

# O EAST OREGONIAN PINION

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## OUR VIEW

### Private schools join ag push

A Ph.D. in economics is not required to figure out what makes Oregon go.

All it takes is a car.

A drive through the Willamette Valley will reveal vast acreages devoted to nurseries, sheep, cattle, berries, wine grapes, tree fruit, hazelnut trees, seed crops — the list grows as you travel. Turn in any direction and you'll see timber. Cross the Cascades and head east and you see more livestock, pastures, hay, wheat, potatoes and onions. Head west and you'll see dairies. Go toward the ocean and turn south and you'll find cranberries. More than 220 crops are grown in the state.

The USDA tells us there are 35,439 farms encompassing 16.4 million acres of Oregon.

This same picture is seen in Washington, with 37,249 farms on 15 million acres, Idaho with 24,814 farms on 11.5 million acres and California with 77,864 farms on 25 million acres.

Together, the 175,366 farms and ranches in those four states produce crops and livestock with a market value of about \$70 billion each year.

That's big, and for young people across the West that level of economic activity also means big opportunities. By 2020, companies will need to fill a

projected 57,000 agricultural jobs, most in management.

Community colleges and land-grant universities have long been the place to learn about agriculture, food processing and other associated fields. Researchers at Oregon State University, Washington State University, the University of Idaho and the University of California system and its many campuses have led the way to breakthroughs in agronomy, genetics and hundreds of other areas.

But there's an exciting development taking place among the region's private universities. They are taking notice of the opportunities agriculture presents and also offering their students ag-related courses and degrees.

Corban University, a small Christian college near Salem, recently announced it will offer classes in agribusiness next fall through its school of business. Ultimately, Corban plans to start a college of agricultural studies.

Other private universities and colleges also see the opportunities in agriculture.

Brigham Young University-Idaho in Rexburg, Idaho, is listed among the best colleges for agricultural sciences in the nation. Students there do research at the university's 190-acre farm. The



George Plaven/EO Media Group

**Corban University will add agribusiness as a concentration under the Hoff School of Business beginning in August.**

agricultural program's biggest problem is producing enough graduates to meet the needs of the industry, professors there say.

Researchers at Northwest Nazarene University in Nampa, Idaho, also have agriculture on their minds. Using a USDA specialty crop block grant, they have been developing a drone that can scan a field in a few minutes and help farmers determine the condition of their crops.

These are exciting times for agriculture — and ag education. More students are learning the skills and gaining the backgrounds they'll need for a career in agriculture. And more colleges and universities are joining the region's community colleges and land-grant universities in helping their students find professions in agriculture.

They recognize the opportunities that await their students.

All they have to do is take a drive.

## OTHER VIEWS

### An article of impeachment

There are good reasons to be wary of impeachment talk. Congressional Republicans show zero interest, and they're the ones in charge. Democrats, for their part, need to focus on retaking Congress, and railing about impeachment probably won't help them win votes.

But let's set aside realpolitik for a few minutes and ask a different question: Is serious consideration of impeachment fair? I think the answer is yes. The evidence is now quite strong that Donald Trump committed obstruction of justice. Many legal scholars believe a sitting president cannot be charged with a crime. So the proper remedy for a president credibly accused of obstructing justice is impeachment.

The first article of impeachment against Richard Nixon argued that he had "prevented, obstructed and impeded the administration of justice." One of the two impeachment articles that the House passed against Bill Clinton used that identical phrase. In both cases, the article then laid out the evidence with a numbered list. Nixon's version had nine items. Clinton's had seven. Each list was meant to show that the president had intentionally tried to subvert a federal investigation.

Given last week's news — that Trump has already tried to fire Robert Mueller, the special counsel investigating the Trump campaign — it's time to put together the same sort of list for Trump. Of course, this list is based only on publicly available information. Mueller, no doubt, knows more.

1. During a dinner at the White House on Jan. 27, 2017, Trump asked for a pledge of "loyalty" from James Comey, then the FBI director, who was overseeing the investigation of the Trump campaign.

2. On Feb. 14, Trump directed several other officials to leave the Oval Office so he could speak privately with Comey. He then told Comey to "let this go," referring to the investigation of Michael Flynn, who had resigned the previous day as Trump's national security adviser.

3. On March 22, Trump directed several other officials to leave a White House briefing so he could speak privately with Daniel Coats, the director of national intelligence, and Mike Pompeo, the CIA director. Trump asked them to persuade Comey to back off investigating Flynn.

4. In March and April, Trump told Comey in phone calls that he wanted Comey to lift the "cloud" of the investigation.

5. On May 9, Trump fired Comey as FBI director. On May 10, Trump told Russian officials that the firing had "taken off" the "great pressure" of the Russia investigation. On May 11, he told NBC News that the firing was because of "this Russia thing."



DAVID LEONHARDT  
Comment

6. On May 17, shortly after hearing that the Justice Department had appointed Mueller to take over the Russia investigation, Trump berated Jeff Sessions, the attorney general. The appointment had caused the administration again to lose control over the investigation, and Trump accused Sessions of "disloyalty."

7. In June, Trump explored several options to retake control. At one point, he ordered the firing of Mueller, before the White House counsel resisted.

8. On July 8, aboard Air Force One, Trump helped draft a false public statement for his son, Donald Trump Jr. The statement claimed that a 2016 meeting with a Russian lawyer was about adoption policy. Trump Jr. later acknowledged that the meeting was to discuss damaging information the Russian government had about Hillary Clinton.

9. On July 26, in a tweet, Trump called for the firing of Andrew McCabe, the FBI's deputy director, a potential corroborating witness for Comey's conversations with Trump. The tweet was part of Trump's efforts, discussed with White House aides, to discredit FBI officials.

10. Throughout, Trump (and this quotation comes from the Nixon article of impeachment) "made false or misleading public statements for the purpose

of deceiving the people of the United States." Among other things, Trump repeatedly made untruthful statements about American intelligence agencies' conclusions regarding Russia's role in the 2016 election.

Obstruction of justice depends on a person's intent — what legal experts often call "corrupt intent." This list is so damning because it reveals Trump's intent.

He has inserted himself into the details of a criminal investigation in ways that previous presidents rarely if ever did. (They left individual investigations to the attorney general.) And he has done so in ways that show he understands he's doing something wrong. He has cleared the room before trying to influence the investigation. He directed his son to lie, and he himself has lied.

When the framers were debating impeachment at the Constitutional Convention, George Mason asked: "Shall any man be above justice?"

The same question faces us now: Can a president use the power of his office to hold himself above the law? Trump is unlikely to face impeachment anytime soon, or perhaps anytime at all. But it's time for all of us — voters, members of Congress, Trump's own staff — to be honest about what he's done. He has obstructed justice.

He may not be finished doing so, either.

David Leonhardt is an op-ed columnist for *The New York Times*.



"WINNING!"

## YOUR VIEWS

### Who hid Wheeler County judge's exoneration?

On April 4, 2017, a letter from the Oregon Department of Justice, Criminal Justice Division was sent to the Honorable Gretchen Ladd, Wheeler County District Attorney, completely exonerating former Wheeler County Judge Chris Perry of any alleged wrongdoing and dismissing any and all unfounded criminal allegations against him that sadly and wrongly ultimately led to his recall.

For some inexplicable reason this letter from Bumjoon Park, senior assistant Attorney General, was never made known to the Wheeler County Court and our citizens as it should have been. The people voted to unfairly terminate Judge Perry's years of honest, ethical and fiscally responsible service prior to his being found "innocent" of all of the frivolous "small community" hearsay allegations against him.

To add insult to injury, someone "sat on" this letter for nine months until I heard about it, and am now issuing a long-overdue "press release" in hopes that in the future our citizens will avoid behaving like a lynch mob, assuming the role of judge, jury and executioner before all the facts are known.

This letter was sent to our district attorney Gretchen Ladd in April with the intention of delivering it to the Wheeler County Court for release to the public. That didn't happen. We need to ask them, who withheld this letter from us for nine months? Where did it get waylaid?

Roberta Vandehey  
Fossil

### There are ways to control America's wild horses

The Jan. 27 column on "wild horses" by Ellie Phipps Price was full of fake facts, ignorance and emotionalism. For starters, these animals are not wild horses, they are feral horses. Wild horses are found in zoos and parts of Asia and Africa.

It is true that most Americans want

these horses, as do I. But I want them to be managed so that they, as well as the ecosystem, will remain healthy. The carrying capacity of the range has been determined to be 26,600 horses. The limiting factors used to determine this is based on food, water, competition of other wild animals, weather, etc. The most serious occurs during the winter. Either Ms. Price is ignorant of how cattle are managed or she is deliberately misleading when she says, if all the cattle were removed everything would be just fine. Well, that is not true. The limiting factors would still come into play. Cattle are removed from the range during these adverse times.

That she is concerned the population could become extinct is laughable. All that would need to be done was to go to the next horse sale, buy up some horses and turn them loose. Since there are no predators, they will reproduce at 15-20 per cent per year and in just a few years carrying capacity would again be reached.

Birth control sounds good, but is not practical. Besides, it probably violates the harassment and capture clauses in the 1971 Act. They were once farm animals but if you start rounding them up to give them annual shots and castrating them they will become skittish quite quickly.

As for the 90,000 horses the Trump administration is planning to slaughter, that is probably fairly accurate. There are 46,000 horses in corrals that are costing \$50 million dollars per year to feed and another 40,000 exceeding the appropriate management level of the range. Americans have always eaten horse meat. In 1951 Time magazine ran an article stating that in Portland there were three times as many horse butchers, selling three times as much horse meat, as there were for all the other meats.

I would suggest these 90,000 horses be offered first to the poor by our government. If a mother knew that she could feed her child a high protein food, more nutritious than beef, I am willing to bet she would jump at the opportunity. If that failed, offer it to the "foodies."

Carlisle Harrison  
Hermiston

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