

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 Jackie Jenkins of Hermiston, the chief deputy prosecutor for the Umatilla County District Attorney's Office. The hard-working public servant recently received the Oregon Narcotics Enforcement Association's Prosecutor of the Year award.



The county board of commissioners acknowledged the recognition during its meeting Wednesday in front of District Attorney Dan Primus and Jenkins's other colleagues. Primus said the honor was all the more significant because of who made the nomination.

"It came from the actual officers themselves that felt it appropriate for her to receive such an award for the work that she does," Primus said.

Jenkins has been with the district attorney's office since 2009 and handles most of the Measure 11 cases. Primus named her as chief deputy prosecutor in 2015. She then helped deliver a guilty verdict in her first murder trial and developed the legal strategy to bring down the United Aryan Empire, a Pendleton hate gang.

We're sure the award will be far from the last accolade Jenkins earns in her career.

And speaking of awards, we tip our hat to the East Oregonian crew, who brought home another general excellence prize in last week's Oregon Newspaper Publisher's Association award.

We are amazing quite a collection of such awards here at our headquarters on Byers in Pendleton — we've won five of the last six ONPA general excellence prizes for newspapers of our size. That award is an honor for everyone here, from the advertising staff to the newsroom to the press and mailroom. Each aspect of three randomly selected papers is examined by a panel of judges from newspapers in another state, meaning we've got to be on our game every edition all year long to have a shot at winning.

This year the EO also brought home four first place individual awards and 11 overall, with every person in the newsroom playing a part in at least one.

We thank our readers and subscribers for their support. While many newspapers across the country are cutting back and slimming down, we're working to get better every day. Because climbing to the top is hard, but staying there is even harder.

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.

YOUR VIEWS

BMCC pool an oasis of happiness, family

As each day passes, my heart fills with more sorrow at the thought of the BMCC pool closing. Being a part the Pendleton Swim Association has helped me physically, academically and socially. My teammates have always made me feel better when I am overcome by stress or anxiety. PSA is literally my life.

The fact that other kids might not get the chance to experience that pains me. I can't bear the thought of other people not being able to feel the adrenaline rush that you get right when you dive off the blocks, the water splashing all around you as you're racing to get to that wall, the fact that you can't even breathe once it's all over, but you're still celebrating because you dropped one more second and got your Champs time.

Honestly, I don't know where I would be without my swim family, and I'm not just talking about all of the members of PSA. I am also referring to all of the people that I have met as I have traveled from city to city for meets.

Before I got involved in competitive swim, I was one of the most shy people in the world. But now, when I tell people this, they generally don't believe me. I don't think that I would have ever crawled out of my shell had it not been for my amazing coaches and my supportive team.

Swimming has also positively affected my family a great deal. When possible, my dad has his work scheduled around swimming, stays up late doing meet entries, and gives up about half of his day to coaching. He does this with pure joy. My mom is an active board member, she is constantly thinking of new ideas to improve the program, and she is very committed to all of our fundraising activities. My sister and I have met some of our lifelong friends and we have learned what it truly means to be an athlete.

There are many families involved at this level creating an unmatched sense of community. At our last meet swimmers ranged from ages 5-18. This can truly be a family sport where all age levels of siblings can go to one competition.

I lacked the coordination for ball sports. I am guessing my parents didn't think I would find a sport, but I did. Swimming is my sport and the pool is my field.

Please help support keeping us swimming. We desperately need time with the BMCC pool. We know,

together, we can solve this issue for the long term, but for now we need that pool.

Kyndra Nelson, Pendleton

Get outdoors and take a break from politics

Talk about the dregs of summer. If this non-stop political bashing doesn't make you want to disconnect your TV permanently, then you have a strong constitution.

All this name-calling is on a fifth grade level for which those erring students would be punished. Thankfully, most parents try to instill better scruples in their offspring. Perhaps you too got taken to task for using swearwords or having a "potty mouth."

No one deserves to be bad-mouthed, especially publicly. Errors in judgment, not following the laws or misrepresentation all deserve to be debated while assessing the merits of a presidential candidate — however, minus the name labeling.

No wonder that Ted Cruz, a devout Christian, did not endorse Trump after having had his character trashed as well as that of his wife and his father.

To make things worse, the mainstream media hash and rehash ever word spoken. And instead of giving a non-biased report and moving on, these spokespersons are programmed to give their own spin on things according to their liberal, political leanings. Please spare me. All voters are not as dumb as a brain-dead slug. So we don't need someone attempting to explain words or sway our thinking.

What type of role models do these two presidential candidates present? How sad it is to have this kind of presence for younger people to model. Clinton seems to think she is above the law and doesn't own any past mistakes. Trump is an egotist who begins every statement with "I". Since we don't have a monarchy government, seems to me that any candidate could bolster their image by acknowledging that it takes the combined minds of the brightest, most knowledgeable cabinet to be truly successful.

Here's to a long, very political summer. Take lots of breaks from the TV and enjoy the many outdoor treasures this country has to offer. Our great country will survive in spite of terrifying terrorists and tumultuous presidential candidates

Merlyn Robinson, Heppner

OTHER VIEWS



Hillary on the march

PHILADELPHIA — Now, everybody wears the pants in the family.

While the Democrats have been celebrating the nomination of Hillary Clinton, I've been thinking about all the American women, from the 1600s through World War II, who got arrested for wearing trousers in public. You'd like to imagine them out there somewhere watching those Clinton pantsuits, exchanging high-fives. Ditto all the women who supported the deeply uncomfortable bloomer movement, in the name of a feminist future.

The idea of the first-woman-major-party-nominee is a political event, but it's also a historical marker. Once everyone leaves here and goes home, we probably won't have much chance to talk about that angle. Really, there's going to be a lot of other stuff on the agenda. The Democrats hadn't even gotten to Clinton's acceptance speech before everyone was distracted by Donald Trump encouraging the Russians to spy on his opponent.

It's also becoming clear that the campaign is so fixated on those ever-elusive white males that many Democrats would prefer to forget Susan B. Anthony and talk about Babe Ruth. That's political life. But just give us a little more time to dwell.

I'd like to think that somewhere, all the women who worked for this moment through American history are watching and nodding happily. Like the sisters Sarah and Angelina Grimke, who really don't get enough mention. They were the daughters of a wealthy pre-Civil War South Carolina slave owner who figured out on their own, when they were hardly more than babies, that the system was wrong. (When Sarah was about 4 she went to the docks and asked a sea captain to take her to a place where whipping was prohibited.)

They went north, became lecturers, and there was something about their earnest, sweet, humorless determination that allowed them to get away with the political equivalent of murder. They trotted around the country, speaking for abolition and women's rights to audiences that — shockingly — included men.

You had your occasional torch-bearing protesters, but for the most part, they triumphed by simply ignoring the possibility of bad outcomes. Angelina wound up marrying a dashing fellow abolitionist, Theodore Weld, to the amazement of Americans who had never conceived that an advocate of equal rights for women could ever find a husband.

Give the Grimkes a hand. And pick your own nominees to go with them.

Even if Hillary wins the White House, there will still be political worlds for women to conquer. While Bill Clinton gave the most supportive spousal speech conceivable at

the convention, the fact that our first female presidential nominee is married to a former president is a bit of a downer for some people.

There's a sense of cutting corners. But it was probably inevitable. The annals of first-ever female elected officials is pretty much a list of wives of congressmen, senators and governors who stepped in when their husbands died — or, occasionally, got indicted.

Some, to be honest, were embarrassing placeholders. But others were tireless public servants.

The greatest, pre-Hillary, may have been Margaret Chase Smith, whose husband, Clyde, was a Republican representative from Maine. (According to Ellen Fitzpatrick's book "The Highest Glass Ceiling," he was also a chronic womanizer who died of advanced syphilis.) Margaret had been running the congressman's office and meeting with his constituents for a long time, and made it clear she didn't intend to just sit in his seat.

She moved up to the Senate, took on Joe McCarthy communist hysteria, fought for women's rights and bipartisanship. Smith ran for president herself in 1964 — the first woman regarded as a genuine contestant by either of the major parties. At the time, commentators had little compunction about suggesting she was, as one Los Angeles Times writer contended, "beyond the optimum years for the presidency." Smith was 66

The idea of the first-woman-major-party-nominee is a political event, but it's also a historical marker ... I'd like to think that somewhere, all the women who worked for this moment through American history are watching and nodding happily.

at the time.

So Clinton, who is 68, has won one for Margaret Chase Smith. Also for the generations of American women who were described, as one 18th-century visitor from France put it, as "charming and adorable at 15, faded at 23, old at 35, decrepit at 40."

The story keeps moving on. While Clinton was the first woman elected to the U.S. Senate from New York, she was succeeded by Kirsten Gillibrand, a young and wildly energetic Democrat who came from a home where women were the family politicians. She had already attracted national notice when she went into labor after sitting through a 13-hour meeting of the Armed Services Committee.

But things still aren't equal. We've made it to a point where a woman who's been first lady, U.S. senator and secretary of state can win a presidential nomination. Now let's see how long it takes for someone who's a little less overqualified to get the nod.

Meanwhile, Hillary Clinton has made history. So here she comes, wearing her pants, ready to run.

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.



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.