

EAST OREGONIAN

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OUR VIEW

Tip of the hat; kick in the pants

A tip of the hat to Umatilla County commissioners for approving a four-way stop at the intersection of Feedville and South Edwards roads near Stanfield.

The crossing has been a danger zone for years, with vehicles on Edwards too often ignoring the stop signs and crashing at high speeds into vehicles with the right of way on Feedville. The collisions have been horrific and have taken lives, seriously injured others and left emotional scars on survivors.

The unpredictability of others on the road make motor vehicles an inherently dangerous mode of transportation. Signs and signals, speed bumps and rumble strips help but are never foolproof.

With that in mind, putting up a second set of stops signs at the Feedville/Edwards intersection is past due. It seems that both teen drivers in the wreck earlier this month will survive, but the next time might not be so lucky. And it's never too late to make the right decision.

Let this be a warning to all drivers who take the back roads — proceed with caution.

A tip of the hat to Bryon Zumwalt, Stanfield's police chief, for his observant catch of a double murder suspect on Tuesday.

Zumwalt spotted a red Honda Civic with Idaho plates near the Pilot travel center in his town and trailed it into the parking lot by the McDonald's entrance. He and officer Joyce Wright helped make the arrest of Richard Carlin, 73, who was wanted out of Lewiston, Idaho, and considered dangerous.

It's a reminder of what police officers deal with every day — the uncertain circumstances and constant vigilance that

come with wearing the badge.

The arrest went down without incident, and for that we're thankful.

A tip of the helmet to the Hermiston Bulldogs, who have had an incredible run through the playoffs and into the football state championship game this Saturday.

The championship for the state of Oregon, that is.

Next year the Bulldogs will leave this state's athletic association for Washington's, giving Hermiston the opportunity for a perfectly timed mic drop. Take the title and run. Go out on top.

Win or lose, the Bulldogs have played with class this season, earning positive remarks from opponents along the way.

At the end of the season, that's what really matters. That's what all good coaches, parents and fans should be rooting for on the high school athletic field.

But boy would a trophy be nice. Good luck, Bulldogs. We're rooting for you.

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

Senator seeks to curtail perks for her colleagues in Congress

Fort Dodge (Iowa) Messenger

Some politicians seek federal office in part so they can live an extravagant lifestyle paid for by American taxpayers.

U.S. Sen. Joni Ernst, an Iowa Republican, is determined to curtail that type of self-serving behavior.

That's why the Iowa Republican has just introduced legislation that would eliminate a tax break federal lawmakers crafted to benefit themselves.

"Iowans sent me to Congress to make Washington, D.C., squeal and that includes eliminating handouts to politicians," Ernst said. "To achieve the ultimate goal of lowering tax rates for hardworking families and businesses, Congress is going to have to eliminate various loopholes and deductions in our outdated tax code. Congress should lead by example and offer up its own unnecessary tax break."

With that in mind, she is promoting the Stop Questionable, Unnecessary, and Excessive Allowances for Legislators Act, also known as the SQUEAL Act. If it becomes law, this

proposal would eliminate a provision of the tax code that allows members of Congress to deduct, for income tax purposes, up to \$3,000 annually in living expenses while in the Washington, D.C. area.

While this part of the tax code isn't hugely expensive, it is typical of the

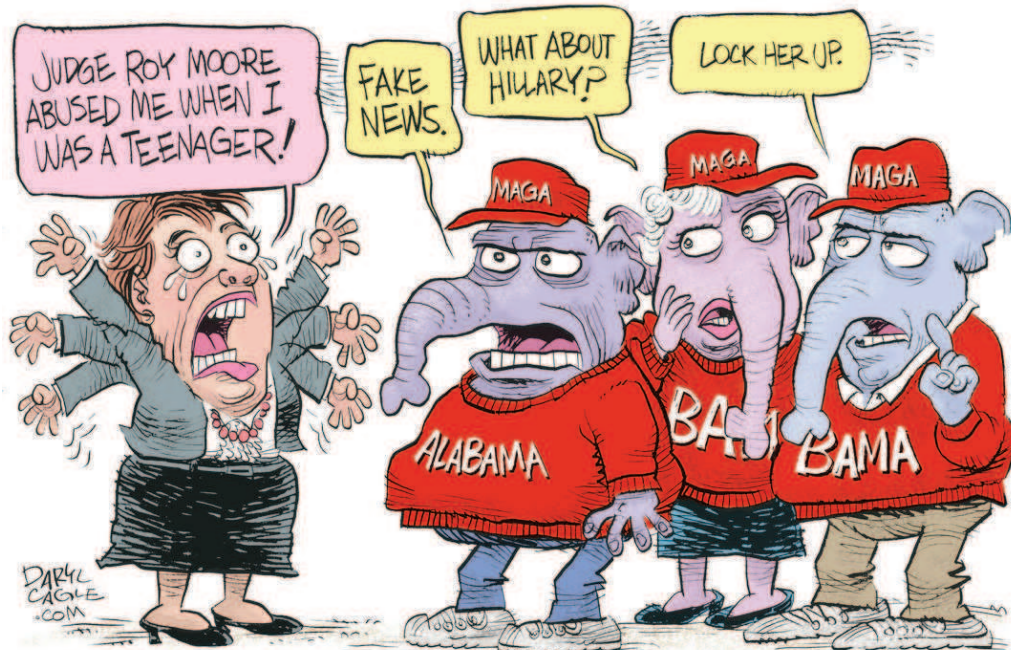
thousands of special provisions that have been added to our nation's tax laws to advantage people who have influence with lawmakers. Collectively, they make our tax laws thousands of pages long, waste taxes people pay and produce a tax system that almost no one believes to be fair.

Ernst's proposal is a small step in the right direction. Its adoption by the U.S. Senate and U.S. House of Representatives would show that the members of these bodies are serious about reforming our tax system to make it both fairer and less wasteful.

The Messenger applauds Ernst's initiative. This legislation demonstrates that she views the pledges she made during her campaign for office as commitments to be pursued vigorously. That's an example we wish more of her colleagues in Washington would emulate.

The legislation would eliminate a tax break federal lawmakers crafted to benefit themselves.

OTHER VIEWS



Six scenarios for GOP disaster in Roy Moore Senate race

One laconic Republican lawmaker said recently of the Roy Moore situation: "Given the unusual circumstances and very unusual personality involved, it's hard to see this working out well." The Alabama Senate race is shaping up as a catastrophe for the GOP, regardless of how it works out. But just how big a catastrophe? Here are six scenarios:

1) Moore withdraws from the race. That's the dream of many in the GOP. Under that scenario, a Republican write-in candidate would then be able to keep the GOP seat in one of the nation's reddest states. But there's a problem: Even if Moore quit today, his name would remain on the Dec. 12 ballot. And if Moore stays on the ballot, even after having withdrawn, he will likely still get a lot of votes.

"Candidates typically retain somewhere in the neighborhood of 20 percent to 25 percent of their pre-withdrawal polling average if they quit a race but their names still appear on the ballot," 538's Nate Silver wrote recently. That seems particularly likely to be true in Alabama, given the devotion of Moore's following. So would a GOP write-in be able to defeat Democrat Doug Jones in what would amount to a three-candidate race, with Republicans divided between Moore and the write-in? Unlikely.

2) The governor of Alabama changes election day. Alabama Gov. Kay Ivey has already changed the day of the Senate election once. Her scandal-ridden predecessor, Gov. Robert Bentley, originally scheduled the election to replace former Sen. Jeff Sessions for November 2018, as part of next year's regularly scheduled midterm elections.

But Ivey, who ascended to office after Bentley resigned in disgrace, moved the election up to Dec. 12. Now, she could change it again — say, to a few months from now, or back to 2018 as originally planned. That would give the Republican Party time to regroup. But Ivey has said she has no interest in a new change. And even if she did, it is hard to see how that would make Roy Moore go away.

3) Moore stays in the race with a GOP write-in challenger. Yes, there is time, but many Republicans are deeply pessimistic about the possibility of success. This is a special election, they note, not a general election. That means significantly lower turnout, and it means a high proportion of that turnout will come from the motivated supporters of Roy Moore. A divided Republican vote — some for Moore and some for the GOP write-in — seems guaranteed to ensure victory for Jones.

4) Moore wins, and the Senate GOP tries to expel him. "If he were to be sworn in, he would immediately be in a process before the Senate Ethics Committee," Majority Leader



BYRON YORK
Comment

Mitch McConnell said recently.

That process would involve hearings, witnesses, evidence — a long and excruciating ordeal during which Moore could defend himself, and attack his accusers, at length. How long? The Ethics Committee's investigation of Sen. Bob Packwood began in December 1992 and ended with a recommendation to expel Packwood in September 1995. (Packwood resigned before the Senate

could act.) Moore's case would likely be a long and ugly process. And a precedent-setting one: The Senate has never expelled a member for conduct that occurred before the member joined the Senate. If McConnell

The Alabama Senate race is shaping us a catastrophe for the GOP, but just how big a catastrophe?

and his colleagues tried to expel Moore on the basis of accusations of conduct dating 30 to 40 years before the campaign, they would set a new and potentially dangerous example.

5) Moore wins, and the Senate GOP does not try to expel him. This is, so far, an unspoken scenario. What if Moore won, and Senate Republicans simply allowed him to serve? Moore would have essentially half a Senate term; if elected, he

would serve the remainder of Sessions' term, meaning he would be in office until the 2020 election.

Republicans could shun him, if they chose. They could stand by as protesters dogged Moore's every move. They could condemn the embarrassing things he did. They could do everything they could to assure Moore is not elected to a full term in 2020. But the GOP could, in essence, recognize that the voters of Alabama made a choice, and even if Republicans nationwide viewed it as a calamitously bad choice, Moore is still a senator until the end of his (shortened) term.

6) Doug Jones wins. This is a very real possibility, regardless of what the GOP does. What would it mean for the Senate's Republican leadership? Just ask how hard it has been for the GOP to pass legislation with a 52-seat majority. It would become far harder with a 51-seat majority.

Plus, losing the Alabama seat would make it easier — not easy, but easier — for Democrats to win control of the Senate in 2018. That would have profound effects. For example, President Trump could probably forget about putting another justice on the Supreme Court, should a vacancy arise. Trump and Republicans could forget about passing legislation, even with the lowered requirements of the reconciliation process. And Democratic committee chairmen would be running all the investigations of the Trump administration they like.

Six scenarios. For the GOP, six bad scenarios.

Byron York is chief political correspondent for The Washington Examiner.

YOUR VIEWS

HIV-AIDS remains dangerous, but treatment is available

The Pendleton chapter of PFLAG (Parents, Families, and Friends of Lesbians and Gays) would like to call attention to November as National AIDS Awareness Month. Great progress has been made in the treatment of AIDS and it does not carry the stigma it once did. However, AIDS is still an international problem.

When I was 14 I contracted AIDS, and in February 1999 I was diagnosed with full-blown AIDS. After I was given AZT for the virus three months later, it was found that AZT was killing me. I was given different medication and was told four months later that I had gone from full-blown AIDS to HIV positive.

Six years later my medication was adjusted once more. A few months ago I was put on two new medications. At present my HIV-AIDS is non-detectable, which means I

cannot transmit the disease to others.

If I can get to this point in my life, I know others can do it as well. I want to give my support to others who need the support I did not have when I was younger.

PFLAG Pendleton provides support and information to those dealing with HIV-AIDS, including education on how HIV-AIDS is contracted, spread, and treated.

You can contact the HIV virus through sexual contact, dirty needles, and syringes. The virus can be spread through the breast milk of infected mothers. You can contract the virus by getting tattoos if needles are reused. There is a test for HIV-AIDS provided through health providers.

Treatment helps to stop the virus. You can stay updated by going online and searching for HIV-AIDS tips and prevention, or by contacting PFLAG Pendleton or the Eastern Oregon Center for Independent Living.

Homer Bozarth
Pendleton

LETTERS POLICY

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