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**OUR VIEW**

# Tip of the hat; kick in the pants

A tip of the hat to the purchase of well-traveled land along Hurricane Creek in Wallowa County, which will keep it in public hands in perpetuity.



The 470-acre property along the stunning, salmon-populated Hurricane Creek included access to the popular Falls Creek trail as well. The parcel had been owned by the Hofstetter family and, when it came time to sell, there was the possibility it could fall into private hands who would lock out the public.

That won't happen thanks to the Land and Water Conservation Fund with help from the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, who was able

to make the purchase and convey the land back to the national forest for public use.

We tip our hat to that, and the protection of some of the coolest land in Eastern Oregon, which all Americans can continue to access and enjoy.

And speaking of public lands, we tip our hat to a new mountain bike trail on city land in Pendleton, near the airport.

The volunteer-driven effort is a great use of land that had little development potential, and was used most recently to provide a few scraps of scrub brush to grazing cattle.



A bike trail is a much better use of the land, and we look forward to watching it gain more mileage and signage in the coming years.

As for now, with the first couple miles open for hiking and biking, Pendleton residents are already turning out to check on the turns and get in shape for cycling season.

In general, giving locals fun and healthy outdoor activities so close to town is great for Pendleton's livability. And the possibilities of hosting future races at the site is great for economic development potential, too.

At little to no cost to the city, the benefit is clear.

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**

## What's to believe about Russia, and how it affects Oregon

The Oregonian

It was the second questioner at Sen. Ron Wyden's recent town hall meeting in Oregon City that hit the nerve. A woman stood amid at least 1,000 people packed into the city's high school gymnasium and said:

"The elephant in the room is the (Trump) administration's current relationship with the Russians. This feels like the most dangerous time we've been in for decades." Amid a roar of approval, she asked: "What can you do to get information declassified?"

Wyden, a Democrat who ended a statewide 11-town-hall-meeting tour in Portland Saturday, paced about the basketball court in sneakers as he went straight to the elephant.

In addressing it, he unmasked himself as something of a zealot — no surprise to Oregonians who've watched his persistent questioning of officials on Capitol Hill about the federal collection of metadata on unwitting citizens, cybersecurity in a world of terrorism, the erosion of personal privacy from technologies that include drones. He pledged to the Oregon City crowd, as he did in other town halls: "I am committed to making sure this is not swept under the rug." And then he characteristically went large in shouting above the cheers, "This goes right to the heart of the legitimacy of the government."

Oregon has plenty of federal concerns. Dam and wildlife management in the vast Columbia River Basin, whose hydroelectric output drives much of Oregon. Logging on federal lands, covering more than half of Oregon. Water brokering in the Klamath Basin. Boatloads of national taxpayer money funneled annually to Oregon agencies in support of health care, public education, highways that connect everyone and everything. Meanwhile, President Trump has placed everything in question.

But Russia?

In an interview with *The Oregonian*/OregonLive Editorial Board following his Thursday town hall in Ashland, a hoarse Wyden was plain: "Yes, Russia. It comes up every time. I get asked about it when I'm buying a chicken at Fred Meyer." He paused. "Oregonians want to be heard on this."

Concern over the potential President Trump-Vladimir Putin association has escalated nationally over several months, from a presidential election in which Russian tampering was alleged and during which Trump flippantly invited Putin to hack Hillary Clinton's emails. More recently, a spy-novel cast of characters comprising Paul Manafort, Roger Stone and a fired Gen. Michael Flynn

lends intrigue, and in some case outrage. Throughout, Trump has refused to release his tax returns, which would likely reveal any business interests in Russia.

Enter Wyden. He unsuccessfully introduced legislation last year that would require presidents to release tax returns, which he characterized for the Oregon City

audience as representing "the lowest ethical bar." And he has since hammered the message home that Trump has a lot of explaining to do. More than most, he is the voice associated with holding Trump to account.

Wyden is right to consider the U.S.-Russia relationship of peculiar pertinence to Oregon. It's what his bosses, the public, want him to focus upon. And, in a vital display of democracy, his bosses have shown up in great number to say so. "It's just extraordinary," Wyden said. "I have never seen anything like this before."

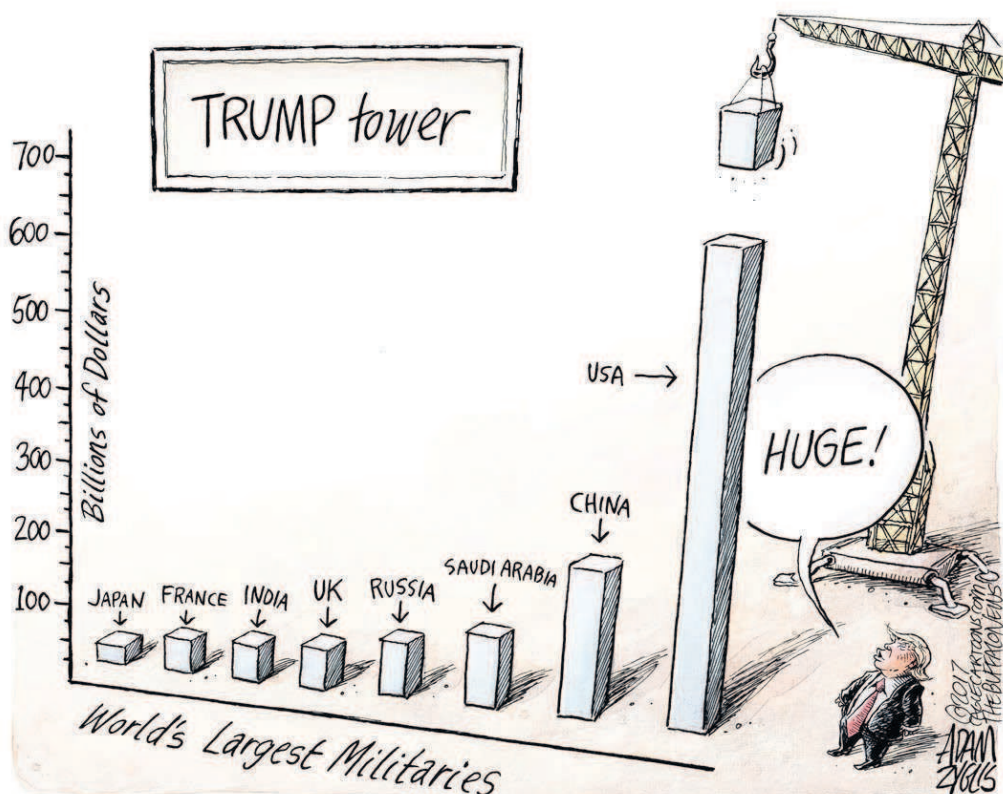
Significantly, Wyden opens his town halls recalling the fabled "Oregon Way," which has no book, no code, no statute to neatly define it.

But historically the "Oregon Way" is about cutting through public clutter on complex challenges and quietly finding solutions — as if democracy can work rationally and by consent of the governed. The names Vic Atiyeh, Tom McCall, Mark Hatfield get tossed about as "Oregon Way" leaders who bettered the state through steady advocacy while devising clear measures to be taken to achieve agreed-upon goals.

Wyden has a shot at bringing the "Oregon Way" to Washington in a darkening time: for Oregon, for the nation. On behalf of Oregonians first, Wyden can't do enough to lay bare whether the nation's president has engaged improperly with an adversary, shattering trust so deeply that folks in Oregon City and across the state wouldn't know whom to believe anymore.

**Wyden is right to consider the U.S.-Russia relationship of peculiar pertinence to Oregon.**

**OTHER VIEWS**



## We can't bomb ebola

Before he became defense secretary, Gen. Jim Mattis once pleaded with Congress to invest more in State Department diplomacy.

"If you don't fund the State Department fully, then I need to buy more ammunition," he explained. Alas, President Donald Trump took him literally but not seriously. The administration plans a \$54 billion increase in military spending, financed in part by a 37 percent cut in the budgets of the State Department and the U.S. Agency for International Development.

That reflects a misunderstanding about the world — that security is assured only when we're blowing things up. It's sometimes true that political power grows out of the barrel of a gun, as Chairman Mao said, but it also emerges from diplomacy, foreign aid and carefully cultivated goodwill.

Military power is especially limited when threats come from new directions. More than four times as many Americans now die each year from opioids as have died in the Iraq and Afghan wars combined, but warships can't defeat drug traffickers. To beat traffickers, we need diplomacy and the goodwill of countries like Mexico and Afghanistan.

And we certainly can't bomb Ebola or climate change.

Even before Trump's election, we underfunded diplomacy and aid. Consider that the New York City police alone employ more than twice as many uniformed officers as the State Department has Foreign Service officers.

The military is one of the strongest advocates for nonmilitary investments — because generals know that they need diplomacy and aid to buttress their hard power. That's why 120 generals and admirals recently signed a letter pleading with Congress to fund the State Department and foreign aid.

Former Defense Secretary Robert Gates used to lament that the military had more musicians in its marching bands than the State Department had diplomats. As I do the numbers, that statement is no longer true, but it does reflect the continuing reality that Congress feeds the Pentagon while starving the State Department.

"Two brigades in the armed forces equal our entire diplomatic corps," noted Nicholas Burns, a former senior diplomat who now teaches at Harvard. Burns said that he agrees with Trump that the military should get more funding but emphasized that slashing diplomacy and foreign aid will make it more difficult to address crucial transnational challenges, from drugs to crime to immigration.

"If you so dramatically underfund the State Department, you defeat the Trump agenda," he said.

One of the biggest security threats the world faced in recent years was Ebola — and the next pandemic may be much worse — and the only effective response was to work with



**FRANK BRUNI**  
Comment

other countries to tackle the problems collectively.

That's also true of terrorism. The RAND Corp. examined how 648 terrorist groups ended between 1968 and 2006. Most were absorbed by the political process or defeated by police work; only 7 percent were crushed by military force.

On balance, terrorists are probably less threatened by drones overhead than by girls with books. That's why extremists shot Malala, threw acid in the faces of Afghan schoolgirls and kidnapped Nigerian schoolgirls. Terrorists understand what most threatens them, but I'm not sure we do.

**The military is one of the strongest advocates for nonmilitary investment.**

The U.S. just lost a Navy SEAL in Yemen, and it's useful to compare Yemen with its neighbor Oman. Until 1970, Oman was more backward than Yemen, for Oman banned radio as the

work of the devil, locked the gates to the capital at night and offered no education for girls and almost none for boys. Then a new sultan took over and focused on education, of girls as well as boys, and Oman is now a boring, peaceful place, while Yemen floundered — and is torn apart by terrorism and civil war.

One can't help wondering: If U.S. aid programs had invested in education in Yemen, might we have reduced today's terrorism and violence? One study found that a doubling of primary school enrollment in a poor country halves the risk of civil war.

Education is no panacea, but it is a bargain: For the cost of deploying one soldier abroad for a year, we can start about 40 schools.

I'm focusing on security interests here, but let's also note that humanitarian aid is a matter of our values as well as of our interests. Do we really want to cut humanitarian aid just as hunger crises are spreading in Africa and the Middle East, threatening 20 million people with starvation?

Our security is advanced not just by being scary but also by winning friends. Trump will face a crisis — maybe with North Korea, maybe with China, maybe with some new pandemic — and he will need not just a robust military but also the cooperation of friendly nations.

Tanks can't help when our president antagonizes Mexico or hangs up on the Australian prime minister. Or when immigration officials detain and humiliate to tears a beloved 70-year-old Australian children's author on her 117th visit to America.

"In that moment, I loathed America," Mem Fox, the author, wrote. That's one way nations lose their soft power and undermine their own national security.

Frank Bruni, an Op-Ed columnist for *The New York Times* since 2011, joined the newspaper in 1995. Over his years, he has worn a wide variety of hats, including chief restaurant critic and Rome bureau chief.

**YOUR VIEWS**

### Bike Week a rare win for Pendleton

Congratulations to the founders of Pendleton Bike Week on their affiliation with Harley Davidson!

This is real economic development that does not require millions of tax dollars like the road and pipes to an imaginary industrial park. It does not require nearly a million tax dollars to subsidize housing for imaginary workers. It does not suck millions of tax dollars from the city to prop up a failing regional airport through sketchy interfund transfers.

It does bring many great people with disposable income to our town.

Welcome bikers and ride safe.

**Bruce Staley**  
Pendleton

### Build more dams if you want to save salmon

If you want to keep the water temperature in the Snake and Columbia rivers cold, a good way might be to follow the example shown by what has happened to the Colorado River below Glen Canyon Dam. The Colorado River historically had a summertime temperature of 80 degrees F and a wintertime temperature near freezing. Now the average temperature is 46 degrees F year-round. That is really a "shock to the system" when the air temperature is 120 degrees F in August. I have done that several times.

Instead of re-fighting the same expensive battles over how to keep the rivers cool enough for our salmon, maybe it is time to put on our "thinking caps" and come up with a solution that might really benefit the salmon.

**Carlisle Harrison**  
Hermiston

**LETTERS POLICY**

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