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OUR VIEW

What we'd like to hear from governor candidates

Kate Brown and Bud Pierce are squaring off for the top job in state government.

While the incumbent Brown has the advantage in name recognition and political affiliation, it could be one of the closer governor's races that Oregon has seen in some time.

Thankfully, both Brown and Pierce have agreed to five debates in the run-up to November. Of course, we'd love for journalists and the public to have even more opportunities to ask questions and watch the two interact on stage in front of cameras. But we'll make do with five, for now.

The *East Oregonian* will help sponsor and moderate a Sept. 24 debate in Bend, where the focus will be on rural issues. And we are disappointed that we weren't able to move that event farther east so more of our readers could attend. But it was as close as we could get to Eastern Oregon while still having a television station to broadcast the event live, which is a requirement for a little while longer. The post-TV world is fast approaching, and it will arrive none too soon.

The other confirmed debates at this time are Sept. 30 in Portland, Oct. 6 in Eugene, Oct. 13 in Medford and Oct. 20 in Portland. Brown's campaign told our Capital Bureau reporter that additional debates, forums or appearances will still be considered.

We're starting to craft questions that will elicit clear, newsworthy responses from both candidates. And we're looking forward to those responses. There is still a lot to learn from both candidates, who remain unknowns to a large percentage of Oregonians.

It's good to remember that although she is the current officeholder, Gov. Brown never won

an election for the state's highest office. She took over shortly after John Kitzhaber's name successfully led the Democratic ticket in 2014 and then was abruptly forced to resign. Pierce, a medical doctor from Salem, is a newcomer to statewide politics.

Brown has made her voice clear, if belatedly, in support of Measure 97. But she will have to make a more forceful argument of the measure, which has been begun to slip in the polls, if both she and it are successful in November.

From a rural perspective, we're also interested in hearing her explain her stance on a possible Owyhee Canyonlands National Monument, the behind-schedule, over-budget Blue Mountains forest plan, the anti-government flavor brewing in some of the state's smallest counties and the myriad resource, transportation, cultural and economic issues.

Brown has questions to answer, but all the pressure is on Pierce. He has to outshine Brown considerably in order to make up ground in a state that votes reliably Democratic. He must come off likable but also capable, a newcomer worthy of skipping a few rungs on the ladder to the top. He must be aggressive and show the job was too big for Brown. Brown, on the other hand, has to show she deserves to stay at the controls.

It will be fascinating to see the two debate, each trying to push and validate their policy positions but also trying to define the state of our state.

We'd like to hear from you too:

Do you have question you'd like to ask the candidates? Email it to editor@eastoregonian.com



OTHER VIEWS

The art of gracious leadership

Lately I've been thinking about experience. Donald Trump lacks political experience, and the ineptitude caused by his inexperience is evident every day. On the other hand, Hillary Clinton is nothing if not experienced. Her ship is running smoothly, and yet as her reaction to the email scandal shows once again, there's often a whiff of inhumanity about her campaign that inspires distrust.

So I've been thinking that it's not enough to be experienced. The people in public life we really admire turn experience into graciousness.

Those people, I think, see their years as humbling agents. They see that, more often than not, the events in our lives are perfectly designed to lay bare our chronic weaknesses and expose some great whopping new ones.

Sooner or later life teaches you that you're not the center of the universe, nor quite as talented or good as you thought. It teaches you to care less about what others think and, less self-conscious, to get out of your own way.

People who are gracious also understand the accuracy of John Keats' observation that "Nothing ever becomes real 'til it is experienced." You can learn some truth out of a book or from the mouth of a friend, but somehow wisdom is not lodged inside until its truth has been engraved by some moment of humiliation, delight, disappointment, joy or some other firsthand emotion.

The mistakes just have to be made. Gracious people are humble enough to observe that the best things in life are usually undeserved — the way the pennies of love you invest in children get returned in dollars later on; the kindness of strangers; the rebirth that comes after a friend's unexpected and overawing act of forgiveness.

The gracious people one sees in life and reads about in history books — I'm thinking of the all-time greats like Lincoln, Gandhi, Mandela and Dorothy Day as well as closer figures ranging from Francis to Havel — turn awareness of their own frailty into sympathy for others' frailty. As Juan Gabriel Vásquez wrote, "Experience, or what we call experience, is not the inventory of our pains, but rather the learned sympathy towards the pain of others."

They are good at accepting gifts, which is necessary for real friendship, but is hard for a proud person to do. They can be surprisingly tenacious in action.

Think of Martin Luther King Jr. The grace that flowed into him from friends and supporters and from all directions made



DAVID BROOKS
Comment

him radically hopeful and gave him confidence and tenacity. His capacity to fight grew out of his capacity to receive.

Such people have a gentle strength. They are aggressive and kind, free of sharp elbows, comfortable revealing and being abashed by their transgressions.

The U.S. military used to be pretty good at breeding this type of leader. In the years around World War II, generals often got fired. But they were also given second chances. That is, they endured brutal experiences, but they were given a chance to do something with those experiences and come back stronger and more supple.

They were also reminded very clearly that as members of an elite, they had the responsibilities that come with that station. Today, everybody is in denial about being part of the establishment, believing the actual elite is someone else.

Therefore, no one is raised with a code of stewardship and a sense of personal privilege and duty.

Hillary Clinton has experience, but does not seem to have been transformed by it. Amid the email scandal she is repeating the same mistakes she made during the Rose Law Firm scandal two decades ago. Her posture is still brittle, stonewalling and dissembling. Clinton scandals are all the same. There's an act of unseemly but not felonious behavior, then the futile drawn-out withholding of information, and forever after the unwillingness to ever come clean.

Experience distills life into instinct. If you interpret your life as a battlefield, then you will want to maintain control at all times. You will hoard access. You will refuse to have press conferences. You will close yourself off to those who can help.

If you treat the world as a friendly and hopeful place, as a web of relationships, you'll look for the good news in people and not the bad. You'll be willing to relinquish control, and in surrender you'll actually gain more strength as people trust in your candor and come alongside. Gracious leaders create a more gracious environment by greeting the world openly and so end up maximizing their influence and effectiveness.

It's tough to surrender control, but like the rest of us, Hillary Clinton gets to decide what sort of leader she wants to be. America is desperate for a little uplift, for a leader who shows that she trusts her fellow citizens. It's never too late to learn from experience.

David Brooks became a *New York Times* Op-Ed columnist in September 2003.

YOUR VIEWS

Boardman transmission line continues to move forward

The Boardman to Hemingway Transmission Line Project is moving forward to meet the energy needs of the Pacific Northwest region. Since 2002, Idaho Power has regularly analyzed the need for this regional transmission connection.

Analysis shows the need for the project is still strong and the project will benefit the entire area by allowing more electricity to move throughout the Pacific Northwest. In fact, B2H was identified as a priority project by the Obama Administration as part of the Interagency Rapid Response Team for Transmission.

Major permitting milestones are on the horizon for B2H. The Bureau of Land Management expects to release its final Environmental Impact Statement this year. Following the federal Record of Decision, which is the next step after the final EIS, we will continue to gather information on the selected route to develop the detailed design needed for Oregon's Energy Facility Siting Council Process.

Idaho Power continues to work with local communities, permitting agencies, and other partners and stakeholders. For example, routing variations were developed for analysis in response to comments on the draft EIS

received from Union County and the County's B2H Advisory Committee in January 2016. Similar efforts have occurred throughout Malheur, Baker, Umatilla and Morrow counties since the BLM issued their draft EIS in December 2014.

Idaho Power and its contractors are out in the field surveying plant species, bird and wildlife habitat and cultural resources. Federal and state permitting requires this data to assess potential environmental impacts of each route alternative. We are not conducting engineering surveys to finalize locations of transmission towers or other related facilities such as roads at this time. We are also not seeking to negotiate easements with landowners right now, but will begin those conversations once necessary permits are in place.

Idaho Power sends requests to enter property to survey lands potentially crossed by the project. We rely on each county Assessor's office for information necessary to send requests to landowners. We respect landowners and other stakeholders and partners and do not share any information that may be considered private.

You can find more information on B2H at boardmantohemingway.com or by contacting the project team at ipc@boardmantohemingway.com or 1-877-339-0209.

Idaho Power

OTHER VIEWS

Columbia River talks need to get going

Tri-City (Wash.) Herald

Our Northwest congressional delegation has pleaded with federal State Department officials since 2014 to set up a process so the U.S. and Canada can renegotiate the Columbia River Treaty.

And time and again the request seems to go nowhere. We hope the lawmakers' latest appeal finally will lead to some action.

U.S. senators and representatives from Washington, Oregon, Idaho and Montana recently sent a letter to Secretary of State John Kerry asking him and the State Department to create parameters for the treaty talks, and to insist Canada appoint a lead negotiator.

According to U.S. Rep. Dan Newhouse, R-Wash., the State Department said it intended to start treaty negotiations in 2016. But despite multiple letters from Congress urging action, progress has yet to be made.

This is discouraging and, frankly, irritating. The lack of immediate deadline pressure is no reason to delay setting the course.

The Columbia River Treaty is a complex document between the United States and Canada, and has provided the framework for hydropower production and flood control on the Columbia River since it was ratified in 1964.

It has turned the 1,243-mile Columbia into one of the most tightly controlled rivers in the world.

The treaty hit its 50-year anniversary in 2014 and that opened the door for review. Portions of the agreement expire

in 2024, but officials with either the U.S. or Canada can give a 10-year notice that they wish to modify the agreement.

And that is what our Northwest delegation is trying to do.

With an expiration date now eight years away, State Department officials may not believe there is a sense of urgency surrounding this issue. But they are wrong.

The Columbia River Treaty is bound to take time to re-negotiate and our Northwest lawmakers are right to want the process started as soon as possible.

Their latest letter says that the Columbia River plays a "critical role in the economy and the culture in the Northwest region" and that "potential management changes initiated through the treaty could have major impacts far into the future."

One of the priorities for the U.S. will be to re-negotiate the amount paid to Canada for the role it plays in producing hydropower. Native American tribes in the U.S. and in Canada also have been pushing for the treaty to include the return of fish runs that were destroyed by some of the dams.

These are complicated issues by themselves, but there also are agriculture, recreation, navigation and environmental concerns to consider. Reaching an agreement will be a monumental task.

Management of the Columbia River is a huge responsibility for both countries, and there is too much at stake to risk putting these crucial negotiations off any longer.

Time is running out. Federal officials need to set up treaty talks with Canada before another year goes by.

LETTERS POLICY

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