

**EAST OREGONIAN**  
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**OUR VIEW**

# Tip of the hat; kick in the pants

Tip of the hat to Oregon Potato Company, which is training all of its employees to be proficient in CPR and first aid.



Oregon Potato Company made the decision to have their employees brush up on their CPR skills after an employee at the Boardman-based business had a heart attack on the job and was saved by a coworker.

The training sessions, led by Good Shepherd Health Care Systems, have taught more than 1,000 people a year. With thousands of potential life-savers out and about in our communities, it means they are safer places. And for Oregon Potato and other

companies who have taken part, their workplaces are safer too.

Kudos to everyone for taking on the responsibility and making a difference.

Tip of the hat to Steve Myren, who is riding off into the sunset as Morrow County undersheriff.



Myren is retiring after nearly 36 years of experience in law enforcement. You can read about him on page 3A in today's paper. He is a longtime community fixture in the Boardman area, and it's good to know he will keep his roots planted in the county.

Those lottery winnings might make that sunset ride a little bit more comfortable too. Instead of a packhorse, maybe Myren will be riding off in a Cadillac.

A tip of the hat to everyone who appreciated our April Fools joke in today's paper.



We hope you took advantage of the ability to pull off the upside-down newspaper sight gag when your spouse or child came down the stairs for breakfast this morning. The possibility of the joke, in our opinion, is worth the relatively small annoyance of turning the paper around and flipping through it backwards for just one day.

We hope you found the humor in it, and promise to be right-side-up again tomorrow.

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**

## GMO labeling debate rolls on

The (Bend) Bulletin

Oregonians narrowly — by fewer than 1,000 votes — defeated a ballot measure in 2014 that would have required food manufacturers and retailers to label products that included genetically engineered ingredients.

In the end, however, the measure's supporters appear on their way to getting what they want, thanks to lawmakers in one of the smallest states in the union.

Major food manufacturers, including Campbell Soup (soup, Pepperidge Farm), ConAgra (Hunts, Peter Pan) and General Mills (cereal, Old El Paso, Yoplait), all have announced recently that they have or will soon begin to include genetic engineering information on product labels.

They're not doing so because genetic engineering somehow makes their products unsafe, however. It doesn't, and there's more than enough science to prove that point.

Some are doing so because lawmakers in Vermont, which has well under 1 million residents, approved a measure to require the labels in that state. It's cheaper, the companies say, to make the labels universal for products sold in this country than to create and apply special labels for use in Vermont.

**A national law on GMO labeling is better than laws on a state-by-state basis.**

And, clearly, they hope Congress will step in and either ban state labeling laws or require them across the country.

Sen. Jeff Merkley, D-Portland, thinks that the latter is a great idea. He and three other Senate Democrats recently introduced a bill that would require labeling nationwide.

Realistically, the bill doesn't stand much chance. The U.S. House did approve a ban on such labeling last summer.

We don't believe a law requiring GMO labeling is scientifically necessary. But it would be better for Congress to have a national law rather than requirements that only apply in some states.

**YOUR VIEWS**

### Pendleton bookstore first casualty of wage hike

Over the years, special bookstores have been immortalized in both stories and movies. Pendleton has been fortunate in its own right to have several independently owned bookstores that cater to a devoted audience.

Not only are they special places that address the needs of their followers, they serve as a reminder of the critical importance of literacy.

With that in mind, I was saddened to read that Armchair Books is closing — a victim of technology and Oregon's decision to initiate an unrealistic minimum wage law.

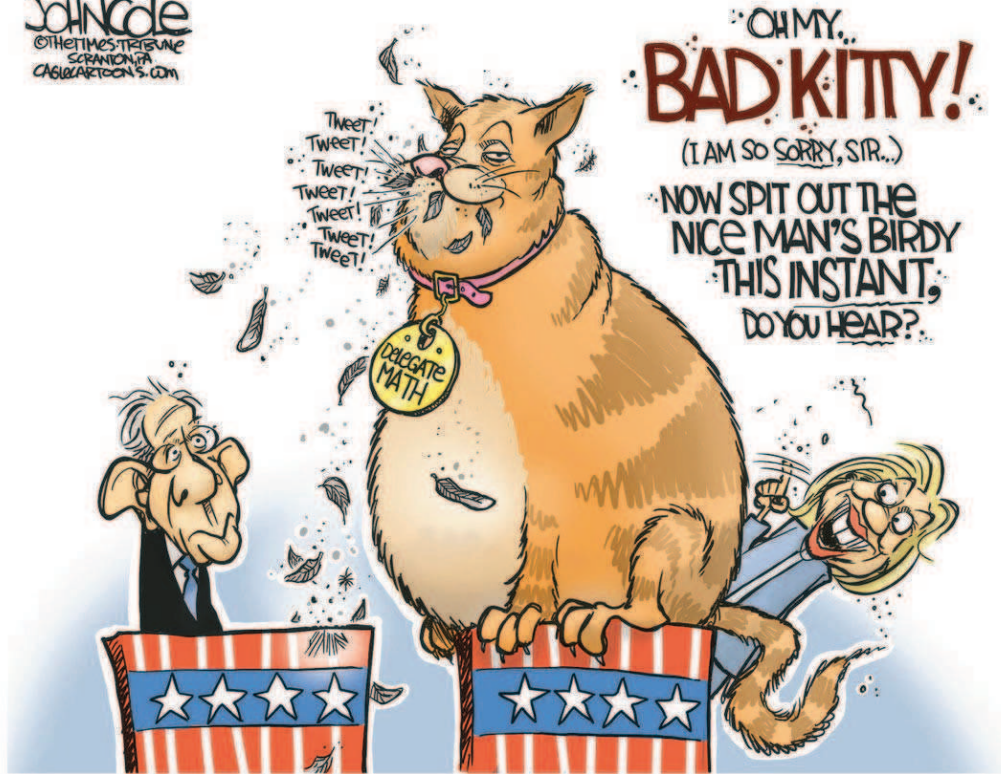
Armchair Books was the epitome of customer service. It was possible to share with them the names of specific authors and series and know that

whenever something new was published, I would receive a call indicating the book was available and should they order it.

In my case, because I am on the road a great deal, my book purchases are all ones I can listen to in my car. This actually serves a dual purpose — it makes the trip more enjoyable, and once I've listened to the book, I can donate it to the Pendleton Public Library.

As Armchair Books begins the process of closing, I for one would like to applaud them for their contributions to Pendleton and add my name to the list of those who are sad to see them go. Transitions like this erode the fabric that makes rural America and local neighborhoods special places.

George Murdock  
Pendleton



**OTHER VIEWS**

## Republicans' gun-free zone

Latest in the long, long line of Controversies We Weren't Really Expecting: the right to bear arms at the Republican National Convention.

A petition calling on the Republicans to allow people to carry their pistols when they assemble this July collected more than 50,000 signatures rather speedily this week. The Secret Service instantly turned thumbs down. The presidential candidates, who are normally so rapturous about all things gun-related, refused to get involved.

The author of the petition later told CBS that he was just trying to point out that Republicans' enthusiasm for weaponry does not necessarily extend to large, potentially rancorous gatherings at which they are personally present. This gives us an excellent opportunity to talk about guns and politics.

There was a time when Americans seemed OK with a middle-of-the-road approach to guns. The public tended to regard them as things you used for hunting or household defense, and favored laws that regulated them accordingly. But no more. The National Rifle Association is beginning to run out of places to demand that people be allowed to bring their pistols, having already thrown down the gauntlet on bars, kindergartens, airports and college campuses.

The theory is that once everybody is armed 24/7, no matter what bad thing occurs, there will always be good guys on hand to shoot the evildoer. In the real world, very few people — including police officers — are skilled enough to aim accurately during a scary emergency. But if you want to win the Republican presidential nomination, it's important to pretend otherwise. After the terrorist mass murders in France, Donald Trump argued that if only Parisian concertgoers had been packing heat, the outcome would have been much different.

"You know what? If I'm in that room and let's say we have two or five or 40 people with guns, we're going to do a lot better because there's going to be a shootout," he said.

Two important points here: Even in the confines of Second Amendment aficionados, you don't normally hear the term "we're going to do a lot better because there's going to be a shootout." Plus, note the suggestion that people would be safer with an armed Donald Trump in the building.

Trump does not appear to know anything much about firearms. Do you remember back in January, when he boasted that he "could stand in the middle of Fifth Avenue and shoot somebody and I wouldn't lose voters"?



GAIL COLLINS  
Comment

No one took him literally, possibly because no one believed that Trump could stand in the middle of Fifth Avenue and actually hit anything. While he says he owns a gun, when asked if he ever uses it, he replied, "none of your business." Mainly, he brags that his sons are crack hunters, and you can see the proof of that if you Google Donald Trump Jr. and "dead elephant tail."

Do you think Hillary Clinton could beat Trump at a firing range? Clinton actually meets the basic political standard for marksmanship, which involves being in possession of one anecdote about having

**The National Rifle Association is running out of places to demand that people be allowed to bring their guns.**

gone hunting and shot a bird. Hers goes back to her days in Arkansas when she was with a group of friends who didn't believe she knew how to handle a gun, then watched as she downed a duck on the first try. The dead-fowl tradition is sort of silly, but it does hark back to the good old days when people thought about shooting in terms of sport and scaring off burglars.

Clinton has been talking a lot about gun regulation lately, because it's one of the very few issues on which she can attack Bernie Sanders from the left. Sanders, who appears to have no personal interest

in guns whatsoever, has been historically weak when it comes to voting on things like background checks. Their debate would be much more useful if it carried on into the general election. But it won't. The sad truth is that Democrats don't believe gun control is a winning issue. And the Republicans are so completely in bed with the NRA, the mattress is buckling.

The one candidate in this year's race who actually has some skill as a marksman is Ted Cruz. He shot two pheasants while campaigning in Iowa, which is perfectly reasonable. He also carried out the tradition that calls for ambitious right-wing politicians to put on camouflage and face paint and go hunting with someone from "Duck Dynasty," which is really embarrassing.

But if you want to know where Cruz stands on a reasoned approach to handling weapons, I suggest you take a look at the video in which he demonstrates how to cook bacon by wrapping it around the barrel of an assault rifle. ("Mmmm, machine gun bacon.") The mantra is pretty straightforward. Nobody wants to think about armed convention delegates. But otherwise guns belong everywhere. Tomorrow morning, brew the coffee and shoot the breakfast.

Gail Collins joined The New York Times in 1995 as a member of the editorial board and later as an Op-Ed columnist.



**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.