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**OUR VIEW**

# Tip of the hat; kick in the pants

**A tip of the hat to the quick-thinking teenagers who doused a porch fire in Ukiah before it spread to the attached house.**



The Umatilla and Union county teens Ben Combs, Austin Kendall, Tovias Niel, Quinton Orr, Khai Robertson and Colton Schock are part of the Youth Conservation Corps crew working on environmental projects in Eastern Oregon.

They spotted the fire while building a greenhouse at the Ukiah school and rushed over to put it out with a garden hose before it spread to the house. Inside were a young child and babysitter.

The teens' quick actions likely saved a building and possibly two lives. We're glad they kept their wits.

**A tip of the hat to the renewed effort to launch a Pendleton fireworks show in 2018.**

It was a shame to leave the sky dark this year on our nation's birthday, and rather than waiting around for someone to make it happen, people are stepping up all over town to make sure it doesn't happen again.



Age isn't a factor. Devan Driskell, a 13-year-old newspaper carrier, immediately put his money where his patriotism is. He offered to put up \$1,000 of his hard-earned cash (schlepping papers around hilly Pendleton is no small task) to be matched by local businesses toward a new show.

Jerry Imsland, a local real estate agent and former Jaycee, has also volunteered to coordinate the fundraising and planning efforts, and has asked both

his Pendleton Rotary Club and former event coordinator Becky Marks for help.

And there are others who have committed time and money to the cause. The disappointment from a month back when we learned there would be no show has given way to excitement that this community can do better next year.

We hope to remember that these events don't happen by themselves, and each year it will take time, effort and money to make sure the Fourth of July is spectacular.

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**

# The danger of leaving children alone in cars

*The (Maryville, Tenn.) Daily Times*

You may have seen prints of "The Scream." It's kind of unforgettable, those compositions of modern art by Norwegian expressionist Edvard Munch. The artwork displays a wavering human being with open mouth, wide eyes, hands placed to the side of the head — all together a vision of a person seeing an object of horror.

Just imagine the horrified face a parent would see reflected in a car window when returning to a parked vehicle where they had left a child behind in the hot sun. Heatstroke kills.

Charges levied against a Chattanooga couple Sunday in the death of their 11-month-old daughter serve as a reminder that such events do happen and all too often — more than 800 times since 1990.

KidsAndCars.org has made it their mission to warn of the danger of forgetting to look before you lock. The site offers a few facts about the greenhouse effect in vehicles:

- The inside of a vehicle can reach 125 degrees in minutes.
- Eighty percent of the increase in temperature happens in the first 10 minutes.
- Cracking the windows does not slow the heating process or decrease the maximum temperature.
- Children have died from heatstroke

in cars in temperatures as low as 60 degrees.

• A child's body overheats three to five times faster than an adult's.

In more than 55 percent of cases when caregivers leave children in vehicles where they later die, the adults did it absolutely unawares. It can happen to the most loving of parents. Nobody's perfect.

Prevention and safety tips are mainly common sense. Here are a few:

- Get in the habit of always opening the back door to check the back seat of your vehicle.
- Create a reminder to do so, like putting in the back something you'll need such as your cell phone, handbag, employee ID or briefcase — even your shoe.
- Another mental reminder is to keep a large stuffed animal in the child's car seat. When placing the child in the seat, move the stuffed animal to the front passenger seat as a visual reminder that the child is in the back seat.

There are devices of various sorts on the market that are designed to alert a caregiver about to leave a child in a vehicle. A check of internet sites will turn up several of those.

If you do see a child alone in a vehicle, get involved. Call 911. If the child seems hot or sick, get the kid out of the vehicle as quickly as possible.

And always, always, always: Look before you lock!



Send letters to the editor to 211 S.E. Byers Ave. Pendleton, OR 97801 or email editor@eastoregonian.com.

**OTHER VIEWS**

ADAM ZYGLIS THE BUFFALO NEWS (POLITICAL CARTOONS.COM) 6/24/17



# A conspiracy of dunces

Here is a good rule of thumb for dealing with Donald Trump: Everyone who gives him the benefit of the doubt eventually regrets it.



**ROSS DOUTHAT**  
Comment

This was true of clients and contractors and creditors throughout his business career. It was true of the sycophants and opportunists before whom he dangled Cabinet appointments during the campaign and then, oh, never mind. It has been true of his Cabinet members and spokesmen, whose attempts to defend and explain their boss' conduct are gleefully undercut by the boss himself. And it should be true — for the sake of their souls, I sincerely hope it's true — of the Republican leaders whose reputations for probity and principle he has stomped all over since winning their party's nomination.

And now it's true of me.

The benefit of the doubt I extended to Trump was limited, but on a rather important subject: I thought that direct collusion between his inner circle and Russian officialdom during the 2016 campaign was relatively unlikely and the odds of ever finding proof of such a conspiracy vanishingly low. A lot of weirdness around Trump and Russia, I argued, had a more normal explanation — he had made business deals with Russians, he still harbors a 1980s-era vision of superpower cooperation, and as a foreign-policy neophyte he clutched the idea of détente like a security blanket even as the Russians separately made moves to help him win.

My argument is no longer operative, because we know now that Donald Trump's son, his son-in-law and his campaign manager all took a meeting in which it was explicitly promised that damaging information on Hillary Clinton would be supplied as "part of Russia and its government's support for Mr. Trump."

The meeting's existence does not carry us all the way to the maximal collusion scenario, in which Trump himself was aware of Russia's role in the hack of the Democratic National Committee and ordered his aides to conspire with WikiLeaks and Russian intelligence to time the drip-drip-drip of hacked emails and maximize their impact.

As the hapless Don Jr. — the Gob Bluth or Fredo Corleone of a family conspicuously short on Michaels — protested in his own defense, the Russian rendezvous we know about came before (though only slightly before) the WikiLeaks haul was announced. So the Trump team presumably assumed that it involved some other Hillary-related dirt — some of the missing Clinton server emails that Trump himself jokingly ("jokingly"?) urged Russian hackers to conjure and release, or direct evidence of Clinton Foundation corruption in its Russian relationships.

With that semi-exculpatory explanation in hand, you can grope your way to the current anti-anti-Trump talking point — that Don Jr. and company were just hoping to "gather oppo" to which a foreign government might happen to be privy, much as Democratic operatives looked to Ukraine for evidence of the Trump campaign's shady ties.

But even if accepting oppo from a foreign government is technically legal — it probably is, but I leave that question to campaign finance lawyers to work out — this talking point takes you only so far. I am not a particularly fierce Russia hawk, but the Russians are still a more-hostile-than-not power these days, with stronger incentives

to subvert American democracy than the average foreign government. So taking their oppo has a gravity that should have stopped a more upright and patriotic campaign short.

Second, if the Russians had been dangling some of Hillary's missing 30,000 emails, those, too, would have had to be stolen — that is, stolen — to end up in Moscow's hands. So Don Jr., Paul Manafort and Jared Kushner should have known going in that if the offer was genuine, the oppo useful, it might involve stolen goods.

But on the basis of the emails, the younger Trump went in not skeptically but eagerly ("if it's what you say I love it"), ignoring or simply accepting the weird formulation about Russian support for Trump's campaign. And then of course everybody lied about or "forgot" about the meeting, repeatedly and consistently, right up until the emails themselves made their way to the press.

**There is strong evidence that we should drop the presumption that collusion is an extreme or implausible scenario.**

So while this is not direct evidence that the president of the United States was complicit in a virtual burglary perpetrated against the other party during an election season, it's strong evidence that we should drop the presumption that such collusion is an extreme or implausible scenario.

Instead, the mix of inexperience, incaution and conspiratorial glee on display in the emails suggests that people in Trump's immediate family — not just satellites like Roger Stone — would have been delighted to collude if the opportunity presented itself. Indeed, if the Russians didn't approach the Trump circle about how to handle the DNC email trove, it was probably because they recognized that anyone this naive, giddy and "Burn After Reading"-level stupid would make a rather poor espionage partner.

Then keep in mind, too, that all of this has come out (relatively) easily, thanks to digging by *New York Times* reporters and leaks from the various factions in and around the White House, without the subpoenas and immunity deals that the formal investigations have at their disposal. That means there is probably more and worse to come, and the more there is, the worse the president's dealings with James Comey look. Even if the president himself is innocent of Russian collusion, protecting your family from exposure is a pretty strong motive for obstruction.

In the end, impeachment is political, not legal, and House Republicans probably won't impeach for anything short of a transcript of a call between Trump and Putin in which the words "yes, I want you to hack their servers big-league, Vladimir" appear in black-and-white. And even then ...

But right now, the 2018 congressional elections promise to be a de facto referendum on impeachment. There are enough sparks in the smoke; there will probably be fire for some of Trump's intimates before another year is out.

And as for the president himself — well, to conclude where I began, anyone presuming his innocence at this point should have all the confidence of Chris Christie awaiting his Cabinet appointment, or Sean Spicer reading over the day's talking points. Keep an eye on that Trump-monogrammed rug under your feet; it may not be there for long.

Ross Douthat joined *The New York Times* as an Op-Ed columnist in April 2009. Previously, he was a senior editor at the *Atlantic*.

**YOUR VIEWS**

## Pendleton mayor should know, support city's businesses

Seems to me our mayor, John Turner, has a bad case of foot in mouth.

On June 28 he made an announcement that "Pendleton would once again have a car rental service." He had made arrangements with Boutique Air at the airport — something Pendleton has not had since Seaport Air left.

Well, newflash, Mr. Mayor: My Own Auto Sales has offered auto rental service since 1989 when we opened our car lot on Southgate. We have since moved to Westgate and have been servicing the community with rental cars. We have accommodated the airport

passengers when they have a late flight. We make sure their car is there when they need it.

A few months back the city needed rental cars for some "dignitaries" coming to town. A lady representing the city came to us for rates and to see if we could accommodate at least 11 people. We got the cars ready, called to let her know and were told "someone else had made arrangements." They had gone to Walla Walla for the car rentals. Now does that make any sense?

Our mayor knew at that time we had car rentals and now he says we need a car rental service. Figure that out.

**Ron, Don and Betty Dirkes**  
Pendleton