

# O EAST OREGONIAN PINION

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## Tip of the hat, kick in the pants



**A tip of the hat to the quiet hero in Molalla who gifted a fortune to local students.**

Don Slaughter worked hard and led a frugal life. He lived alone in the 90-year-old farmhouse built by his parents, and he never married nor had children. But when he passed away, he left in his will more than \$2 million to a scholarship endowment for students of Mollalla High School.

What a guy, that Don. This year, 38 students received a total of \$125,000 from the scholarship fund, which is expected to continue in perpetuity.

Slaughter's story is a wonderful one, and a reminder that there are many ways to do good and make a long-term impact in the lives of others. Even after

we're gone, our good and bad deeds continue to ripple out into the world. Don's ripples will make it a better place.

**A tip of the hat to Hermiston's super siblings — Bailee and Wyatt Noland — who each patrol the plate for their high school's respective baseball and softball teams.**

And they weren't just starters, each were team leaders. Bailee hit .443 on the season, which was second best on the softball team. She notched 39 hits, scored 25 runs and finished with a team-best 42 RBIs. Bailee also had one of the highest on base percentages (.469) and slugging percentages (.830) for the Bulldogs.

Wyatt really turned a corner this



Staff photo by Kathy AneySiblings Wyatt and Bailee Noland played the same position this season for Hermiston High School, Wyatt on the baseball team and Bailee for softball.

year. He led the baseball team with .447 average, on base percentage of .488 and slugging percentage of .645. He tied for team-best 14 RBIs with Ramirez and had the second-most runs

(14), one behind Ramirez with a team-high 39 runs scored.

A successful season for a successful pair of siblings. We tip our catcher's mask to them.



"HOLD ON! WE CAN'T ADMIT JUST ANYONE WHO SHOWS UP."

### YOUR VIEWS

#### Separated families show unbridgeable divide

How can a country claim to be great, or aspire to be great, when we see and continue to allow the mistreatment of children on our border?

When we think this callous, thoughtless, hypocritical administration has sunk to its lowest level, they seem to be able surprise us with yet another despicable example of their disregard for basic decency. Family values? Moral majority? Pro life?

Backed by the majority of the gullible religious factions in this country, they are hell bent on leading us into a position of having to acquiesce on any notion as a shining example in this world. Trumps agenda, using children as pawns as a negotiating strategy, his embrace of leaders known to have caused immeasurable suffering among their own people, his alienation of our allies, his lust for attention and constant need to boast, continues to show that we as a country are on a steep slippery slope to ruin.

The ever-growing divisions in this country now seem to be unbridgeable. Trump and his loyal minions have managed to rip the thin fragile façade of decency covering our country to reveal an ugliness to its core. A once possibly great country on a collision course with a brutal reality. Hate, fear and ignorance are unbeatable opponents.

David Gracia  
Hermiston

#### Use TV white space to bridge digital divide

As mayor of Pilot Rock, I firmly believe that communities should be united in working to ensure affordable, reliable internet access in rural areas of Oregon and throughout the country. About 34 million Americans lack a broadband connection and the vast majority — 23.4 million — live in rural areas. Of Oregon's total population (roughly 4 million), 16.2 percent live in rural areas. For education, business, health care, agriculture and more, it is critical that we close the digital divide in rural areas.

One of the best ways to do this is by utilizing TV white space, the unused broadcast frequencies through which television was traditionally transmitted. This technology is expected to provide the best approach to reach approximately 80 percent of the underserved rural population, particularly in areas with lower population density.

For this to work, the FCC needs to set aside sufficient wireless spectrum in each market of the country for broadband coverage. Just like the spectrum used for walkie talkies and garage door openers, no single company would have exclusive rights to use the channels, and anyone offering consumers a better experience at a lower price could compete.

We hope our elected officials, such as Congressman Greg Walden, will lead this effort to help our communities prosper.

Virginia Carnes  
Mayor, Pilot Rock



### OTHER VIEWS

## Trump wasn't first to separate families, but policy was still evil

President Donald Trump finally caved to public pressure and promised to stop separating children from parents at the border. After long insisting that he couldn't do anything about this, he snapped his fingers and changed the policy that he had denied was a policy.

Yet the next steps remain unclear and of uncertain legality. Will there be internment camps? This hazy juncture is a useful opportunity to draw lessons.

Trump is right that he didn't begin the practice of wrenching crying children from their parents.

This fits into a long and shameful history:

"My brothers and sisters were bid off first, and one by one, while my mother, paralyzed by grief, held

me by the hand. Her turn came, and she was bought by Isaac Riley of Montgomery County. Then I was offered to the assembled purchasers. My mother, half distracted with the thought of parting forever from all her children, pushed through the crowd while the bidding for me was going on, to the spot where Riley was standing.

"She fell at his feet and clung to his knees, entreating him in tones that a mother only could command to buy her baby as well as herself. ... I must have been then between 5 and 6 years old. I seem to see and hear my poor weeping mother now."

— **Josiah Henson**, a slave in Maryland, in his account of his life from 1858

"The Negroes at home are quite disconsolate but this will soon blow over. They may see their children again in time."

— **Thomas Chaplin**, a slave owner, in 1845, quoted in "Help Me to Find My People," by Heather Andrea Williams

"My mother then turned to [her owner] and cried, 'Oh, master, do not take me from my child!' Without making any reply, he gave her two or three heavy blows on the shoulders with his raw hide, snatched me from her arms, handed me to my master, and seizing her by one arm, dragged her back. ... The cries of my poor parent became more and more indistinct. ... The horrors of that day sank deeply into my heart."

— **Charles Ball**, whose 1837 autobiography of a life in slavery included this discussion of his separation from his mother at the age of 4

The black family "suffers little by separation."

— **Thomas R.R. Cobb**, a proslavery legal scholar, in 1858

"I stared intently, trying desperately not to lose sight of my mother, my little sister with her hair of gold and sun, my grandmother, my older sisters. I see them always, for I am still looking for them, trying to embrace them one last time. ... What remains of that night



NICHOLAS KRISTOF  
Comment

like no other is an irremediable sense of loss, of parting. My mother and my little sister left, and I never said goodbye. It all remains unreal."

— **Elie Wiesel**, "Memoirs," describing how the Nazis separated his family during the Holocaust

"I'm going to take your child to get bathed.' That's one we see again and again. ... The child goes off, and in a half an hour, 20 minutes, the parent inquires, 'Where is my 5-year-old?' ... And they say, 'You won't be seeing your child again.'"

— **Anne Chandler**, Tahirih Justice Center, in *Texas Monthly* last week

"The children will be taken care of — put into foster care or whatever."

— **John Kelly**, White House Chief of Staff last month

"All I can remember is how much my son and I were both crying as they took him away. ... It has been about six months since I last saw my son."

— **A detainee** in an ACLU lawsuit filed in April, describing the seizure of his 13-year-old son in October

"Womp womp."

— **Corey Lewandowski**, a Trump surrogate, mocking family separations on Tuesday

"My babies started crying when they found out we were going to be separated. It breaks my heart to remember my youngest wail. 'Why do I have to leave? Mami, I want to stay with you!' My youngest cried and screamed in protest. ... In tears myself, I asked my boys to be brave, and I promised we would be together again soon. ... I do not know where my sons are, and I am very worried about them."

— **J.I.L.**, a Salvadoran woman, in the ACLU suit

"We have an orchestra here."

— **A Border Patrol agent** joking last week as children cried inconsolably after being taken from their parents

So, Mr. President, you're right that you didn't start family separation. Today's practice is not the same as slavery or Nazism, but it still fits neatly into the annals of barbarism.

I hope you will genuinely stop this cruelty. One lesson from this history is that while there are always apologists at the time, ultimately we come to appreciate that to wrench shrieking children from the arms of their parents is not just cruel, not just abhorrent, but truly evil.

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*Nicholas Kristof grew up on a sheep and cherry farm in Yamhill. Kristof, a columnist for The New York Times since 2001, writes op-ed columns that appear twice a week. He won the Pulitzer Prize two times, in 1990 and 2006.*