

EAST OREGONIAN

Founded October 16, 1875

KATHRYN B. BROWN
Publisher

DANIEL WATTENBURGER
Managing Editor

TIM TRAINOR
Opinion Page Editor

MARISSA WILLIAMS
Regional Advertising Director

MARCY ROSENBERG
Circulation Manager

JANNA HEIMGARTNER
Business Office Manager

MIKE JENSEN
Production Manager

OUR VIEW

Tip of the hat; kick in the pants

A kick in the pants to an unfortunate series of events Wednesday that kept a crime victim from addressing a man who committed the crime.

Joseph Aaron McIver pleaded guilty Wednesday in circuit court for his role in the death of Thadd Nelson of Meacham. McIver was sentenced to more than seven years in prison for his actions.

But another victim, who witnessed the attack, wanted to be in court for the proceeding. Yet she was forced to remain outside the courtroom as McIver made his plea and was eventually led away to jail.

That's because there were not enough deputies at the Stanford Hansell Government Building in Hermiston to have one inside the courtroom and another outside, shuttling people through security and allowing them into the courtroom.

That's disappointing. There should be enough staff on hand to allow victims to make their way into a courtroom if they wish to be present, as well as provide necessary security for such high-profile cases. Both are promises of our justice system.

We hope the courts and sheriff's office consider this a serious enough problem to address.

A tip of the hat to the local groups that have rallied and marched for their political beliefs, all nonviolently.

On two consecutive days this week, protesters gathered on the streets of Pendleton to make their opinions known. They did it with signs and chants, songs and speeches.

On Wednesday, about a dozen people gathered to support the Bundys and argue that four men on trial for their actions in Bunkerville are being mistreated by the government, and raise the alarm of their general concern that the federal government is running over citizen's rights in the court system.

On Thursday, more than 100 people rallied in what organizers called an "anti-hate" march that included Pendleton Mayor

John Turner. There was laughter and support from area residents, music and togetherness.

We appreciate them making their opinions known in a legal way, not being belligerent nor hostile nor destructive, and attempting to persuade instead of insult.

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

Confederate flag has no place in Astoria

The Daily Astorian

In what has become the highlight event of the region's oldest festival, this year's Grand Land Parade in the 123rd Astoria Regatta may be remembered more for what shouldn't have been in it rather than what was. It's unfortunate, because the festival otherwise showcased the spirit and volunteerism of the coast at its best and the organizers and volunteers deserve credit for their dedicated efforts.

While the high-profile parade featured its normal dignitaries, bands, clowns and floats, and the accompanying smiles from the vast majority of the attendees, a float built by the Sons of Beaches, an off-road enthusiast group that participates in community charity events and parades, contained upsetting bumper-sticker sized decals with Confederate logos and was followed by a truck with a Confederate flag. It sparked outrage by some who saw it and further disapproval online.

The all-volunteer, nonprofit Astoria Regatta Association issued an apology Monday, saying it was an unfortunate incident and that the association regrets "the impression caused that Regatta in any way supports or condones the display of the Confederate flag. Please do not let our oversight reflect negatively on Astoria, or the many, many volunteers who give thousands of hours to create a

positive community event each year."

The float's main visual was a large replica of U.S. Marines heroically hoisting the American flag on Iwo Jima in World War II and the bumper stickers were affixed to the trailer carrying it and were easy to miss.

The Sons of Beaches group's leader, Jay Pitman, said the float included several other battle flags from

throughout U.S. history meant to honor war veterans, and that the trailer with Confederate decals had been used in prior parades. "We don't fly our flags with disrespect," he said. "We fly it with respect to all our veterans. We do not allow any personal political issues or personal agendas. We are non-biased,

non-racist. We are about Americanism and supporting local law enforcement and first responders." He said the group is considering removing the flag from future parade events.

It should do just that. The flag, first flown by the Confederate army during war against the United States, mocks what our country stands for. It is a sad part of our nation's history, as are Ku Klux Klan hoods, the Dawes Act and signs declaring "Whites Only."

None of which should be celebrated, and a family-friendly festival is certainly not the place for displaying a divisive symbol from the Civil War.

A family-friendly festival is certainly not the place for a divisive symbol from the Civil War.

Be heard!
Comment online at eastoregonian.com

OTHER VIEWS



How to handle Donald Trump

Donald Trump is still president. Hard to know what to do with this, people.

In less than a week he's managed to put on one of the most divisive, un-helpful, un-healing presidential performances in American history. It's been a great stretch for fans of Richard Nixon and James Buchanan.

On Wednesday, Trump had to dissolve his business advisory councils because the CEOs were fleeing like panic-stricken geese from a jumbo jet. We now have a president who can't get the head of Campbell Soup to the White House.

Trump also announced plans to hold a rally next week in Arizona, where he's said he's "seriously considering" a pardon for former sheriff Joe Arpaio, the loathsome racial profiler who never met a constitutional amendment he didn't ignore. Arpaio's treatment of Latinos won him a criminal contempt conviction, but of course that's nothing to our leader.

We had no idea how bad this guy was going to be. Admit it — during the campaign you did not consider the possibility that if a terrible tragedy struck the country involving all of our worst political ghosts of the past plus neo-Nazism, Marco Rubio and Ted Cruz would know the appropriate thing to say but Donald Trump would have no idea.

George W. Bush would have been at the funeral for the slain civil rights demonstrator in a second. About the best Trump could do was to praise Heather Heyer's mother, Susan Bro, for writing "the nicest things" about him. Bro did indeed express appreciation for the president's denunciation of "those who promote violence and hatred." That was his written-by-someone-else statement, which preceded the despicable impromptu version.

We're only safe when he's using prepared remarks. The extemporaneous Trump's response to the violence in Charlottesville wasn't just tone-deaf and heartless; you had to wonder about the overall mental balance of a man who managed to both defend the alt-right demonstrators in Virginia and brag about his real estate in the neighborhood.

"Does anyone know I own a house in Charlottesville?" Trump asked the stunned reporters. "I own actually one of the largest wineries in the United States. It's in Charlottesville."

It was truly the kind of performance you expect from a deranged person, brought out to explain why he blew up a large government building and inquiring cheerfully: "Has anybody seen my car? It's really nice. A Ford Pinto."

Also, Trump does not own one of the largest wineries in the United States. Trump Winery is one of the largest wineries in Virginia, which is like bragging you own one of the largest ski resorts in Ohio.



GAIL COLLINS
Comment

(There's something about catching these wild misstatements and lies of self-aggrandizement that can actually be soothing in the worst of times. It's a diversion that gives you a little break from wondering what's going to happen to the country.)

Meanwhile, business executives were concluding it was morally compromising to be on the White House manufacturing council. It's hard to imagine what else could happen before autumn kicks in.

We are just beginning to fully understand how critical it is for a president to have at least a minimal understanding of American history. This one seems to have only recently discovered he belongs to the same party as Abraham Lincoln. "Most people don't even

know he was a Republican," Trump told a political gathering. "Right? Does anyone know? A lot of people don't know that. We have to build that up a little more."

His response to the biggest challenge of his presidency began by blaming "many sides" for the crisis. Then there was the reading of an appropriate, if way overdue, statement. Then came the disastrous news conference on Tuesday, when he was just supposed to read a brief description of the administration plan for infrastructure — something about giving road-builders a reprieve from having to consider the possibility of future flooding.

But he started to take questions and actually say things from his own mind. His staff looked worried, then nervous, then despairing.

Even when Trump is not historically wrong, or making things up to extol his own self-image, or failing to do even the least modicum of national healing at a time of crisis, he's so incoherent that it's possible to misunderstand what should be a simple thought.

"I didn't know David Duke was there. I wanted to see the facts," he blathered at one point, then lapsed into that terrible tendency to refer to himself in the third person. "And the facts, as they started coming out, were very well stated. In fact, everybody said his statement was beautiful. ..."

This can't go on. We don't have time to wait for impeachment. Patriotic Republicans and administration officials have to get together and find a way to make sure that Donald Trump will never again say anything in public that is not written on a piece of paper. It's their duty to the country.

Gail Collins joined *The New York Times* in 1995 as a member of the editorial board and later as an Op-Ed columnist. In 2001 she became the first woman ever appointed editor of the *Times's* editorial page.

We had no idea how bad this guy was going to be.

YOUR VIEWS

It's not Hollywood talking — it's your constituents

Greg Walden recently sent out a letter asking for donations, saying liberal agitators — who he likens to Nancy Pelosi and Hollywood elites — are driving from Portland to pound him at town halls.

Actually, we are the ones showing up at his town halls. We are the ones challenging him when he tries to change the subject, or flat-out lie. We are constituents of Congressional District 2, not people from Portland, liberal agitators, the elite, or Hollywoodites, and not one of us last time I checked is Nancy Pelosi.

He is trying to pretend like we don't exist by equating us with people from outside his district. Worse, by claiming we are outsiders, he is trying to divide us all with fear of an outside takeover. Meanwhile, he has announced a fundraiser in Portland. If there is an outside takeover, it might well begin with Walden, influenced by Portland money and D.C. money, while neglecting the people he's supposed to represent.

And it's false of him to use negative and dismissive terms for his outspoken constituents. We are not a solid block of liberals. We are conservatives and liberals, Republicans, Democrats and Independents,

young and old, rural and urban. And we're not trying to agitate, but looking for solutions. Our families hunt, fish, camp, farm and ranch. Our friends', families' and neighbors' lives look a lot like ours. Finding that balance between preserving natural resources and using them is the key to CD2 becoming a strong force in the modern economy while remaining true to our roots.

But Walden isn't looking for a balance or a solution. He just throws around empty promises, trying to divide us with fear and anger. Our district could be known for wheat and solar, for sheep and tech industry, but instead we're known for stand-offs and decline. Our district has strength in size and resource, and we have potential. We could be so much better. We deserve better.

Walden likes to say he has a place at the table, because he's been in Washington since 1998, but he hasn't used that place at the table wisely, so we are no better off. He's the real outsider, a Washington insider, out of touch with Oregon values.

Sherra Inman, Rene M. Durfey, Shirley Ludlow, Bonnie Johnson, Diana Will and Sue Miller; Arlington; Katie Cook, Gilliam County; Jeri McElligott, Ione; Amber Rose Orion and JoAn Hendricks, The Dalles; and Lari Whitbeck, Fossil.

LETTERS POLICY

The East Oregonian welcomes original letters of 400 words or less on public issues and public policies for publication in the newspaper and on our website. The newspaper reserves the right to withhold letters that address concerns about individual services and products or letters that infringe on the rights of private citizens. Submitted letters must be signed by the author and include the city of residence and a daytime phone number. The phone number will not be published. Unsigned letters will not be published. Send letters to managing editor Daniel Wattenburger, 211 S.E. Byers Ave. Pendleton, OR 97801 or email editor@eastoregonian.com.