

EAST OREGONIAN
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OUR VIEW



East Oregonian newspaper carriers sprint out of the office in 1945 to deliver the critical news. The front page headline reads "War is Over." EO file photo

An ode and elegy to newspaper carriers

Newspaper carriers have been employed in Umatilla County longer than electric light. Beginning in the 1880s, the *East Oregonian* hired people to deliver our product around Pendleton when the city was first platted, and later to area farms and nearby communities. Soon, we were delivering to multiple counties and utilizing the mail to send our newspapers across the country and the world.

The mail delivery will still take place. But as of today, no longer will someone come to the back door of our Pendleton production facility, take a paper off our press and deliver it by foot, bicycle or motor vehicle right to your doorstep or newspaper tube.

It's the end of an era, one we in the business are sorry to see go. Our circulation department has always been a critical part of our operation. No matter how much hard work we did to collect and unearth the news, it was useless if it didn't get to your hands on time and in one piece.

That was getting harder to guarantee and harder for us to afford. So starting today, we hand that responsibility over to the always-reliable U.S. Postal Service. Though it may arrive later in the day for some customers, we think it will solve a lot of delivery problems

and guarantee your paper will get to you each and every publication day. Instead of the doorstep, your paper will arrive in your mailbox.

Still, we will miss the couriers who climbed the hills of Pendleton and hustled down the streets of Hermiston, and the drivers who navigated the dusty county roads before sunrise.

As many people remember, for a century the *East Oregonian* was an afternoon paper.

Hundreds of locals count delivering the *EO* after school as their first paying job. There's no doubt that the word paperboy (or girl) does spur a bit of Americana — nostalgia for the child biking with their wares down a sunny suburban street, grown men hawking competitively on a New York City subway platform, or a paper being delivered in the still-dark morning from a coughing van — the day's shocking news resting silently, ready to inform a mind and change the world when it is picked up and read.

But the way people consume journalism is changing, as is the way it is delivered. We were one of the last newspapers in Eastern Oregon to deliver our product via carrier, and that has come to an end after almost 140 years. Thanks to everyone who did the job those many, many years.

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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.



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.

OTHER VIEWS

After Trump dossier revelation, FBI is next

Investigators looking into the Trump dossier were not surprised when news broke recently that the Hillary Clinton campaign and the DNC, working through the Democrats' law firm, Perkins Coie, financed the "salacious and unverified" compilation of allegations of Trump collusion with Russia in the 2016 presidential campaign. (The "salacious and unverified" description comes from former FBI Director James Comey.)

There had been plenty of talk about the Democrats and Perkins Coie, so much that investigators almost assumed that was the case. But it wasn't until the *Washington Post* broke the story that it was confirmed.

"I'm shocked," one lawmaker joked upon hearing the news. "Who could have ever guessed?"

And why did the story break when it did? Credit the much-maligned Devin Nunes, chairman of the House Intelligence Committee. Nunes has been pursuing the dossier more aggressively than anyone else, and it was his Oct. 4 subpoena for the bank records of Fusion GPS, the opposition research firm that handled the dossier, that finally shook loose the information.

But knowing that the Clinton campaign, the DNC and Perkins Coie supported the dossier is not the end of the story. The most important next step is the FBI.

Sometime in October 2016 — that is, at the height of the presidential campaign — Christopher Steele, the foreign agent hired by Fusion GPS to compile the Trump dossier, approached the FBI with information he had gleaned during the project. According to a February report in the *Washington Post*, Steele "reached an agreement with the FBI a few weeks before the election for the bureau to pay him to continue his work."

It was an astonishing turn: the nation's top federal law enforcement agency agreeing to fund an ongoing opposition research project being conducted by one of the candidates in the midst of a presidential election. "The idea that the FBI and associates of the Clinton campaign would pay Mr. Steele to investigate the Republican nominee for president in the run-up to the election raises further questions about the FBI's independence from politics, as well as the Obama administration's use of law enforcement and intelligence agencies for political ends," wrote Senate Judiciary Committee chairman Charles Grassley.

In the end, according to reports, the FBI did not pay Steele. But the dossier did not go away. Indeed, in January 2017, Comey briefed President-elect Trump (and President Obama) on the dossier's contents.



BYRON YORK
Comment

In recent months, Nunes has been trying to force the FBI to reveal just what it did in the dossier matter. The intel chairman issued a subpoena to the FBI on August 24, and in the time since, not a single document has been produced to the committee. The FBI, and the Justice Department, have spent most of that time talking about possibly complying with this or that part of the subpoena. But so far — nothing.

The same is true of Grassley's inquiries.

Republican investigators had two big questions about the dossier. One was who paid for it, and that now seems answered. (It was also recently revealed that the conservative

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publication *Washington Free Beacon* financed an earlier anti-Trump oppo project with Fusion GPS.) The other question was: Did the FBI or other agencies use any information from the dossier as a basis for warrant requests before the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court? In other words, did, say, the FBI use the dossier's "salacious and unverified" information to make the case that the bureau should be granted the authority to conduct intercepts?

Nunes, as well as Grassley and Senate Judiciary Committee colleague Lindsey Graham, have been pushing for months for the FBI to answer that question. So far, they've gotten nothing.

When the *Post* story broke, some journalists

noted that Democrats involved in the story had been lying about their role. "When I tried to report this story, Clinton campaign lawyer Marc Elias pushed back vigorously, saying 'You (or your sources) are wrong,'" tweeted the *New York Times*' Ken Vogel. "Folks involved in funding this lied about it, and with sanctimony, for a year," added the *Times*' Maggie Haberman.

Yes, they did. But the importance of the Democrats' involvement in the dossier is that it could be one step on the road to a bigger story. What did the FBI do with the dossier material? Did judges make surveillance decisions in the Trump-Russia investigation based in whole or in part on the dossier? To what degree is the "salacious and unverified" dossier the source of what we think we know about allegations of collusion between Russia and the Trump campaign?

In the end, a House subpoena squeezed the information out of the key players in the who-funded-the-dossier side of the story. But so far, the FBI has been much harder to crack.

Byron York is chief political correspondent for *The Washington Examiner*.



YOUR VIEWS

Stanfield garden waste dump should be open to taxpayers

I am really very irritated by a recent discovery with the Stanfield garden waste area.

We have used this site for at least five years. Our home has an Echo address even though we live on the Stanfield/Echo dividing line. But we have a Stanfield phone number and pay taxes in Stanfield.

My husband went down to empty some garden waste only to discover the site now has a locked gate. The posted sign read: "For Stanfield residents and commercial use." So he went to city hall to ask about it. We can no longer use the site because we do not live in Stanfield.

This is disappointing since for years we

have been responsible users of this site. Many times we have collected paint cans, soda cans and other trash to take home to our trash container. Some people were definitely not using the site responsibly, so I do understand that some screening of people using the site was necessary.

But just last week a friend, who does live in Stanfield, went to city hall to see about emptying his truck loaded with weeds and shrub clippings. He was informed that because he lives just outside city limits on Bartley Road, he couldn't use the site. He pays taxes in Stanfield, too.

This is discrimination, limiting the site to people inside the city limits and excluding people who pay Stanfield taxes.

Beverly Stoddard
Echo