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**OUR VIEW**

# Tip of the hat; kick in the pants

**Tip of the hat to Echo and Stanfield city governments for working together to find a solution to a long overdue wastewater problem.**

Their cooperation allows Echo to find a simpler, more economical and less painful way to solve that problem. Previously, city councilors had considered and recommended using eminent domain to build their own system, which would require 10 acres of property owned by Echo resident Michael Yunker.

Luckily, Stanfield was alerted to the issues that their just-across-the-interstate neighbor was dealing with after it was reported in this newspaper. As luck would have it, Stanfield has a wastewater system that is far from being maxed out — and would welcome the additional discharge and resulting income.

It's a good reminder that entities of all kinds, who tend to be secretive with their problems, can benefit by putting those issues out in the open. The more people who are working on a problem, the more likely a solution will be found.

Yes, it sometimes makes the path more circuitous. But more often than not, it leads in the right direction. It's something other organizations — both public and private — should take to heart.

**A kick in the pants to those marauding turkeys in Pilot Rock.**

Yeah we're talking to you, ya turkeys! With their constant pecking and pooping, the flock of more than 50 birds is making a mess of the little Umatilla County town. And the birds haven't the least bit of respect for private property.

Pilot Rock city councilors decided to bring in the professionals — Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife — to figure out how best to handle the birds. ODFWs advice kind of boils down to: kill 'em, move 'em or ignore 'em. Or maybe a mix of all three.

The EO story about the town's turkey predicament was picked up by the Associated Press on Thursday and made it onto the homepage of the Drudge Report and its 37 million daily online visitors. So there's no doubt that readers nationwide want to know more about them, and have their own ideas on how to handle the problem. (Most of those centered on Thanksgiving dinner.) So perhaps despite the trouble they're causing, Pilot Rock might still be able to turn those turkeys into a positive — perhaps tasty — spectacle.

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**

## Hermiston's Bounds a voice for rural Oregon on the Ninth Circuit

The President's nomination of Ryan Bounds to serve on the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals is welcome news for rural Oregon. Born and raised in Hermiston, Ryan has never lost touch with his roots and understands well the way of life in our communities. He knows firsthand the dominant role federal decisions can make in our region where a majority of land is managed by the federal government. Ryan is also a highly talented and accomplished legal practitioner, with a breadth of experience before both trial and appellate courts. I was glad to offer my strong recommendation of Ryan earlier this year.

Across our part of Oregon, federal court decisions have an outsized influence on many facets of our lives. From operations of Columbia River hydropower and transportation systems to federal land management decisions, the function of vital pieces of our economy are often greatly hampered by judicial and biological decisions issued from the bench. Litigation and judicial injunctions against forest management projects to reduce fuel loads and improve forest health have a real impact on the health of our economies and our



**GREG WALDEN**  
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communities. The summer of 2017 has once again choked Oregon with smoke from catastrophic fires, the risk of which could be prevented through better management efforts that are often negatively impacted by the courts.

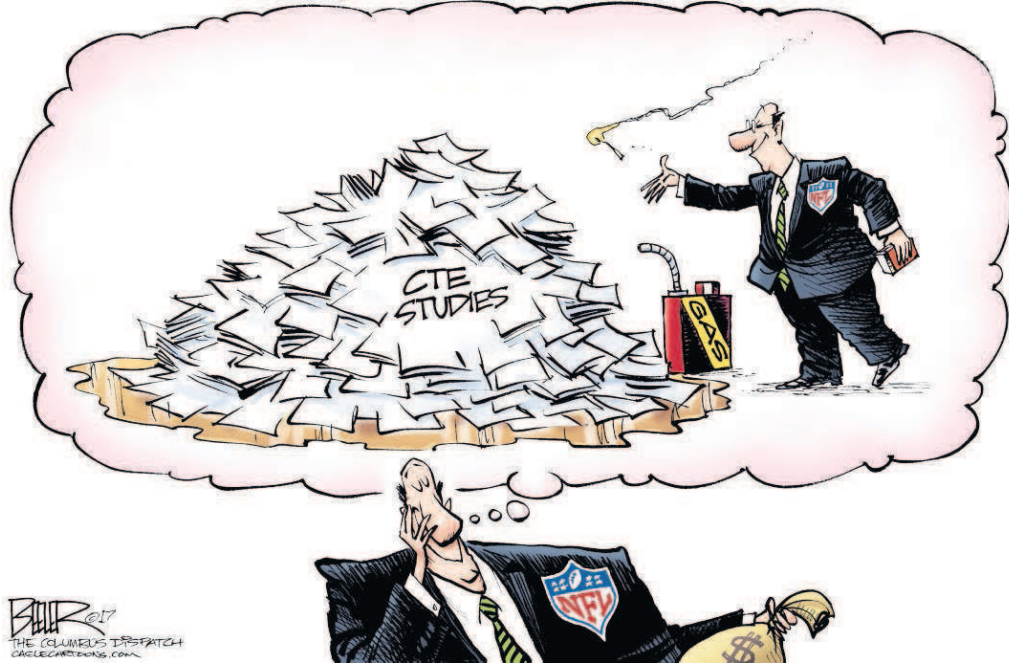
Rural Oregon deserves both a chance for a more balanced judicial approach and a talented legal practitioner who understands the impact these decisions have on our way of life. Ryan's deep roots in rural Oregon, respect for tradition, precedent, and deference to the political branches of the state and federal governments, will provide rural Oregon with that important voice on the bench. He is uniquely qualified for this judgeship. His commitment to the rule of law, liberty and self-government are, in my mind, beyond question. I strongly support his nomination and look forward to the Senate moving promptly to confirm him for this seat on the Ninth Circuit.

*Rep. Greg Walden (R-Hood River), chairman of the House Energy and Commerce Committee, represents Oregon's second congressional district, which includes 20 counties in central, southern and eastern Oregon.*



**OTHER VIEWS**

**FANTASY FOOTBALL**



# Can we talk about Tom Brady's brain?

Another pro football season has begun, and Tom Brady is again taking snaps for the New England Patriots, and there's chatter galore about how much longer that can last. He turned 40 on Aug. 3. In quarterback years, he's a fossil.

But isn't he also above the laws of nature? His performance in the Patriots' Super Bowl victory over the Atlanta Falcons early this year suggested as much, and his every painstakingly plotted hour is part of a campaign not just to cheat Father Time but to cackle at him.

I've read and heard scads about Brady's all-organic, caffeine-free, anti-inflammatory dietary regimen; his techniques for enhanced muscle pliability; and his injury-preventing, youth-preserving "body coach," who's apparently some Ponce de León of the pectorals. Thanks to this sorcery, Brady maintains the strength of arm to throw downfield and the sturdiness of leg to sidestep a blitz.

But what about Brady from the neck up? Even if he has the brawn to press on, what are the risks to his brain?

In a May appearance on "CBS This Morning," his wife, Gisele Bündchen, either sent a message to her husband through the television camera or made a slip, telling the world something that Brady certainly hasn't. "He has concussions pretty much every year," she said. "We don't talk about it, but he does have concussions."

She even claimed that he'd suffered one last season. If that's true, neither he nor the Patriots disclosed it.

Bündchen's comments received only a fraction of the attention they deserved, as Malcolm Gladwell, who has written extensively about head trauma in football, noted on a podcast in June. "Why isn't there a stronger drumbeat for him to retire?" Gladwell asked, adding, "I do not want to see Tom Brady at 55 drooling into a cup."

Alarmist? I doubt that the recently retired college football analyst Ed Cunningham would see it that way. In *The New York Times* last week, Cunningham, 48, told my colleague John Branch that he had quit his high-profile TV job because he could no longer sanction such a dangerous sport. "I just don't think the game is safe for the brain," he said.

His frequent on-air partner, Mike Patrick, concurred, telling Branch that football "can turn 40-, 50-year-old men into walking vegetables."

Over recent years, more enthusiasts, former players and scientists have been speaking out about the long-term wages of blow after blow and concussion upon concussion. A major



**FRANK BRUNI**  
Comment

study published in July suggested that the longer someone stays with football, the more likely he is to show signs of degenerative brain disease later. In that context, Brady's stamina isn't just an admirable testament to his will. It's a chilling token of his risk.

There's a dark irony here, because his brain is probably the most crucial element of his record-breaking feats. What makes a truly great quarterback — or, for that matter, a truly great running back or cornerback — is mental keenness layered atop muscle and agility.

My team is the Denver Broncos. Its star is the linebacker Von Miller. He has a fleet step and a fierce grip. But what most separates him from his peers is his talent for assessing the configuration of the players lined up opposite him, divining the soft spot and strategizing — in mere seconds — how to snake or shimmy through it. That's intellectual.

Brady's preparation involves more than the avocado ice cream and soft-tissue massages that have become the stuff of incessantly rehearsed myth. When a season finishes, he goes back and twice watches video of every play that he was involved in, to diagnose what went right or wrong.

He has studied the Patriots' offensive schemes well enough so that if the wide receiver he intends to throw to isn't free, he can, in an instant, turn his gaze and his arm toward another waiting target. That's what Peyton Manning and so many of the sport's other legendary quarterbacks were also expert at. And that, too, is intellectual.

It's funny, and sad, that for all the reverence we accord athletes, we objectify them, casting them as hunks and hulks. We do that in spades with football players. Maybe that makes it easier to treat them as disposable. Maybe that's why Patriots fans were worried more about how Brady would perform in Thursday night's season opener against the Kansas City Chiefs than about what kind of father he'll be to his children a decade from now, or about how intact his memories of his own glory will be.

There isn't a stronger drumbeat for him to retire mostly because he gives so many spectators so much pleasure — and seems to be having a blast himself. But there also isn't a stronger drumbeat because in the same way that he and Bündchen don't talk about his brain, the rest of us barely give it a thought.

*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**

### Boardman to Hemingway line negatively affects Oregon Trail

When asked why an 81-year-old from Bend was concerned about the Oregon Trail and Idaho Power's Boardman to Hemingway power line, it is difficult to give an adequate answer. Neither my wife nor I had anyone who came of the trail — well, one on my wife's side came in 1849 to Utah.

I don't count myself an environmentalist; heck, I grew up in the oil fields of California. As a kid, I went to the mountains a lot: church groups, summer camps, and scouts. When our family arrived, we always fished, camped and hiked in the Sierra. All three continue to do that today.

So now that I am 83-plus, it is easier to see that the B2H is in direct opposition to what I believe and have enjoyed all my life. I look at the existing power line next to Interstate 84 in Union County and the clear cut for the right-of-way in the forest, and in the Baker Valley near Flagstaff Hill and down through Durkee, over to Huntington and across the BLM Birch

Creek Oregon Trail ruts, across farm fields of alfalfa in Willow Creek in Malheur County. I try to envision the B2H being twice as big in a brand new route.

Idaho Power continues to press on. They have presented Oregon Public Utility Commission with 890 pages of their 20-year Integrated Resource Plan, which includes B2H, and they sent to Oregon Energy Facilities Siting Council 13,000 pages for their site application. They overwhelm individuals with massive data and statistics.

Good folks are speaking up, Union County and the city have held public meetings, so has Baker County, and early on Malheur County folks got IPC to move the line off of agricultural lands. What if all these folks just said: "Stop?"

I wonder what IPC could do if some effort was spent trying to determine how to provide 20 years of service without B2H. I believe there are some within Idaho Power who would like that challenge.

Gail Carbiener  
Bend

**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.