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OUR VIEW

Tip of the hat; kick in the pants

A tip of the hat to an experiment that will happen later this year at the Boardman Coal Plant.

Portland General Electric has already said the plant won't be using coal by 2020. But whether it will be locked up and torn down, or powered by a more environmentally friendly method for years into the future, is yet to be determined.

That's where the biomass comes in. During the 24 hour experiment, the plant will only use torrefacted biomass — think charcoal — made mostly from small lumber, often beetle-killed or burned. Could it be a technology that not just weans the country off coal, but also cleans up the West's clogged forests? If it sounds too good to be true, it is — currently at least. One day of turning the turbines will require 8,000 tons of biomass. There are longer term questions of whether that much product can be supplied continuously, and if it will be worth the cost and effort.

But as the technology continues to mature, it just might prove capable. And it's a remarkable step that a plant the size of Boardman will try to burn wood for 24 hours instead of coal. The plant will learn some things, identify areas of improvement, and have concrete answers to questions that until then will have just been hypothetical. We wish PGE luck in the search for the fuel of the future.



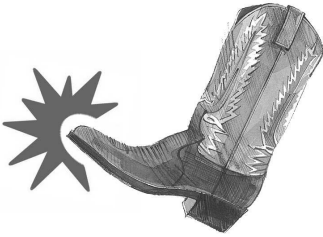
A kick in the pants to a lobbyist's threats that the state of Oregon could be sued if it institutes new rules for responding to public records requests.

As reported by our Capital Bureau, Rob Bovett, a lobbyist for the Association of Oregon Counties, argued that some county officials might see setting a deadline to provide records as an unfunded mandate. Bovett argued they might have to pay overtime or hire people to meet set deadlines. That's hokey.

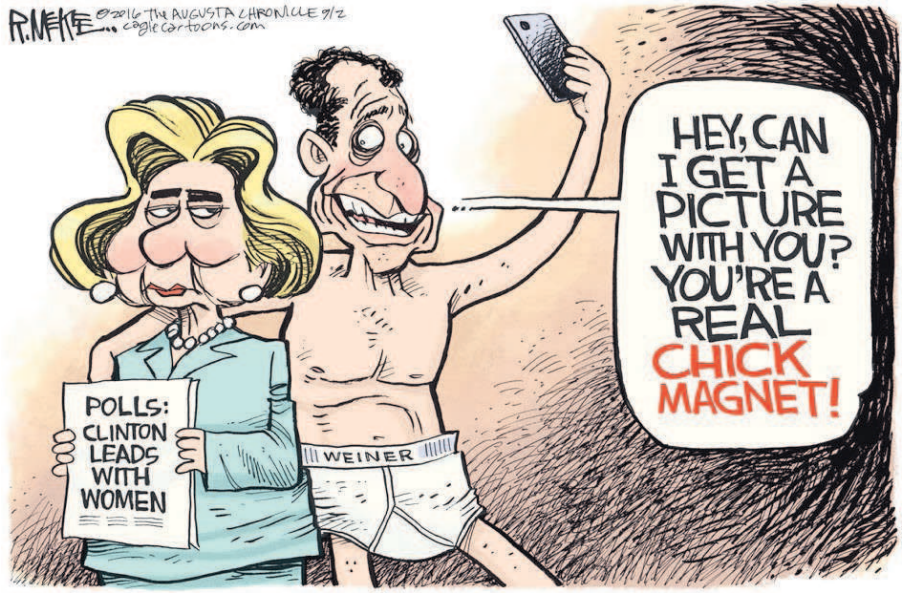
Attorney General Ellen Rosenblum's draft legislation would give public bodies 10 business days to furnish requested records, with certain exceptions. Rosenblum's council said that revisions to the bill will bump that to 15 days.

Both leave plenty of time — too much time, we'd argue — to furnish most requests. And in no way do they require counties or other government organizations to spend money to meet them. In cases of extraordinary volume or precisions, parties would be able to work out a timeframe that suits both.

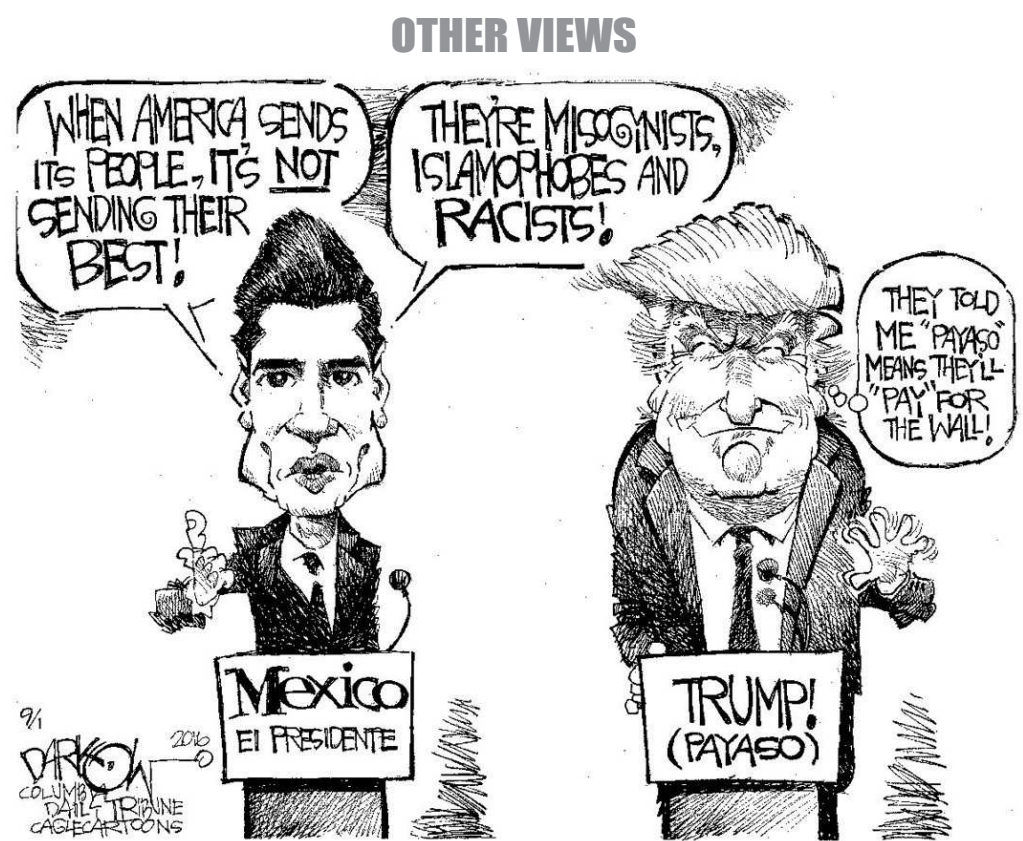
It's great for Oregon to want to improve the public's access to the records it is entitled to. But without set deadlines, it won't count for squat.



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Pariahs for Trump

To read newspapers like *The New York Times*, you might think that almost nobody has endorsed Donald Trump. Ah, but maybe that's because *The Times* is, as Trump puts it, "totally dishonest," "failing" and "a disgusting fraud."

In truth, Trump has actually attracted a broad range of endorsements that perhaps haven't received adequate attention.



NICHOLAS KRISTOF
Comment

For example, from terrorists. "I ask Allah to deliver America to Trump," a supporter of the Islamic State declared recently in an Arabic-language posting. Foreign Affairs quotes jihadis explaining that Trump would say and do such crazy things that he would end up helping extremist groups.

"He must be smoking bad hashish to say such crazy things," one jihadi added. Supporters of ISIS say they hope Trump would cause the United States to self-destruct, and that is why, as one put it, "Trump's arrival in the White House must be a priority for jihadis at any cost!"

Of course, Trump has been endorsed not only by terrorists but also by nation states.

"Trump is not the rough-talking, screwy, ignorant candidate they say he is, but is actually a wise politician," a columnist wrote in a North Korean propaganda magazine, DPRK Today.

The magazine approved of Trump's threats to withdraw U.S. military forces from South Korea and noted, "Who knew that the slogan 'Yankee Go Home' would come true like this?"

may help remind Americans that all genocide, even against white people, is evil," said Bob Whitaker, who until spring was the American Freedom Party's presidential candidate, running with the campaign slogan "Diversity is a code word for white genocide."

The American Nazi Party's position is a bit more complicated. Rocky Suhayda, the party chairman, has predicted that Trump will win and that this will provide "a real opportunity for people like white nationalists." But, apparently worried that Nazi support for Trump might be counterproductive, he denied reports that on his radio show he had actually endorsed Trump.

"Recently, the jews-media gave the Party international coverage over our last ANP radio show, where they 'claimed' that I 'endorsed' Donald Trump, in another effort to 'SMEAR' the man," Suhayda wrote on the Nazi Party website. "It was a typical kosher BIG LIE, as exposed and explained in Adolf Hitler's book Mein Kampf — whereas they 'CLAIM' that Mr. Evil Nazi (me) has embraced Donald Trump for President, hence Mr. Trump and myself are joined at the hip, being clones of Little Hitlerites."

So maybe Trump doesn't have the Nazi endorsement sewn up after all.

He does have the backing of other prominent figures. Among them: Martin Shkreli, who as CEO of Turing Pharmaceuticals raised the price of a lifesaving drug by more than 5,000 percent; Milo Yiannopoulos, recently banned from Twitter for leading internet trolls on a misogynist and racist campaign against Leslie Jones, the comedian and actress; and Alex Jones, the talk show host who has said that the Apollo 11 moon landing was faked and that no children were actually injured in the Sandy Hook school shooting.

The Washington Post published an early non-endorsement editorial, stating that Trump constitutes a "unique and present danger" to America, but Trump has won some publication endorsements — such as one from *The Daily Stormer*, a white supremacist website, and one from *The National Enquirer*.

OK, OK, it's also true that Trump has support of tens of millions of Americans, including (sometimes grudgingly) leading Republicans, like Paul Ryan, Mitch McConnell and John McCain. Yet one element that makes this election stunning is how many prominent Republicans have refused to endorse their nominee, while some have denounced him as a "madman" and "bigot" who has no more "core principles than a Kardashian marriage."

But perhaps what's even more illuminating is the crowd that is endorsing Trump.

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Nicholas Kristof grew up on a sheep and cherry farm in Yamhill.

"Trump is not the rough-talking screwy, ignorant candidate they say he is, but is actually a wise politician."

— Propagandist DPRK Today

OTHER VIEWS

American Indian tribes band together to fight an oil pipeline

By TAYLOR BRORBY
Writers on the Range

When you cross the Cannonball River south of Mandan, North Dakota, and enter the Standing Rock Sioux Reservation, you see signs that read "We Are Water" and "Water Is Life." This is a place where people are willing to fight when the health of the land is threatened.

Five months ago, members of the Standing Rock Lakota Nation founded a "Spirit Camp" to protest the proposed route of a 1,172-mile-long pipeline — the Dakota Access Pipeline. If allowed to go forward, it will carry nearly 24 million gallons of Bakken oil each day through North Dakota, South Dakota and Iowa, before connecting to an existing pipeline in Patoka, Illinois.

The Standing Rock tribal chairman, David Archambault II, has said, "This pipeline is making its way through our territory even

though there was an alternative route north of Bismarck. (When) someone claimed that they are concerned with safe drinking water for that community, (it was) rerouted north of Standing Rock. We complain, too, because we're concerned for our future generations and their drinking water. They don't listen."

The Standing Rock Tribe has filed an injunction in federal court to stop the pipeline. The case will be heard Sept. 9.

I drive to the Dakota Access construction site, where chocolate-colored soil is turned upside down, the early stage of building a roadway for the pipeline. Tribal flags drape a fence, and prayer flags snap in the wind. Near the locked entrance gate, the American flag flies upside down, in an officially recognized signal of distress.

Over 1,500 people have gathered here to demonstrate against the pipeline, some of them arriving on horseback, to

erect tents and teepees along the river. A barricade across the road is guarded by a half-dozen police officers. On Aug. 17, Kyle Kirchmeier, the sheriff of Morton County, held a press conference to denounce "unlawful protests" against the pipeline. Kirchmeier said, "There has been talk about a pipe bomb on the line down there. They were preparing to throw pipe bombs, M-80s and fireworks at us."

I saw no one preparing bombs or fireworks. In my time visiting some of the many camps along the muddy Cannonball River, I saw only pocketknives and hatchets — tools to help build sweat lodges and cut kindling for firewood. For two days I was met with warmth and generosity, given food and loaned a tent.

A woman named Donna hugged me, thanking me for traveling from Iowa back to my home in North Dakota to join the group and gather my own impressions of their struggle.

I was one of only a handful of white people there, perhaps because some newspapers played up how "dangerous" the place was. But at Spirit Camp, spirits were high, and the feeling was one of shared excitement, not hostility toward anyone.

This fight of tribal people and their allies is not a fight against "progress." If the pipeline gets built upriver of the reservation, and, inevitably, springs a leak, the people of Standing Rock will be affected, and the water they need from the Missouri River may be polluted.

It seems to me that when a pipeline is constructed near tribal ground against the will of the people, and when private corporations profit from the loss of the common good, that tribe is impoverished as a people and as a culture.

Right now, more supporters are traveling to North Dakota to join the representatives of more than 25 tribes united against the Dakota

Access Pipeline; by Aug. 29, the number reported was 4,000. And in a historic first, the seven Lakota tribes that last fought together in the Battle of Greasy Grass — also known as the Battle of the Little Bighorn — have pledged their commitment to oppose the Dakota Access Pipeline.

In fact, this protest, which has enlisted so many Native Americans in common cause, has also made news around the world. It seems that a revolution has overtaken my home state, a place that has benefitted so richly from the Bakken oil boom.

At a time when we now know so much about how fossil fuels threaten the habitability of the planet, the Standing Rock Nation and the other gathered tribes might be sounding the wake-up call the rest of the world needs to hear.

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Taylor Brorby is a contributor to *Writers on the Range*, the opinion service of *High Country News*. He lives in Ames, Iowa.