

Quick takes

Boardman farm housing

As it should be! Orchardists in Hood River Valley always provided cabins for their workers.

— **Merrilyn Ferebee**

This is the most ridiculous thing I have ever heard. If migrant workers want to come and work seasonal jobs, fine, but provide for yourself by yourself. Why should they be given room and board and the average working person has to scrape by paycheck to paycheck?

— **Sarah Baker Smith**

As long as we aren't paying for it I say good for them.

— **Rob Skaggs**

That's going to take a lot of money. Do organic farms make that much. I wonder if they will get incentive money from government?

— **Dan Armstrong**

Personally did field work just across the Columbia River in Paterson. They pay for housing on site in those fields and bus them into town. They treat them very well.

— **Royce Taft**

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.

If gambling is a problem, who is responsible?

By **JOHN A. CHARLES, JR.**
Cascade Policy Institute

Governor Kate Brown opposes a plan by the Coquille Indian Tribe to build a casino in Medford. In her public statement, the governor said she opposes the addition of any more casinos because "even a single additional casino is likely to lead to significant efforts to expand gaming across Oregon to the detriment of the public welfare."

Her concern for the public welfare is touching, but if one simply "follows the money" associated with the state's own gambling franchise — the Oregon Lottery — it's clear that the governor has little regard for the health of Oregon citizens.

The Oregon Lottery is a state-run monopoly using a network of 3,939 retailers to offer players a wide choice of games, including Scratch-its, Keno, Powerball, Win for Life, Mega Millions, Lucky Lines and Pick 4.

In addition, the lottery has approximately 11,925 video lottery terminals deployed throughout the state. These terminals accounted for 71.5 percent of total sales in 2015 and are highly addictive. According to the Oregon Health Authority, roughly 90 percent of problem gambling in Oregon is associated with Lottery video machines.

In 2015, Oregon earned \$1.2 billion from the state lottery. In January, Powerball mania resulted in record sales of \$36 million

in one week. An Oregon Lottery spokesman said: "Any time sales go up, that's a good thing for our beneficiaries."

Who are these beneficiaries? By law, 57 percent of net lottery revenues support public education. Activities loosely defined as "economic development" get 27 percent. State parks and salmon enhancement programs split 15 percent of revenues.

Those activities account for 99 percent of all lottery funds. The last 1 percent gets allocated for problem gambling. The state estimates that 81,800 adults and 4,000 adolescents have a gambling addiction.

If Governor Brown was so interested in the "public welfare," she would be advocating for an increase in the percent of lottery funds dedicated to the 86,000 problem gamblers. This would at least give her some moral high ground to stand on before criticizing a casino proposed by the Coquille Tribe.

But despite total control of the legislative process by the Democratic Party, the governor has not made this a priority.

Oregon's misuse of tobacco tax money is even more egregious. Oregon was one of 44 states that sued the tobacco industry in the mid-1990s regarding the health care costs

associated with smoking. As a result of a Master Settlement Agreement with the four largest tobacco manufacturers, each state was to receive payments every year from 1998 through 2025.

According to the plaintiffs, MSA money was supposed to be used for tobacco prevention activities and health care subsidies necessary to treat smoking illnesses, but that was not a formal part of the agreement. Thus, each state was free to use the funds in whatever way its state legislature approved.

In Oregon, total MSA funds received since 1998 equal \$1.26 billion—yet only 0.8 percent of the money has been used for tobacco prevention activities.

The governor's hypocrisy associated with the use of tobacco and gambling profits is embarrassing. She should clean up her own house before she starts lecturing any of the Tribes about their casino expansion plans.

John A. Charles, Jr. is president and CEO of Cascade Policy Institute, Oregon's free market public policy research organization. This article originally appeared in *The Coos Bay World*.

The governor should clean up her own house before lecturing Tribes about casino expansion plans

You gotta fight for your right (to save water)

After lacrosse practice where you ran for 15 minutes straight in the baking hot sun you take a ten-minute shower. Then you leave the faucet on while you brush your teeth.

You might not think much of this, but around the world, there is some kid that just died because of dehydration. When you waste water, you're not only wasting it for your family, but you're harming the world. So, now that I've shown how this affects the whole world, I can show you how to save water.



NICHOLAS PURSWELL
Comment

with that. But when you act like you've never seen a shower before, then I steam. If everyone took a three minute shower or turned the faucet off after they wet their toothbrush, we could save billions of gallons of water. If you haven't already heard me ... you

need to save water!

Maybe saving water is as easy as turning the water off when you brush your teeth. It even could be tightening a pipe so it doesn't leak. It really doesn't matter!

You, in some way, just have to save water. If you think "People will find water somehow,"

well, here are some more facts about that. There are actually 738 million people that don't have pure and clean drinking water.

And if this doesn't shock you enough, every 21 seconds, a child dies from dehydration. And think about that statistic like this: It would take three and a half hours to eliminate the whole

population of Desert View Elementary School. That's about two episodes of "Game of Thrones" or "The Walking Dead."

So next time you just let the faucet drip, drip, drip and drip, you're hurting children around the world.

The world is fragile, like a flower, and when you stop watering this flower, what happens? It wilts and dies. That's what you're doing when you cut the world from water. So next time you decide to wash your hair for the fourth time, remember the world.

If there is anything to learn from this, it's to save water. And if you don't, you can remember all those people who are unfortunately suffering around the world.

Nicholas Purswell is a fifth grader at Desert View Elementary in Hermiston. He was among three winners of an essay contest about water, sponsored by Altrusa International of Hermiston.

Other winners were Mischa Meyer and Elizabeth Doherty. You can find their essays online at eastoregonian.com. Honorable mention awards went to Stephanie Booher, Leyton Lind and Emma Martin.

The world is fragile, like a flower, and when you stop watering this flower what happens? It wilts and dies.

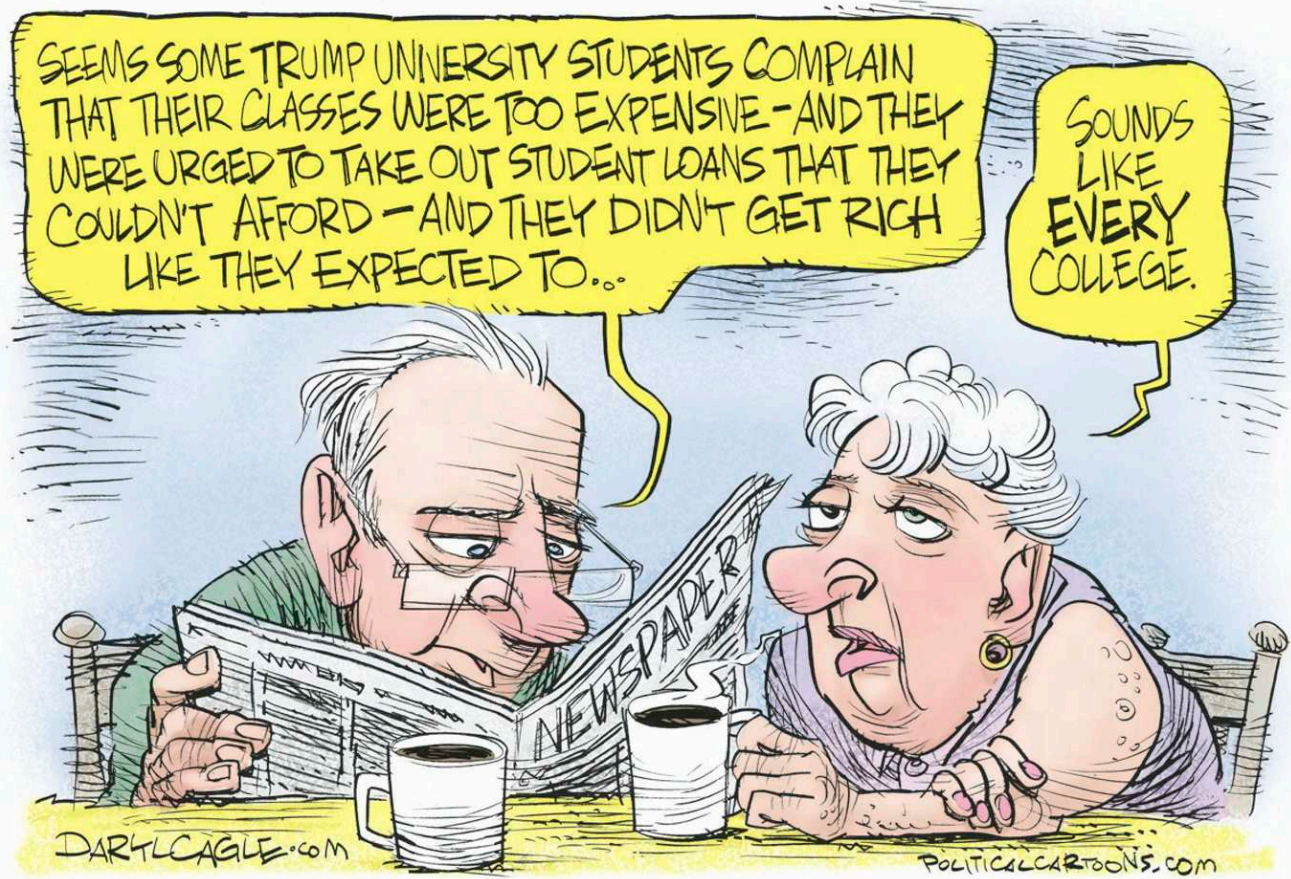
When you take a ten-minute shower, it's really, really unnecessary! Every time I get done with a sweaty/Gatorade smelling practice I just take a three-minute shower. So why not you do it too? A three-minute shower is really helpful. And if you want to save extra water, while you're washing the Old Spice out of your hair, you can brush your teeth at the same time.

Even the source "Conserving Water, One Drop at a Time" states the fact: "Did you know that as an American you likely use between 80 to 100 gallons of water each day? Every single day. Yes, that's more than 29,000 gallons each year. And the mind-boggling part? The largest household use of water is flushing the toilet. We are literally flushing one of the earth's most precious resources down the toilet."

You heard the author, 80 to 100 gallons each day. If a corrupt country or third-world country had that much water per person, that kid I said who died in the beginning would still be alive.

So now I've scared you. While you're still quivering I'll show you how these death by dehydration beasts do this.

When you waste water you can do these two things: a) waste it without even knowing it or b) waste it with no dignity and for no reason at all. When you do these things you really need to remember that ultimately you're simply wasting water. I mean, if you just take all you need, then I'm cool



Tightwad Trump explodes

Donald Trump has a simple reason for his long delay in explaining what happened to the money he raised for veterans' charities: He didn't want any publicity.

"Because I wanted to make this out of the goodness of my heart," he told a news conference in which he castigated reporters for forcing him to provide details.

Of all conceivable explanations, "too self-effacing" ranks somewhere below "temporarily kidnapped by space aliens." Let's look elsewhere. The best possibilities seem to be:

- A) Cheapness.
- B) Tendency to make things up.
- C) Difficulty in getting a disorganized, minimally qualified, perpetually short-handed staff to keep track of the cash.

Obviously, we're going for all three.

The story so far: Trump was supposed to do a Republican primary debate in January on Fox News, a network with which he was feuding. So he staged his own counter-event, a much-publicized fundraiser for veterans' charities. The highlight was an announcement that the veterans were getting \$6 million, including a \$1 million donation from the Donald himself.

Time passed. And he wouldn't say where the money went.

People, I know you're tired of hearing Donald Trump stories, but did you want the reporters to just drop the subject? Trump certainly did. Particularly when it came to his own personal million-dollar contribution, which did not actually materialize until the news media, particularly *The Washington Post*, started asking questions. Many questions. Which went unanswered.

"Oh, I'm totally accountable, but I didn't want to have credit for it,"



GAIL COLLINS
Comment

Trump said. The money was turned over to a veterans' charity about, um, a week ago.

We have heard a lot from Trump about his passion for veterans lately. It's an intense interest that goes back at least ... a year. Before that, his major involvement with the military appeared to be getting a deferment for "a foot thing" when he was eligible for the draft during the war in Vietnam.

It is not unusual for presidential candidates to have avoided military service. Bill Clinton did. Bernie Sanders did. Most of Congress did. Dick Cheney got himself five deferments — and, OK, when it came to Dick Cheney we took offense. But in general, we've gotten used to nonveterans as the political norm.

One of the very few major American politicians who did serve, under fire, is John McCain, and one of the first things Trump did in his race for president was to make fun of McCain's years as a prisoner of war. ("I like people who weren't captured.") He also portrayed himself as a guy who had done way, way more to help veterans than John McCain, a claim that was ... oh Lord, let's not even go there.

The donations to Trump's January fundraiser were supposed to be distributed through the Donald J. Trump Foundation, which had been around for years without previously making veterans a priority, or even an afterthought.

We will not bother to point out that Trump himself did not have a history of being a big donor to the Trump Foundation. In fact, Trump never seemed to give much money to anybody. This appears to be one of the most tightfisted billionaires since Scrooge McDuck.

Unless he's not a billionaire at all. If Trump ever releases his tax records

and it turns out that he's only worth, say, \$755,000, he'll deserve a big apology from those of us who thought he was a self-centered rich guy with zero interest in sharing his wealth with the less fortunate. Honestly, I will be the first to raise my hand.

But about the veterans. Trump brings up his commitment to our fighting men and women all the time now. Really, the only person he talks about more than the American soldier is Bobby Knight, the former basketball coach who is famous for roughing up his players and endorsing Trump for president.

On Memorial Day weekend, Trump spoke to a gathering of veterans and bikers in Washington, and managed to both drop Bobby Knight's name and complain about the small crowd.

"I thought this would be like Dr. Martin Luther King, where the people will be lined up from here all the way to the Washington Monument," he said.

On Tuesday, Trump said he was just joking. Let's accept that at face value and agree that he simply made a humorous remark in which he compared himself to a slain civil rights leader.

He also insisted the media was conspiring to undercut the attendance: "So instead of saying Trump made a speech in front of a packed crowd they said Trump was disappointed."

Have we ever had a president who referred to himself in the third person? The answer, as a number of readers have been kind enough to point out is — yes! We had Richard Nixon.

See if that makes you feel any better.

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.

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