

**DIVIDE**

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Portlandia pie in the sky BS." "Enjoy the Trump administration, Portland, your residents are the reason Republicans are running the show."

**Islands of blue**

It's no revelation the West Coast election map looks like small islands of Democrat blue surrounded by seas of Republican red, with the votes cast in heavily populated blue cities dominating those from rural areas.

The Atlantic magazine described it after President Obama's re-election in 2012: "The new political divide is a stark division between cities and what remains of the countryside."

Every major U.S. city has a different outlook than the less-populous areas closest to it, the magazine declared.

"Because winning a state's electoral votes requires only a simple majority, a single city can change the entire game," The Atlantic concluded.

Conservative scholar Victor Davis Hanson said in a 2015 column in the Los Angeles Times that most "hot button" issues — abortion, gun control, same-sex marriage, defense spending — "break along rural or urban lines."

Some wonder if the election might have sundered any connection that remained between the two.

**Urban 'mindbenders'**

Eastern Washington cattle rancher Len McIrvin said city residents are controlled by the "mindbenders" of the media, Hollywood and conventional politics and don't realize what's going on in the "heartland."

"Waters of the U.S." proposals, the Endangered Species Act, clean air and clear water rules and "safety" laws that restrict truckers' hours are examples of the "terrible burden" placed on producers, he said.

McIrvin said wolves, which spread into Oregon and Washington after being reintroduced in Idaho under federal wildlife policy, have killed an estimated 70 head of his cattle this year.

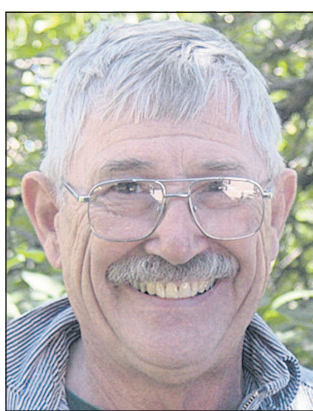
"Wolves do what wolves do, but the regulations say I can't protect my cattle," he said. "These regulations are bringing us down to our knees."

Breese, the Central Oregon landowner, said he listens to Oregon Public Broadcasting, public radio, and is alarmed by what seems an "agenda" to "save the forests and preserve things." Urban residents don't understand the land needs to be managed, he said.

City people want the latest consumer items to be available at stores, but oppose the use of fossil fuels needed by delivery trucks, he said.

"They've got a job where they can ride a bicycle to work," he said. "Some of us have got to have four-wheel drive with a trailer and horses behind."

"It's hard to get your voice heard," Breese said.



**John Breese**



**Geoff Horning**

"If you go to the Legislature, you get three minutes. You drive three hours, get three minutes (to testify), and it's three hours back."

Breese said it was "cast in stone" that Oregon, Washington and California would align with Hillary Clinton, and he was pleased Trump won enough states elsewhere to claim the presidency.

Trump may loosen natural resource restrictions, appoint some conservative judges and slow down the Environmental Protection Agency, he said.

He doesn't understand why Trump opponents took to the streets to protest the result. Portland endured six nights of noisy marches. Police declared the first night's march a riot as alleged anarchists in the crowd smashed windows and threw objects at officers. A Toyota dealership alone sustained an estimated \$200,000 damage, and police arrested at least 113 people over several days.

"If Hillary would have won, we wouldn't have been rioting in our alfalfa fields," Breese said.

**Surprised the out-of-touch**

Hanson, the conservative scholar, wrote in a post-election Los Angeles Times column that Trump's win surprised the out-of-touch.

"But was it so hard to imagine that a third-generation Mexican American might fear — more so than the gated residents of Malibu and Santa Monica — the impact of illegal immigration on his neighborhood school or community? Or that an out of work lathe operator was not a big fan of globalization?"

The divide prevails, but some continue casting lines to the other side.

Dan Arp, dean of Oregon State University's College of Agricultural Sciences, often says food is "the handshake between urban and rural."

Friedman, executive director of the Seattle-based

Conservation Northwest, said an overwhelming majority of Americans favor a healthy environment that provides clean air, clean water and abundant wildlife. He said his group collaborates with loggers and ranchers to find a balance between timber harvests, grazing, wolf protection and ancient forests.

"I don't know if that's enough to bridge the gap that exists in America," he said. "I know we're committed to doing our part."

"If the core of environmental laws went away, would people in the timber and ag communities that have collaborated, would they still be with us?" Friedman said. "I don't know. I want to believe most would."

**Trump listened**

Russ Vaagen, who represents the third-generation of family ownership in Vaagen Brothers Lumber Inc., of Colville, Washington, said Trump won because he appeared willing to listen to rural concerns.

Vaagen voted for Trump — "I'm not ashamed of it, over 60 million people did" — but serves on the board of directors for Sustainable Northwest, a Portland nonprofit that seeks collaboration on natural resource issues.

"This election was about rural America standing up and wanting to be heard," he said.

Geoff Horning, executive director of Oregon Aglink, an advocacy group, said people in agriculture have to continue explaining themselves and their practices to urbanites. Even residents of liberal hotbeds like Portland and Eugene are "just people," he said. "They would be really supportive if they knew more."

"If I've taken anything out of this election it's that sometimes when things look the darkest is when opportunity strikes," Horning said. "Maybe this is the thing that sparks a real conversation."

**Forecast: Oregon economy slowing down**

By Claire Withycombe  
Capital Bureau

SALEM — Overall, Oregon's economy is encountering an economic slowdown, state economists said during a quarterly revenue and economic forecast presentation to legislative revenue committees Wednesday.

While rates of job growth are slowing, that's not necessarily bad news, said state economist Mark McMullen, noting that high growth rates measured in previous recent

assessments of Oregon's economy were not sustainable.

Oregon still outpaces most other states in terms of employment growth.

As employment improves, poverty rates may also start to improve, and caseloads for state services may also decrease, though such changes are only starting to take root.

State economists have noted in the past that economic improvements also take longer to manifest in the state's rural communities.

Income for Oregonians with the lowest 20 percent of incomes and middle 20 percent of incomes are improving, although they've not reached pre-recession levels.

McMullen noted that last week's election of Donald J. Trump as president presented a "wild card": the economist said it is too early to tell how the president-elect's specific policies could impact the national and state economies.

Trump promised tax cuts as well as major infrastructure investments during the campaign.

**USDA official named to lead ODA**

By Mateusz Perkowski  
Capital Bureau

SALEM — A USDA official, Alexis Taylor, has been nominated to head the Oregon Department of Agriculture, replacing former director Katy Coba.

Taylor is the USDA's deputy under secretary for farm and foreign agriculture services and will begin serving as ODA director on Jan. 23, once confirmed by the Oregon Senate.

Lisa Hanson, ODA's deputy director, was a finalist for the position and has served as the agency's interim director since Coba left in October to lead the state's Department of Administrative Services.

In her position at USDA, Taylor was charged with advocating for international trade policies that benefit U.S. agriculture and led the agency's Women in Agriculture Initiative, which supports female farmers.

Prior to the USDA, she negotiated provisions that ended up in the 2008 and 2014 farm bills as a legislative adviser to congressional committees.

A graduate of Iowa State University, Taylor was raised on an Iowa farm and served in the U.S. Army Reserve for eight years, including a tour in Iraq.

When Coba announced she was leaving ODA, eight

of Oregon's agriculture industry groups wrote a letter to Gov. Kate Brown, urging her to install Hanson as the permanent agency chief.

However, the Oregon Farm Bureau has welcomed the news of Taylor's appointment, citing her "track record of success" at the USDA.

"We believe Ms. Taylor's experience at a high level in Washington, D.C. gives her the background she needs to be successful in helping the industry recognize and overcome its challenges in Oregon," OFB said in a statement.



Courtesy of the office of Gov. Kate Brown

**Alexis Taylor has been appointed Director of the Oregon Department of Agriculture.**

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MOVIE SCHEDULE NOV. 25 - DEC. 1

**MOANA PG**  
Disney Animation. A young woman sets sail for a fabled island.  
FRI & SAT (4:10) 7:10 9:45  
SUNDAY (4:10) 7:10  
MON - THURS 7:10

**ALLIED R**  
Brad Pitt. The relationship between an intelligence officer and his wife is tested by the pressures of war.  
FRI & SAT (4:00) 7:00 9:40  
SUNDAY (4:00) 7:00  
MON - THURS (4:00) 7:00

**FANTASTIC BEASTS & WHERE TO FIND THEM PG-13**  
The adventures of writer Newt Scamander in New York's secret community of witches and wizards seventy years before Harry Potter reads his book in school.  
FRI & SAT (3:45) 6:45 9:35  
SUNDAY (3:45) 6:45  
MON - THURS 6:45

\$9 Adult, \$7 Senior (60+), Youth

*Thank You*

We would like to thank Tia and Joe Barrietua at The Outpost and Carrie and Jim Bellinger of John Day True Value for the nice meal they provided to the Veterans on Veterans Day.

Their generosity is greatly appreciated. It is very touching to see the outpour of respect for the veterans of our community that have served this wonderful nation.

Warren and Kay Friedrich  
Andrew L Radinovich

Both Warren Friedrich and Andrew Radinovich served in the US Navy

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Wishing you all the makings of a happy Thanksgiving.

We appreciate your business & support.

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