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**OUR VIEW**

# Tip of the hat; kick in the pants

**A kick in the pants to Umatilla County stores that sold tobacco to minors during recent undercover sweeps. And any time, for that matter.**

It was a lot of them, so we'll need to do a lot of kicking.

During those sweeps, more than a third of stores sold to underage buyers. That's unacceptable, and a serious reason why Umatilla County has one of the highest youth smoking rates in the state.

According to the Oregon Health Authority, 4.4 percent of eighth graders in Umatilla County smoked tobacco in 2013, a tick above the 4.3 percent state average. But by 11th grade the Umatilla County rate jumped to 17.8 percent, almost twice the state average.

Stores selling directly to minors is a clear, Occam's razor culprit. Regardless of whether they can sneak a dip from dad's stash or a cigarette from mom's purse, allowing youth to start the habit of buying from retailers is not healthy.

We're not convinced that a county licensing program is the answer, but it's clear that this is a problem that needs addressing from a law enforcement and education perspective. And we'd suggest the retailer where the sale is made should pay a fine, not just the clerk. That will quickly encourage businesses to make ID checking a top priority.

We should do what it takes to keep young people from being addicted to a cancer-causing substance. When they are old enough to make up their own mind, we hope to have taught them well about the dangers of smoking or snuffing.

**A tip of the hat to teachers in Hermiston and Pendleton** who are garnering awards, accolades and opportunities for their specialty courses.

In Hermiston, high school agriculture science teacher Leah Smith was recognized this week by the National Association of Agricultural Educators as this year's top teacher mentor in the western region.

The award is given each year to an experienced teacher who helps motivate and guide beginning teachers. Smith has been teaching agriculture for 15 years, nine of them in the Hermiston School District, so has the experience to help new teachers develop their curriculum and improve their classrooms.

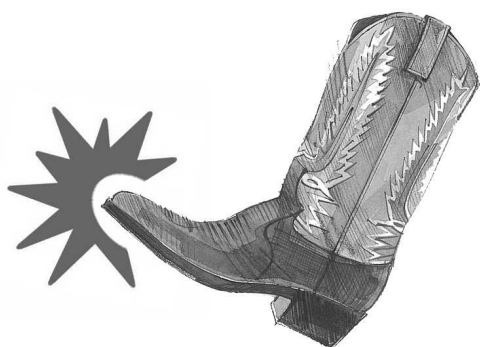
In Pendleton, Kristin Swaggart was recently named a finalist in the Farmers Insurance "Dream Big Teacher Challenge." If Swaggart won, she would receive \$100,000 to buy and operate food truck for the Pendleton High School culinary team.

We know what you're thinking: Tacos! Sweet, sweet tacos.

So how do we help bring a new food truck to town? Readers can vote once per day every day in October at [www.thankamericasteachers.com](http://www.thankamericasteachers.com). The school is using the hashtag "#voteforchefeveryday," to raise awareness, which can be used on social media websites like Instagram, Twitter and Facebook.

We suggest everyone get on board and help Swaggart bring real-world experience to her students and real-tasty cuisine to the rest of us.

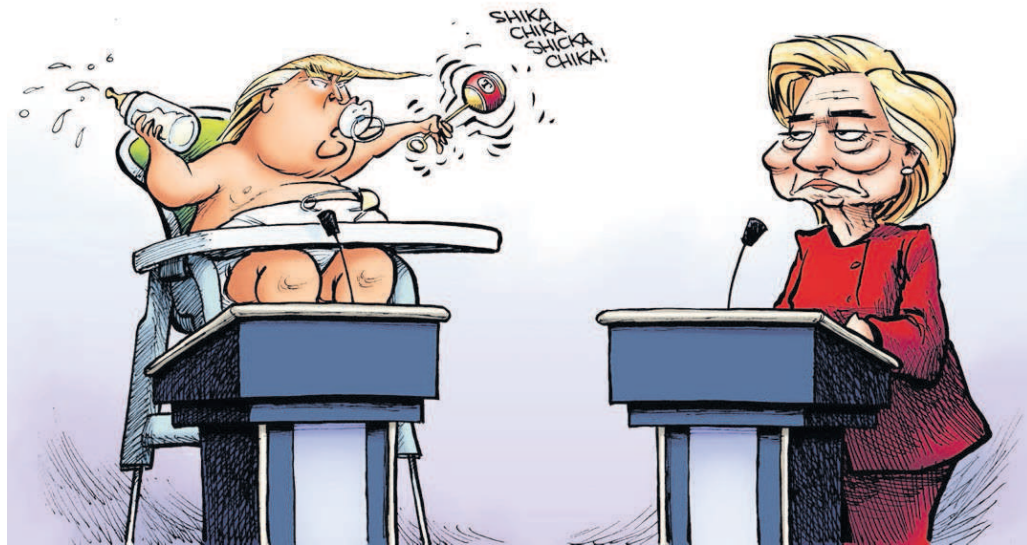
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**OTHER VIEWS**

**TRUMP RATTLES HILLARY**

THE COLUMBIAN'S LISA WELSH  
CARTOONISTS.COM



## That seventh-grade bully is running for president

Donald Trump displayed an excellent version of the stern squint in the presidential debate. Many of us men are familiar with this expression, because we practice it at age 13 in the hope that it will impress girls. It doesn't, and we grow out of it — most of us, anyway.

Hillary Clinton wears a patient smile, the expression of every woman who has calmly suppressed irritation while being harangued by a boor on topics he knows nothing about. Sadly, women never have the opportunity to retire this expression because it is constantly needed, or so my wife tells me.

What is thrilling is that Trump's boorishness may be catching up to him.

Trump has advocated policies that are confused or senseless — deporting 11 million unauthorized immigrants en masse, banning Muslims from entering the country, undermining NATO, slashing taxes on billionaires while raising them on single parents, capitulating to Russia on Crimea — yet these don't get him into deep political trouble. Instead, his vulnerability seems to be something more elemental: He's a jerk.

In particular, he's a jerk toward women — a tendency he displayed prominently during Monday's debate. Trump interrupted Clinton 51 times, by Vox's count (she interrupted him 17 times).

Trump seems oblivious to his own loudness. When Clinton called him out for labeling women pigs, slobs and dogs, he defended himself by saying that Rosie O'Donnell "deserves it." When Clinton reproached Trump for having degraded a Miss Universe, Alicia Machado, over her weight, Trump obligingly went on Fox News to demonize Machado again for gaining "a massive amount of weight."

This crassness is nothing new from Trump, of course. Few comments could be more demeaning than one Trump offered in 2005 when Howard Stern asked him if he would stand by his wife, Melania, if she were in a horrible car accident and left with 100 stitches on her face, an oozing sore on her left eye, and a mangled foot. Trump's first, automatic response? "How do the breasts look?" (Afterward, he did say that he would stick with her.)

Something about Trump is paradigmatic of the most atrocious kind of seventh-grade boy: The boasts about not doing homework, the habit of blaming others when things go wrong, the penchant for exaggerating everything into the best ever, the braggadocio to mask insecurity about size of hands or genitals, the biting put-downs of others, the laziness, the self-absorption, the narcissism, the lack of



**NICHOLAS KRISTOF**  
Comment

**Trump is puerile not only where gender is concerned.**

empathy — and the immaturity that reduces a woman to her breasts.

OK, now I've just insulted 13-year-old boys by comparing them to the man who may become our next president. Sorry, kids, most of you are far better than that!

Trump is puerile not only where gender is concerned. He also seems to boast about what he can get away with, such as not paying taxes.

When Clinton noted in the debate that for at least a couple of years he paid no federal income tax at all, Trump responded, "That makes me smart!" He seems to think that people who pay taxes are chumps — which is irritating for all of us who do pay taxes and would love to glimpse his returns.

One of the most effective commercials against Trump highlights his callousness, as he makes fun of a disabled journalist. The mother of a disabled child says, "The children at Grace's school all know never to mock her, and so for an adult to mock someone with a disability is shocking."

Another powerful commercial depicts girls studying themselves in a mirror as Trump is heard mocking women for their looks. Text on the screen asks: "Is this the president we want for our daughters?"

Of course, even if Trump acts like a middle-school boy, his policies would be those of a dangerous adult — and I wish the debate were more focused on those substantive proposals. Trump's comments may be brutal, but his policies would be infinitely more so.

If only his troglodyte views on gender could be a springboard to discuss women's issues that rarely get explored, such as domestic violence that strikes one woman in four, or human trafficking, channeling some 10,000 underage Americans into the sex trade each year. One advantage of more women in public life should be more scrutiny of pay gaps, and greater attention to the need for high-quality day care.

Yet if Trump's Achilles' heel proves to be not his oafish policies but rather his churlish manner, so be it. There are important policy reasons to reel at the thought of Trump in the White House, but voters perhaps flinch even more at his personal conduct: We already run into enough jerks in daily life, so why would we want one as our head of state?

Middle school is the wrenching, jungle stage of life that we all must struggle through. Why would we subject ourselves to a "leader" who is permanently in the seventh grade?

*Nicholas Kristof grew up on a sheep and cherry farm in Yamhill, Oregon. Kristof, a columnist for The New York Times since 2001, won the Pulitzer Prize in 1990 and 2006.*

**OTHER VIEWS**

## Improving confidence in our police

*The (Albany) Democrat-Herald*

A tentative contract agreement between the city of Portland and the city's Police Bureau caught our eye because of one detail that could be relevant in the mid-valley.

The agreement, which Portland police officers have yet to ratify, does away with the controversial "48-hour rule." That's the rule allowing officers who were involved in an incident that included the use of deadly force to wait two days before being interviewed by investigators.

As you might imagine, the 48-hour rule didn't do anything to build public confidence in the police force there. In fact, it might have made matters worse, in that it appears to give a benefit to an officer that would never be given to anyone else involved in a deadly force incident.

Oregon law requires that each county develop a "deadly physical force plan," which outlines the procedures to be followed in those events when an officer uses deadly force. In this context, deadly force means about what you might think: The plan defines it as "physical force that under the circumstances in which it is used is readily capable of causing death or serious physical injury."

Among the procedures outlined in the plan is one that gives officers "a reasonable amount of time" before being interviewed in the wake of a deadly force incident. The plan specifies that investigators generally should wait 48 hours before conducting interviews with officers.

The reasoning is that such a cooling-off period takes into account the emotional and physical state of the officers involved. That's important, the reasoning goes, because these incidents can be traumatic.

Well, there's no doubt that an incident involving the use of deadly force can be stressful for officers. But that's also true for the others involved — and only police officers have the opportunity to cool off and sort out the details of the incident for 48 hours. You can be sure that no one else involved in the incidents gets 48 hours to reflect.

In fact, try it the next time you have an encounter with an officer, and see how it goes: "I understand that you pulled me over for an alleged traffic violation," you could say, "but this is very stressful for me, and I need another 48 hours before I can say anything about this." Let us know how that goes.

Now, officers can choose to waive the 48-hour waiting period, and the policy does not preclude an investigating officer asking for a preliminary statement to get the investigation going.

But the policy still rankles. And it's ironic in that the policy is included in the county's deadly force plan, because among the goals listed in the plan are these: to treat the law enforcement officer fairly and to promote "public confidence in the criminal justice system."

It's hard to imagine exactly how this 48-hour exception does anything to increase confidence in the criminal justice system.

**YOUR VIEWS**

### Closing Sand Station will leave Hermiston residents homeless

The word "homeless" carries with it a stigma.

For example, if you are homeless you must be on drugs or alcohol or have a mental problem. Unfortunately in some cases this is true. I'm not advocating for those individuals.

There is another side to being homeless. There are people out here that, through no fault of their own, must find a way to survive. Those with kids have it the hardest. There are a lot of homeless families in the Hermiston area with kids and we need to address this.

It has come to my attention that the Army Corps of Engineers is planning to close down Sand Station for the winter.

There are people out there that, if this were to happen, would have no place to go. They will be forced to live on the streets of Hermiston. We need help. If you can, please call the Army Corps of Engineers and ask them to please reconsider closing Sand Station. We will keep the station clean and stocked with tissue for the restrooms. The churches in the area have been wonderful in helping. I beg them to keep up the good work.

With winter coming, we will need

donations of food, canned goods, clothes, sleeping bags, heaters and anything else that you think may be of help to us. Please, these people need your help.

**Michael Nathan**  
Hermiston

### Hermiston should sell old fairgrounds to pay for schools

I keep seeing newspaper reporting of the Hermiston School District, which may put a \$104 million bond issue on the ballot next year.

Since we already have a huge bond tax from schools in 2008, which runs for 29 years, I would like to suggest not hitting the taxpayers again, which of course raises the rents by landlords for perhaps those less fortunate.

The fair inside the city is done, so why not sell off some of the large property to home developers as the town is growing? The amount received could be huge and would be mostly all profit to the school district as they only paid a small amount when purchased from the city.

**Jim Tide**  
Hermiston

**LETTERS POLICY**

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