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OUR VIEW

Tip of the hat; kick in the pants

A tip of the hat to the Pendleton Police Department for their sweep of the violent, racist gang that was spreading its tentacles into the city.

The United Aryan Empire gang allegedly committed violent, dangerous acts and had planned to commit many more — including murder and the creation of a criminal enterprise that would be more difficult to crack each month it was in existence.

Having them on the hook — not just for crimes that get them back on the street in 30 days but for serious jail terms — is for the good of the city.

There is a lot of work still to be done to convict these alleged lawbreakers and make the charges stick. But plenty of toil and trouble has already been exerted, and suspect men and women are in custody. The streets of Pendleton are safer because of it.



Unsigned editorials are the opinion of the East Oregonian editorial board of Publisher Kathryn Brown, Managing Editor Daniel Wattenburger, and Opinion Page Editor Tim Trainor. Other columns, letters and cartoons on this page express the opinions of the authors and not necessarily that of the East Oregonian.

OTHER VIEWS

Kitzhaber must resign

By The Oregonian

"I'm not going to consider resigning," said Gov. John Kitzhaber at a disastrous press conference held Friday following revelations about the apparently borderless world of public policy and private gain in which he and fiancée Cylvia Hayes exist. "I was elected by the people of this state to do a job, and I intend to do it."

No doubt, the governor does intend to do the job Oregonians gave him, which, simply put, is to pursue the interests of his constituents. That intention, however, is no match for an ugly reality of his own making, whose sordid elements keep surfacing with dispiriting regularity,

most recently this week thanks to the work of Nick Budnick and Laura Gunderson of *The Oregonian/OregonLive*. Two people involved in Kitzhaber's 2010 campaign helped Hayes find paid work with groups interested in Oregon policy, Budnick and Gunderson reported. Both have landed in Kitzhaber's administration.

More ugliness may surface, but it should be clear by now to Kitzhaber that his credibility has evaporated to such a degree that he can no longer serve effectively as governor. If he wants to serve his constituents he should resign.

To recite every reported instance in which Hayes, ostensibly under Kitzhaber's watchful eye, has used public resources, including public employee time and her "first lady" title, in pursuit of professional gain would require far more space than we have here and, besides, repeat what most readers already know. Suffice it to say there's a pattern, and the person who bears the responsibility for allowing it to form and persist is Kitzhaber, who should know better. After all, as he pointed out during Friday's press conference, he's been serving in public office on and off since the 1970s.

Consider, instead, what Oregonians have learned during only the last couple of weeks. First, Hayes received a combined \$118,000 in 2011 and 2012 through the Washington, D.C.-based Clean Economy Development Center even as she served as an unpaid energy adviser to Kitzhaber. This income is not fully accounted for on tax forms Hayes provided to *The Oregonian/OregonLive*. Neither has the governor fully accounted for the money in ethics filings.

A big chunk of Hayes' fellowship money, \$75,000, came from the San Francisco-based Energy Foundation, a nonprofit that funds clean-energy initiatives such as the low carbon fuel standard. Implementing a low carbon fuel standard is a priority for both Kitzhaber and Democratic leaders in the

Legislature. The session's first public hearing on a bill to that end happened on Monday.

How did Hayes end up with a fellowship funded by an organization with an interest in clean-energy policy in Oregon? A Kitzhaber campaign adviser, Dan Carol, helped arrange the funding following Kitzhaber's election in 2010, Budnick and Gunderson reported. Carol subsequently landed a position within the Kitzhaber administration. That position, *Willamette Week* has reported, pays more than \$165,000, making Carol Kitzhaber's highest-paid aide.

Who knew following the trail of "clean energy" money could make you feel so dirty?

It should be clear by now to Kitzhaber that his credibility has evaporated to such a degree that he can no longer serve effectively as governor.

Another campaign adviser, Greg Wolf, helped land Hayes a position with the Rural Development Initiatives. The nonprofit, Budnick and Gunderson reported, wanted Hayes to help raise money for a clean economy project — including tens of thousands for which Kitzhaber's support was needed. Wolf, like Carol, later secured a position in Kitzhaber's administration.

Is it any wonder Kitzhaber now finds himself stranded in an ethical swamp? To understand the full extent of his predicament, consider his inability to answer one simple question during his press conference Friday: Is Hayes a member of your household? He answered this question in the affirmative on multiple occasions in ethics filings. But on Friday, following the discovery of apparently unreported fellowship income, he said, "I have no idea whether she is 'legally' a member of my household."

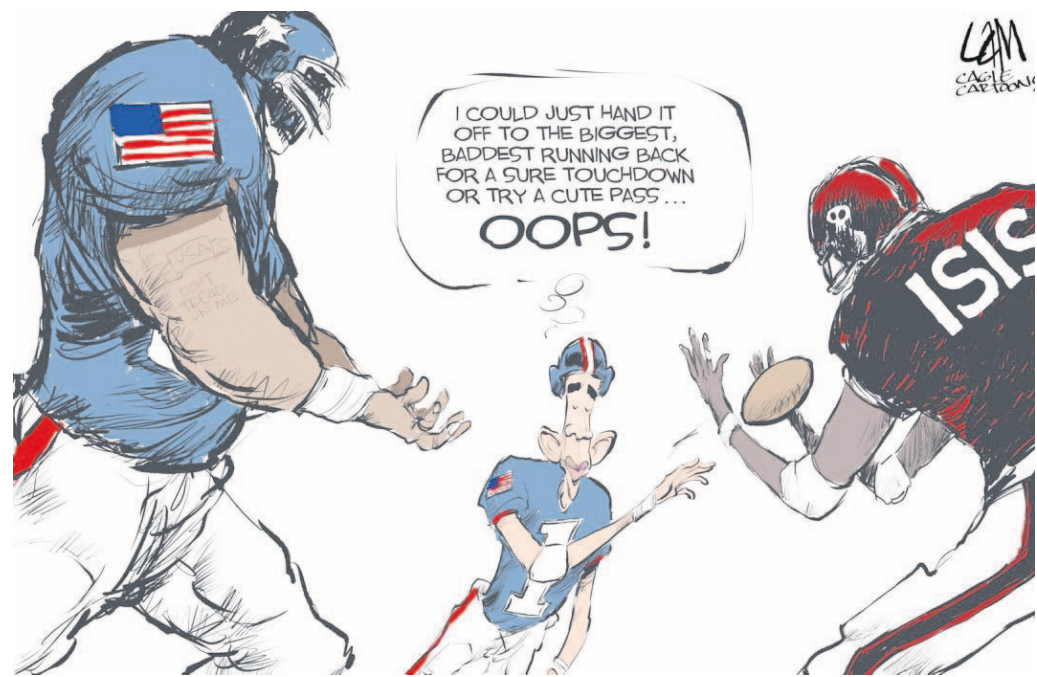
The governor has not yet quibbled about the meaning of "is," but Friday's evasions were almost Clintonian.

The questions about Kitzhaber's judgment and competence ask themselves. Is he so oblivious that he had no idea that campaign advisers were helping his girlfriend line up employment marked by ethical red flags? Is he really so clueless that he had no idea how much money Hayes collected through her fellowship, which would explain his apparently incomplete ethics filings? Or, alternatively, did he know and fail to act? Both possibilities are damning, and it's difficult to imagine alternatives that are not.

Whether through gross inattention or complicity, Kitzhaber has broken faith with Oregonians. His career in Oregon politics is one of great accomplishment, but his past success does not excuse the mess he has made of the office with which Oregonians entrusted him. He is now less a governor than a source of unending distraction. He can no longer lead Oregon effectively and should resign. His constituents deserve better.

LETTERS POLICY

The East Oregonian welcomes original letters of 400 words or less on public issues and public policies for publication in the newspaper and on our website. The newspaper reserves the right to withhold letters that address concerns about individual services and products or letters that infringe on the rights of private citizens. Submitted letters must be signed by the author and include the city of residence and a daytime phone number. The phone number will not be published. Unsigned letters will not be published. Send letters to Managing Editor Daniel Wattenburger, 211 S.E. Byers Ave. Pendleton, OR 97801 or email editor@eastoregonian.com.



OTHER VIEWS

Public opinion left out of Obama's immigration drive

Gallup recently asked adults around the country a very simple question about immigration: Are you satisfied, or dissatisfied, with the level of immigration into the United States today? Are too many immigrants coming? Too few? Or is the number just about right?

Before giving the results, it's important to note what that number is. The U.S. awards legal permanent resident status — a green card, which means lifetime residency plus the option of citizenship — to about 1 million people per year, a rate Sen. Marco Rubio calls "the most generous" on Earth. In addition, the government hands out more than a half-million student and exchange visas each year, tens of thousands of refugee admissions, and about 700,000 visas to temporary workers and their families. The percentage of foreign-born people in the U.S. population is heading toward levels not seen since the period of 1890 to 1910.

So is that too much, or too little? Gallup found that 47 percent of Americans believe the level of immigration should stay where it is. Thirty-nine percent want to see it decreased. And just 7 percent want it increased. (The remaining 7 percent said they don't know.)

Put another way, 86 percent of Americans would like immigration into this country to remain at today's level or to decrease, versus 7 percent who want to see it increase.

"Americans wish to see current record immigration rates lowered, not raised," said the office of Republican Sen. Jeff Sessions, who has opposed comprehensive immigration reform measures on Capitol Hill. "Yet the president's 'Gang of Eight' immigration bill ... doubles the number of annual guest workers and triples the number of green cards over the next 10-year period."

Given public opinion, it shouldn't surprise anyone that the bill did not become law.

Gallup did not ask about immigrants who are already in the United States illegally. But a *Wall Street Journal* poll touched on that question just before the State of the Union speech, asking respondents which issues should be "an absolute priority for the Obama administration and this year's Congress." On the list was "passing immigration legislation that would create a pathway to U.S. citizenship for foreigners who are currently staying illegally in the United States." It ranked 12th out of 15 possible priorities, with just 39 percent calling it a must-do.

Another immigration-related option, passing reform "that would do more to secure our southern border with Mexico," ranked much higher, with 58 percent of respondents calling it an absolute priority.



BYRON YORK
Comment

Public opinion is not stopping the administration from plowing ahead with the president's decision to grant quasi-legal status, work permits and federal benefits to millions of immigrants here illegally. The recent confirmation hearings of attorney general nominee Loretta Lynch showed just how determined the president is.

Early in the hearing, Sen. Sessions asked Lynch, "Who has more right to a job in this country -- a lawful immigrant who's here, a green-card holder or a citizen, or a person who entered the country unlawfully?"

Are you satisfied with the level of immigration in the United States today?

It's a safe bet most Americans would say the person in the country legally should get the job before a person here illegally. But not Lynch. "I believe that the right and the obligation to work is one that's shared by everyone in this country regardless of how they came here," she answered.

Sessions went on to ask: What if an employer chose to hire a person who is in

the country lawfully over an illegal immigrant covered by the president's executive action? Would the Justice Department take action against that employer? Lynch wouldn't answer.

When the polling group Paragon Insights asked recently about the work-permits portion of the president's action, they found that by 71 percent to 21 percent — a 50-point margin — Americans would support new legislation "that strengthens the rules making it illegal for businesses in the U.S. to hire illegal immigrants."

No matter. Last November, when President Obama announced the unilateral executive action on immigration, he noted that there are "good, decent people who are worried about immigration," who particularly fear that "immigrants take jobs from hardworking Americans."

"I hear them. And I understand them," Obama said. But the president explained he "had to act" on behalf of the immigrants. Obama knows the problem, and he feels for those who might be hurt; he's just on the side of those here illegally.

Many aspects of public opinion favor opponents of comprehensive immigration reform and of the president's unilateral action. Yet even with that advantage, those opponents sometimes seem unable to make their case effectively. With Republicans now in control of Congress, it's an open question whether GOP lawmakers can craft legislation that moves the nation's immigration policy forward while still respecting public opinion.

Byron York is chief political correspondent for *The Washington Examiner*.

YOUR VIEWS

Measles is a serious problem that shouldn't be shrugged off

This letter is in response to a letter to the editor on "Measles? What's the big deal." Contrary to what was written, measles is a very big deal.

At the turn of the century, newborns had an 11 percent risk of mortality prior to their first birthday. Many deaths were attributed to vaccine-preventable diseases such as measles. The measles-containing vaccine is highly effective, providing nearly 97 percent efficacy with just one dose. Unfortunately, children under 12 months of age are unable to receive the vaccine. Additionally, household contacts of individuals who are immuno-compromised due to cancer, organ transplants or other conditions cannot receive this vaccine if they have contact with the immuno-compromised individual for 28 days following vaccination.

Measles is one of the most highly contagious vaccine-preventable diseases. It is airborne, so Mr. Olsen's claim of good housekeeping and healthy nutrition do nothing in preventing exposure. Additionally, most individuals who have measles are contagious prior to the onset of the rash. They make the call to their doctor, and sit in the waiting room for up to an hour coughing and exposing everybody around them the entire time. Unbeknownst to parents sitting nearby, their precious 1-week-old baby has now been exposed and could very well likely develop

measles in the next 2-3 weeks.

What does measles do? For many individuals, it makes them feel awful for two weeks. It is a virus, so antibiotics are ineffective in treating the disease. For others, it can be fatal. It can result in severe systemic infections, deafness, pneumonias, seizures and brain encephalopathies. In other areas of the world, 1 in 20 children die from measles. The live measles vaccine was first developed in 1963. Prior to its availability, greater than 3 million people were infected annually.

Within one decade of vaccination, the incidence of measles dropped by 99 percent. In the year 2000, transmission of measles was declared eliminated in the United States. Breakthrough cases were almost always due to international travel. Then came the age of families choosing to not vaccinate their children out of fear over mercury (which hasn't been in pediatric vaccines for nearly 10 years), and good ol' Mr. Wakefield, whose horribly designed, inaccurate and medically neglectful study on MMR vaccine and autism resulted in the resurgence of this disease. In 2014, there were documented 644 cases. Nearly every single case was in an unvaccinated child. And now, despite us living in the age of incredible advancements in medicine, we have another outbreak of over 100 cases by the end of January 2015. Measles no big deal? I beg to differ!

Amy Allen, R.N.
Pendleton