

Adults look but never leap

I've never been a huge fan of trampolines, especially as an adult. There is something about the lack of control one has when others are jumping next to them that just puts knots in my stomach.

Maybe because when I was about 22 years old, I found myself with an ankle swollen to three times the normal size after a fun "jump off" with my friend Chad and walked around in an aircast for weeks. Yes, I'm pretty certain that absolutely has something to do with it.

My boys, on the other hand, would love it if the whole world was a giant trampoline. They would run and jump everywhere — flipping, twisting, turning and casting all their trust in the rebound, knowing and believing that with each bounce the momentum won't stop, the adrenaline will keep them going and they'll always bounce back — even if they stumble.

Something happens when we "grow up" that takes the trust right out of the jump. We quit doing it. We quit jumping like we should,

which means we quit trusting like we should, too. The next time you're near a trampoline, notice all of the "grownups" just watching. Why, as adults, do we reach this place where we are afraid to jump or trust that we're going to land safely? Why do we not want to take risks in front of a crowd? Why do we watch instead of participate? Life isn't a spectator sport.

One of the last times I took my kids to the trampoline park, I questioned why I hadn't brought my sweats with me as I watched their joy and happiness explode with every bound. And then I laughed to myself just picturing what it would look like jumping with my boys while all the other "watchers" watched this grown woman absolutely make a fool out of herself.

I can't jump worth a darn any more. In fact, I'd be out of breath before I could even get out of the first pit — I'm sure of it. The point is though, I shouldn't be afraid to jump. I should not be listening to the loudest voice in my head, but the truest one. I may not be as young as I once was or as physically capable

of bouncing from one surface to another with ease, but there certainly are a lot of areas in my life where "jumping" should be the only option. Participating rather than watching, doing instead of observing.

In my opinion, there's nothing worse than just watching and not doing anything about it. So let's jump. It may be grabbing a pen and a journal to start writing or sketching or even making a list of the areas we need to be bolder and braver in — without the fear of failure. It may be pulling out a map and circling the places we need to be jumping to.

It may be a list of names of people we'd like to have jumping with us. Whatever it is, we need to do it. Let's jump and soar our way through those places where we feel like we're sinking.

Let's bound after those dreams we've hidden away because they seemed too silly to catch. Let's glide into a new place, with a faith that trusts we're going to land safely and securely because we know that God doesn't compare our leaps. He simply delights in our attempts, and we should, too.

Lindsay Murdock lives in Echo.



LINDSAY MURDOCK
FROM SUN UP TO SUN DOWN

I should not be listening to the loudest voice in my head, but the truest one.



Sportsmen can thank themselves for the attack on public lands

"I'm a Teddy Roosevelt conservationist," declares Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke.

Really? Roosevelt pushed and ultimately signed the Antiquities Act of 1906 that gave presidents the authority to create national monuments. He then established 18 of them. But now, at President Trump's request, Zinke works to open national monuments to fossil fuel extraction.

Hunters and anglers say they are astonished and outraged. But without their support, Trump wouldn't be president and Zinke wouldn't be running Interior. If sportsmen read newspapers instead of hook-and-bullet rags, they'd have understood that state seizure of public lands is a plank in the GOP platform and that state lands get sold off or reserved for extractive industry.

In a Petersen's Hunting piece entitled "Why Sportsmen Should Vote for Donald Trump" the magazine's editor reveals his reaction to meeting the candidate: "My heart started to pound, my breath coming in short gulps."

A group calling itself Sportsmen for Trump offered this: "Mr. Trump is the only candidate that will represent our values."

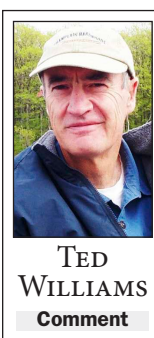
"We as hunters, anglers and Americans can chalk this day up as a win for our sport," effused Outdoorhub on Trump's inauguration.

"Zinke a Good Choice as Interior Secretary," proclaimed Bowhunting.com.

As a condition for entering the Union, most Western states agreed to disclaim all right to unappropriated public lands. In exchange, the federal government gave them "trust lands" with which to generate revenue through sale and development. So far, Utah has sold off 4.1 million acres of its trust lands, New Mexico 4 million, Montana 800,000, Idaho 1.5 million, Colorado 1.7 million, Arizona 1.7 million. Of the 3.4 million acres given to Oregon, only 780,000 remain.

One might suppose that the state wildlife professionals who belong to the Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies would work for the best interests of the hunting- and fishing-license buyers who help pay their salaries. Instead, they led the successful charge against the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service rule to reassert control of the American public's 73 million acres of national wildlife refuges in Alaska. Necessitating that rule was the board's attempt to convert both federal and state lands to a vast Stop & Shop for moose and caribou meat by killing off bears and wolves.

Traditionally, the Fish and Wildlife Service has allowed states to manage wildlife on the agency's refuges, but things got so out of hand in Alaska it had to protect the public's wildlife from the board's 1920s-style predator jihad. As then-Director Dan Ashe wrote in the Aug. 3, 2016, *Huffington Post*: "The Alaska



TED WILLIAMS
Comment

Board of Game has unleashed a withering attack on bears and wolves that is wholly at odds with America's long tradition of ethical, sportsmanlike, fair-chase hunting. ... There comes a time when the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service must stand up for the authorities and principles that underpin our work and say, 'no.'"

That thinking doesn't compute with Congress or the Trump administration. In April, the president signed legislation repealing the federal wildlife agency's Alaska refuge rule. On federal lands Alaska now allows the shooting of grizzly and brown bears over bait, shooting mother bears with cubs as well as killing the cubs themselves, shooting bears and wolves from planes, and dispatching wolves and wolf pups in their dens.

When the Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies attacked Ashe for standing up for the wildlife that belongs to all Americans it was joined by The Pope and Young Club, Quail Forever, Orion the Hunters Institute, Pheasants Forever, Wild Sheep Foundation, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, Boone and Crockett Club, Ducks Unlimited, Quality Deer Management Association and Safari Club, to mention just a few.

The hypocrisy is mind-boggling. Consider some of the pious statements issuing from these same groups on the issue of public lands remaining in public hands:

Pope and Young Club, Quail Forever, Orion the Hunters Institute, Pheasants Forever, Wild Sheep Foundation: "As sportsmen-based organizations, we are alarmed that some decision makers are promoting the idea that federal public lands should be transferred to individual states."

Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation: "Transferring or selling these lands to states ... may also close the door to public access for hunters, anglers, hikers and others."

Boone and Crockett Club: "Federal lands are the foundation of the most successful conservation system in the world."

Ducks Unlimited: "We do not believe it would be constructive to ... liquidate the national interest in federal land management."

Compounding their hypocrisy, these groups were virtually silent about the felonious, 41-day armed occupation and trashing of the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge in Oregon.

With friends like the publications that "educate" them and the organizations that "represent" them, hunters and anglers don't need enemies.

Ted Williams is a contributor to *Writers on the Range*, the opinion service of *High Country News*.

Hunters and anglers say they are astonished and outraged.

Walden should open the door to experimental medical care

By TED ABRAM
FreedomWorks

Say you've got some rare disease and your health has been tanking for a year, even with all the best medical attention, tests and care. Your doctors have diagnosed you, and there's just not a cure available. You have one month to live and no options.

There is a potential cure, but it has only been tested on mice effectively and is not available because it is still being tested by the Food and Drug Administration. You're going to die because bureaucrats have not determined that this drug is safe for humans. It might kill you; it also might cure you like it did those mice.

Ten-year-old Diego Morris found himself in a similar situation five years ago. After being diagnosed with a particularly aggressive form of cancer and being treated with chemotherapy, he still needed treatment. His family and family friends found something that might save his life: a drug called Mifamurtide. It was available in other countries, but wasn't permitted here. Dedicated to saving Diego's life, his family traveled to London to get the treatment.

Diego is now in remission — and cancer-free. He went on to become the honorary chair of the Goldwater Institute's right to try campaign, and in 2016 testified before the United States Senate on the need to pass right to try laws that allow terminal patients access to drugs that haven't received full FDA approval.

Without this unapproved drug, none of this would have happened. Diego would most likely be dead.

Right to try has gained great momentum at the state level. In 2014, five states passed right to try. In 2015, eighteen states passed it. In 2016, six more became right to try states. And already in 2017, seven more states join the ranks of right to try states.

What's more, both President Trump and Vice President Pence have expressed their support for such laws. Pence signed right to try into law in Indiana in 2015, and in his typically powerful and direct style, President Trump spoke out in favor of right to try laws earlier this year: "One thing that's always disturbed me, they come up with a new drug for a patient who is terminal, and the FDA says 'we can't have this drug used on the patient.' But they say, 'But the patient within four weeks will be dead.' [The FDA] says, 'Well, we still can't approve the drug and we don't want to hurt the patient.' But the patient is not going to live more than four weeks."

With right to try laws in 37 states and support from the White House, you would think many senators and representatives from these states would support it at the national level and vote in favor of the right to try bill. And in fact, the Senate recently did just that.

Senator Ron Johnson (R-Ohio) recently moved to bring right to try up for a vote, and it passed with overwhelming support. Now the bill awaits approval by the House.

But one man is stopping the legislation designed to make potentially life-saving treatments available to patients. Our congressman, Chairman Greg Walden, heads the House Energy and Commerce Committee. The bill is stalled in his committee, even with bipartisan committee support. People's lives are literally hanging in the balance, and he is sitting on his hands.

I encourage you to contact Congressman Walden and tell him we want to open up the path to life-saving medical care for those who are on their deathbeds. Giving them this right is simply the right thing to do.

Ted Abram is a retired judge and a *FreedomWorks* board member who lives in Klamath Falls, in Oregon's Second District.

Can you catch fish during an eclipse?

By LLOYD PIERCY
For The East Oregonian

My grandsons Forest, Jim and friend Sam were given a choice between a 40-minute drive to eclipse totality or fishing as a science experiment under 99 percent totality. They chose fishing.

The boys — all between 12 and 13 years old — had been fishing the day before and the early morning of the eclipse. Decent fishermen all, they caught and released in excess of 40 smallmouth bass, mostly one-pounders with a few approaching four pounds. The bite had been particularly good in the mornings and evenings with low light. They even spent the night with catfish rods on the beach at Hat Rock State Park.

Fishing the rock structure around Hat Rock State park in kayaks, they worked the edges of the islands coaxing the bass from their crannies, a decent control for our fishing experiment.

A check of the internet showed that others have experimented with fishing during an

eclipse: wild stories of strange fish behavior were easy to find, whetting our interest.

As the light softened the color of the water became more clear green, visibility in the water increased was really a unique, beautiful set of colors I had never seen in my years living on this riverbank. The temperature dropped dramatically to 53 degrees. Birds circled and settled in the trees and began to chatter as they would in the pre-dawn.

The boys, splitting their time between their viewing glasses and their fishing, worked the bank hard. They caught a large perch — the only one they caught — and two bass. On the Columbia River at Hat Rock, the fishing was not discernibly different during this eclipse, in the hands of our young scientists.

I hope when they are around 30 years old they will travel to another eclipse to continue their research, watching the spectacular sight of the orb around the sun was amazing. That's Farmer Lloyd's take on things.

Lloyd Piercy lives in Echo.