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OUR VIEW

Ready for the 2017 Round-Up

Every year we kick off Round-Up week with a welcome-to-the-rodeo editorial.

Well, not every one — back in 1909 we didn’t have a darn thing to write about. Luckily the Pendleton Round-Up came along the next year, and we’ve been tipping our cap on the Tuesday of the second full week in September ever since.

In the intervening 107 years, there has always been something new to discuss and look forward to. The big question this week will center around Interstate 84 and its continued closure, due to the Eagle Creek Fire still burning near Cascade Locks.

How will the fire and closure effect Round-Up fans who come from Portland and the Willamette Valley? Will they still come if the journey is a little longer? If the air here is a bit smokier?

There are additional concerns about how the interstate closure will impact vendors and commercial vehicles, who currently have to make an even wider detour to travel to Pendleton.

On a brighter note, something that will make the 2017 Round-Up stand apart is a new exhibition — women’s breakaway roping. Roughly eight women plan to compete this year, and if it is well received, it could become a Round-Up sanctioned event in future rodeos. The event could prove to be an exciting addition to the bevy of Round-Up traditions already on display.

On the weather front, things are looking mighty Round-Up friendly. While our southern brothers deal with hurricane after hurricane, and



Staff photo by Kathy Aney
A dog carrying a faux cowboy walks in Saturday’s Dress Up Parade in downtown Pendleton.

our western neighbors try to rattle control over wildfires, Pendleton looks to have clear skies and cool weather. If that comes to fruition, rodeo fans will have comfortable weather in which to soak in their favorite sport. And the Round-Up’s legion of volunteers will surely revel in the cool weather, too.

Pendleton — and all of Eastern Oregon — finds a way to enjoy themselves at Round-Up no matter the weather, no matter the barriers put between them and the bucking chutes. This year will be no different. We wish all those experiencing in Round-Up — those competing and those watching from the crowds — a safe and enjoyable week. Let ‘er buck!

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

With DACA ending, Congress must do its job

Milwaukee (Wisc.) Journal Sentinel

On Friday, House Speaker Paul Ryan told *Journal Sentinel* opinion writers and reporters that Congress needs to replace the Obama administration’s program aimed at protecting some 800,000 young immigrants from deportation and to otherwise fix what is essentially a broken immigration system. He also said he hoped President Donald Trump would give Congress the time it needs to make that fix.

On Tuesday, Trump gave Ryan and his fellow legislators their deadline: March 5, 2018. And he urged them in a tweet.

We think ending the DACA program is a mistake. The Obama administration’s Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals policy offered security for children who had been brought into this country through no decision of their own. Leaving them hanging by announcing an end before a new system is in place is cruel.

But we agree with Trump on this: It is now up to Congress to act, and we urge it to act quickly. Young immigrants deserve the protection that the DACA program provided and that’s offered in several legislative pieces before it now, including the bipartisan DREAM Act of 2017.

As Ryan told us Friday, “A lot of these kids don’t know any other home but this country so I think it’s something that Congress needs to get on top of and fix.” He also said the fix should be done “humanely” and could “give people some certainty and peace of mind.”

He argued that the president held a similar view on the need to protect so-called DREAMer kids, and on

Tuesday, the president said this: “I do not favor punishing children, most of whom are now adults, for the actions of their parents.” Still, he added, “we must also recognize that we are nation of opportunity because we are a nation of laws.”

Ryan said his problem with DACA was with the way it had been implemented: It’s Congress’ job to provide legislation that would implement such a program, not the administration’s.

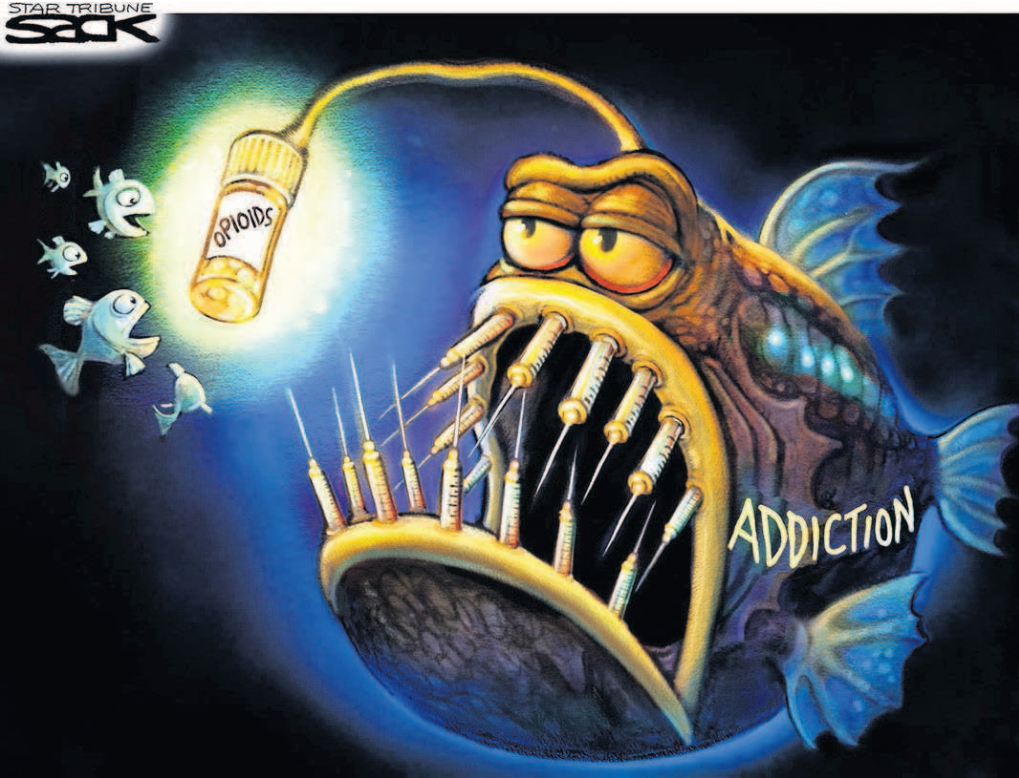
On Tuesday, Ryan said in a statement, “It is my hope that the

House and Senate, with the president’s leadership, will be able to find consensus on a permanent legislative solution that includes ensuring that those who have done nothing wrong can still contribute as a valued part of this great country.”

OK, so do it. It’s not like this is a new issue or a surprise or that there is an absence of legislation. There are several bills in Congress now. And there is overwhelming public support for such legislation, as The Washington Post noted Tuesday, citing a Pew Research poll from November.

The problem is that Congress has failed time and again to fix the immigration system, something Ryan acknowledged in his Tuesday statement. It has had plenty of opportunities. Ryan says he would prefer to reform the system in a piecemeal fashion rather than in a large bill that would collapse under its own weight.

So here’s your chance, Mr. Speaker: Start with DACA. There are bills awaiting action, popular support for the program and a six-month deadline. Congress, do your job.



OTHER VIEWS

DeVos ends a campus witch hunt

Suppose you’re the kind of thoughtful liberal who concluded that you’ve been living in a bubble and need to better understand the causes of America’s distemper. Suppose, too, that you have friends who voted for Trump — and who you know for a fact are neither bigots nor buffoons.

Why are they so angry? How could they feel so desperate, politically speaking, to cast their ballots for him?

For a sense of the answer, look no further than Education Secretary Betsy DeVos’ announcement Thursday that her department would revisit the Obama administration’s Title IX guidelines on campus sexual assault. The guidelines, she said, had “failed too many students” by radically curtailing due process. She’s right.

In April 2011, the department’s Office of Civil Rights sent a “Dear Colleague” letter to campus administrators effectively demanding new procedures when it came to handling sexual assault cases. The letter arrived without the usual “notice-and-comment” period that is supposed to precede formal rule-making. Instead, as Lara Bazelon notes in *Politico*, “hundreds of schools were placed under federal investigation for failing to be tougher in handling allegations of campus sexual assault.”

Campus administrators got the message. Henceforth, the accused would be judged on a “preponderance of evidence” basis to determine guilt, sometimes known as the “50 percent plus a feather” standard. Accusers would be able to appeal “not guilty” verdicts. Efforts would be made to spare the accuser from being faced with direct cross-examination by the accused.

One way to think about the 2011 letter is as an effort to combat the scourge of campus rape. That’s a laudable goal, even if evidence of its epidemic proportions is sketchy and good numbers are all but impossible to come by. In 2015, 89 percent of colleges and universities reported zero incidents of rape.

But another way to think about the letter is as Exhibit A in the overreach of an administrative state pursuing a narrow ideological agenda through methods both lawless and aggressive.

Thus, a letter posing as mere “guidance” could acquire the force of holy writ because no campus administrator was going to risk his federal funds for the sake of holding dear the innocence of students accused of rape. A standard of evidence usually applied in civil cases could be used to impose serious sanctions on students for sexual acts of a criminal nature. The Fifth Amendment protection against double jeopardy could be ignored because campus tribunals aren’t courts of law. So, too, could the Sixth Amendment



BRET STEPHENS
Comment

right of the accused “to be confronted with the witnesses against him.”

This wasn’t some theoretical exercise. “After my son received notice that he had been accused of rape I went to the top-tier university he attended and in my first meeting was told he should leave voluntarily because there was no possibility that he could ever be found innocent.” (I omit his name so as not to stigmatize the family.)

His son passed two polygraph exams attesting to his innocence. It made no difference. “I was naive and thought there was no way this could happen in the United States,” the father added. “Now my son is forever marked as having committed a sexual assault.”

Kimberly Lau, an attorney at Warsaw Burstein, has represented more than 100 defendants in campus sexual-assault cases. She described to me sitting with a client in a campus tribunal where she was forbidden from speaking. The accuser appeared via Skype but did not face the accused.

“They are requiring these 19- or 20-year-old kids to advocate for themselves,” she says. “They have to speak about a very private event to three strangers, generally much older. Their whole education is at stake. You can’t expect even an innocent person to feel comfortable in that situation.”

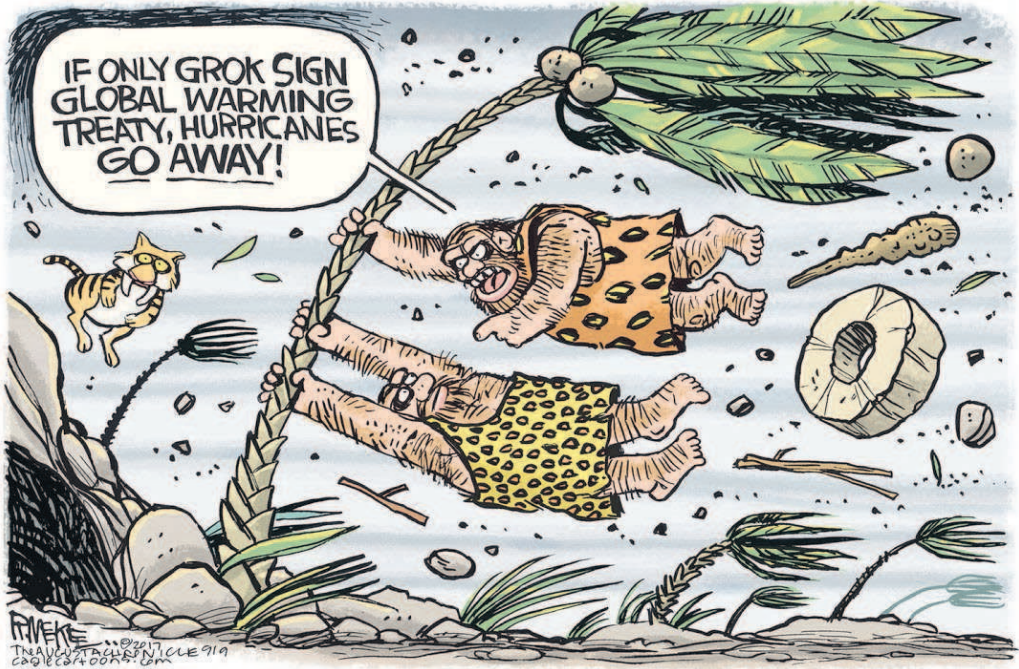
I asked Lau how many of her cases were ultimately resolved through exoneration or a financial settlement. She estimated about 90 percent. But that, she adds, is the good fortune only of those who can afford high-powered representation. “You can’t imagine how many people can’t afford it and don’t even try.”

The travesties of justice carried out under the new Title IX guidelines have been the subject of some excellent books and superb journalism, none better than Emily Yoffe’s in *The Atlantic*. And yet the response of the progressive left has been indifferent or worse.

On Thursday, social activist Amy Siskind tweeted that conservative writer David French should “STFU with your hackneyed due process talking point” after the latter pointed out that “campus kangaroo courts violate fundamental rights.”

Siskind’s activism revolves mainly around pointing out the Trump administration’s creeping authoritarianism. Yet Trump’s election was itself a response to the creeping authoritarianism of his predecessor. Liberals trying to grasp what happened last November would be well served revisiting this ugly saga and perhaps even murmuring a word of thanks that DeVos means to bring it to a close.

■
Bret Stephens won a Pulitzer Prize for commentary in 2013. He began working as a columnist at The New York Times in April.



LETTERS POLICY

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