

O EAST OREGONIAN PINION

CHRISTOPHER RUSH Publisher KATHRYN B. BROWN Owner DANIEL WATTENBURGER Managing Editor

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OUR VIEW

Getting a workout ahead of the election

Opinions are like biceps. Everybody’s got them, but some haven’t been worked out very thoroughly. We hope the *East Oregonian* opinion page can be a gym for that workout, every edition of the year but especially during an election season. There are a handful of November races that have drawn both interest and plenty of dollars, including Oregon’s governorship and the Congressional 2nd District. There are also measures, including one that would end Oregon’s sanctuary status and another that would ban future grocery store taxes (which do not currently exist), that have drawn big donations from political action groups. In the coming week we’ll explain the measures and continue our reporting on the candidates in our news pages and the following week we’ll make our endorsements. That may seem early for those not familiar with Oregon’s electoral system, but mail-in ballots

will be sent out by the county on Oct. 17 ahead of the Nov. 6 deadline. (As a side note, if you haven’t registered to vote, the deadline is Oct. 16. Go to OregonVotes.gov and, with an Oregon ID, you can get signed up in just a matter of minutes.) In our reporting and editorials, we’ll try to parse the campaigning and grandstanding and get to what the candidates and measures actually mean for Oregonians, and specifically those of us in Eastern Oregon. It’s too easy a workout to pick a political candidate and form an opinion about why to support them, even though that’s how campaigns generally work. We’d much rather consider what’s at stake and what we expect of a representative, then decide who’s the best person for the job. Same goes for measures, which, though written with only the most admirable of motives, often are riddled with unintended consequences. But as we do our homework, we ask that you do yours as well. Whether



Brown



Buehler



McLeod-Skinner



Walden



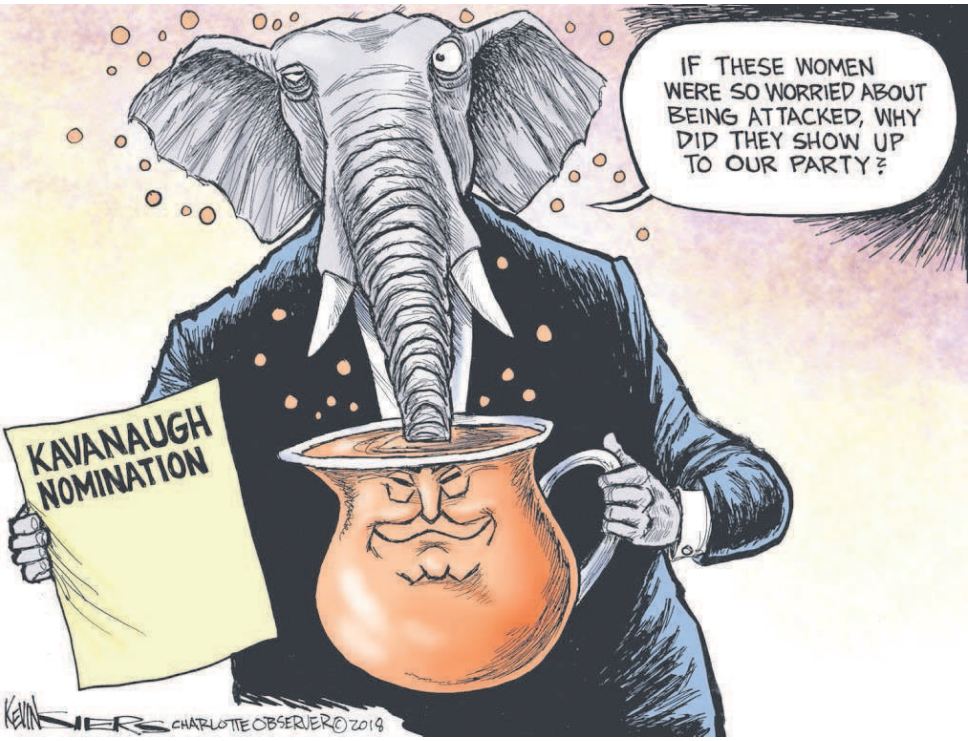
Murdock



Pullen

you’ve got a yard sign or are still on the fence, have your mind made up or are still deciding, we want to hear your take on the candidates and measures in our letters to the editor section. To encourage the best workout possible, we put a few rules in place. First, we’ll accept letters from local constituents only. Some candidates build wide letter-writing campaigns, but we’ll only print letters written by residents in the EO’s circulation area or from subscribers. And we only accept

one letter per writer on a single topic. Second, we’ll publish letters of up to 400 words, but reserve the right to edit letters for space, clarity and to avoid repetition with other published letters. And third, we’ll stop accepting letters on Oct. 22 at 5 p.m., and will publish all endorsement letters by Saturday, Oct. 27. Details on how to submit a letter appear at the bottom of this page. We look forward to hearing from you and exercising our electoral muscles.



YOUR VIEWS

Walden has some questions to answer

The *East Oregonian* reported that Congressman Greg Walden was in Hermiston last Thursday. I wish I’d known! I would have asked him why he supports health care that excludes those with pre-existing conditions. I would have asked him what legislation he is sponsoring to stop foreign entities from interfering in our elections. I would have asked him why he supports bills that make it easier for polluters to continue activities that harm human health. But, I didn’t get a chance to ask my Congressman. He wasn’t available to answer these and other questions from his constituents. Jamie McLeod-Skinner has spent months listening to the people of Eastern Oregon and answering their questions. She deserves our vote in November. **Toni Lampkin Stanfield**

Re-elect Walden, a real people’s person

About four years ago, my son married a nice young lady from Mexico, she had two children at home. They were living in Mexico and he was working in Texas in the oil fields. Inevitably, there were problems with

the IRS. These problems started when he tried to register them as dependents. The IRS had to have ITIN’s (Individual Taxpayer Identification Numbers) for them, and that was just the beginning. The problems seemed to just keep getting worse from that time on. I had been trying to help my son, but we had quickly come to the end of our rope and we knew that we needed help. I called, or wrote to, our two Senators and Rep. Walden here in Oregon, to see if we could get some help from them. Not only did we not get any help from our Senators, we did not even get a reply to our inquiry. Not so with Greg Walden — his answer was almost immediate. He would be happy to help! The support for us from Greg and his team in Medford, has never wavered in all these years. This is year three and I feel our problems may have finally been resolved. (We’ll know for certain next tax season.) We would never have been able to do the things that Greg and his team has done for us. They knew who to turn to for specific problems or questions. They also arranged for an IRS tax advocate to work with us, through them — we didn’t even know tax advocates existed. They could just do so many things that we couldn’t do, and they were at our side every step of the way. Our deepest gratitude goes out to Greg and his team. He certainly deserves Oregon’s vote. I know he’s got ours. **Jerry Scott Pendleton**

CONTACT YOUR REPRESENTATIVES

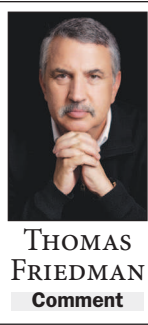
U.S. PRESIDENT
Donald Trump
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW

Washington, DC 20500
Comments: 202-456-1111
Switchboard: 202-456-1414
www.whitehouse.gov/contact/

OTHER VIEWS

When it comes to China, U.S. needs to reassert itself

Early in the movie “Crazy Rich Asians” a Chinese-Singaporean father admonishes his young kids to finish their dinner, saying, “Think of all the starving children in America.” I’m sure that everyone of my generation in the theater laughed at that joke. After all, we’d all been raised on the line: “Finish your dinner. Think of all the starving children in China.” That little line contained within it many messages: The first, which any regular traveler to China’s biggest urban areas can tell you, is that rich China today — its luxury homes, cars, restaurants and hotels — is really rich, rich like most Americans can’t imagine. The second is that this moment was destined to be a test of who will set the key rules of the global order in the 21st century: the world’s long-dominant economic and military superpower, America, or its rising rival, China. And this test is playing out with a blossoming full-scale trade war. What does such a test of wills sound like? It sounds like a senior Chinese official telling me at a seminar at Tsinghua University in April that it’s just “too late” for America to tell China what to do anymore on issues like trade, because China is now too big and powerful. And it sounds like President Donald Trump, in effect, telling China: “Says who? Show me what you got, baby!” Or as Trump actually tweeted last week: “We are under no pressure to make a deal with China, they are under pressure to make a deal with us. ... If we meet, we meet.” I guess we should be grateful that this confrontation has been confined to trade, but, as I said, it was inevitable. Because, as one top tech executive pointed out to me: “China is not a ‘near peer’ anymore. It is a peer.” As Mary Meeker’s latest internet trends study noted, five years ago China had only two of the world’s largest publicly traded tech companies, while the U.S. had nine. Today, China has nine of the top 20 — Alibaba, Tencent, Ant Financial, Baidu, Xiaomi, Didi, JD.com, Meituan and Toutiao — and the U.S. has 11. Twenty years ago, China had none. Do you see a trend? Do you hear footsteps? The total value of China’s internet economy is already bigger than America’s. And China’s economy now is so cashless that many women no longer carry purses or men wallets — just a cellphone with mobile apps — to buy anything or even donate to a beggar. And don’t get me started on the biggest emerging work and services tool in the world — artificial intelligence. China’s plan is to catch up to America in AI and surpass it as soon as possible, and it’s well on its way. Because with AI, the more training data you can feed the machine, the faster it learns, the more patterns you can see and the more



THOMAS FRIEDMAN
Comment

algorithms you can write to improve products and services or invent new ones. Because China has so many more people than we do, and so many more of them use mobile apps for their daily lives, China’s ability to amass giant data sets and train more machines faster is considerable. “If data is the new oil, then China is the new Saudi Arabia,” remarked Kai-Fu Lee, author of “AI Superpowers: China, Silicon Valley, and the New World Order.” In the daily barrage of Trump news and tweets, some Trump statements are actually true, though — like the need for the U.S. to confront China’s unfair trade practices. China has grown incredibly these past 30 years with a very specific formula: hard work, unleashing capitalism, smart planning and long-range investments in education and infrastructure — but also by stealing intellectual property, forcing technology transfers and cheating on World Trade Organization rules. We have to respond. But wisely. It happens that we have three huge assets that China doesn’t have, and is unlikely to acquire them anytime soon. We should be doubling down on our strengths: immigration, allies and values. Instead, Trump is squandering them. Many of the smartest and most talented people in the world — high-IQ risk-takers — still want to come to our country. And in a knowledge-talent era, where companies thrive by being the first and fastest to put intelligence into everything they make, we should be welcoming more high-skilled immigrants than ever and giving green cards to every Chinese, and other foreign students, who come to America for advanced degrees. China can’t attract the best and brightest Indian, Israeli, Arab, French, Brazilian and Korean immigrants, but we still can. So why would we put out a sign saying “Go Away” or make it harder for their students to stay here? Also, we have real allies in a way China does not. China has clients, customers and frightened neighbors. It does not have real partners like Canada and Mexico. It doesn’t have the whole Atlantic alliance with the European Union or tight relations with Japan, South Korea, Singapore and Australia — which we can leverage if we aren’t doing stupid stuff, like slapping them with steel tariffs or tearing up the Trans-Pacific Partnership. Finally, as a society, we stand for things — or at least we used to stand for things — values people admire, about the dignity of human beings, the rights of minorities and women and the virtues of freedom and the rules for fair play. ■ *Thomas L. Friedman, New York Times’ foreign affairs columnist*

Unsigned editorials are the opinion of the East Oregonian editorial board. Other columns, letters and cartoons on this page express the opinions of the authors and not necessarily that of the East Oregonian.

The East Oregonian welcomes original letters of 400 words or less on public issues and public policies for publication in the newspaper and on our website. The newspaper reserves the right to withhold letters that address concerns about individual services and products or letters that infringe on the rights of private citizens. Letters must be signed by the author and include the city of residence and a daytime phone number. The phone number will not be published. Unsigned letters will not be published. Send letters to managing editor Daniel Wattenburger, 211 S.E. Byers Ave. Pendleton, OR 97801 or email editor@eastoregonian.com.