

OUR VIEW Should Oregon divest itself from Russia?

State Treasurer Tobias Read has faced calls to pull state investments out of fossil fuels and NSO Group, an Israeli company whose software was used to spy on people's phones. And now there are questions about state investments in Russia.

His office told the Baker City Herald the state has \$135 billion in assets under its management. They ran the numbers and of that about \$122 million is invested in bonds, public equity and currency connected to Russia.

Is Oregon going to pull that money? Not at the moment. Should it?

"We support the people of Ukraine," Read said in a statement that was sent to us on Feb. 28. "I've asked my team to fully evaluate the portfolio's exposure to investments in Russia and to identify our options as institutional investors. I'm also meeting with the U.S. Treasury this week to determine, with their guidance, any opportunity we have to aid the U.S. response."

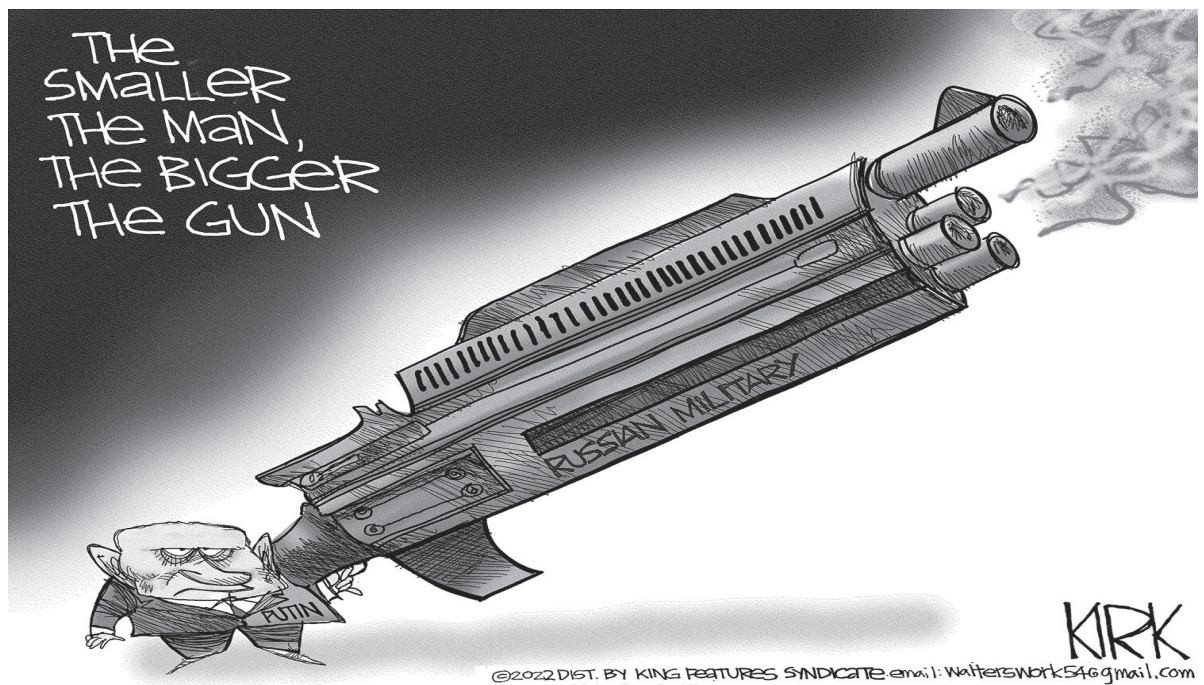
Read has pointed out Oregon's investment policy is about making money and doesn't allow purely political divestment. "We are to 'make the moneys as productive as possible' (ORS 293.721) and the 'investment funds shall be...managed as a prudent investor would do...' (ORS 293.726). This means we cannot insert personal or political preferences into our investment decisions," Read and other members of the Oregon Investment Council wrote in a letter in 2021 to Senate President Peter Courtney about investments in fossil fuels.

What's also interesting about that letter is that they did not ask for more authority to make investment decisions based on political factors. In fact, they cautioned against it. They argued they did not believe it was an effective way to change corporate behavior. There could be financial penalties for pulling out of certain investments.

As you might expect, if that is his perspective, Read did not ask this legislative session for changes, either. To be fair to Read, he didn't know Russia would invade Ukraine or what the international response would be.

Do you believe the people managing Oregon's investments should have more authority to make investment decisions based on political decisions? In some cases? In the case of this Russian invasion? You can tell Read what you think at oregon.treasurer@ost.state.or.us.

There is a short summary on the treasurer's blog about investments and fossil fuels at tinyurl.com/ORfossilfuels.



FARMER'S FATE

Finding the magic in everyday life

I love life. Even on the most stressful of days, there is always a little magic sitting silently in the corner just waiting to be noticed.

There are many life skills I hope my kids learn. But one that I hope is instilled in their bones is to find the magic in each situation — being able to find the little things that come to cheer us every day: the sunshine, a good meal, a card, a smile, a book, the courtesy of a stranger, the thoughtfulness of a friend.

Each night, as we're tucking them in, we always ask what their favorite part of the day has been. Some days the answers are obvious: "Shooting my new bow" or "Going snowmobiling." Other times, their answers create lumps in our throats: "Laughing during that funny chapter in our book today," or "Making a pillow for Grandpa."

This last month we have had to look extra hard for the magic. My husband caught a bug before Christmas — and kind compassionate me, couldn't decide if it was a real, nasty bug, or he just wanted the opportunity to watch all the Herby movies. During the day (after several cups of coffee), I was almost believing he was truly sick — but during the night (as I'm trudging out in the dark to take care of new baby lambs), I am convinced it's just another case of the Man Flu.

No sooner was he on the path to recovery — perhaps because he'd watched the last of the Herby movies — his dad got pneumonia and ended up in the hospital.

The week was cold and foggy. Things looked bleak. With knotted stomachs, we told the kids their Grandpa was real sick, and might not come home.

Our oldest took the news solemnly, while his little brother piped up, "Why doesn't 'Drampa' just go stay with his mom? She'll take care of him and make him better. Mommies always make you feel better."

You gotta love kids. No matter how bad the day — they can always send you on a positive detour!

Later that week, after a particularly



Brianna Walker

My stomach lurched. I walked closer, and she took off running, the leg flopping unnaturally.

I called the neighbor; she didn't answer. I called a friend, but the ice prevented her from leaving her driveway. I wanted my mom — but she was in Texas. It wasn't the first time I have pulled a dead baby — but, at that moment, it just seemed too much.

I sat down in the snow and cried. I cried for my father-in-law and his tenuous hold on life. I cried for my husband, who had already lost his mom. I cried for my kids, who had never known their paternal grandmother and now would have limited memories of their grandfather. I cried for myself. I cried for things that weren't. I cried for things that should have been. I cried until the snow soaked through my coveralls.

I stood up and wiped my bloodshot eyes with my scarf. A good pity party is great fun and all — but it wasn't making my father-in-law better, and it wasn't getting the lamb out of the ewe.

While I was contemplating how to get her to a place I could handle her alone, she laid down and started straining. Without the head or another hoof, I wasn't optimistic. Before I could even finish my pessimistic (yet realistic) thought, a head appeared. Within seconds she had pushed that baby out with one leg backward.

I was surprised. But when I reached to remove the dead lamb, I was flabbergasted — it was alive. Twenty minutes later, this lamb that shouldn't be alive was kneeling down to nurse the teats under his mom. I named him Magic.

Then I did what any crazy,

sleep-deprived woman would do — I sat right down in the snow and cried some more.

Even on the bleakest of days there is always magic. Until the last grain of sand in the hourglass has run out, there is life — and where there is life, we can find magic.

For the next week, the boys made a little treat for their grandpa every day. It kept their minds and hands occupied and gave us all hope in our hearts and magic in our thoughts.

After two weeks my father-in-law, who was at the forefront of every thought and conversation, was well enough to go home. Another moment of magic — but one which really brought the brevity of life to our dinner table conversations.

We don't want to spend our lives rushing from point A to point B. We want our family to relish in the moment of now, even if it means inventing some imaginary letters in between A and B.

Take the detours, read "Curious George" for the 172nd time, play another round of Uno — after all, it's only midnight! Make the days as magical as possible, for too often, too late comes too soon.

Most of us think of the wonderful things we would do if it weren't for the worries, the stress, the tragedies, the setbacks, the things that nettle us daily — but it's in those challenges that we learn to appreciate the magic in every-day happenings.

I want my kids to know the importance of working for that pot of gold. But I also want them to step back and appreciate the magical colors of the rainbow — and share that magic with their world.

Think of the wonderful things we would do if it weren't for the worries, the stress, the tragedies, the setbacks, the things that nettle us daily — but it's those challenges that teach us to appreciate the magic in common, everyday happenings.

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



Time to restore energy independence

To the Editor:

Time to wake up, America! Things have to change. What we see happening in Ukraine is unconscionable.

Since becoming a player of some significance on the oil and petrochemical scene, Putin has decided to flex his muscles and he needs to be reminded he is not invincible. One way to do that is to hit him in the pocketbook! Every time we fill our tanks with gas, we contribute to his war chest.

Why are we still buying Russian oil? Oh, right, now I remember, someone higher up decided we Americans should quit being energy independent, quit producing so much oil at home and buy Russian! By doing so we have aided and abetted — and still are by the way — Ukraine's desperate situation.

We should not be begging Russia or OPEC to sell us more oil, we should be petitioning our politicians to do their job and demand the restoration of drilling operations and the opening up of the Keystone Pipeline work here in America immediately, creating American jobs and Ameri-

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

can profit! America could be exporting oil and gas to the EU.

Please, folks, write to your representatives and senators. Time for us "little people" to make our voices heard! Stand up for American Made, America!

Darrell and Rose Howe
Monument

Here's your chance to get involved

To the Editor:

Are you tired of complaining, listening to complaints and rumors regarding goings-on of the city of John Day? This may be the year for you to be involved and influence the future direction for the city of John Day.

There will be changes of the city's representatives as a new council is currently being considered for appointment and a new city manager will be hired. In addition, the election for mayor and three councilor positions will occur in November. This is your chance to make a difference and be part of the solution.

Who will have the knowledge and skills to manage all the active grants and projects as well as new grants and projects being pursued? Will the city be considering hiring a

consultant, and who may this be?

The city of John Day is currently reviewing a draft ordinance ratifying creation of a housing and public improvement consortium know as Regional Rural Revitalization Strategies, or R3. This consortium also includes the cities of Burns and Lakeview.

This consortium as currently written will be governed by a board of directors consisting of three standing (elected) board positions and two positions who will be appointed by the standing board members. In addition, the consortium will hire a managing director.

Do you not want to be involved in the appointment of board members and the hiring of a managing director as well as deciding on the authority they may be given?

Do you know people who would be good candidates for these positions? Will this consortium be beneficial for the cities? What will be the cost?

Now is the time to be attending and participating in the city of John Day's council meetings as decisions are being made that will have effects on the future of the city. This is the opportunity to make our voices heard and provide guidance for the future direction for the city of John Day.

Louis E. Provencher
John Day

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- Oregon Legislative Information** — (For updates on bills, services, capitol or messages for legislators) — 800-332-2313, oregonlegislature.gov.
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