

# Trump's denigration of FBI is self-serving

The FBI is so universally familiar to Americans that it's unnecessary to spell out its name. Its initials are synonymous with a kind of stolid professionalism. Like our northern neighbor where the Royal Canadian Mounted Police famously "always gets their man," the FBI isn't glamorous, but is who you want on your side if there's a criminal to apprehend.

It isn't without fault. In the post-9/11 era, its anti-terror focus has sometimes been overzealous, generating complaints from minority communities and civil libertarians. But long gone are the days of J. Edgar Hoover, its legendary founding director, who infamously played fast and loose in pursuing personal vendettas and agendas.

At least since it became known that FBI Associate Director Mark Felt served as the Washington Post's secret source in the corrupt Nixon administration, a large majority of Americans sees the FBI as an honest and neutral bulwark against wrongdoers of all kinds, in or out of government.

This makes it all the more astounding to hear a U.S. president denigrate the FBI.

Claiming the agency's stature is in "tatters," President Trump is lashing out at an American institution with a far better reputation than he enjoys himself.

Trump's reaction to the FBI's legally sanctioned investigation of Russian involvement in the last election may be understandable from someone who regards himself as a tough street fighter. But running down the FBI at a time when it has hundreds of investigations going, some of them dangerous, is not smart for the nation's chief executive officer, who oversees the FBI and ought to have its agents' welfare and safety in mind.

The Republican Party of days gone by was a proud defender of law and order. It is sad to see the GOP's leader and his enablers turn against our most potent police agency, which has been effective at combating organized crime and blocking attacks by foreign terrorists.

It is a standard ploy to attack government during political campaigns, but quite another to sabotage it after being elected. Meanwhile, the rest of us need government to function. And we sure as hell need the FBI to continue doing its job well.



## FARMER'S FATE

# Conned with the truth

By Brianna Walker  
To the Blue Mountain Eagle



Brianna Walker

I once read that fear is a dark-room where negatives develop. One only has to pick up a magazine or newspaper to find that fear in so many articles. Fear sells. Fear of wrinkles sells beauty products, fear of being stranded sells roadside assistance, fear of burglary sells home security systems. Agriculture is no stranger to this fear either. Fear of pesticides push people to buy organic, and fear of the unknown causes people to reach for the "non-GMO" label.

Some fear is good. It warns of danger and can help keep us safe. But there are very few monsters who warrant the fear we have of them. Take for example dihydrogen monoxide (DHMO). Perhaps you've heard of it: It's colorless, odorless, tasteless and kills uncounted thousands of people every year.

It has a pH level of 7, and is a main component of acid rain. It is deliberately sprayed on organic crops. It is dumped into rivers by big companies and never degrades. It corrodes metal. It is used as a cleaning agent in mortuaries. Water bottles stored on shelves longer than a month have been found to have high levels of it. It is used in industrial solvents, nuclear power production, as well as an ingredient in most baby foods.

Each year, dihydrogen monoxide is a major contributor to millions of dollars in damage to property and the environment — most

recently affecting Texas. Contamination has reached epidemic proportions. Quantities of dihydrogen monoxide have been found in almost every stream, lake and reservoir in

America. The pollution is global, and the contaminant has even been found in Antarctic ice.

Prolonged exposure to its solid form causes severe tissue damage. Symptoms of ingestion can include excessive sweating and urination, and possibly a bloated feeling, nausea, vomiting and body electrolyte imbalance. It has addictive qualities, and for those who have become dependent, DHMO withdrawal means certain death — 100 percent of all people exposed to DHMO will eventually die. Afraid yet?

The government has refused to ban the production or distribution of this chemical due to its "importance to the economic health of this nation." Several individuals have tried petitioning for bans.

One of whom was 14-year-old student Nathan Zohner of Idaho. He actually had more than 85 percent of his classmates sign the ban for eliminating DHMO. For which he won first place in his science fair and actually had a term coined after him. "Zohnerism," wrote journalist James Glassman, "(is to) refer to the use of a true fact to lead a scientifically and mathematically ignorant public to a false conclusion."

For what is dihydrogen monoxide? It is two hydrogen molecules, and one oxygen — in other words, H<sub>2</sub>O. Water. All of those facts were about water. Are they facts? Absolutely. And there are more. Starbucks serves thermally agitated dihydrogen monoxide in many of their beverages, and it may cause burns if it contacts skin. Hot water can burn.

Prolonged exposure to solid DHMO causes severe tissue damage. Frost bite. Gaseous DHMO can cause severe burns. Steam is hot. All of this is factual. But it's silly once one realizes DHMO is just water. And if all of that could be said about water, what else are we letting fear scare us from?

One of my favorite acronyms for FEAR is "False Evidence Appearing Real." Before becoming afraid of food — whether you choose to eat organic or go GMO — take a moment to see behind the "facts." Who's feeding the fear? What is their agenda? Make your decision to continue to use DHMO or not based on your knowledge and common sense — not just what your neighbor does or what you see on TV.

Just parroting your neighbor can have dire consequences, as the second man discovered. A man walks into a bar and orders H<sub>2</sub>O. A second man says "I'll have H<sub>2</sub>O too." The second man dies.

(H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> is the chemical equation for hydrogen peroxide.)

Brianna Walker occasionally writes about the Farmer's Fate for the Blue Mountain Eagle.

## GUEST COMMENT

# Be prepared for storms

By Shelley Snow  
To the Blue Mountain Eagle

Whenever there's a chance of stormy weather, the Oregon Department of Transportation encourages motorists to prepare their vehicles in advance and drive with extra caution.

Before traveling to areas that may have hazardous conditions, make sure your vehicle is ready:

- Ensure the heater and defroster are working properly.
- Test all lights. Carry spare light bulbs.
- Use antifreeze that's good to minus 25 degrees; check and fill washer and other fluids and make sure hoses aren't loose or brittle.
- Keep wipers clean and in good condition; fill the windshield washer tank.
- Make certain your battery is fully charged (also check battery age and make sure cables are not loose or corroded).
- Ensure your tires are in good condition and properly inflated for best traction, including your spare.
- Carry chains or use traction tires in winter.

• Keep an automotive safety kit in your vehicle.

If you are driving in areas that have ice or snow on the road, adjust your driving to fit conditions and remember these winter driving tips:

- Turn off your cruise control.
- If you lose traction and your vehicle feels like it's floating, gradually slow down. Don't slam on the brakes.
- Use caution when driving on bridges or concrete highways. These surfaces are the first to freeze and become slippery when the temperature drops.
- Slow down in advance of shaded areas, especially on curves. Shaded areas are cooler and may have ice that is difficult to see.
- Don't pass snowplows or sanders, and don't follow them too closely; they will pull over!
- Be prepared for slow traffic after a storm passes. It may take several hours to clear long lines of trucks waiting to cross a pass after a storm moves through the area. Also, it may take time to remove cars abandoned on the side of the road.
- Know your route. Some roads, like state highways, are regularly

maintained. Other roads, such as forest service roads, are maintained less frequently.

• Be prepared to encounter more traffic if you are traveling the day before, the day of or the day after a holiday.

• Don't drive fatigued. If you're feeling tired, find a place where you can safely pull off the road and rest.

Make sure your vehicle is stocked with the following: working flashlight (rechargeable or with extra batteries), cellphone and charger, extra food and water, flares, jack, lug wrench, shovel, road maps, blanket/sleeping bag(s), extra warm clothes, boots, hat and gloves, first aid kit (including prescription medications), pocketknife, matches or lighter, battery jumper cables, ice scraper and snow brush, paper towels, extra washer fluid, chains or traction tires and a full fuel tank. Before leaving, tell a family member or friend of your planned route and when you anticipate arriving. Keep them updated on any major route or arrival changes.

Shelley Snow is a safety public information officer for the Oregon Department of Transportation.



## WHERE TO WRITE

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- **Oregon Legislature** — State Capitol, Salem, 97310. Phone: (503) 986-1180. Website: www.leg.state.or.us (includes Oregon Constitution and Oregon Revised Statutes).
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