

Germany” is fallacious in the extreme.

While most people are familiar with the Holocaust, the actions of the German Army alone, not the Gestapo or SS, can be looked at for facts to disprove Mr. Beilstein's contention. In Poland the German Army murdered at least 3,000 Polish prisoners of war. It is estimated at least 600 civilians were murdered by the German Army in Belgium. In France, at least 1,500 Black French soldiers were murdered because of their race.

There are numerous instances of war crimes committed by the German Army in the Balkans and the Soviet Union. None of these killings was in the course of battle. Next time, Mr. Beilstein, please get your facts correct before putting your beliefs out there.

James B. Cash
Corvallis

Coffin Butte needs better management

The cost of expanding the landfill is much greater than the cost of repurposing Coffin Butte Road and preparing the new site to receive waste.

The real cost of expanding Coffin Butte is the cost of continuing business as usual until the newly expanded landfill is used up. When the expanded landfill is used up, the county and its taxpayers will be on the hook to replace it.

Benton County's short-term gain in tipping fees from all the waste being sent to Coffin Butte will be dwarfed by the future cost of replacing the dump. Contrary to some popular beliefs, any future mining of the dump for buried resources will be just as costly as the efforts we now make to prevent burying potential recyclables in the first place.

It's time to take note of alternative practices to reduce waste that are successfully in place around the country. Lane County is currently seeking bids for a material recovery facility to sort food waste and recyclables from garbage at a potential cost of \$15 to \$40 million.

Coffin Butte has a small meth-

ane plant which was last upgraded in 2012. Both expanded methane capture for energy production and more effective recycling would offset some of those costs.

Funding for upgrading waste management could also come from Oregon's recently passed Recycling Modernization Act, which puts a fee on producers of plastics and other packaging.

Let's get our heads up and make smart decisions regarding our waste management!

Camille Hall
Corvallis

How to get the ball rolling on this?

The approach of some Eastern Oregonians wanting to become part of Idaho misses the mark.

The part of Oregon that is east of the Cascades is two-thirds of the state's square miles and is truly Oregon, not Idaho.

Some of the most beautiful parts of the state are located there. Great fishing and hunting. Rural-ish, clean and safe. Very good people; it could use a little more diversity, but that will come with prosperity. The population is not racist.

We can't afford to let that part of the state slip away and leave the Willamette Valley as the smallest Western state while Idaho would become one of the largest.

The best solution would be to let the Portland metropolitan area join Washington. It would be a win-win. Oregon could give up a few dozen square miles that is already on the Washington border. Just move the Washington border a little to the south on I-5.

Everyone would be better off and it would cool the current political climate.

The Willamette Valley would of course remain liberal and the counties east of Bend would remain conservative, as far as voting in general goes. The east and the west sides would respect and value each other, without Portland.

How do we get the ball rolling on this? Oregon needs this to happen.

Mike Kuntzelman
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