

EAST OREGONIAN
Founded October 16, 1875

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OUR VIEW



Contributed photo

Who's afraid of the big, bad eagle

If a wolf kills a calf out on the range, the rancher is sure to let out a yell and report it to wildlife officials. But when sheep producers lose hundreds of lambs each year to depredation by eagles, no one says anything.

Last week the *Capital Press* made public what has been an open secret among sheep producers for years — eagles love to feed on newborn lambs and there's not much they can do to stop them. If you didn't know it's because many sheep producers would just as soon everyone kept quiet.

Peter Orwick, executive director of the American Sheep Industry Association, said raptors are a huge problem for producers and that eagles are a particularly tough challenge. One producer in Oregon reluctantly told us she loses 300 lambs a year to eagles.

Producers don't report and wildlife officials stopped asking questions. In 2004, the last year the federal government collected separate data, eagles killed 6,300 sheep and lambs.

Eagles present as great a problem to producers as wolves and other predators, and farmers need better tools to deal with them.

It's difficult to say much against eagles because they enjoy a special place in our collective psyche.

Had Little Red Riding Hood and her grandmother fallen victim to an eagle instead of a wolf our perceptions of the animals might be quite different.

The dejected are "thrown to the wolves." Those practicing a dangerous deception are "wolves in sheep's clothing." Families in dire straits struggle to "keep the wolves

from the door." Wolves are dangerous predators that might be admired from a distance but must be avoided under all circumstances.

Eagles are the symbol of liberty and independence. A bald eagle adorns the Great Seal of the United States.

Eagles are also an important symbol of the conservation movement, one of the first animals to be placed on the endangered species list. While bald eagles have since

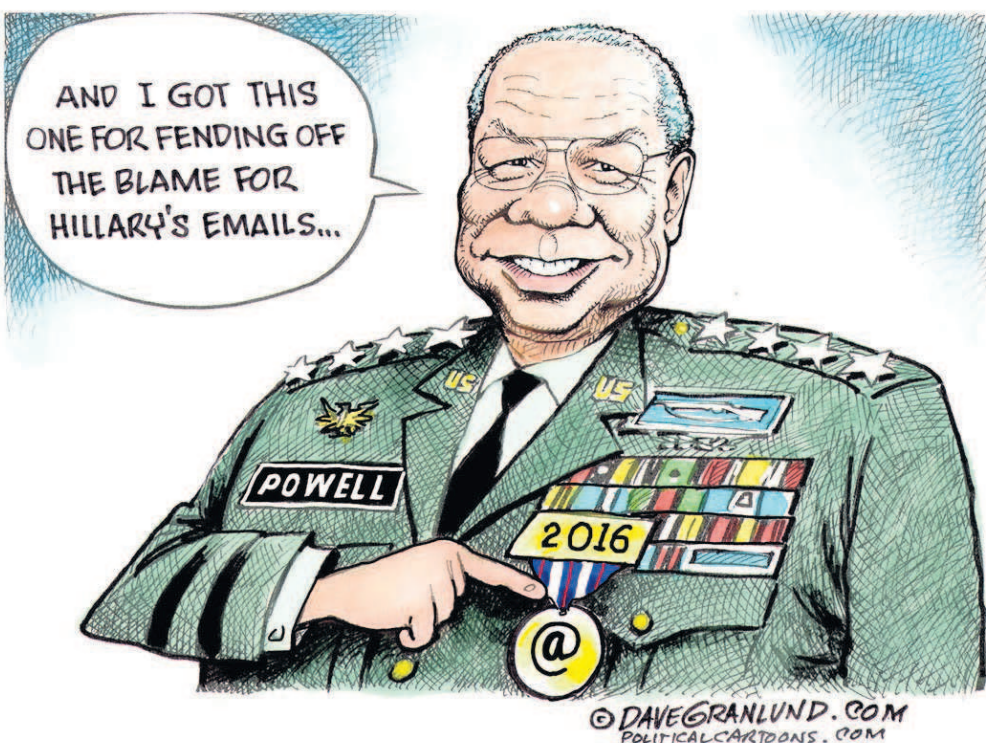
been recovered and have been removed from the list, they and other raptors are protected under separate federal law. And that's the rub. While ranchers on the range have many unregulated tools at their disposal to scare wolves away from their herds, even the most gentle ruffling of an eagle's

feathers without a permit could land a producer in federal court. Getting a permit to haze eagles is a Byzantine exercise involving the USDA and the Fish and Wildlife Service. As reluctant as producers are to allow the feds access to their property, they fear more the prospect of becoming the targets of over zealous conservation groups.

We concede that allowing producers to shoot problem eagles is a non-starter, and giving federal wildlife officials that authority would be an uphill battle. The optics of such a thing would enrage even those most sympathetic to agriculture. But producers should be given freedom without federal intervention to scare eagles off by means that don't harm the birds. If it works for the protected wolves, it should work for the protected eagles.

One producer in Oregon reluctantly told the *Capital Press* she loses 300 lambs a year to eagles.

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

The water next time

A disaster area is no place for political theater. The governor of flood-ravaged Louisiana asked President Barack Obama to postpone a personal visit while relief efforts were still underway. (Meanwhile, by all accounts, the substantive federal response has been infinitely superior to the Bush administration's response to Katrina.) He made the same request to Donald Trump, declaring, reasonably, that while aid would be welcome, a visit for the sake of a photo op would not.

Sure enough, the GOP candidate flew in, shook some hands, signed some autographs, and was filmed taking boxes of Play-Doh out of a truck. If he wrote a check, neither his campaign nor anyone else has mentioned it. Heckuva job, Donnie!

But boorish, self-centered behavior is the least of it. By far the bigger issue is that even as Trump made a ham-handed (and cheap) effort to exploit Louisiana's latest disaster for political gain, he continued to stake out a policy position that will make such disasters increasingly frequent.

Let's back up for a minute and talk about the real meaning of the Louisiana floods.

In case you haven't been keeping track, lately we've been setting global temperature records every month. Remember when climate deniers used to point to a temporary cooling after an unusually warm year in 1998 as "proof" that global warming had stopped? It was always a foolish, dishonest argument, but in any case we've now blown right through all past records.

And one consequence of a warmer planet is more evaporation, more moisture in the air, and hence more disastrous floods. As always, you can't say that climate change caused any particular disaster. What you can say is that warming makes extreme weather events more likely, so that, for example, what used to be 500-year floods are now happening on an almost routine basis.

So a proliferation of disasters like the one in Louisiana is exactly what climate scientists have been warning us about.

What can be done? The bad news is that drastic action to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases is long overdue. The good news is that the technological and economic basis for such action has never looked better. In particular, renewable energy — wind and solar — has become much cheaper in recent years, and progress in energy storage looks increasingly likely to resolve the problem of intermittency (the sun doesn't always shine, the wind doesn't always blow).

Or to put it a different way, we face a clear and present danger, but we have the means and

the knowledge to deal with that danger. The problem is politics — which brings us back to Trump and his party.

It probably won't surprise you to hear that when it comes to climate change, as with so many issues, Trump has gone deep down the rabbit hole, asserting not just that global warming is a hoax, but that it's a hoax concocted by the Chinese to make America less competitive.

The thing is, he's not alone in going down that rabbit hole. On other issues Republicans may try to claim that their presidential nominee doesn't speak for the party that nominated him. We're already hearing claims that Trump isn't a true conservative,

indeed that he's really a liberal, or anyway that liberals are somehow responsible for his rise. (My favorite theory here, one that has quite a few advocates, is that I personally caused Trumpism by being nasty to Mitt Romney.)

But when it comes to denial of climate change and the deployment of bizarre conspiracy theories to explain away the

evidence, Trump is squarely in the Republican mainstream. He may be talking nonsense, but anyone his party was likely to nominate would have been talking pretty much the same nonsense.

It's interesting to ask why climate denial has become not just acceptable but essentially required within the GOP. Yes, the fossil-fuel sector is a big donor to the party. But the vehemence of the hostility to climate science seems disproportionate even so; bear in mind that, for example, at this point there are fewer than 60,000 coal miners, that is, less than 0.05 percent of the workforce. What's happening, I suspect, is that climate denial has become a sort of badge of right-wing identity, above and beyond the still-operative motive of rewarding donors.

In any case, this election is likely to be decisive for the climate, one way or another. Obama has made some serious moves to address global warming, and there's every reason to believe that Hillary Clinton would continue this push — using executive action if she faced a hostile Congress. Given the technological breakthroughs of the last few years, this push might just be enough to avert disaster. Donald Trump, on the other hand, would do everything in his power to trash the planet, with the enthusiastic support of his party. So which will it be? Stay tuned.

Paul Krugman joined The New York Times in 1999 as a columnist on the Op-Ed Page and continues as professor of Economics and International Affairs at Princeton University.



PAUL KRUGMAN
Comment

Trump would do everything in his power to trash the planet, with the enthusiastic support of his party.

Culture Corner

In Rachel Caine's latest series for young adults, the Royal Library of Alexandria remains an all-powerful influence over the world, tightly restricting information it deems dangerous. Personal ownership of original books is expressly forbidden.

"The Great Library" is a fast-paced and suspenseful read, set in this reinterpreted version of modern times. The series' first book, "Ink and Bone," introduces Jess Brightwell, a boy from England whose family traffics illegal books on the black market. He is sent to the Library in order to become a scholar and, more importantly, a mole for the family business.

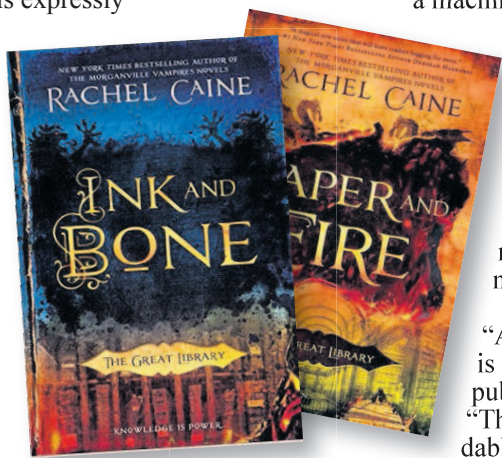
But Jess has a love for books and a thirst for knowledge that threatens to clash with his family loyalties — and

the Library itself. As he arrives in Egypt to train for his new career, we meet a group of secondary characters, fellow postulants and scholars, who begin to question the Library's sinister motives. When one of them devises

a machine that threatens the Library's very existence, it sets off a chain of events that carries into the series' second edition, "Paper and Fire," released just last month.

A third book, "Ash and Quill," is expected to be published next year. "The Great Library" dabbles in elements of romance, fantasy and science fiction,

inviting comparisons to Harry Potter but with a unique spin that makes it truly original. The characters are multi-cultural, hailing from countries across the globe, and their mission should be one that appeals to bookworms young and old. — *George Plaven*



YOUR VIEWS

November vote critical for climate change

Your vote in November is crucial to the ability of the U.S. to implement timely significant action on climate change issues. Delaying strategies of many elected officials are costing taxpayers untold amounts in dollars and human suffering, but more importantly delay lessens our ability to affect required changes.

Many Republican candidates adhere to party lines regarding climate change issues but many Democrats also refuse to prioritize climate issues either out of ignorance or fear. I believe if a candidate does not have climate change as a priority they are irrelevant and unable to function in current and future political arenas.

I ask while considering a candidate to be mindful that immediate and effective action on climate should be a declared priority by the candidate as this will determine the quality of life on the planet for current and future generations.

Chuck LeBold
Union

LETTERS POLICY

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