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**OUR VIEW**

# Tip of the hat; kick in the pants

**A tip of the hat to our local graduates, who are finishing off one era of their lives and ready to start another.**

Obviously, high school and college grads of 2016 find themselves on the precipice of the most dramatic changes. But up and down the line, finishing one year of schooling and moving on to the next is an important milestone. The summer buffer helps ease the transition, but it's always clear to youth that they are growing up and moving up the ladder, building skills and adding responsibilities on each and every rung.

Those bidding adieu to high schools in Umatilla and Morrow counties deserve credit for earning their almighty diploma, a necessity in this day and age to ensure successful career prospects. Those who took the next step and earned a higher degree deserve credit, too. They step out into the world fresh-faced and passionate — and needed. We hope they work hard, are given opportunities to excel, and help others in their communities climb the ladder.



can catch one piece of dry grass on fire. Because one piece of dry grass can turn into a big problem.

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

### A sales tax by another name

*The Yamhill Valley News-Register*

An analysis released this week confirms what many Oregonians have suspected from the outset: Initiative Petition 28 is bad for our state and bad for our pocketbooks. It has little if any upside. Just making the ballot, the measure puts us in a lose-lose situation.

The sponsoring coalition, consisting largely of public employee unions, is proposing a historically large tax increase on companies doing business here — probably the largest ever imposed. Signatures were submitted last week to qualify IP 28 for the November ballot.

Under IP 28, a tax of 2.5 percent would be imposed on all sales over \$25 million, in addition to the corporate minimum tax on the first \$25 million. A corporation with \$50 million in sales would incur a minimum tax of \$655,001.

The report from the nonpartisan Legislative Revenue Office exposes the measure for what it is — a consumption tax that would ultimately be passed on to consumers.

The office estimates people with incomes of \$21,000 or less would pay \$372 more in indirect state taxes. Those making between \$48,000 and \$68,000 would pay \$613 more, those with incomes between \$103,000 and \$137,000 would pay \$751 more, and those with incomes over \$206,000 a year

would pay \$1,282 more. A Better Oregon, the union-led nonprofit behind the measure, claims it's a case of out-of-state corporations paying their fair share. It claims the gusher of new revenue would boost education and health care services.

But we see it as a money-making scheme to address the ongoing Public Employee Retirement System shortfall. In essence, the public unions are seeking a bailout from corporations and consumers.

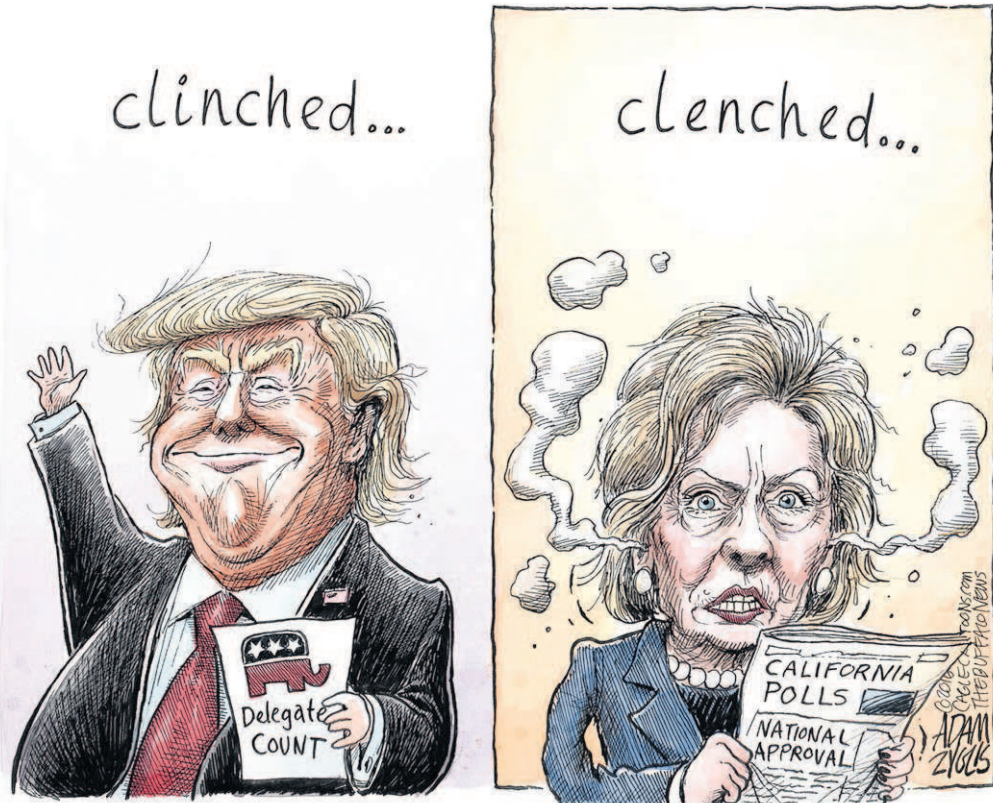
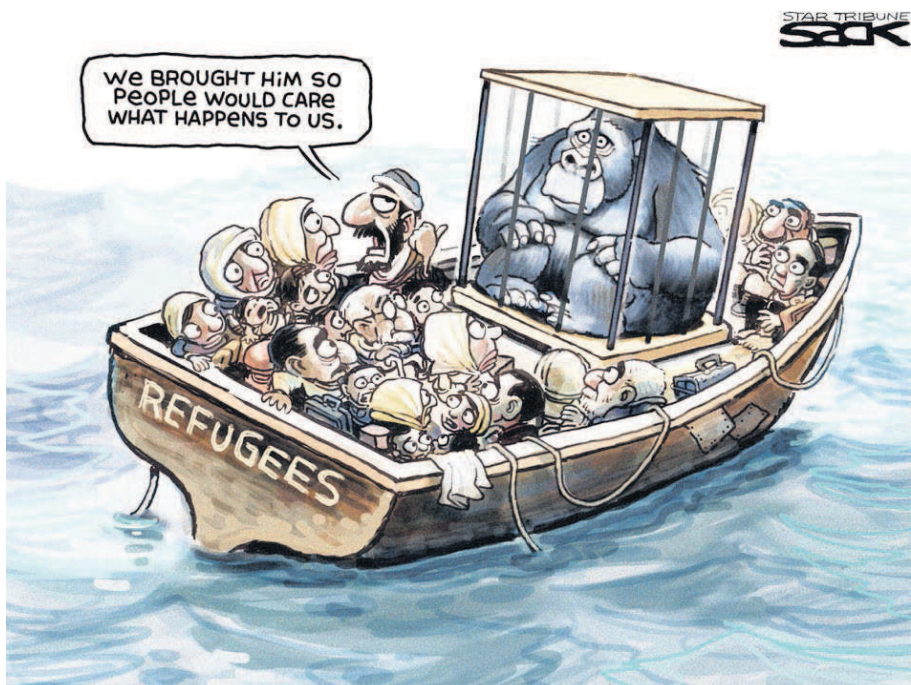
**We see it as a money-making scheme to address the ongoing PERS shortfall.**

Because it functions as a gross receipts tax, not taking into account profit and loss, companies operating on smaller margins would be forced to raise prices. The best example would be grocery stores.

"Taxes initially born by the retail trade, wholesale trade and utility sectors are expected to result in higher prices for Oregon residents," the report concludes.

Furthermore, it concludes that just 50 of the 1,051 firms subject to the tax would take more than half of the hit. Being taxed millions of additional dollars to bail out PERS is a sound reason for CEOs to look elsewhere to establish business and provide jobs.

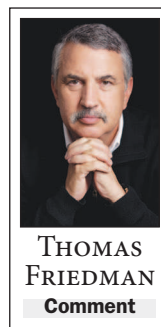
Some are predicting it will trigger the most expensive political fight in Oregon's history, as business and labor interests battle public union rhetoric. It will thus mean more division and less constructive compromise as Oregon seeks solutions for the future.



**OTHER VIEWS**

## Politicians and the lies that matter

Your Honor, I rise this week in defense of Hillary Clinton. I see from polls that Clinton scores very low on "trustworthy" questions. Well, let's talk about truth in politics. All politicians shade the truth at times. Some do it more than others. Indeed, when Donald Trump tells the truth, it should be labeled "Breaking News — Trump tells truth without immediately contradicting himself. We're going live to the scene right now."



**THOMAS FRIEDMAN**  
Comment

Here is what is relevant: Lying is serious business. But Clinton's fibs or lack of candor are all about bad judgments she made on issues that will not impact the future of either my family or my country. Private email servers? Cattle futures? Goldman Sachs lectures? All really stupid, but my kids will not be harmed by those poor calls. Debate where she came out on Iraq and Libya, if you will, but those were considered judgment calls, and if you disagree don't vote for her.

But while Hillary's struggles with the whole truth on certain issues have garnered huge attention, driving up her negatives, Trump and Bernie Sanders have been getting away with some full Burger King Double Whoppers that will come crashing down on the whole country if either gets the chance to do what he says.

Trump told a biker rally in Washington on Sunday: "When you think of the great Gen. Patton and all our generals, they are spinning in their graves when they watch we can't beat ISIS. ... We are going to knock the hell out of them." Then, for good measure, he repeated his long-standing call to build a wall along the Mexican border, and when he asked who would pay for it, the crowd shouted in unison: "Mexico!" Trump added, "Not even a doubt."

Really, not even a doubt? Why hasn't President Barack Obama been a "real man" and just carpet-bombed the Islamic State off the face of the earth? Answer: 1.) ISIS is embedded in urban areas, among Iraqi and Syrian civilians, so we can't carpet-bomb the terrorists without killing all the civilians around them. 2.) If Obama sent the 82nd Airborne into Mosul and wiped out ISIS, after horrific door-to-door fighting, the morning after the battle we would own Mosul, because there is no agreement among Sunni tribes there, let alone the Kurds, Shites and neighboring Turkey, over who should control Mosul post-ISIS. In other words, we'd be stuck governing it. So Obama is trying to squeeze ISIS with one hand while trying to squeeze Iraqis to come together around a post-ISIS order with the other.

It's called being strategic and Gen. Patton would be applauding from his grave.

On Mexico, please tell me why it would pay for a multibillion-dollar wall on our border and how we would compel our neighbor to do so and what impact that would

have on U.S. companies? To act as if those are not even issues is fraud.

Trump's tax plan? The nonpartisan Tax Policy Center estimates that it would decrease tax revenues over 10 years by \$11.2 trillion, and since Trump has ruled out entitlement cuts, he would need to slash all discretionary federal spending by 80 percent — that's where the defense, research and education budgets come from. This is not just magical thinking, it's nonsense, and if Trump implemented half of it, your kids would pay dearly.

As for Sanders, he is promising to break up the big banks. Under what legal authority? What would be the economic fallout? And how would this raise stagnant incomes for middle-class Americans? Sanders mumbles on these questions.

The Tax Policy Center said in a study of Sanders' full economic plan, including free health care, with no premiums or copays, and free college education, more generous Social Security benefits and 12 weeks of family leave, "Even though Sanders would raise taxes on nearly all households by a total of more than \$15 trillion over the next decade, his plan still would add an additional \$18 trillion (plus at least \$3 trillion in interest) to the national debt over the period" and thereby "create an enormous fiscal challenge." Even eliminating the defense budget wouldn't come close to balancing his books.

If you're a college student "feeling the Bern," I hope you're wearing sunscreen, because if Sanders wins, you and your kids will be paying for his cash burn for eternity.

All lying in politics is not created equal. I think the ideology Sanders is selling is fanciful, but underlying it is a moral critique of modern capitalism that has merit and deserves to be heard. But Sanders is not being truthful about the costs. What is grating about Clinton is that her prevarications seem so unnecessary and often insult our intelligence. But they are not about existential issues. As for Trump, his lies are industrial size and often contradict each other. But there is no theory behind his lies, except what will advance him, which is why Trump is only scary if he wins. Otherwise, his candidacy will leave no ideas behind. It will just be a reality TV show that got canceled.

This is serious. We're about to elect all three branches of our government. I wish we had better choices, but given the options, I'd vote for the candidate who is most likely to be a practical unifier and get some things done — and who only tells whoppers about herself, not about my country's future.

*Thomas L. Friedman won the 2002 Pulitzer Prize for commentary, his third Pulitzer for The New York Times. He became the paper's foreign-affairs Op-Ed columnist in 1995.*

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**YOUR VIEWS**

### Boardman farm worker housing a shameful plan

I don't generally spend my Tuesday nights at land use hearings (I find the process nauseating), but I was sent a notice as an adjacent landowner and decided I needed to go see who, or what, was going to be my new neighbor. Most landowners, myself included, go to protect our rural lifestyle and property values. Poised and armed with ORAs and ORSs, I headed off to the meeting.

Disguised in a zoning amendment was a proposal for a small city, "a man camp," called farm worker housing. Mind you, this is not in the urban growth boundary but on land owned by the city at the corner of Tower and Kunze. How? Well they are proposing to rezone high-value Space Age Industrial land to Exclusive Farm Use. And under EFU, farm worker housing regardless of size or scale is an unconditionally permitted use.

The ultimate goal is to warehouse up to 800 "guest workers" at this concentrated camp. These "guest workers," indentured by contract and confined by employment, are to be socially and geographically isolated and the

only services rendered to them will be sewer and water.

When queried as to their opportunity at anything resembling an ambulatory existence, the attorney who spoke on behalf of Three Mile Canyon Farms and PROfuut Limited Partnership LLP testified: "They will be bused to town for groceries once a week." What started off as a land use hearing could have been mistaken for a civil rights case. I remember a documentary I watched in college called "Harvest of Shame." I thought it outdated at the time — as a country. I thought we had moved past this. Apparently not.

I would hazard a guess that very few who are reading this have heard anything about this, perhaps by design. This is a horrific proposal that will not stand up to the scrutiny of intelligent or compassionate citizens.

My initial concerns now seemed petty and selfish. Move past the ill-conceived notion of placing this outside the urban growth boundary and surrendering any hope of regulation concentrate on the utter lack of humanity in this proposal. Shame on you!

**Kelly Doherty**  
Boardman

**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. Send letters to 211 S.E. Byers Ave. Pendleton, OR 97801 or email editor@eastoregonian.com.