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OUR VIEW

Tip of the hat;
kick in the pants

A tip of the hat to the Eastern Oregon Trade and Event Center board for sitting down last Friday and putting the entire project on the table in a public meeting.

As was mentioned at the meeting, it’s crunch time. There is one event center on the property now being used, but the rest of the project is still rising and must be ready for show in no more than 10 months. A slow step or hang up now and that show — the county fair and Farm-City Pro Rodeo — will suffer.

It was also good to hear discussion of how the whole thing will operate in the 11-and-a-half months between fairs. Board members showed wise concern about losing revenue in sweetheart deals, and intend to get top dollar for this county’s top dollar investment.

The nuts and bolts of staffing and management and facilities are what will make the entire project run smoothly or sputter out. We’re glad to see those pieces being seriously scrutinized. Deciding during crunch time is better than holding off any longer.

A tip of the hat to the Chicago Cubs, baseball’s lovable losers no more.

Forget that none of the players’ grandparents were born when the much-publicized 108-year streak without a World Series title began. Forget too, that the Ottoman Empire was still standing the last time the Cubs were champions.

A sports franchise, and especially a baseball team, develops a character through its players, but more importantly its fans. And those fans have been through the ringer. Bad ownership, bad management and bad luck made for a long century.

For the players, mostly mid-20s all-stars who have spent their lives winning athletic events, it surely was an exciting season. But for fans, who have entwined their very identity with the franchise, watching the final out in a final World Series game and realizing it was their Cubbies on top must still feel like a dream.

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

Don’t enlarge Southern
Oregon National Monument

The Bend Bulletin

Southern Oregon, from Klamath County to the Pacific Ocean, has faced some of the worst economic problems in the state over the last three decades. Timber — or the inability to harvest it — is at the root of many of those problems.

Knowing that, it makes little sense to roughly double the size of a national monument in that part of the state, as Sens. Jeff Merkley and Ron Wyden, both Democrats, recommend. It particularly doesn’t make sense to do so without the full discussion congressional — rather than presidential — action would bring.

Created by presidential order at the end of the Clinton administration, Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument encompasses parts of Jackson and Klamath counties at the junction of the Cascade and Siskiyou mountain ranges. It covers roughly 95 square miles, and the addition sought by Merkley and Wyden would just about double that.

That’s something neither the state nor the two counties directly affected need.

The timber industry was part of the economic backbone of both counties

through the 1980s, but is no longer. The Endangered Species Act and the listing of a variety of birds, fish, mammals and even plants have restricted logging almost to the point of extinction, and as it has declined, so too have the Oregon & California Railroad Lands payments that were a key part of both counties’ financial resources.

Wyden’s Secure Rural Schools Act made up for some of that loss, but payments under it, too, have declined dramatically.

Klamath County, meanwhile, has suffered under the added burden of water wars that remain unsettled today and continue to take a toll on agriculture in the area.

All this adds up to poverty levels in the 20 percent range for both counties, well above Deschutes County’s 13 percent, and household incomes are lower overall, according to the U.S. Census Bureau.

Those are solid reasons for less, not more, restrictions on federal land in the two counties. They’re solid reasons, too, for ending the practice of setting aside federal lands by presidential fiat. Rather, this expansion and all others should be considered by Congress, not by a single individual nearing the end of a political career and answerable to no one.

will be nominating possibly four Supreme Court justices, who have more potential to affect the lives of your great-grandchildren than the next president does. There are other nominations the president will be responsible for as well, including perhaps four people to the Federal Reserve Board. And the list goes on.

In addition, we have a gubernatorial election to consider, as well as Secretary of State, senators, representatives, various measures, etc.

It could not be easier to vote in the grand state of Oregon. Please vote. Vote thoughtfully.

Cindi Holmes
Pendleton

YOUR VIEWS

Cast your ballot — but
think hard before you do

Please vote. Although you may not have the emotional fortitude to support an individual presidential candidate, take a few minutes to read the Republican and Democratic platforms (easily accessible online and extremely enlightening), and cast your vote to the candidate who represents the party that most represents your moral, ethical, and political viewpoints.

The future president will be surrounding himself or herself with like-minded advisors.

Also remember that the next president

Five reasons to vote Trump

1.) **Who needs experience to be president?** It’s true that Donald Trump would have less public service experience than any president in American history, but knowledge is lame. Maybe the Know-Nothing Party in the 19th century captured this spirit in its name — and Trump is the apotheosis of knowing-nothing. In my journalistic career, I’ve never met a national candidate as ill informed, evasive or puerile as Donald Trump.

Let’s try puerility for a change! What could go wrong?

Oh, nuclear weapons, you say? Well, other countries walk all over us because they trust us to be reasonable. In, say, a trade dispute with Canada, we’d get much better results if Canadians feared that Trump might incinerate Ottawa. And even if something went wrong, so what? There’s lots more of Canada.

Look, nobody messes with Kim Jong Un of North Korea, because he’s a crazy, inexperienced guy with nukes. With Trump, we’d have our own Kim Jong Un!

2.) **We’ve accepted that leaders need not be saints, so why not embrace a paragon of fraud?** With his experience allegedly cheating consumers at Trump University, maybe we could even fund government by cheating foreign tourists.

Sure, it’s a little awkward that Trump boasts about sexually assaulting women and has been accused by at least 17 women of groping or other improper behavior — and I know three other women with similar complaints who haven’t dared come forward. At G-8 summit meetings, Trump would have to be seated well away from any female leaders. But he could break the ice with male leaders by dissing Angela Merkel’s behind.

Enough with sanctimony and moralism from the failing news media! Time to shake things up with a sexual predator!

3.) **Trump might become the most entertaining president in history.** If Clinton is elected, she’ll give earnest, wonkish speeches about the benefits of increasing the child tax credit or raising the minimum wage. Yawn. In contrast, Trump will insult world leaders, barge into Miss Teen USA changing rooms and castigate the menstrual cycles of female critics. It’ll be the most riveting reality TV ever.

And whatever you think of Trump’s policies, you have to admit, no president would have better hot mic scandals.

So in an age of cord-cutting, when HBO is inaccessible to millions, a Trump presidency would keep us all amused, aghast or at least entertained. Until the nuclear apocalypse, after which we may all be dead anyway.

4.) **Diversity is important, and Trump is inclusive — of extremists.**

Many Americans troubled by demographic change complain that they have been left disenfranchised. Trump speaks up for such

oppressed groups — like white men. Craven politicians usually stop with supporting the white working class, but Trump goes where others dare not: He has championed those previously left out of politics, like white supremacists. What other candidate would twice retweet a “white genocide” account with the photo of the founder of the American Nazi Party? Trump has boldly empowered even one of the most marginalized constituencies in America today: the Ku Klux Klan, which has a newspaper that this week gave him a warm embrace.

It can be cathartic to express rage, and Trump gives license to make America hate again. He lets Americans put aside Kumbaya political correctness, also known as “mutual respect” or “social fabric,” and instead embrace our inner storm trooper. Finally, a politician brave enough and inclusive enough to reach out to hate groups.

5.) **Donald Trump understands that our modern brains hold us back.**

Deep in our heads, resting on the spinal cord, is what scientists sometimes call our “reptilian brain.” In evolutionary terms, this is the oldest part of our brains and it governs primal instincts such as hunger, sex and fear; it helps trigger the fight or flight response.

This reptilian brain has been updated with a cerebral cortex and other modern brain structures that are the seat of reason — but Trump is bypassing them. Neuroscientists have noted that he preaches directly to the lizard in our heads.

“We do experience a primitive apprehension welling up from our ‘reptilian brain,’” Steven Pinker, the Harvard psychology professor, tells me, but we still interpret it in light of our belief system. The modern world has developed science, journalism, a judiciary and similar institutions to curb our primal impulses — but Trump blows these off.

Our reptilian brains evolved to be hyper-alert to dangers, which was lifesaving in an age of pterodactyls. Trump activates these vigilant instincts, Pinker says, and channels them into the most primitive interpretive circuits of our cortex, the ones rooted in tribalism. And so he wants us to join him in making scapegoats of Muslims, refugees, Mexican “rapists” and black “thugs.”

This historic election thus presents a choice: To decide how to cast our ballots, do we rely upon our reptilian brains or our human brains?

To put it another way: Are we fearful, instinctive reptiles? Or nuanced, reasoning humans?

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

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