

O EAST OREGONIAN PINION

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OUR VIEW

The balance between predator and prey

An editorial cartoon from more than a century ago recorded the adversarial relationship between fishermen and all the species that enjoy eating salmon. Specifically about outward-bound young salmon, the cartoon singled out alleged culprits including kingfishers, osprey, cormorants, river otters and an array of predatory fish, from carp to dogfish.

Decades later here in the Columbia River Basin, it remains a challenge trying to balance the scales between predators and expensive-to-produce and highly coveted salmon.

This is predicted to be a poor year for some salmon returns. Predation on young salmon in past years is an unquantifiable aspect of this year's problems. More important has been the now-dissipating "blob" of too-warm water off the Northwest coast. By lowering the amount of nutritious plankton and other sea life at the base of the food chain, this phenomenon thoroughly rattled the delicate balance on which salmon and other higher

orders of life depend.

Some other key factors in salmon prosperity include habitat in the Columbia-Snake watershed, harvests by humans and marine mammal predation. These last two are likely to be again in the news as this year moves on, with efforts to save endangered southern resident killer whales starting to take on massive importance.

Some orcas eat the seals and sea lions that prey in turn on adult salmon. Greater awareness in recent years that orcas spend considerable time in waters off the coast of Oregon and Washington has brought uninformed cheering that they might bring sea lion numbers back into something closer to balance with the quantity of salmon we're willing to let them consume. Some orcas belonging to transient ocean-roaming pods do indeed eat other marine mammals. However, the orcas of the southern resident killer whale pods based in Puget Sound specialize in eating Chinook salmon, or other kinds of fish if Chinook aren't available. In



Gregory S. Schorr/Cascadia Research Collective

Orcas photographed off the south Washington state coast.

the winter and spring, the Columbia River plume is where many Puget Sound orcas come in search of their favorite menu item.

An executive order by Washington state Gov. Jay Inslee earlier this month to significantly increase efforts to save the Puget Sound orcas is nearly certain to have direct impacts on fishing seasons here, especially as Oregon and Idaho have been asked to join in formulating a response to the crisis facing these orcas. Amendments to fishing rules could come as early as next month. In an ordinary season, this might not be especially noticeable. In a year like this one, it's impossible to predict what a salmon set-aside for orcas may mean to the harvest equation.

It's probably safe to say that most fishermen — nowadays almost all recreational, along with the charter

boats that serve them — bear no ill will toward orcas, which are certainly an iconic and majestic native species of this region. But the same could probably once have been said of efforts to recover sea otters, which on some areas of the West Coast have returned in sufficient numbers to seriously aggrieve commercial crabbers. It will be interesting to see how orca preservation plays out within the context of the Northwest's culturally and economically important salmon seasons.

For now, we should continue paying attention to these efforts and make every effort to participate in them. It is always better to have a place at the negotiating table than to grouch about decisions from the outside. Restoring balance between all the species of the Pacific Northwest is going to remain expensive and complex.



"HAS HE FOUND A NEW LAWYER YET?"

YOUR VIEWS

Impressed by teenage turnout at Pendleton march

Kudos to our Pendleton High School students and Saturday's March for Our Lives. The students awed me with their remarkable vision, courage and leadership. These young folk organized a successful event and gained my confidence in their ability to shape our society for the future.

Paul Daniello
Pendleton

Youth are making the most of the political moment

We are so proud of all the students throughout our country who are taking a stand against violence. From the four students in Hermiston to the 24 students in Pendleton, you kids are standing up for what you believe in. And all you asked of the adults was to not make this about politics.

Please keep the momentum going. Prove the adults wrong. Let them know you're not quitters. You're not letting this go. The grownups at the end of your march went against your wishes and had to put their political opinions in anyway without consideration of your wishes. And I, as one adult, I'm sorry for that.

Somehow, we adults have to come together and stand behind the youth of America and guide you with our wisdom and support and suggestions when you trust us enough to ask. Young people will only get to that point when we have faith that we have raised some pretty fine young adults to take over for us older people.

I always hear about how we need young adults to get involved and do something good for their community. Well, then we have to allow them to try new ways. Most of our ways haven't been working out too well the past few decades.

So, their march in Pendleton was adults' first slip of not letting go of control and respecting the students' request to remain silent and keep the march apolitical — instead about their fear and

pain and loss and anger and no more and enough is enough and never again.

This older lady just wants you kids to know that I have your back. And a hug if you need one.

Bernie Sanderson
Hermiston

Omnibus bill helps chiropractors, patients

With President Trump's signing the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2018, (omnibus bill) chiropractic's non-drug approach to pain relief for veterans, many of whom suffer from back pain and other musculoskeletal conditions, will be significantly expanded. Supported by several veterans groups and championed in Congress by U.S. Senators Jerry Moran (R-Kansas), Jon Tester (D-Montana), Johnny Isakson (R-Georgia) and Richard Blumenthal (D-Connecticut), the approved language requires the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs to expand the availability of chiropractic services at no fewer than two medical centers or clinics in each Veterans Integrated Service Network no later than Dec. 31, 2019, and at no fewer than 50 percent of all medical centers in each VISN by Dec. 31, 2021.

Chiropractic spinal manipulation is an evidence-based treatment for acute, subacute and chronic back pain and can prevent, help reduce and even eliminate harmful opioid use by our honored veterans. It has been said one way of battling the opioid crisis is to dry up the demand across the market by reducing opioid prescriptions and developing other options for chronic pain. The chiropractic profession provides a non-drug care path to help do just that.

New research published in the medical journal *Lancet* this month both validates the efficacy and recommends chiropractic spinal manipulation for back pain. So in part, with his signature, President Trump will help dry up the demand for harmful pain pills among our nation's veterans.

Vern Saboe, DC, FACO
Oregon Chiropractic Association
Albany

OTHER VIEWS

For President Trump, a border wall epic fail

Donald Trump promised a lot during his presidential campaign, but the one promise he made most often was to build a wall along the U.S.-Mexico border.

No need to recount all the times; suffice it to say Trump promised over and over and over that he would build the wall — and that Mexico would pay for it.

The promises kept coming after Trump won the White House. "We're going to have our wall," he told a cheering crowd in Phoenix last August. "We're going to get our wall."

"Now, the obstructionist Democrats would like us not to do it," Trump continued. "But believe me, if we have to close down our government, we're building that wall."

The president was right about one thing — Democrats did try to obstruct the wall. But last week Congress came to one of its many recent deadlines to shut down the government, and Republicans didn't fight very hard for a wall, either. And the leadership from the White House that would have been required to win a fight just wasn't there.

In the end, Trump agreed to sign an omnibus spending bill that included virtually nothing for a wall. In total, \$1.6 billion was allotted for border security that did not specify the construction of a wall, although some portion of that could be applicable to building a relatively small length of new wall. That was nowhere near the \$25 billion the president and wall proponents had sought.

It was a stunning failure for the White House, made more bitter for Trump supporters because the president had had a real chance to win full, or nearly full, funding for the wall.

Trump had put pressure on Democrats in two ways: one, by rescinding DACA, President Obama's Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program, and two, by attaching big demands, like wall funding and an end to chain migration, to any agreement to make DACA permanent.

A federal court put on hold Trump's March 5 deadline for ending DACA, relieving some of that pressure on Democrats. But it did not relieve all the pressure, because Senate Democratic leader Charles Schumer and others know Trump will eventually win the DACA case — after all, DACA was an Obama executive action, and it can be undone by a later president's executive action. And Trump kept up the pressure created by his demands for a wall, an end to chain migration and other policy changes.

A deal seemed possible: Democrats would give the president the \$25 billion he wanted for the wall, and in turn, Trump would agree to make DACA permanent and drop the chain migration and other demands. In other words, a straight wall-for-DACA deal.

It didn't turn out to be straight at all. In the



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Comment

end, it came down to haggling between the White House, Hill Republicans and the Democratic leadership, with Democrats — predictably — upping their demands in exchange for wall funding. It all came to nothing.

After an odd, half-hearted threat to veto the bill, Trump tried to make the best of a bad situation. "We're very happy with what's happened with certain elements of the border," he said when he signed the bill. "Not happy with \$1.6 billion, but it does start the wall, and we will make that \$1.6 billion go very, very far. It's going to go very far."

The White House began to call the \$1.6 billion a "down payment" on the wall. But Trump could see that he had failed to deliver on a key campaign promise and quickly distanced himself from the result.

"I say to Congress, I will never sign another bill like this again," Trump said. "I'm not going to do it again."

It would be an understatement to say Trump's supporters on the immigration issue were disappointed.

"CONGRATULATIONS, PRESIDENT SCHUMER!" tweeted Ann Coulter. Quoting Trump's pledge to never sign a bill like that again, Coulter responded, "Yeah, because you'll be impeached."

"One thousand, three hundred billion dollars and Trump couldn't get one billion to start fulfilling a central promise he campaigned on?" asked the blogger Mickey Kaus in an email exchange. "Not even one mile of the wall he's talked about? That's like going a whole basketball game without scoring a goal — an epic failure of legislative strategy that will be studied in political science classes for years."

Mark Krikorian, of the conservative Center for Immigration Studies, noted that the rest of the bill failed to meet Trump's immigration priorities, too.

"The omnibus funded less detention space than is currently being used, prohibited the hiring of more ICE field agents, and did nothing to rein in sanctuary cities," Krikorian noted in an email. "Apart from the absence of a DACA/Dream amnesty, it was a complete defeat for immigration hawks."

Krikorian cited two reasons for the failure. The first is "the president just isn't very good at working with Congress. And the second is 'the Republican leadership in Congress doesn't really care about the president's immigration goals.'"

After it was all over, the White House vowed to keep trying. "The full \$25 billion for the wall will be tied to DACA reform in the future," a spokesperson said. Perhaps. But for that to happen, the president will have to fight harder and smarter to fulfill a key campaign promise.

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