

**EAST OREGONIAN**  
Founded October 16, 1875

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**OUR VIEW**

# Tip of the hat; kick in the pants

**A tip of the hat to Jane Hill**, for her years of service to Pendleton as a city councilor. She is off to a better gig — one that actually pays a livable salary! — with the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation.



We wish her the best in the new job, but will miss her in Pendleton city government. She was a reasonable, considered voice on a council that can sometimes lack them. Hill often helped get council discussion back on track after it had gone off the rails.

What is Pendleton's loss will be the CTUIR's gain. And Hill's move is yet another sign that the balance of power on local issues is resting more heavily with the Tribes than it

has in a long time, perhaps since Pendleton was first platted. We hope city council takes the process of filling her seat seriously, and appoints someone who can bring to the council a measure of what Hill did the last few years.

**A kick out the door to 2015, and a tip of the hat to the incoming 2016.**

We've no complaints about the year that was, but it's important to welcome this new era with open arms.

And there is a lot to look forward to in 2016: a presidential election, Olympics, spacecraft Juno's arrival at Jupiter, another Fourth of July. It's also a Leap Year, which we look forward to looking back on fondly.

Here's to 2016, and hope that the year offers more tips than kicks.



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**OTHER VIEWS**

## Sad demise of Klamath water compromise

The (Eugene) Register-Guard

The omnibus spending bill that passed Congress recently was locomotive big and important enough to pull forward other pieces of legislation attached to it. One of those other bills should have been a Klamath Basin water agreement. But the Klamath proposal was left on a siding and may never get back on track.

A Klamath bill was needed to implement an agreement reached in 2010 among farm, fishing and environmental interests, government agencies, Pacific Power & Light Co., Native American tribes and others — 45 parties in all. These sometimes warring groups came together to find a way to share the water of the Klamath River. It was a seemingly impossible task, akin to pouring eight quarts of water from a one-gallon jug.

Astonishingly, the talks succeeded. The agreement involved a series of tradeoffs. PP&L agreed to remove four dams from the Klamath River, as long as ratepayers and California taxpayers paid for their demolition. Farmers pledged to use less water for irrigation in exchange for a guarantee of minimum amounts of during droughts. Three of the four tribes accepted diversions of water for irrigation, provided that water volumes were adequate to support fish populations. These and other aspects of the complex deal promised to restore a free-flowing Klamath River, strengthen an important fishery, protect tribal rights and put agriculture on a secure if reduced footing.

Congressional action was needed before the deal's Jan. 1 expiration date. Congress' support was never assured — local government officials in both states have opposed the deal, one of the Indian

tribes never signed on and agricultural interests were always threatening to back out. The strongest opposition came from members of Congress, mostly Republicans, who fear that dam removal on the Klamath would tip the first domino, resulting in dam removals on rivers throughout the West.

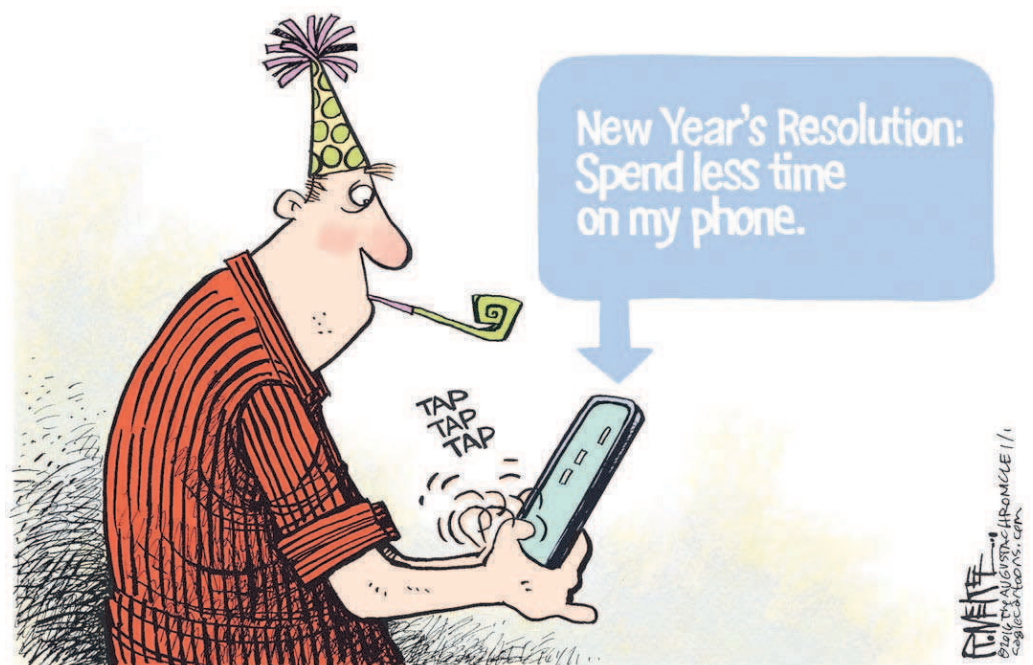
That fear is misplaced. The Klamath dams don't produce much electricity, and their fish passage facilities are poor — both of which will make it difficult and expensive for PP&L to relicense the dams. Even without the Klamath agreement, the utility would be considering removal as an option.

Yet to placate critics of dam removal, Rep. Greg Walden, the Republican who represents the Oregon portion of the Klamath Basin, offered a bill three weeks ago that did not include dam removal. Walden's bill also proposed giving 100,000 acres of federal land to Klamath County in Oregon and Siskiyou County in California as a source of timber revenue.

The tribes would not support a bill that left the dams in place. Democratic Sens. Ron Wyden and Jeff Merkley said a federal land grant would go nowhere in the Senate. So the omnibus spending bill passed without Klamath water legislation attached, leaving no hope of meeting the Jan. 1 deadline.

The parties ought to extend the agreement in hopes of congressional action next year. It's more likely, however, that some of them will turn to the courts, arguing that they have a legal right to river water claimed by others. The result, particularly in a dry year, will be irrigation water shutoffs, fish kills or both. Congress will be to blame for letting an opportunity slip, and Walden will be accountable for delivering the final blow.

**Walden helped doom the project.**



**OTHER VIEWS**

## Test your savvy about 2016

Those of us engaged in columny usually settle for writing about what has already happened. But today, let's not follow the easy course. Instead, take my quiz of what's to come in the year ahead and see if we think alike.

**1. At the end of 2016, Donald Trump caused a stir by ...**

A. Preparing for his presidential inauguration by renaming the White House "Trump Palace."

B. Raising funds to renovate the Statue of Liberty so that its arms move, waving immigrants away.

C. Actually, no stir at all. After being crushed in the presidential race, he has been quietly trying to repair business relations with Mexicans, Muslims, women — well, with everybody.

**2. In the Republican presidential race ...**

A. Ted Cruz built on his Iowa caucuses victory to make further gains on Super Tuesday and win the nomination.

B. The failure of any candidate to win enough delegates led the convention to draft House Speaker Paul D. Ryan.

C. Marco Rubio overcame his failure to win either Iowa or New Hampshire to narrowly win the nomination.

**3. Hillary Clinton ...**

A. Dropped out of the race after a series of scandals, and a last-ditch effort to draft Joe Biden came too late. Bernie Sanders won the Democratic nomination and became America's first democratic socialist president after Ted Cruz split GOP votes with the independent candidacy of Donald Trump.

B. Easily won the Democratic nomination but then lost in November as Sen. Marco Rubio and his running mate, John Kasich, portrayed her as a crony capitalist whose time had passed.

C. Became the first woman elected president.

**4. In Russia, President Vladimir Putin ended 2016 ...**

A. By appearing in a television documentary riding bare-chested across Siberia on a dragon borrowed from "Game of Thrones."

B. By dispatching provocateurs to instigate unrest in Estonia, then dispatching troops "to protect Russian lives" there. NATO responded by holding meetings.

C. By crushing growing anti-government demonstrations across Russia.

**5. President Barack Obama's 2016 Syria strategy consisted of ...**

A. Persuading Sunni Arab countries to battle the Islamic State in conjunction with Kurdish forces.

B. Reluctantly dispatching 10,000 ground troops into northern Syria to destroy the Islamic State capital, Raqqa.

C. Really? You think he has a Syria strategy?

**6. Regarding Obamacare, in 2016 ...**

A. Republicans voted 23 more times to

repeal Obamacare, making it a major theme of the 2016 campaign.

B. The unpopularity of fines for lack of insurance made it a growing embarrassment to the Democratic Party.

C. Amid evidence of its success, Republican candidates dropped the subject.

**7. In response to the Black Lives Matter movement ...**

A. Princeton University announced that it would rename the Woodrow Wilson School and invited bids for naming rights. Donald Trump bought them.

B. Not much happened: Attention switched to the presidential race.

C. After the election, Obama announced the formation of a National Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

**8. Chinese-U.S. relations ...**

A. Were set back after a naval clash in the South China Sea near the Spratly Islands.

B. Deteriorated because of President Xi Jinping's nationalist policies in the South China Sea and oppressive human rights policies at home.

C. Improved because undetected Chinese government hackers wrote glowingly about China in the President's Daily Brief.

**9. The technological breakthrough of 2016 was ...**

A. The Amazon-Uber joint venture to send a drone to pick you up and carry you to your destination.

B. The spread of bloodstream bots that roam your arteries and veins, looking for cancer cells to destroy.

C. The formation of a company to operate self-driving taxis.

**10. The refugee crisis ...**

A. Ameliorated as Europe guarded its borders more tightly.

B. Deteriorated but received less attention as Europe bribed Turkey to curb the passage of refugees to Greece and make the problem less visible.

C. Worsened as hundreds of thousands of Iranians, Nigerians, Ethiopians, Afghans and others left for Germany.

**11. Democracy ...**

A. Was the title of a smash Broadway show about early America by Lin-Manuel Miranda, who also created "Hamilton."

B. Retreated in central Africa, as leaders of Burundi, Rwanda and Congo all tried to cling to power.

C. Came to Belarus, often described as the last dictatorship in Europe.

ANSWERS: We'll see in a year how we all did. My choice for the first six is C; for the remainder it's B. May our hopes be realized and our fears prove unwarranted. And happy New Year to all my readers!

*Nicholas Kristof grew up on a sheep and cherry farm in Yamhill, Oregon. A columnist for The New York Times since 2001, he won the Pulitzer Prize two times, in 1990 and 2006.*



**NICHOLAS KRISTOF**  
Comment

**YOUR VIEWS**

### Measure 11 too costly, needs to be reformed

I am writing in response to the letter written about the mess our police departments are in across this area and, I imagine, across the state.

The Legislature, or a lot of them, do not seem concerned with the lack of police, lack of their equipment, and inability of the police to be able to cover Pendleton, Milton-Freewater, Hermiston, etc. They appear to not be worried over the safety of the citizens of their districts.

They have shown no interest in cutting back on prison costs, by reforming Measure 11, and while to many it may sound ridiculous to cut prison costs by reforming M11, for police presence we badly need to do it. There are 4,300 out of over 6,000 inmates that are in under M11 for first-time offense with no criminal background. That costs \$137 million per year to cover those 4,300.

I am not saying that we should just release every one of those, but M11 was for repeat and violent offenders and not all of those 4,300 are violent offenders.

The reform we have proposed is that first-time offenders with no criminal background

be heard, reviewed, and decided by the judge, not the District Attorney. The judge can use M11 if he so chooses, but he can also determine another sentence if he feels that the time does not fit the crime.

Our second issue is first-time offenders with no criminal background be given a second look halfway through their sentence, and no time or charges can be added.

We need to work on prevention of crime and education (Oregon pays for more prisons than education, second in the country for that). We need more drug and alcohol treatment centers, good ones — shoving everyone into prison does not work. There is no rehab in prison, none.

If even 1,000 were able to be released, after a thorough review, and on probation, strict, that would be \$32 million per year that could be utilized to build up our police forces across the state, education, etc.

I believe Oregonians deserve safety. I am not soft on crime, I do not want violent and repeat offenders to be let out. I do want checks and balances and justice put back into our system, where the judge makes the decision — otherwise, why do we have judges?

**Barbara Dickerson**  
Milton-Freewater

**LETTERS POLICY**

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