouse gas emissions, we greatly increase the chance of seeing megadroughts unlike any since before 800 A.D. While personal choices such as flying less and buying less are an important way to reduce our own ecological impacts, supporting state and federal legislation limiting greenhouse gas emissions and promoting clean energy sources is one of the best ways to affect large-scale change.

Oregon legislators want to hear about what their constituents care about, and local change can set much larger trends in motion. Let’s take action and advocate for 100% clean energy in the beautiful state of Oregon.

Lane Johnson, Shedd

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