

EAST OREGONIAN
Founded October 16, 1875

KATHRYN B. BROWN
Publisher

DANIEL WATTENBURGER
Managing Editor

JENNINE PERKINSON
Advertising Director

TIM TRAINOR
Opinion Page Editor

OUR VIEW

Tip of the hat; kick in the pants

A tip of the hat to the Helix elementary students who will pitch in to their cross-county neighbors in Hermiston's effort to build a well in Africa. The older students have been studying water, and specifically the need for clean water in Africa. When their teacher Monica Curtiss read an *East Oregonian* story about Hermiston Altrusa's efforts to build a well, they decided to donate 10 percent of the proceeds of their annual walk-a-thon to the project.



When Helix students set their minds to something, watch out. The 78 students in the school raised \$7,500 in pledges, meaning they'll hand a \$750 check to Altrusa at Friday's Walk-4-Water. The rest of the money will go to building an outdoor drinking fountain and funding for field trips.

That donation will be added to \$1,608 raised between the website and private gifts made directly to Hermiston Altrusa. But the goal of \$5,000 is still a ways off, and the deadline for donations is the end of May, according to Stephanie Hughes who has led the effort.

If you're inspired by the Helix students and want to help Altrusa reach the goal, you can donate online at www.thewaterproject.org (search for "Hermiston") or drop a donation at American West Properties for Hughes.

A tip of the hat to voters in Milton-Freewater, Athena-Weston and Echo school districts for their overwhelming support of bonds that will make a huge difference in the lives of their children.

A 'no' vote is easy when it comes to tax increases. All it takes is one look at your monthly bank statement to see where you'd rather spend your income. Or one look at the amount you're already paying to other places in government.



But the voters of these three communities looked past the easy answer. For Milton-Freewater, a town that has not built a new school in almost a century, it was time. For Echo, which has one school building and is in desperate need of safety upgrades, it was time. For Athena-Weston, where too much of the school's budget is spent on operating costs rung up by old facilities, it was time.

Plus, all three districts will get nice boosts from matching grants from the state — a total of \$12 million rolling into Umatilla County. And Milton-Freewater got the best deal of all with an additional \$15 million from Wayne and Gladys Valley Foundation.

The heart of rural communities are their schools, and passing these bonds was good for the heart.

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

Rules protect both visitors and wildlife

The Bismarck (N.D.) Tribune

Tourism season has barely started and already there's alarming behavior by visitors to our national parks. Their intentions might be good but their actions violate park rules and the laws of nature.

Two visitors to Yellowstone National Park last week thought a newborn bison calf needed help and loaded it in their vehicle and took it to a park facility. Unfortunately, efforts by park officials to return the calf to the herd failed and it had to be euthanized. The calf had been wandering between vehicles and approaching people, posing a danger.

Park officials said even if the calf could have been rehabilitated, it would have required months of quarantine to test for brucellosis, and Yellowstone does not have the facilities needed to monitor the calf. "Nor is it the mission of the National Park Service to rescue animals," officials said on Facebook, adding, "Our goal is to maintain the ecological processes of Yellowstone."

The visitors who picked up the calf were cited for their actions. They should have never handled the calf and, if they had followed park regulations, never been close to it. Yellowstone regulations require visitors to be at least 25 yards away from all wildlife such as bison, elk and deer and at least 100 yards away from bears and wolves. Park officials can fine tourists for violating the rules and the wildlife can hurt, and kill, those who violate the rules.

Yellowstone has been fascinating tourists for decades and the temptation to get close to the animals and even feed them has always existed. The danger existed when the park opened

and it won't go away. These can be dangerous animals and, if disturbed, they will defend themselves. Some visitors violating the rules aren't shy about it, with park officials noting some recent Internet videos showing visitors approaching bison at "extremely unsafe and illegal distances."

Five visitors were seriously injured last year after getting too close to wildlife, according to park officials. And it's not just Yellowstone, other parks across the country are having problems. A 50-year-old Missouri woman was hospitalized last week after being gored in

stomach by a bison in Custer State Park in South Dakota. Theodore Roosevelt National Park in North Dakota warns visitors not to feed animals and to view wildlife from a distance because they can attack without warning. There have been encounters with bison at the park.

The parks provide an opportunity for tourists to see wildlife in their habitat; the only chance many people from urban areas have to see animals in a natural setting. It's a lot different than going to a zoo. Since there are no cages, visitors need to follow the rules. Those rules, officials point out, are pretty simple: Keep your distance, don't feed them and don't harass them.

It's for the safety of the people and the animals. By taking the calf away from the herd the visitors destroyed its connection with the other bison and doomed it.

The story of the calf has gone viral on the Internet along with being covered by newspapers and other media around the world. Hopefully it will remind people tempted to push the rules not to do so. Not a happy ending for the calf, but maybe improved behavior by visitors.

Tourists visiting parks in the West have violated park rules and the laws of nature.



OTHER VIEWS

Subtract one Clinton

Bill Clinton should go home. It's easy to see why his wife's campaign is giving him a major role. His political skills are legendary. And he's the spouse, for heaven's sake. Presidential candidates always rely on their families to fill out the schedule, show up where they can't, spread good cheer.



GAIL COLLINS
Comment

But we all know this is different. Campaigning in Kentucky — where her husband is more popular than she is — Hillary Clinton told voters that Bill would be "in charge of revitalizing the economy" in her administration. At another stop she promised that if they returned to the White House, "I'll expect him to go to work ... to get incomes rising."

She presented herself as part of a duo that knows "a little bit about how to create jobs. I think my husband did a heck of a job."

Hillary wants to be the first woman ever elected president of the United States. The economy is the central issue in the campaign. The fact that she's assuring voters that Bill will take care of it is ... totally wrong.

It would be better if he wasn't on the scene at all. Let us count the ways:

— Implanting a husband in the center of White House policymaking is just a bad idea. All other advisers, from the vice president to the chief of staff to the Cabinet members, fade in authority when there's one person sitting at the table who happens to be married to the boss. It didn't work very well when the Clintons were offering "two for the price of one" in the 1990s. Turn the marital partner into a former president and it's like adding a blue whale to the goldfish bowl.

If Hillary wants Bill in her administration, she can give him one of the useful-but-largely-symbolic roles a first spouse traditionally plays. The Clinton Foundation, for all its messes, has done good work in developing countries. Let him be international ambassador to the poor.

— The sex scandal issue isn't really central, since Americans have a long record of voting for the candidates they think can deliver, regardless of private peccadilloes. And Donald Trump has a history of boorish public behavior that could even overshadow the marital baggage Hillary has to tote. However, she'd be in a much stronger position if she was toting on her own.

— It's not surprising that the first serious female presidential contender would be someone attached to a famous male name. For most of our history, women who rose in American politics were generally filling in for a deceased (or sometimes indicted) husband.

But some still rose to do fantastic things on their own. Margaret Chase Smith got into Congress as a replacement for her late husband, but she became the foremost opponent of McCarthyism in the Senate all by herself. That's the spirit the Clinton campaign needs. Not running as part of a team with your male predecessor.

Our country is now full of women who've become senators, governors, CEOs, diplomats without familial assistance. If they have spouses, they're off doing their own thing. Or — yes! — taking care of the family. It's a new world order Hillary has always championed. But the way she's running her campaign isn't doing the new world any favors.

Bill isn't the only man overshadowing her political life. Hillary has also been campaigning as a sort of Barack Obama surrogate who'll carry on the president's legacy for another term or two. During a debate in South Carolina, she brought up Obama 10 times — more than the other two candidates on the stage combined. In another debate, she laced into Bernie Sanders for disloyalty. ("The kind of criticism that we've heard from Senator Sanders about our president I expect from Republicans.")

All this identifying with the last two Democratic presidents has left her own political image fuzzy. She's pledged to do more to crack down on Wall Street, but she hasn't really said whether the deregulation during her husband's administration was a mistake. She's disagreed — briefly — with Obama on matters like immigration, trade and Arctic drilling, but the details are very hard to pin down.

What we haven't gotten is a vision of how a Hillary Clinton administration would be different from either of her predecessors'. That's been the great weakness of her campaign from the start. She's become the opposite of change. (Continuity You Can Believe In?)

Even if she keeps going the way she's been going, voters may be so horrified by Donald Trump that she'll win in November. But you don't want the first woman president elected by default.

This is one of the most qualified people ever to run for the office, and she doesn't need to hold on to anybody's coattails. It's time for Hillary to stand alone.

Gail Collins joined The New York Times in 1995 as a member of the editorial board and later as an Op-Ed columnist. In 2001 she became the first woman ever appointed editor of the Times's editorial page.

If Hillary wants Bill in her administration, she can give him one of the useful-but-largely-symbolic roles a first spouse traditionally plays.



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.