

# THE DAILY ASTORIAN

Founded in 1873



STEPHEN A. FORRESTER, *Editor & Publisher*  
 LAURA SELLERS, *Managing Editor*  
 BETTY SMITH, *Advertising Manager*  
 CARL EARL, *Systems Manager*  
 JOHN D. BRUIJN, *Production Manager*  
 DEBRA BLOOM, *Business Manager*  
 HEATHER RAMSDELL, *Circulation Manager*



Capital Press

For the farm sector, it's hard to know which presidential candidate is the friend.

## Who's the farmer's friend?

*Valuable trade deal is scorned by Trump and Clinton*

Unless establishment Republicans pull some convention shenanigans, Donald Trump will likely be the GOP nominee for president. Bernie Sanders remains a contender, but it is still unlikely he will upset Hillary Clinton to be the Democrat's standard-bearer.

But what either think about the concerns for farmers and ranchers is, and will probably remain, a mystery in the short run.

There was a time when presidential candidates pursued the farm vote. But farmers and ranchers have gotten short shrift from presidential candidates in the 21st century.

That is at odds with a certain reality. Everyone in America eats, and eats quite well. Food is so abundant that it doesn't register as a concern, and food producers are so few that they no longer constitute a viable interest group.

Trump's website doesn't mention agriculture specifically. Sam Clovis, Trump's national campaign co-chairman and chief policy adviser, told our sister newspaper the *Capital Press* the campaign "looks at agriculture from a security issue as every bit as important as energy and border security."

Clinton's campaign didn't respond to the CP's request for information. Her website offers the vague promise to "increase funding to support the next generation of farmers and ranchers, invest in expanding local food markets and regional food systems, and provide a focused safety net to assist family operations ..."

Here's what we know based on what the candidates have said or published:

Neither Clinton or Trump like the Trans-Pacific Partnership, the big 12-party trade deal now pending before Congress and important to agriculture.

Clinton was for the pact before she was against it. As secretary of state she touted the

negotiations and the prospects for a deal. She once referred to the TPP as the "gold standard" for fair, transparent trade. But once the deal was finalized, candidate Clinton dropped her support.

Her online campaign material doesn't say what she wants in future trade deals.

As always, Trump is blunt. "The TPP is horrible deal," Trump said of the pact. How he thinks it could be improved, we don't know. His positions on trade are fairly general — it will "flourish," he says.

Clinton supports the use of genetically modified crops, and mandatory labeling on food products. Trump, who eats organic at home, told the Iowa Farm Bureau that he supports the use of biotechnology in food products and opposes mandatory labeling. On immigration — a matter hugely important to farmers — the candidates occupy opposite poles.

Clinton supports a path for citizenship for illegals now in the country, Trump does not. Clinton supports "humane, targeted immigration enforcement." Trump wants to hire 10,000 more U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement officers and repatriate all criminal aliens as well as everyone caught crossing the border. Clinton supports the president's plan to give work permits to as many as five million illegal immigrants. Trump supports mandatory E-Verify screening to prevent noneligible applicants from getting jobs.

Trump has promised to reduce federal regulation, Clinton has not.

For the farm sector, it's hard to know which is the friend.

## Trump's Miss Universe foreign policy

By THOMAS L. FRIEDMAN  
*New York Times News Service*

OK, it's easy to pick on Donald Trump's foreign policy. But just because he recently referred to the attack on the World Trade Center as happening on "7/11" — which is a convenience store — instead of 9/11, and just because he claimed that "I know Russia well" because he held a "major event in Russia two or three years ago" — (the) Miss Universe contest, which was a big, big, incredible event" — doesn't make him unqualified.

I'm sure you can learn a lot schmoozing with Miss Argentina. You can also learn a lot eating at the International House of Pancakes. I never fully understood Arab politics until I ate hummus — or was it Hamas?



Thomas L. Friedman

And, by the way, just because Trump's big foreign policy speech was salted with falsehoods — like "ISIS is making millions and millions of dollars a week selling Libyan oil" — it doesn't make him unqualified.

The *New York Times Magazine* just profiled one of the president's deputy national security advisers, Ben Rhodes, reporting how he and his aides boasted of using social media, what the writer called a "largely manufactured" narrative, and a pliant press to, in essence, dupe the country into supporting the Iran nuclear deal. The Donald is not the only one given to knuckleheaded bluster and misrepresentation on foreign policy.

Life is imitating Twitter everywhere now.

Indeed, criticizing Trump for inconsistency when it comes to foreign policy is a bit rich when you consider that both Democrats and Republicans have treated Pakistan as an ally, knowing full well that its secret service has trucked with terrorists and coddled the Taliban — the people killing U.S. soldiers in Afghanistan; they've both treated Saudi Arabia as an ally because we needed its oil, knowing full well that its export of Salafist Islam has fueled jihadis; they both supported decapitating Libya and then not staying around to support a new security order, thus opening a gaping hole on the African coast for migrants to flow into Europe; they've both supported NATO expansion into Russia's face and then wondered aloud why the Russian president, Vladimir Putin, is so truculent.

No, if I were critiquing Trump's foreign policy views it would not be on inconsistency, hypocrisy or lying. It would be that he shows no sign of having asked the most important question: What are the real foreign policy challenges the next president will face? I don't think he has a clue, because if he did, he wouldn't want the job. This is one of the worst times to be conducting U.S. foreign policy.

Consider some of the questions

## Open forum

### Barforama

Judge Philip Nelson's decision to remove William Orr and Chester Trabucco as co-defendants in the lawsuit over the Astoria Riverwalk Inn ("Riverwalk Inn hoteliers off the hook," *The Daily Astorian*, May 4, 2016) stinks worse than a simultaneous barforama by all the sea lions in the boat basin.

The fact that Mr. Orr is the brother-in-law of Port Commissioner Stephen Fulton, and friend of Port Commissioner

Bill Hunsinger, and that he and his partner

were granted this contract a month after the Port had entered into an agreement with another company, is the essence of the "good old boy" network that has ruled Astoria, and especially the Port of Astoria, for so long.

JOSEPH WEBB  
 Astoria

### Doubtful

As an election nears, I find it informative to visit Orestar at the Oregon Secretary of State website, where campaign finance information is compiled.

For example, as of

April 22, "The Committee to Elect Dawn McIntosh" (to Clatsop Circuit Court judge) received generous contributions of between \$500 and \$1,000 from each of five local lawyers who might plead cases in her court if she is elected. Those are conspicuous contribution amounts for an election in our small county.

I realize our court system allows attorneys to use all legally-permitted methods to win their cases, and handing over even conspicuously large amounts of money is not deemed bribery, as long as the money is reported as

a campaign contribution. However, as the adage goes, just because one can, doesn't mean one should.

This election will determine who will replace retiring Judge Philip Nelson for District 18, Position 2 Circuit Court. Judge Nelson fulfilled the duties of that office with dignity, professionalism, scrupulous ethics and impeccable impartiality. When we vote for who will replace him, I hope we choose someone we expect to demonstrate those same qualities — without doubts.

SHEL CANTOR  
 Astoria



AP Photo/Saurabh Das

Activists of right-wing Hindu Sena or Hindu Army make offerings to the fire god while conducting Hindu rituals to ensure a win for U.S. presidential candidate Donald Trump in New Delhi, India, on Wednesday. While Trump has dominated the Republican primary race to decide the party's candidate for the November election, his calls for temporarily banning Muslims from America and cracking down on terrorist groups abroad have earned him some fans in faraway India.

that will greet the Oval Office's next occupant. For starters, what does the new president do when the necessary is impossible but the impossible is necessary? Yes, we've proved in Iraq and Afghanistan that we don't know how to do nation-building in other people's countries. But just leaving Libya, Syria and parts of Iraq and Yemen ungoverned, and spewing out refugees, has led to a flood of migrants hitting Europe and stressing the cohesion of the European Union; that refugee flood could very well lead to Britain's exit from the EU.

President Barack Obama has been patting himself on the back a lot lately for not intervening in Syria. I truly sympathized with how hard that call was — until I heard the president and his aides boasting about how smart their decision was and how stupid all their critics are. The human and geopolitical spillover from Syria is not over. It's destabilizing the EU, Lebanon, Iraq, Kurdistan and Jordan. The choices are hellish. I would not want the responsibility for making them. But nobody has a monopoly on genius here, and neither Obama's victory lap around this smoldering ruin nor Trump's bombastic and simplistic solutions are pretty to watch.

And there are more of these stressors coming: Falling oil prices, climate change and population bombs are going to blow up more weak states, hemorrhaging refugees in all directions.

There's also the question of what you should do about the networked nihilists? Ever since the rise of Osama bin Laden, super-empowered angry men have challenged us. But at least bin Laden had an identifiable cause and set of demands: cleansing the Arabian Peninsula of Western influence. But now we are seeing a mutation. Can anyone tell me what the terrorists who killed all those people in Brussels, Paris or San Bernardino wanted?

They didn't even leave a note; their act was their note. These suicidal jihadi-nihilists are not trying to win; they just want to make us lose. That's a tough foe. They can't destroy us — now — but they will ratchet up the pain if they get the ammo.

Curbing them while maintaining an open society, with personal privacy on your cellphone and the Internet, will be a challenge.

And then there are Russia and China. They're back in the game of traditional sphere-of-influence geopolitics. But both Russia and China face huge economic strains that will tempt their leaders to distract attention at home with nationalist adventures abroad.

The days of clear-cut, satisfying victories overseas, like opening up China or tearing down the Berlin Wall, are over. U.S. foreign policy now is all about containing disorder and messes. It is the exact opposite of running a beauty pageant. There's no winner, and each contestant is uglier than the last.

**This is one of the worst times to be conducting U.S. foreign policy.**

## Where to write

• **U.S. Rep. Suzanne Bonamici (D):** 2338 Rayburn HOB, Washington, D.C., 20515. Phone: 202-225-0855. Fax 202-225-9497. District office: 12725 SW Millikan Way, Suite 220, Beaverton, OR 97005. Phone: 503-469-6010. Fax 503-326-5066. Web: bonamici.house.gov/  
 • **U.S. Sen. Jeff Merkley (D):** 313 Hart Senate Office Building,

Washington, D.C. 20510. Phone: 202-224-3753. Web: www.merkley.senate.gov

• **U.S. Sen. Ron Wyden (D):** 221 Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C., 20510. Phone: 202-224-5244. Web: www.wyden.senate.gov

• **State Rep. Brad Witt (D):** State Capitol, 900 Court Street N.E., H-373, Salem, OR 97301.

Phone: 503-986-1431. Web: www.leg.state.or.us/witt/ Email: rep.bradwitt@state.or.us

• **State Rep. Deborah Boone (D):** 900 Court St. N.E., H-481, Salem, OR 97301. Phone: 503-986-1432. Email: rep.deborah.boone@state.or.us District office: P.O. Box 928, Cannon Beach, OR 97110. Phone: 503-986-1432. Web: www.leg.state.or.us/boone/