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OUR VIEW

Tip of the hat; kick in the pants

A kick in the pants to Cylvia Hayes and John Kitzhaber's lawyer Jim McDermott for talking the embattled governor into staying in his now untenable position atop our state government.

For more on the controversy, see our front page story today, see our front pages stories from last week and see our front page stories that will continue for weeks ahead.

This collapse will not end until Kitzhaber is deposed. He can make it easy on himself and Oregonians and go now, or he can drag out the process and our patience. But these two people — the one he sleeps next to and the other that he pays — are the only ones who believe Kitzhaber can still do the job. Democrats in the legislature have called for his resignation, as did Treasurer Ted Wheeler. Secretary of State Kate Brown — who would take over the job if Kitz quits — described the current governor's actions as "strange" and the situation as "bizarre" and "unprecedented." She also said she's ready to step in.

Democrats are not just throwing Kitzhaber under the bus, they are throwing said bus into reverse and running him over again and again.

With so little support and a growing mountain of incriminating evidence, it's hard to believe it will last much longer.

But watching one man protect his hide — and the hide of his fiancée — while putting his state through the ringer, is enough to make you sad for the state of political affairs and the state of our beloved Oregon.



A tip of the hat to the leadership classes at Hermiston and Pendleton, which both spent a day at the *East Oregonian* this week.

The classes — organized by each city's chamber of commerce — are a great way to groom community leaders by both showing them what makes our towns great and by introducing them to other movers-and-shakers.

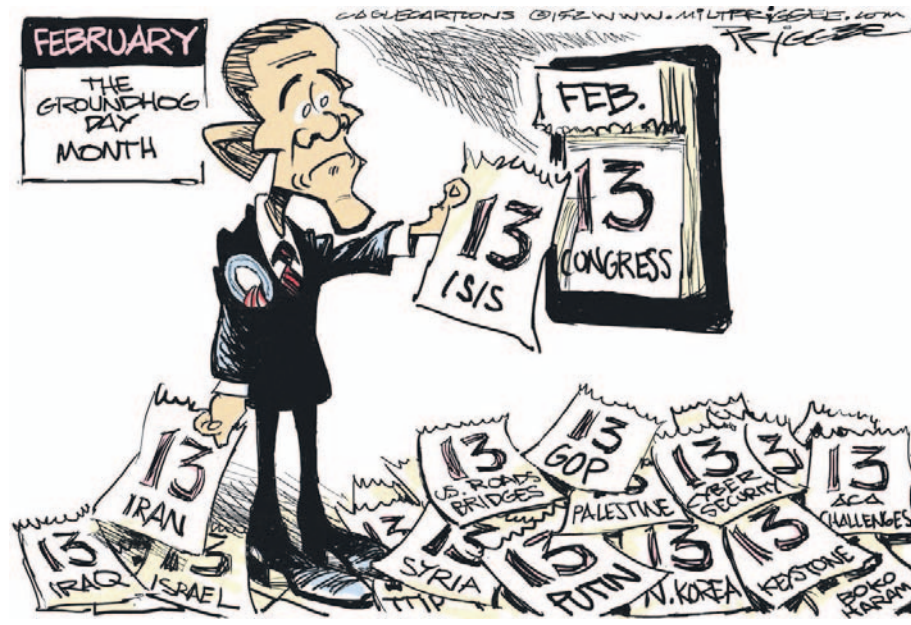
And, selfishly, we love to have the opportunity to host these classes, lead a tour of our facility and show them what we do on a daily basis. We believe being well-read about local news is necessary to being a good citizen, and even more so a citizen leader.

This week's program was just one of many spread out over months, introducing the classes to local cultural centers, government, law enforcement, agriculture and more.

If it sounds like something you are interested in, call up your local chamber and have them to put you on the list for next year. We look forward to seeing you.



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

Jeb rolls out kinder candidacy

When Bushes run for president, they portray themselves as more caring, more gentle and more compassionate than their sometimes heartless and harshly ideological fellow Republicans. It worked for George H.W. Bush in 1988, it worked for George W. Bush in 2000, and now Jeb Bush is preparing to give it another go in 2016.

The youngest Bush, who is still officially "exploring" a White House run, is doing a slow rollout of themes for his candidacy. In a recent appearance at the Detroit Economic Club, Bush tested a few ways to distance himself from Republicans who have stumbled on issues related to the poor and the government's efforts to help them.

For example, Bush accused Washington — not Republicans, not Democrats, just big-government Washington — of creating programs that ensnare people in poverty. "Instead of a safety net to cushion our occasional falls, they have built a spider web that traps people in perpetual dependence," Bush said.

Compare that to Rep. Paul Ryan's suggestion, repeated many times during the 2012 campaign, that government programs can be an inducement to laziness. "We believe in a safety net," Ryan said, "but we don't want to turn it into a hammock that lulls able-bodied people into a sense of complacency."

Ryan no longer uses it, but the line is still popular with high-profile Republicans. For example, unveiling his new state budget this week, Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker said, "These programs should be a temporary safety net — not a hammock." Walker said the same thing in a well-received speech at a GOP presidential forum in Iowa.

There's a lot of difference between a spider web and a hammock. Bush's message was absolutely clear: I'm not one of those guys.

In addition to those Americans caught in the web of big-government social welfare programs, Bush also discussed millions more who live "on the edge of economic ruin." "Something is holding them back," Bush said. "Not a lack of ambition. Not a lack of hope. Not because they are lazy or see themselves as victims ... As Bush sees it, the "something" holding poor Americans back is the burdensome intrusion of government.

Compare that to Mitt Romney's infamous "47 percent" hidden-camera video from the 2012 campaign. "There are 47 percent who are with (Obama)," Romney said, "who are dependent upon government, who believe that they are victims, who believe that government has a responsibility to care for them, who believe that they are entitled to health care, to

food, to housing, to you name it." Bush's message in Detroit was plain and simple: I am as far from Mitt Romney as is humanly possible.

But Bush is doing more than just distancing himself from Romney and Ryan — or 2016 rival Walker. He's returning to the original Bush blueprint that won for his father and later for his brother.

In 1988, George H.W. Bush, running for president after two terms as Ronald Reagan's vice president, sought to distinguish himself from the image of the Reagan administration as cruel and insensitive to the needs of poor Americans. "I want a kinder, gentler nation," Bush said in the most memorable passage of his 1988 convention speech.

The preparation of that speech offered a peek into what would become the Bush family strategy. Bush sent speechwriter Peggy Noonan a note which said, "I know what drives me ... Everyone matters." In her book "What I Saw at the Revolution," Noonan described how she also received "a list of words that had special meaning for him" — a list that included "kindness," "caring," "decency" and "heart."

"He spoke with a gentleness that was striking," Noonan wrote of Bush. "This was the genesis of 'I want a kinder, gentler nation.'"

Bush won the presidency, and a family template was set. In 2000, George W. Bush ran by promoting himself as a "compassionate conservative," which, like "kinder, gentler," suggested, without flat-out saying so, that there was something wrong with other Republicans.

Now comes Jeb Bush. There are conservatives who will gag at what he's doing, just like older ones gagged at "kinder, gentler" and "compassionate conservative." But Jeb's critics will have to confront this question: Can they name any Republicans not named Bush who have been elected president in the last 30 years?

The fact is, the Bushes are the only Republicans who have cracked the code for winning the White House in more than a generation. Maybe that will change in 2016, but Jeb Bush will have his supporters.

Jeb speaks of George H.W. Bush with enormous reverence. "My dad is the greatest man alive, and if anybody disagrees, we'll go outside," he said in Detroit.

Now, he's doing more than just paying tribute. He's adapting his father's game for 2016.

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



BYRON YORK
Comment

There are conservatives who will gag at what he's doing — but can they name any Republicans not named Bush who have been elected president in the last 30 years?

YOUR REQUA VIEWS

Support for Requa bronze:

I read with interest your opinion in today's paper about the "problem" with the Requa statue. I don't believe there is a "problem" with the placement of the statue on Main Street. You said yourself, "Worthwhile art is never going to make everyone happy." That is what is going on here, a subjective disagreement — there are no problems with the placement because all of the right things have been accomplished along the way to satisfy the city regarding the placement issue.

Unlike other pieces of public art in downtown Pendleton, this statue had unanimous approval from the city council on a vote taken on January 7, 2013. Unlike other pieces of public art in downtown Pendleton, this statue will be engineered by the city engineering department for proper structural support and safety of the placement.

Based upon the approval of the city council, the Linebackers Club raised substantial funds for this project in a very short period of time. Donors relied on what was described to them when they were considering giving their money, and the placement at Brownfield Park was one of the cornerstones. I know, because I raised a fair amount of the funds from individuals and grants. Now there seems to be a move afoot

to have the statue moved. That simply should not happen.

Coach Requa had a positive impact on literally thousands of Pendleton High School students, myself included. His impact was significantly greater than that of all of those currently memorialized in all the existing downtown statues combined, and then some.

Mike Temple
Seattle

As a former student and Buckaroo player at Pendleton High School, I strongly support the placement of coach Don Requa's statue on the Main Street site.

As a former resident of Pendleton, a student and athlete at PHS, I know first hand the impact "Req" had, not only on our great city, but the countless lives he touched, myself being one.

Jim Rackley,
PHS class of 1964, Gresham

I am in strong support of the Requa bronze being located in Brownfield Park. The leaders of Pendleton have put in many great statues throughout the city, especially on Main Street.

Having the Requa bronze located on the north end of Main would draw people to that area where several historic buildings and the Pendleton River Parkway and walking trail are located, not to forget the beautiful

Pendleton Arts Center and historic homes that are right across the bridge.

Lori Anderson Johnson
Redmond

Concerning the placement of the Requa bronze: I think the folks who want to place the statue away from Main Street obviously have not seen the bronze and/or don't understand the concept of honoring an outstanding person of so many accomplishments.

Well, I have seen it. And touched it in its full-sized clay incarnation — it is magnificent!

I cannot conceive of the bronze being placed anywhere but its home: near the Brownfield Park on Main Street in Pendleton.

Ron Kearney, PHS Class of 1957
Tualatin

I am writing this letter to show my support of placing the Don Requa bronze in Brownfield Park.

As a former player for Coach Requa and follower of Pendleton football, I know he had a positive influence on many young people's lives. I encourage the community to honor him and Pendleton athletics by placing the bronze at Brownfield Park.

Todd Knop
Ione

Statues of a person are useful in recalling the noble qualities of that person and to inspire others to make valuable contributions to their communities, states, nations religions, etc.

I, and many others feel Mr. Requa was such a person. Placing his statue in a location where it will be seen by many people seems more appropriate than at our old high school where few young people could be inspired by it.

Bill Wright (PHS class of '58)
Coos Bay

Editor's note: These letters were edited for space consideration. They appear in their entirety at eastoregonian.com.

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.