

Quick takes

The Kitzhaber controversy

I voted for him but I think it's time for him to go. Continuing to support his girlfriend and her underhanded tactics brings into question his decision making skills. He can either choose to stay with her or stay in office but the two are not compatible.

— Alice Gilson Hepburn

He's turning into the Governor from Blazing Saddles.

— David Campbell

I didn't think recreational pot was legal before July 1.

— Mike Navratil

Why would he talk to his fiancée? She would have been the last person I would have talked to—she was the one who is heaping embarrassment daily on him with each new allegation.

— Rod Wayne Nixon

Does he really think she loves him? Look at her history. Just go! And then see if she's still around. I could take a guess.

— Linda Cole

One of the great lessons of the Twitter age is that much can be summed up in just a few words. Here are some of this week's takes. Tweet yours @Tim_Trainor or email editor@eastoregonian.com, and keep them to 140 characters.

Requa worthy, Brownfield the right spot

By DEAN FOUQUETTE
Pendleton Linebackers Club

The Pendleton Arts Commission and the Pendleton City Council approved the Requa bronze and the siting at Brownfield Park in January of 2013. The Pendleton Linebackers followed the protocol that is required for placing a bronze in the city of Pendleton. The people who are on the Pendleton Arts Commission are experienced volunteers in the field of art.

The Pendleton City Council is selected by vote by the citizens of Pendleton. They work hard and long hours at making the best decisions for the city, which is us. Once the Pendleton Linebackers received this commitment from these two entities we started fundraising for the Requa bronze. We have the full support of the Arts Commission and the city council.

We hired Rip Caswell, a world-renowned bronze sculptor from Troutdale, Oregon. Google him, you will see what he has accomplished. He sculpted Admiral

Chester Nimitz of the U.S. Navy, Governor Tom McCall of Oregon, Sergeant Tommy Tucker of Madras, and many more. Rip is a real pro. When we spoke to Randy Gundlach, he said, "You have the right guy."

The Linebackers have raised \$93,000 for the Requa bronze through private donations and foundation grants, including \$5,000 from the Pendleton Arts Commission — money that is earmarked for art in the city of Pendleton. Caswell has been to Pendleton twice to look at and measure the siting at Brownfield Park.

The dimensions of the base for the statue, the tilting of the head of Req, the posture of Req, and the gaze of the eyes of Req have to be specific for the location of the bronze. Everything is very specific in the sculpting of the Requa bronze.

The Linebackers considered the high school, Roy Raley Park, Brownfield Park and other locations. We understand the thought process for each location. Everyone is entitled to their opinion.

We felt that Brownfield Park, located just south of the Main Street Bridge and on the northeast corner of Main and Byers, was the best location for the Requa bronze. We think more of our citizens of Pendleton, our visitors, and our bus tours would be able to view the bronze. We are just a few months away from the completion of the Requa bronze.

We are in discussion with the planning commission for the base of the bronze, the wiring of the lighting system, and the camera security system setup. These things take a lot of time and energy.

Don Requa was a math teacher, a football coach, a driver's training instructor, an athletic director, a mentor, and a very important citizen in our community for 37 years. On top of that, he developed one of the best high school football programs in the state of Oregon and he had the most wins in the state of Oregon. That record has since been surpassed. He is enshrined in three Halls of Fame. Did he have faults? Yes. Did he have detractors? Yes. Was he perfect? No. He is the greatest football coach in our long and storied history. Req said this: "The football field is another classroom where real life lessons are learned."

Dean Fouquette is chairman of the Pendleton Linebackers Hall of Fame.

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Renew clean fuels program for region's economy and jobs

By TOM KOEHLER
Pacific Ethanol

The Oregon Legislature is considering right now to whether to reauthorize our state's nascent Clean Fuels program. The program, which begins final implementation this year, will increase access to cleaner burning fuel sources to provide more choices for Oregon consumers and expand opportunities for Oregon's businesses.

Without clean fuel options, Oregonians are sending more than \$6 billion out of state each year to import gas and diesel. By capturing even just a small fraction of those fuel dollars and keeping them here at home, we can create thousands of jobs and have a significant impact on our local economy.

Across the Northwest, our burgeoning clean fuel sector is demonstrating innovation and leadership: We have everything from biofuels to electric vehicles to natural and renewable gas, propane, all ready and able to offer cheaper options to Oregonians while reducing harmful air pollution.

But nowhere more than Eastern Oregon can demonstrate how the clean fuel industry is taking off and what opportunities we have to expand further. Agriculture and timber byproducts are supplying the next generation of renewable fuels for reduced pollution and cleaner air — and creating jobs and putting money into Oregonians' pocket while doing so.

When we talk about economic development and opportunities for Eastern Oregon, clean fuels ought to be at the top of any list. Growers are becoming enthusiastic about the new market opportunities for their products, with clean fuel technology advancement. Companies like Pacific Ag in Hermiston provide important connections in the clean fuels supply chain. And Pacific Ethanol is generating 40 million gallons of low carbon ethanol fuel each year.

Our Boardman facility provides 35 direct living-wage jobs with benefits and supports more than 700 jobs servicing the production, marketing, maintenance and operations of our plant.

Our clean fuel economy — which supports responsible, clean fuel consumption and creates local, good-paying jobs — can continue to grow. But this expansion requires the consistent market signal that Oregon's Clean Fuels Program can provide.

Pacific Ethanol, along with hundreds of other Clean Fuels Work businesses members, is proud to support the Clean Fuels Program. We strongly encourage all Oregon Legislators to vote for its reauthorization.

Tom Koehler is a Co-Founder of Pacific Ethanol and a member of the Clean Fuels Work alliance. Pacific Ethanol's Oregon facility is located in Boardman. To learn more about the Clean Fuels Program visit www.CleanFuelsWorks.com

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Succession in Saudi Arabia

In the midst of multiple Middle Eastern crises, the long ruling King of Saudi Arabia, Abdullah bin Ibn Saud, died in January. Determined to assure a smooth transition, Abdullah obtained in 2013 a succession decree to two half-brothers and it has held.

The Kingdom: The ruling monarchy was established in 1902 by Ibn Saud in an alliance with the ultra-hardline Wahabi branch of Sunni religious clerics of the Arabian peninsula, an alliance still firmly in place. From oil production, the al-Sauds are the world's richest family. No parliament exists. Succession has traditionally been to one of Ibn Saud's many sons from multiple wives. Few sons remain.

Succession: Given the advanced age and poor health of the new King and Crown Prince, speculation on future rulers has not abated. Which grandsons will ultimately gain power? It could be messy in a monarchy that has 25,000 princes and princesses. But the grandson just chosen by the new king as number three is already in a key position and well known to U.S. officials.

New King: Salman bin Abdulaziz al-Saud (age 79) is part of the powerful Sudairi faction within the al-Saud family and is a former governor of the capital of Riyadh, overseeing its transformation from a desert town to a modern metropolis. He has been Defense Minister since 2012 and recently approved Saudi participation in air strikes against the self-named Islamic State (ISIS) in Iraq/Syria.

King Salman is reportedly less interested in Saudi-style political and social reform than Abdullah and more oriented towards the religious leadership. Hence Saudi women are unlikely to gain permission to drive anytime soon! Yet, mindful of social media, Salman has the fastest-growing Twitter profile in the world as he uses it to get out the message he wants Saudis and the world to hear.

Cementing his Sudairi family power base, Salman swiftly appointed his 35-year old son Mohammed bin Salman as Defense Minister and another son as Deputy Oil Minister.

New Crown Prince. Next in line is the affable Muqrin bin Abdulaziz



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Comment

(age 70) who was a favorite of King Abdullah and served most recently as his special advisor and envoy. Since his mother is Yemeni, his naming as deputy crown prince in the 2013 succession decree was a surprise, bypassing Salman's half-brother, Ahmad. One wonders how firm Muqrin is in future succession.

New Deputy Crown Prince: The first Ibn Saud grandson in the succession is Mohammed bin Nayef (age 53), another member of the Sudairi faction. He is particularly powerful as Minister of Interior. Of note is that he attended (but did not graduate) from Lewis and Clark College in Portland.

He has been a leading force, originally with his father, the former hard-line Interior Minister from 1975-2012, in preserving stability by fending off a hostile al-Qaeda within Saudi Arabia and stifling domestic political dissent. He protects a vital oil infrastructure.

He works closely with the White House and American intelligence on counter-terrorism and is credited with providing intelligence that foiled at least two al-Qaeda plots against Western targets.

He has led Saudi opposition to the Muslim Brotherhood in the Middle East (ME) because the Saudi monarchy sees it as a political form of Islam that could threaten its power. In that regard, not all Arab states support the Saudi call to wipe out the Brotherhood.

Saudi Gain: While Saudi Arabia has deplored the Arab Spring movements in the ME, it has actually benefited from the weakness or collapse of many ME states. Today it is considered the leading Sunni voice, replacing Egypt whose new military regime relies on Saudi economic largess.

Saudi Aim: Saudi Arabia uses its influence in a single-minded and fierce ME power rivalry with Iran that is both religious in content (Sunni v. Shiite) and historic (Arab v. Persian). Interesting are the hints in the press that Israel and Saudi Arabia are finding common cause in their antagonism to Iran and might become allies of sorts in the future.

U.S. Relations: The fissures in outlook are more apparent now that the U.S. is less reliant on Saudi Arabian oil. The Saudis hate any U.S. promotion of democracy in the ME (e.g. Egypt or Iraq). They want the US willing to bomb their Shiite enemies in Syria and Iran. They strongly object to current U.S./European negotiations with Iran over nuclear development.

For years they have ignored U.S. demarches on human rights issues within Saudi Arabia, the most recent one protesting a sentence of 1,000 lashes for a journalist.

And a troubling sub rosa factor to us is the influence that Saudi Arabia's ultra conservative Wahabi religion has long had in fueling extremist Sunni movements worldwide — at the expense of more moderate strains of Islam.

In contrast to officially declared Saudi government policy, individual Saudis support extremist groups, including ISIS, with plentiful amounts of money.

Still, neither the U.S. nor Saudi Arabia can abandon each other as evident by President Obama's visit to Riyadh after Abdullah's death. The U.S. and new Saudi leadership will likely continue to cooperate in countering terrorism, protecting Saudi oil fields and keeping a strong defense bulwark against Iran.

Ambassador Harriet Isom grew up in Pendleton and has retired to the family ranch. She was a career diplomat serving in Asia and Africa from 1961 to 1996.

Neither the U.S. nor Saudi Arabia can abandon each other, despite troubling influences from Saudi Arabia's ultra conservative religion.

Be heard!

Get your opinions in front of the community, in print and online via the East Oregonian and eastoregonian.com.