

Quick takes

Oregon to consider bill to allow harvest of roadkill

They do it all the time in Alaska and it works beautifully. Why let food waste while people go hungry?

— Kim Gibson

A deer hit me a few years ago. It totaled my car. I would have liked to have a steak out of the deal.

— Joe Ream

Ewww.

— Marvin Williams

Hermiston sewer, water rates to jump 15 percent

This is exactly why I moved here from Portland. The sewer and water rates were beyond reasonable in Portland. About 3 times Hermiston rates. Move to land with a well and septic.

— Jacky Miller

The reason I live in the county!

— Matt Fisher

Pendleton schools decide what to do about snow days

I say waiver. People could have vacation plans which start shortly after the school year ends.

— Yvette Baysinger Fitzjarrald

My children need an education, not more vacation time. Have them make up the time ... I have my priorities straight, their education is far more important than taking a trip.

— Andrea Ellis

One of the great lessons of the Twitter age is that much can be summed up in just a few words. Here are some of this week's takes. Tweet yours @Tim_Trainor or email editor@eastoregonian.com, and keep them to 140 characters.

Why I participated in the Women's March

By BRIGIT FARLEY

This past Saturday, I joined with about 400 old and new friends — gals, guys, kids and a few dogs — in the Pendleton Women's March. It was a wonderful day of solidarity and purpose here and worldwide as a new administration came to power. Since then, social media has featured lots of commentary on the event, some of it unaccountably negative and snarky: "these are sore losers," "Trump is President and you can't change that," or "they are throwing a hissy fit."

I cannot speak for other marchers, but I can explain my reasons for participating. They have nothing to do with sore losing, hissy-fitting or denying that Trump is president.

I marched because I want to see the social safety net preserved and hopefully strengthened. I know from personal experience that Social Security, Medicare and the Affordable Care Act are the underpinnings of a decent and contributory life in America. My mother was able to go to college on Social Security death benefits and educate Pendleton children for 35 years. Medicare paid most of my parents' medical bills in their old age, enabling them to enjoy retirement and help their community. Thanks to the ACA, my friend's daughter was finally able to obtain affordable health insurance for her cystic fibrosis, a pre-existing condition that requires a lot of care.

President Trump vowed during the campaign not to touch Social Security or Medicare, and he said he would replace the ACA with something better and more affordable for everyone. But some of his cabinet nominees and Congressional allies have signaled they would privatize, phase out or gut these programs. I marched to hold the President to his promises.

I marched to protect the rights of individuals potentially at risk from the Trump administration. I know at least five



Staff photo by Kathy Aney

Gisele Short marches with her mother, Sarah Short, last weekend in the Pendleton Women's March.

couples that benefited from the Supreme Court's 2015 ruling legalizing same-sex marriage. President Trump has promised to appoint Supreme Court justices in the mold of Antonin Scalia, a known opponent of marriage equality. Accordingly, I wanted to dramatize my commitment to preserving it.

At colleges throughout the country, there are "Dreamers," undocumented people brought here as children who have never known another country. In my experience, they are good students who stand to contribute a lot to this country. I don't want to lose them to deportation.

I also wanted to demonstrate my opposition to President Trump's talk of a Muslim registry, something that could lead to a Japanese internment-style mass punishment in the event of a terror attack. I hope we can avoid a repetition of that sorry episode.

I marched in protest of the harsh words the president had for educators in his inaugural address. He spoke of schools

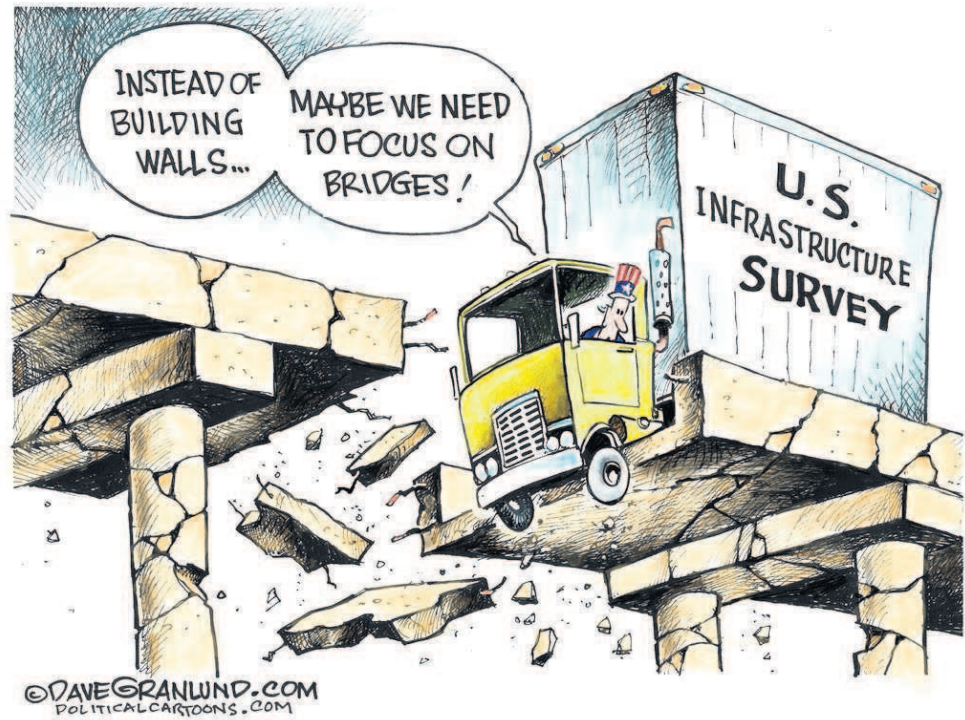
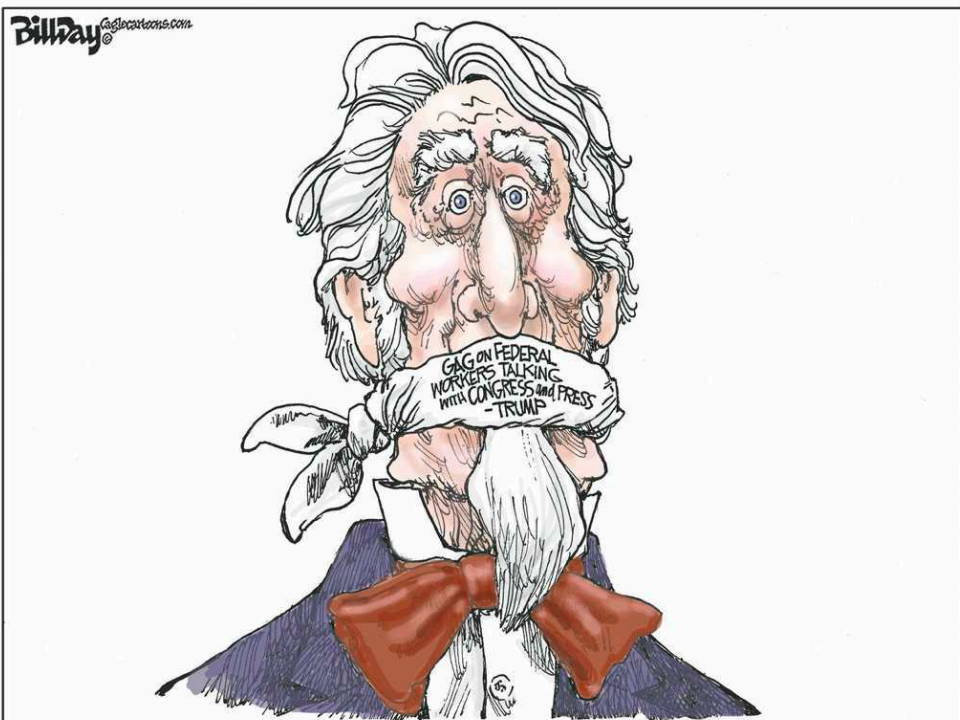
"flush with cash" turning out students "deprived of knowledge." The teachers I know are always buying supplies with their own money for their classes, and no one works harder at a more challenging assignment. They do their best for all students that come through that classroom door, regardless of economic status, academic ability or conditions at home.

If President Trump hopes to make America great again, support for public schools is an essential part of the equation. They represent maybe the only common experience Americans have now, and they have always been the major driver of social mobility and national prosperity from the beginning of the republic.

Finally, I marched because it is what people have done throughout American history to show their public officials what they want. Some detractors wonder aloud why marchers were silent about injustices overseas, in Saudi Arabia for example. Americans have virtually no ability to change conditions for citizens of other countries. But they can move mountains here.

President Trump wants to talk about America "not winning"? Think about the suffragette protesters of 100 years ago, who endured arrest and imprisonment for their trespass on President Wilson's sensibilities. They celebrated victory in the 19th amendment of 1920. Recall Martin Luther King's civil rights movement, soldiering on through beatings, bombings and bloody murder to achieve their goal in the passage of the Civil Rights and Voting Rights Acts of 1964 and '65. And let's not forget that this country got kickstarted in a protest, a violent one at that — some Boston tea, anybody? Bottom line, I marched because protest is patriotic, as "winning" and American as apple pie.

Brigit Farley is a Russian and European history professor at Washington State University-Tri-Cities and lives in Pendleton.



Every president needs a dog

I'm not sure why so many rural Westerners voted for President Donald J. Trump. He doesn't drive a pickup with a gun rack. He doesn't wear Levis or Wranglers, and his hairstyle certainly wouldn't work in a Wyoming wind. He's never fixed fence, bucked bales, cut wheat or field-dressed an elk. But most important, he doesn't have a dog, and he needs a canine companion in the White House, especially since his wife, Melania, apparently plans to stay for months in Manhattan with their son.

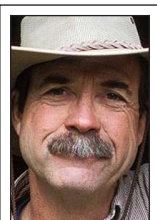
What's the de facto bachelor president going to do? He'll need a warm heart and a cold nose to come home to. Who's going to bring him his slippers and fetch his newspaper? Oh, I forgot. He doesn't read the news. No matter. He still needs a dog.

Every president has had one. Trump scorns tradition, but maybe a furry, friendly creature with paws will make the president pause and not send out so many bombastic tweets. He is going to need a wagging tail to cheer him up. Yes, he has lapdogs in his presidential cabinet, but that's not the same. As Harry Truman famously said, "If you want a friend in Washington, get a dog."

George H.W. Bush had a springer spaniel named Millie. Billie's Book, as dictated by the dog to Barbara Bush, outsold the president's own memoirs. LBJ famously picked up his beagles — named Him and Her — by the ears, "to make them bark," he said. A maudlin speech by Richard Nixon about his cocker spaniel Checkers helped save Tricky Dick's political career at one point. The public adored FDR's Scottie, named Fala.

James Garfield named his dog Veto. George Washington began his presidency with black-and-tan Virginia hounds. James Buchanan's Newfoundland often lay motionless for hours, doing nothing, with one eye open and the other eye closed, rather like Congress. President Rutherford B. Hayes, like Trump, lost the popular vote and squeaked by with a narrow electoral victory, thereby earning the nickname "Rutherfordraud." Hayes sought comfort in his dogs, surrounding himself with a cocker spaniel, a small black mutt, a mastiff, a greyhound, a pair of shepherds and two hunting pups.

My own presidential hero, Theodore Roosevelt, came to Pennsylvania Avenue with a Pekingese, a St. Bernard, and



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Comment

enough other dogs to fill an animal shelter. Among others, Teddy had a Manchester terrier, a Chesapeake retriever, a bull terrier named Pete and a Jack Russell called Skip — the president's favorite dog, because he found it while he was hunting bears in Colorado.

We Westerners love our dogs. They do-si-do in the back of our pickup trucks, guard sheep, herd cattle, flush pheasants, and always seem glad to see us. Trump has

never tied a bandanna around his neck. Trump doesn't have mud on his boots; he doesn't even have boots. He needs cowboy boots, a snap-button shirt, leather work gloves, and a pair of fencing pliers in his hip pocket, but most of all he needs a dog. How can you trust a man without a dog?

A lot of rural Westerners voted for Trump. If he's going to be our head of state, then he needs a dog to talk to and share confidential briefings with. A good dog listens well, responds to treats, and rarely barks back.

But what kind of dog? Out West, we have a variety of working dogs and canine companions. We live with Labrador retrievers, border collies, Australian shepherds and blue heelers. But unlike the dogs that roam ranches and our cherished public lands, Trump's pup would live in a penthouse when not in the White House. What kind of dog would fit Donald Trump's lifestyle? Would it be a fluffy toy poodle with ribbons, a diamond-studded collar and toenails painted pink? It would have to be a female dog, because a male dog might be too competitive and garner too much attention.

I recommend a Chihuahua, but we'd have to be sure the dog arrived in the country legally and acquired a green card. Maybe Putin could send Trump a Russian wolfhound, but I'd be leery of a hidden microphone in the dog's collar. Perhaps the best fit for President Trump would be a Pomeranian. The hairstyle would work. It's a yappy little dog with attitude that needs constant grooming, affection and attention. On second thought, however, maybe Trump should get a fish in a bowl or a cat.

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Hunting, fishing with lead part of the American tradition

By GARY LEWIS

When I was 19 years old, a doctor told me I should only eat wild meat. He said it would be much easier to digest.

What the doctor didn't tell me was the pursuit of the wild meat would be hard and the challenge would be good for me too.

I have been a conservationist since I was young, learning catch-and-release, learning to preserve places where fish and wildlife thrive. What I didn't know until later was the money I spent on fishing and, later, on hunting, also supported local jobs and conservation.

This week I felt betrayed to learn the outgoing administration undercut hunters and anglers with a ban on traditional ammunition on federal lands and traditional fishing tackle on federal waters. With all eyes on the new president's inauguration, the outgoing U.S. Fish and Wildlife director Dan Ashe placed the ban which took immediate effect in national parks, wildlife refuges and all other lands and waters administered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

What lands and waters are we talking about? As I read Director's Order 219, the Department of the Interior oversees the Bureau of Land Management and the Bureau of Reclamation, refuges and other divisions.

In my corner of Oregon, Prineville Reservoir is managed by the Bureau of Reclamation. Imagine an angler on Prineville Reservoir fishing through a hole in the ice on January 19. He lowers down a skirted jig. Maybe he caught a fish or two or a bucketful. By the time he pulled his jig out of the water at the end of the afternoon, he was fishing illegally.

Now imagine a traditional blackpowder hunter going for a hunt on BLM lands. The muzzleloader has historic value, it employs technology that was state-of-the-art in the 1840s when the pioneers filtered into Oregon Territory. By law in the state of Oregon, a muzzleloader, to be legal in a

muzzleloader hunt, must be loaded with a lead projectile. Thanks to Director Ashe's last act in office, it is illegal to use it on BLM land.

This underhanded order, issued while no one was paying attention, undercuts hunters, anglers, small businesses and conservation across our country. If Director Ashe cared about environmental protection he would have considered these factors.

Hunters and anglers pay for conservation via licenses and stamps and voluntary taxes. Hunters in particular, through the Pittman-Robertson Act (levies an 11-percent tax on guns and ammunition), lobbied for these taxes and fees. Order 219 mandates more expensive bullets and more expensive fishing tackle on many public lands and waters.

Fewer hunters and fewer anglers mean fewer dollars for conservation and for wildlife habitat.

Some people won't be able to afford to replace all their tackle or all their ammunition — to hunt on public land they own in common with all other Americans. I see it as

another barrier to participation. Whenever it costs more to participate in an activity, we lose the people on the lower end of the economic scale. It hurts kids most because their parents can't afford to participate in the activity.

Fewer hunters and fewer anglers mean fewer dollars for conservation and for wildlife habitat.

Why would an unelected, appointed bureaucrat issue such an order on the last day of his job? If it was so important, why didn't he issue that order earlier in his administration?

In my view this is a cheap shot from an anti-hunting, anti-conservation bias. The legal hunter and angler, who pays a voluntary tax to help wildlife, becomes the scapegoat.

If this order is allowed to stand it hurts hunters and anglers and harms what it claims to help — wildlife habitat and populations across the United States.

Gary Lewis is the author of *Hunting Oregon* and host of *Frontier Unlimited* and a columnist for *The Bulletin* in Bend.