

# EAST OREGONIAN

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## OUR VIEW

# Wolf regulations get reality check

The saga of reintroducing wolves into the Pacific Northwest appears to have entered a new chapter, as managers in Washington announced their revised guidelines for managing the predators.

Formulated by the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife's Wolf Advisory Group, the guidelines appear to be realistic and much more workable than the department's first rules, which were neither.

The advisory group played a key role in developing the new regulations, and the participation of ranchers, conservationists and others shows in its work product. The outcome appears to be better than we could have anticipated. Although the initial proclivity for secrecy and the steep price tag of \$800,000 caught the attention of our sister paper the *Capital Press*, it's good to see better rules emerge.

Wolves are back in the Northwest. In Idaho, where the first Canadian immigrants were dropped off in the mid-1990s, the wolves have long been past the point of needing protection.

In Oregon and Washington, where the wolves appeared within the past decade, the recent population growth curve has been steep, about 36 percent a year. At that rate, the population will nearly double each year for the foreseeable future.

That growth means managers can switch gears from protecting wolves to managing them. Washington's new rules are similar to Oregon's rules, allowing for a set number of depredations before removing the responsible wolves.

There are so many wolves that in some areas a "wolf jam" appears

to have developed. In northeast Washington, for example, managers are having difficulty determining which wolves — or packs of wolves — are responsible for killing livestock. Two wolf packs overlap in the area of the attacks.

Washington's rules also call for state Fish and Wildlife Department people on the ground to work with ranchers to assess damage and determine what happened and how to avoid it from happening again. They have the ability

to help ranchers figure out ways to keep hungry wolves at bay, which is the true value of having state managers anyway.

One quirk in Oregon's rules for managing wolves is the tendency for managers to say a dead lamb or cow is a "probable" wolf kill even though evidence points to wolves. For example, near Mud Creek in northeast Oregon, a 150-pound calf was killed and partially eaten by a predator with large teeth, according to the state Department of Fish and Wildlife. The calf was consumed in one night, another indication that it was killed by a wolf, yet the department called it a "probable" wolf kill.

When police investigate a murder scene, they try to put all of the evidence together and make some sort of conclusion about what happened. Not so with Oregon wildlife managers. They seem eager to just shrug their shoulders and say a wolf kill was "probable" unless the wolf is caught in the act.

As the wolf management rules become more realistic with the burgeoning wolf populations, we also hope investigations become more conclusive so problem wolves can be identified and addressed.

**Oregon wildlife managers seem eager to just shrug their shoulders and say a wolf kill was 'probable.'**



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.

# Sugar police at your door

The Oregonian, June 10

Nanny in a can: Beware, anyone in Multnomah County who likes to enjoy a sweetened drink now and again. The Cupboard Cops are on the prowl. Erstwhile county commission candidate Mel Rader of Upstream Public Health recently filed a proposed initiative that would impose a penny-per-ounce tax on sweetened beverages, *Willamette Week's* Beth Slovic reported. It could go before voters in November.

The money generated by the tax would support educational and nutrition programs for children. The measure isn't intended only to raise cash, though. It's also designed to reduce consumption of beverages that, at least when used in excess, can be bad for you. These include not only carbonated soft drinks, but also sweetened sports drinks, iced teas, coffee drinks and so on.

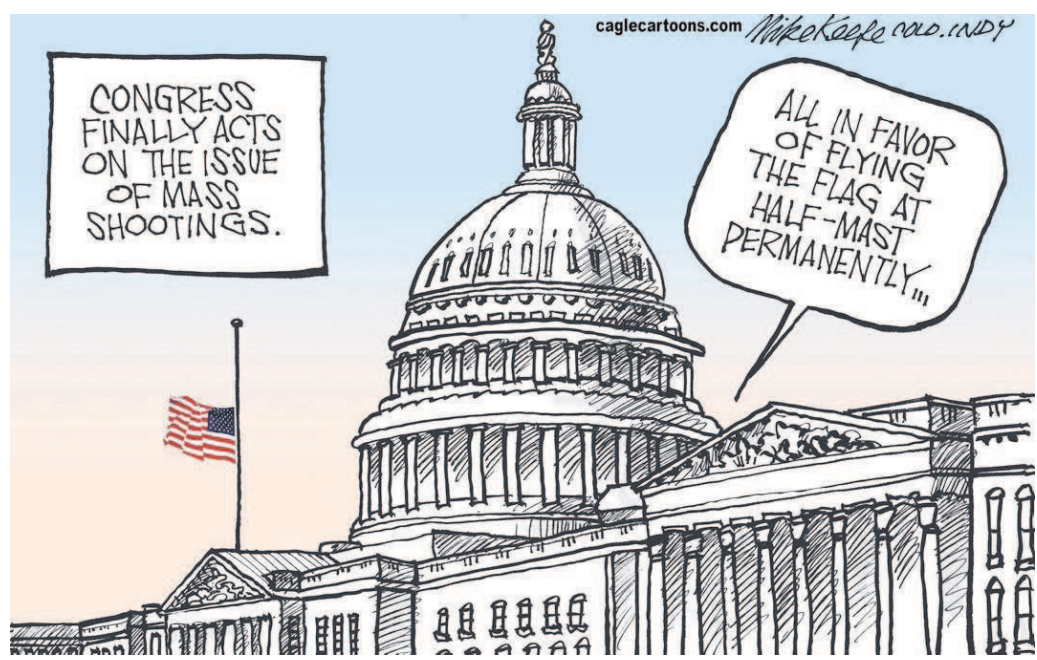
Rest assured, budget-conscious junk food junkies. Should the tax pass, you'd still be able to chow down on cake, cookies, chips, ice cream, double cheeseburgers, french fries, onion rings and various other kinds of sweetened, fried and irresistibly processed diet-busters without paying Multnomah

County's gastronomic shame tax. For now, anyway.

A similar effort fizzled in 2012, and this may well follow suit. If not, Multnomah County residents should start thinking seriously about hopping in the family car and doing their weekly shopping in Clackamas or Washington counties. They'd avoid the sweetened-drink tax, which if passed directly to consumers would add 72 cents to the cost of a typical six-pack. And if they filled up the car at the same time, they'd also avoid both Multnomah County's gas tax (3 cents per gallon) and Portland's (10 cents per gallon). (Washington County has a penny-per-gallon gas tax.)

As an added bonus, Portland residents shopping elsewhere also could enjoy the thrill of carrying their groceries into the house with single-use plastic bags, which have been banned locally. They're strong, light, fully functional when wet (ahem, paper bags) and can be repurposed in a number of ways, from lining wastebaskets to holding your lunch.

Yes, Multnomah County's consumption commuters might have to endure disapproval from some neighbors. But there is a perfect Portland response: We're just keeping it weird.



## OTHER VIEWS

# A nation of healers

I've been traveling around to the most economically stressed parts of this country.

You see a lot of dislocation on a trip like this. In New Mexico, for example, I met some kids who lost their parents — to drugs, death, deportation or something else.

They get run through a bunch of systems, including homeless shelter, foster care, mental health and often juvenile justice. They're like any kids — they turn hungrily to any beam of friendship. But for these kids, life has been a series of temporary stops at impersonal places. They sometimes have only the vaguest idea where they are going next month. "I'm going back into the foster care system," one teenager told me, without affect either way.

You meet people who are uncomfortable with the basics of the modern economy.

I met a woman in West Virginia who had just learned, to great relief, that she didn't have to give an anticipated speech at church. "We're not word people," she explained. Those words hang in the air. A lot of wonderful people speak through acts of service, but it's hard to thrive in the information age if you don't feel comfortable with verbal communication.

You see the ravages of drugs everywhere. I ran into a guy in Pittsburgh who hires people for his small plant. He has to give them drug tests because they're operating heavy equipment. If he pulls in 100 possible hires, most of them either fail the drug test or don't show up for it because they know they will fail.

But this kind of tour is mostly uplifting, not depressing. Let me just describe two people I met on Saturday in Albuquerque.

At the New Day Youth and Family Services program I was introduced to an 18-year-old woman who'd been born to heroin and meth addicts. She'd spent her early girlhood riding along as they trafficked drugs from Mexico. When they were unable to take care of her, she cycled through other homes where she was physically abused. She fell into relationships with men who mistreated her, was hounded in school for being (supposedly) obese and was sent to psych wards for depression.

Yet this woman glows with joy and good cheer. She'd built a family out of her friendships. She'd completed high school, learned to express her moods through poetry and novellas, found a place to live through New Day's Transitional Living Program, found a job and had plans to go to community college.



**DAVID BROOKS**  
Comment

I have no idea how a person this beautiful can emerge from a past that hard, and yet you meet people like this all the time. Their portion of good luck may have been small, but their capacity for gratitude is infinite.

Earlier in the day I'd met Jade Bock. When she was 17, Bock lost her father to a workplace accident. Now she's found her calling directing the Children's Grief Center.

This is a center for kids who, given the stress and poverty all around, have often lost their fathers to suicide, drugs or accidents.

The young kids are anxious about who is going to die next. They don't really understand what death is and wonder if their loved one is going to be wet and cold if it's raining on his grave.

The older kids are sometimes trapped in magical thinking: Maybe if I'd gotten better grades, he wouldn't be gone. Sometimes they will start dressing, talking and acting like the deceased.

Many teenagers don't want the other kids in school to know, so they go through life as if nothing is wrong. Then three years later when they suffer some breakup or setback, it all comes barreling out because it hasn't been processed up until now.

Along with a hundred other volunteers and staff members, Bock gets these kids to process their grief. She sits with them in group after group, tender but in a realistic no-nonsense sort of way. She'll cry and be present, but she won't let you escape the task of moving through it. If it's mentionable it's manageable. Pain that is not transformed is transmitted.

The social fabric is tearing across this country, but everywhere it seems healers are rising up to repair their small piece of it. They are going into hollow places and creating community, building intimate relationships that change lives one by one.

I know everybody's in a bad mood about the country. But the more time you spend in the hardest places, the more amazed you become. There's some movement arising that is suspicious of consumerism but is not socialist. It's suspicious of impersonal state systems but is not libertarian. It believes in the small moments of connection.

I remember watching an after-school counselor in Texas sitting in a circle of little girls who had nowhere else to go. She offered them a tongue twister: "OK," she said chirpily, "who can say 'Unique New York' six times fast?"

David Brooks's column on the Op-Ed page of *The New York Times* started in September 2003.

## YOUR VIEWS

### Transgender policy decisions deserve careful review

The Oregon Department of Education presented their policy interpretation allowing men to enter women's bathrooms and locker rooms based on current gender feelings. This asymmetrical approach results in a random walk through reflective life. When comforting lights of popular expressions drive decisions, no opportunity remains to consider insights such as that from John Hopkins.

At one time their Sexual Behaviors Consultation Unit conducted candidates through a lengthy preparation process culminating with gender reassignment surgery. Study caused them to question whether any emotional resolution was achieved and they eliminated the practice in 1979. Dr. Paul R. McHugh says, "that transgenderism is a mental disorder that merits treatment ... These policy makers and the

media are doing no favors either to the public or the transgendered by treating their confusions as a right in need of defending rather than as a mental disorder that deserves understanding, treatment and prevention."

Shouldn't transgenderism first be assessed as a medical issue? Women are terribly uncomfortable with a mercurial revelation that they believe violates their inherent natural right to feel safe and private in their persons. This policy provides many the opportunities to indulge in deviant impulses. The policy thrusts a few into intimate political theater where they portray a feeble caricature of a woman, but without evidence of benefit to their psychological condition. Considering John Hopkins' experience with reassignment surgery, shouldn't this radical transformation of society await careful review?

Nolan Nelson  
Eugene

## 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 [ManagingEditor@eastoregonian.com](mailto:ManagingEditor@eastoregonian.com), 211 S.E. Byers Ave. Pendleton, OR 97801 or email [editor@eastoregonian.com](mailto:editor@eastoregonian.com).

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