

# Congress, it’s time for immigration law changes

The decades-old debate on illegal immigration has been renewed with President Trump’s executive order of Jan. 25 — “Border Security and Immigration Enforcement Improvements.”

The order sets administration policy on illegal immigration. In short, it seeks to detain those suspected of violating immigration law, to expedite their claims and to quickly remove those whose legal claims have been rejected.

While they work hard at jobs “Americans” often don’t want, by their numbers the undocumented workers have changed the dynamics of the entire U.S. workforce. Their repatriation would have a sizable impact on our economy, leaving many industries without viable replacements.

Presidents have wide discretion as to how to enforce immigration laws passed by Congress. Trump’s order indicates he intends to enforce the statutes. The administration says it will prioritize the deportation of criminal aliens, the 300,000 or so who have committed crimes either in the United States or in their home countries. But the order does not make that distinction.

Trump needs no additional authority to deport illegal immigrants. He might need additional money to fully implement his order, but existing law provides a process for the repatriation of anyone who has entered the country illegally or violated the terms of a visa.

Driven by crushing poverty, immigrants seeking opportunities impossible at home have illegally flooded across the border — 12 million by most counts. They have placed strains on public education, healthcare and law enforcement.

Once here and armed with forged papers they have found ready employment on farms and construction sites, and in hotels, restaurants, processing plants and other places eager for cheap, reliable labor.

While most are not violent or dangerous, all have violated federal law by entering and remaining in the country. Millions have further submitted fake papers to employers, and have assumed other identities for the sake of employment.

They are also real people — real families — with real ties to the United States. They have children, many who are citizens born in the United States, who have never known another home.

We return to what we’ve always seen as the two legal options facing their dispositions: Make them go, or let them stay.

Only Congress can change the law. And it’s time it did.

Congress must offer illegal immigrants temporary legal status and a path to permanent residency, but not citizenship, after 10 years if they can be properly vetted and meet strict requirements — no prior felony convictions, no violations while awaiting residency, learning to speak English and assimilate, and pay a fine and back taxes.

The border should be secured. A viable guestworker program must be established, and employers must verify the work status of their employees.

We respect the rule of law, and do not lightly suggest rewarding those who have flouted it. But we are reluctant to disrupt the lives of otherwise harmless people who have done what we would do — whatever it takes to ensure the safety and welfare of our families.

EDITORIAL

Voice of the Chieftain



## Label beef from dairy cows, too

Every once in a while you read an article concerning country-of-origin labeling on beef. This is a good idea that needs to be carried one step further.

Beef should also be labeled as dairy beef when it comes from dairy cattle. The dairy industry has done more to cast a bad light on beef than just about anything I can think of.

Every picture on TV of mad cow disease or downer cow being forklifted to its feet has been a Holstein. They spend their lives on concrete and make up 95 percent of the downer cows due to broken hips, bad feet and dairy life in general.

The public should know when they are eating meat from worn out old dairy cows that have been racked with mastitis and done countless rounds of antibiotic treatment. Dairy calves are jerked off their mothers as soon as they get their colostrum and she goes back to the milk string in two days. The calves then become bucket calves in a three-by-five pen until they are old enough to make it in the big pen. The incidence of disease and medication is far higher than in a beef calf that has his mother’s milk and her licking on him while he plays in a pasture.

The ration dairy cattle are fed is not to produce decent quality beef, it is to



OPEN RANGE

Barrie Qualle

maximize milk production and when the hormones and the cows play out, the dairyman squeezes a few more dollars out of her by running her through a meat grinder.

This kind of meat should be identified and not confused with the far superior product cattlemen produce.

I have little sympathy for dairy owners. They have spent the money to have a strong lobby in Washington and they have no regard for the real beef industry that tries to clean up the beef image after they sully it with their downer and mad cows.

They managed to get the dairy buy-out pushed through and sent the market south for decent beef. Those of us that suffered through that will long remember the tough times ranching.

When I worked for the Ag Department in California, I wrote the justification for drought assistance to cattlemen. This brought \$8 million dollars into the county I lived in.

I was shocked when I found that

dairymen on irrigated clover received \$18 a head while the beef ranchers that were really on the dry received only \$13.

Cattlemen have come a long way from the longhorns that used to trail from Texas to Dodge. By selecting better genetics they have developed animals that produce a top-quality carcass that grades, yields and is tender and tasty. They strive to give subcutaneous rather than intramuscular vaccines and any shots are given in the neck rather than a superior cut of meat.

The animals are now quite valuable and receive excellent care and are provided quality feed and living conditions. Ranchers savvy that a happy bovine gains faster and is healthier.

With the natural beef program, any animal that has been sick and treated with antibiotics is marked and cannot be marketed as natural. Carcasses are tested to assure that no mistake has been made.

This assures that the cut of meat you buy has come from an animal that has never been sick.

When an animal gets sick, it stops growing. This causes a layer of gristle to build up in the tissue where the muscle is at that stage.

See LABELS, Page A5

## The U.S.: A nation of migrants

Time, circumstances have kept Americans on the move



MAIN STREET

Rich Wandschneider

It seems misleading to call us a “nation of immigrants.” Most of us aren’t—though almost all of us have parents, grandparents, or great greats who were.

But most of us are migrants — I have no statistics on it, but personal experience and observation tell me that most Americans don’t live where they started, and fewer yet can trace multiple generations to the house, plot of ground, or town they live in now.

“Where’d you grow up?” growled Chuck Gavin, the Wyoming cowboy who ran the Extension office in Wallowa County when I arrived in 1971.

“Well, I grew up in Minnesota and Californian and went to college....”

“No,” Chuck said, “where’d you start?”

“Fosston, Minnesota.”

“How big a place?”

“Maybe 1,500.”

“You might make it here.”

That was almost 46 years ago, so maybe I’ve “made it” here. No regrets anyway.

But the point is that we are a restless nation and always have been.

My paternal side came from Germa-

ny in the late 1800s — Germans made up the largest group of immigrants from 1840-1880, and more than 6 million came from Colonial times to World War I.

It’s all Norwegians on my mother’s side, shoved off lands divided too many times in too many generations. They also came in the late 1800s.

And then came World War II, when uncles were stationed in the West before shipping out and dad worked at Lockheer; in 1952 we moved to California. For me, it was college in Colorado, California, and Illinois; Peace Corps in Turkey; then Washington, D.C.; and in 1971 I landed in Wallowa County, a place I’d never been, after a job interview in Corvallis.

There is nothing unusual about my story. Ask your neighbors where they’re from, how many places they’ve lived. And trace your own family’s and neighbors’ families’ migrations over 50 or 100 years. World events — famines and wars — push us around; parents move us for jobs and health and family; we move

ourselves looking for that fit — that place where we can “make it.”

It’s what drives me crazy about blue states and red states and the urban-rural divide. Everyone wants to label and “fix” people in places. The illusion is that we are all from someplace where “our people” were somehow original. When in reality we’re always moving.

In “You Can’t Go Home Again,” published in 1940, writer Thomas Wolfe, taking the train from New York back to North Carolina, said Americans are only comfortable when they are on the move. A few years later, World War II would take millions of men from farms and small towns, then send thousands of them post-War to colleges and different kinds of jobs. The “Great Migration”—the movement of Blacks from the South—had begun earlier, with factory jobs in northern and eastern cities, but then swelled with Black troops who’d seen a different life.

A college friend wrote a thesis in the 1950s about the automobile spurring migration and defining the country. The new interstate freeways, drive-in movies and restaurants had us living in our cars.

In the 1960s and 1970s it was urban riots, the Vietnam War and protests, and the back-to-the-land movement.

See MIGRANTS, Page A5

## Will small business be left in legislative cold?

Oregon Gov. Kate Brown and Democrats have put out their agendas for the 2017 legislative session. First impression? Small businesses are left by the wayside.

There’s only one mention of small business in the one-page agendas from Gov. Kate Brown and House Democrats. That’s not very encouraging.

The single mention reads, “Boosting small businesses and encouraging the growth of living-wage jobs in every part of the state.”

It’s a great sound bite, but it doesn’t mean anything.

While there are many objectives on the table, the one taking the most attention is the state’s budget deficit.

The highest priority is balancing the budget. We’ve never had more revenue coming in than we have projected in this next two-year budget cycle, yet we’re still hearing talk about raising taxes.



GUEST COMMENT

Anthony K. Smith

The rate at which state government is growing far outpaces the rate of economic growth.

That’s the point that resonates with small-business owners. They don’t just get to decide what they can spend; they have to know whether they can afford it. Owners are going to be unsympathetic to government officials saying we have to spend all this new money. Who will be left paying that tax bill?

Also on the table is a major transportation package that legislators from both sides of the aisle favor. However, it will be difficult to launch as it and a balanced budget will compound the difficulties of accomplishing both legislative efforts at

the same time.

There’s also concern about tax increases, which the governor has proposed.

Brown’s budget proposal includes raising taxes on certain small businesses that qualified for a small business tax rate reduction under a 2013 law. That’s proposed to be done away with.

In general, the future is uncertain for Oregon small-business owners.

Small business has a lot to worry about in the long session. Fifteen-hundred bills have been introduced and there will be more coming, including paid family leave, flexible scheduling, and possibly even a bill granting government access to the private financial information of businesses. That should make us worry. These bills won’t help “boost small business.”

Anthony K. Smith is Oregon state director for the National Federation of Independent Business.

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Wallowa County’s Newspaper Since 1884

Enterprise, Oregon

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PUBLISHED EVERY WEDNESDAY BY:

EO Media Group

Periodical Postage Paid at Enterprise and additional mailing offices

Subscription rates (includes online access)

1 Year

Wallowa County

\$40.00

Out-of-County

\$57.00

Subscriptions must be paid prior to delivery

See the Wallowa County Chieftain on the Internet

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POSTMASTER — Send address changes to

Wallowa County Chieftain

P.O. Box 338

Enterprise, OR 97828

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Volume 134