

# EAST OREGONIAN

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## OUR VIEW

# Tip of the hat; kick in the pants

With Christmas around the corner, we're naturally in a hat-tipping kind of mood.

So we say thanks to everyone in Eastern Oregon who contributed to our opinion pages all year long, and debated civilly and respectfully both online and in print. You made your community a better place. And we wish you all a merry Christmas, a happy Hanukkah and a happy New Year.

### A tip of the hat to the pheasant hunters in rural Morrow County who helped nabbed two robbery suspects.

Phil Carlson, who owns TREC Ranches outside Heppner, was conducting the hunt when a couple who were accused of stealing a car from a neighbor, firing a gun at a pursuer and breaking into a shed — then crashed their vehicle and tried to set fire to it nearby.



Luckily, that's where the hunters jumped to action — pointing their shotguns at the suspects and holding them there until law enforcement arrived. It doesn't get more Eastern Oregon than that.

We tip our hat to the hunting crew for being at the ready, and stopping what could have been an even longer crime spree.

### We also tip our hat to Pendleton police, who cut short a crime spree of their own back in November.

Pendleton Sgt. Tyler Reddington shot a theft suspect (who was carrying a bb gun that looked almost identical to a handgun) as the man ran from Walmart toward the busy intersection of Southwest 20th Street and Court Avenue.



After dark and in the midst of an adrenaline-pumping foot chase, its no wonder that two officers at the scene thought the fleeing suspect was armed while he reached down into his waistband.

On Tuesday, Baker County District Attorney Matt Shirtcliff confirmed those findings and said officers were justified to fire at the suspect.

It is critical that police shootings are limited to only when necessary. But its just as important that when those shootings take place, that they are independently investigated and the results of the investigation be made public as quickly as possible. That's what happened here, and we tip our hat.

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

### OSU seeks funds for Bend campus

Corvallis Gazette-Times

As Oregon State University officials have worked to develop the Cascades campus in Bend, the big question has not been about the demand for a four-year campus in the central part of the state — the enrollment growth the campus already has seen is evidence of that.

No, the question is whether the state is willing to properly fund what amounts to its eighth four-year campus. After this year's legislative session ended with a bit of a financial thud for Cascades, the question lingered.

But the February short session of the Legislature could provide a big part of the answer.

OSU's top priority in this legislative session will be to win approval for \$39 million in capital funding to build a second classroom building on the Cascades campus. Gov. Kate Brown recently backed the OSU request, along with a handful of other capital projects at other Oregon public universities.

This request comes on the heels of an odd turn of events at the end of this year's legislative session, when OSU originally had asked for \$69.5 million for the Cascades campus, an amount of money that would have allowed for the construction of the classroom building, along with site reclamation work, infrastructure improvements and a student success center. When the dust settled at the end of the session, the Legislature had allocated just \$9.5 million for reclamation work, and it's still uncertain as to what exactly happened.

OSU President Ed Ray said university officials, understanding that the Legislature faced a tight state budget, trimmed their \$69.5 million request to \$39 million during the course of this year's session. But, for whatever reason, Ray said it appears that Gov. Brown never saw the reduced request.

"She was never unsupportive," Ray said. "She never had all the information

she needed."

In any event, Brown is supporting the renewed \$39 million request in next year's session, and Ray is grateful. "This kind of wraps up a lot of what we had hoped to accomplish in the first session," he said. (OSU says it has an additional \$10 million lined up from private contributions for the classroom building.)

The status of the Cascades campus in Bend is important to the mid-valley for a number of reasons, and here's one of them: The enrollment growth at Cascades, which this year increased 7.3 percent to 1,204 students, gives OSU another tool to try to maintain the relatively slow growth of students at the Corvallis campus. This has been a topic of some interest throughout the mid-valley in recent years, as you might recall.

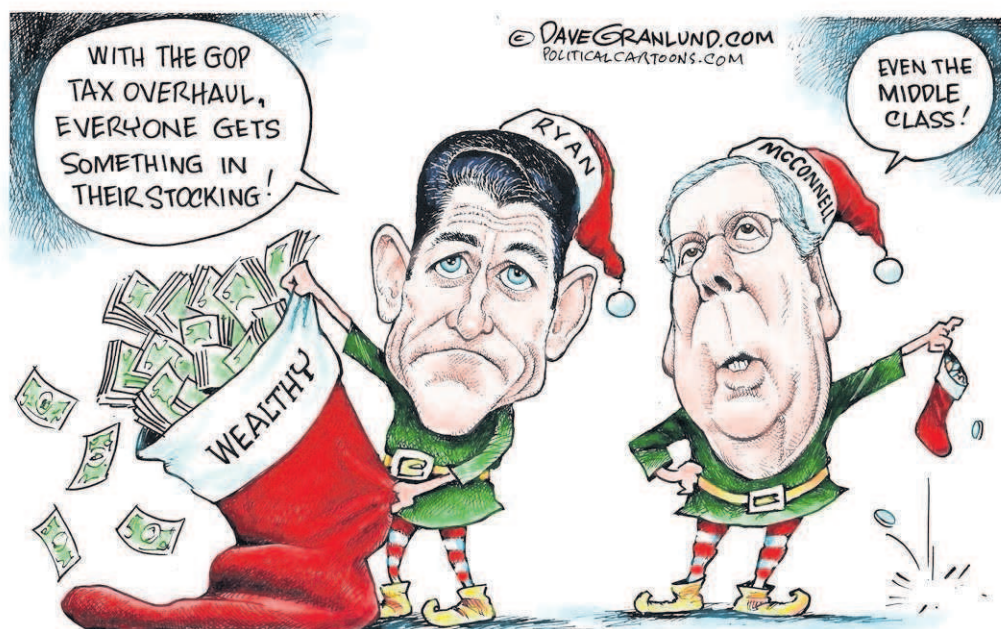
Even while enrollment growth is booming at Bend, the pace of growth has slowed at the Corvallis campus, where Ray has said he'll cap enrollment at 28,000. This fall, OSU reported enrollment on the Corvallis campus of 24,760, an increase of 0.4 percent from 2016. (As an aside, it's worth remembering that there's still considerable room under that 28,000 cap for additional students in Corvallis.)

The fast-growing campus in Bend offers a safety valve for enrollment on the Corvallis campus. (The same thing is true of OSU's online offerings and its growing presence in Newport.)

OSU asks students in Bend where they would have gone if they hadn't enrolled at Cascades. The consistent answer: "By and large, they would have gone to Corvallis," Ray said, so Cascades "takes some of the enrollment pressure off of Corvallis."

The continued growth of Cascades, however, hinges on whether the state is willing to give it the support it needs. The results of this year's session weren't encouraging. Legislators will get a chance next year to recover from that fumble.

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## OTHER VIEWS

### When #MeToo goes too far

Matt Damon gave an interview to ABC News last week in which he offered the following observation: "There's a difference between, you know, patting someone on the butt and rape or child molestation, right? Both of those behaviors need to be confronted and eradicated without question, but they shouldn't be conflated, right?"

Crazy, right?

Minnie Driver, Damon's co-star in "Good Will Hunting," thought so. "There is no hierarchy of abuse — that if a woman is raped [it] is much worse than if a woman has a penis exposed to her that she didn't want or ask for," she told *The Guardian*. "You cannot tell those women that one is supposed to feel worse than the other."

Kirsten Gillibrand agrees: "I think when we start having to talk about the differences between sexual assault and sexual harassment and unwanted groping, you are having the wrong conversation," the Democratic senator from New York said at a news conference when asked about calling on Sen. Al Franken to resign. "You need to draw a line in the sand and say none of it is OK. None of it is acceptable."

Of course none of it is OK. The supposedly petty sexual harassment that so many women have to endure, from Hollywood studios to the factory floor at Ford, is a national outrage that needs to end. Period.

But what about the idea that we should not even discuss the difference between verbal harassment, physical groping and rape? Here's a guess: A vast majority of Americans, men and women, would agree with Damon's comment in its entirety.

Another guess: A majority of women would not accept Driver's suggestion that the unwanted sight of a man's genitals, as wrong as it is, is anywhere near as traumatic as the unspeakably violent experience of rape.

Think of it a moment more. If, as Driver put it, "there is no hierarchy of abuse," then should Harvey Weinstein and Al Franken be punished in the same way? Should George H.W. Bush be subjected to the same obloquy as Louis C.K.?

All societies make necessary moral distinctions between high crimes and misdemeanors, mortal and lesser sins. A murderer is worse than a thief. A drug dealer is worse than a user. And so on. Gillibrand, Driver and others want to blur such distinctions, on the theory that we need a zero-tolerance approach. That may sound admirable, but it's legally unworkable and, in many cases, simply unjust.

It's also destructive, above all to the credibility of the #MeToo movement. Social movements rarely succeed if they violate our gut sense of decency and moral proportion. Insofar as #MeToo has made an example of a Harvey Weinstein or a Matt Lauer, most



BRET STEPHENS  
Comment

Americans — including, I'd bet, most men — have been on its side.

But what about a case such as Glenn Thrush, *The Times*' reporter who was suspended after being accused of inappropriate sexual behavior and, *The Times* said Wednesday, will keep his job but not his White House beat? Or what about Stephen Henderson, the Pulitzer Prize-winning *Detroit Free Press* columnist and editorial page editor (and an acquaintance of mine) who was recently sacked from his job?

Henderson is not accused of sexual assault. He is widely admired as a pillar and champion of his hometown. And Henderson has apologized for his behavior, which he said happened years ago and involved "sexually themed conversations" with a co-worker outside of work along with a couple of rejected passes at a woman working in another department.

Does this behavior really merit professional decapitation? Wouldn't the apology, plus, say, a monthlong suspension, have sufficed? Don't we have the moral capacity to distinguish between aggressive sexual predation and run-of-the-mill romantic bungling — between a pattern of abusive behavior and a good man's uncharacteristic bad moments? And do companies really have the resources, or the right, to police and adjudicate the private behavior of their employees?

It will not serve the interests of women if #MeToo becomes a movement that does as much to wreck the careers of people like Henderson as it does to bring down the Weinsteins of the world. Nor will it do much to convince men that #MeToo is a movement that is ultimately for them if every sexual transgression, great or small, vile, crass or mostly clumsy, is judged according to the same Procrustean standard.

Now to the inevitable rejoinder: You're a guy. What do you know? Or, as Minnie Driver told *The Guardian*: "The time right now is for men just to listen and not have an opinion about it for once."

Listening is always essential. But one-way conversations go down about as well with most men as they do with most women, and #MeToo isn't going to succeed in the long run if the underlying message is #STFU. Movements that hector and punish rather than educate and reform have a way of inviting derision and reaction.

Every woman, and every thoughtful man, is rooting for #MeToo to succeed, not just by exposing male misbehavior but also by transforming it for the better. It won't get that far if people like Gillibrand and Driver drive its high ideals and current momentum into the ground.

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

## YOUR VIEWS

### Changes needed in District 2, Tim White can bring them

Things need to change in the Congressional 2nd District. The district faces a myriad of complex issues and it will take courage, imagination, skill, financial/economic expertise and integrity to come up with and execute action plans to address our needs in the Second District. I have found an individual, Tim White, who has, not only the requisite has qualities, but also a solid plan to deal with our challenges.

Most importantly, we need more economic opportunity. Per capita income in the rural areas is lagging the national averages. Tim has talked about investment in solar and related technologies, apprenticeship training programs and upgrading our highway systems to encourage business to relocate here.

Economic planning is crucial to bringing sustainable prosperity to the district by adapting to the forces of globalization and automation without damaging our precious environment.

Second, working families are struggling. Tim intends to defend and support middle class families by advocating: a) for a progressive tax system, b) measures to fund substance abuse addiction recovery care, c) enhancements to secondary education and

d) expanding access to affordable higher education.

Third, quality and affordable healthcare is crucial for the well being of District 2 families. Not only does Tim White believe this true, but he also plans to work assiduously to lower costs, improve positive health outcomes, fight to protect or augment ACA and strengthen the social safety net by protecting Medicare, Social Security, Medicaid so that our seniors can live with dignity.

Fourth, the treatment of veterans in the Second District is extremely deficient. Not only do we have wait times for treatment that are still unacceptable, but also the number of homeless vets is a moral disgrace. Volunteerism is wonderful, but it is the obligation of the government, which asked them to fight in the first place, to restore them to spiritual health. Tim won't stop fighting to properly fund the VA until we make it right.

We need a fresh look at our issues. Tim White has the wisdom, integrity, values, expertise, skill, knowledge, experience and courage to represent the interests of the people of the Second District.

He has, moreover, a plan grounded in the realities of today and focused on the needs of our fellow Second District citizens.

Leo McGregor  
Bend

The East Oregonian welcomes original letters of 400 words or less on public issues and public policies for publication. Submitted letters must be signed by the author and include the city of residence and a daytime phone number. Send letters to 211 S.E. Byers Ave. Pendleton, OR 97801 or email editor@eastoregonian.com.