

## HermistonHerald

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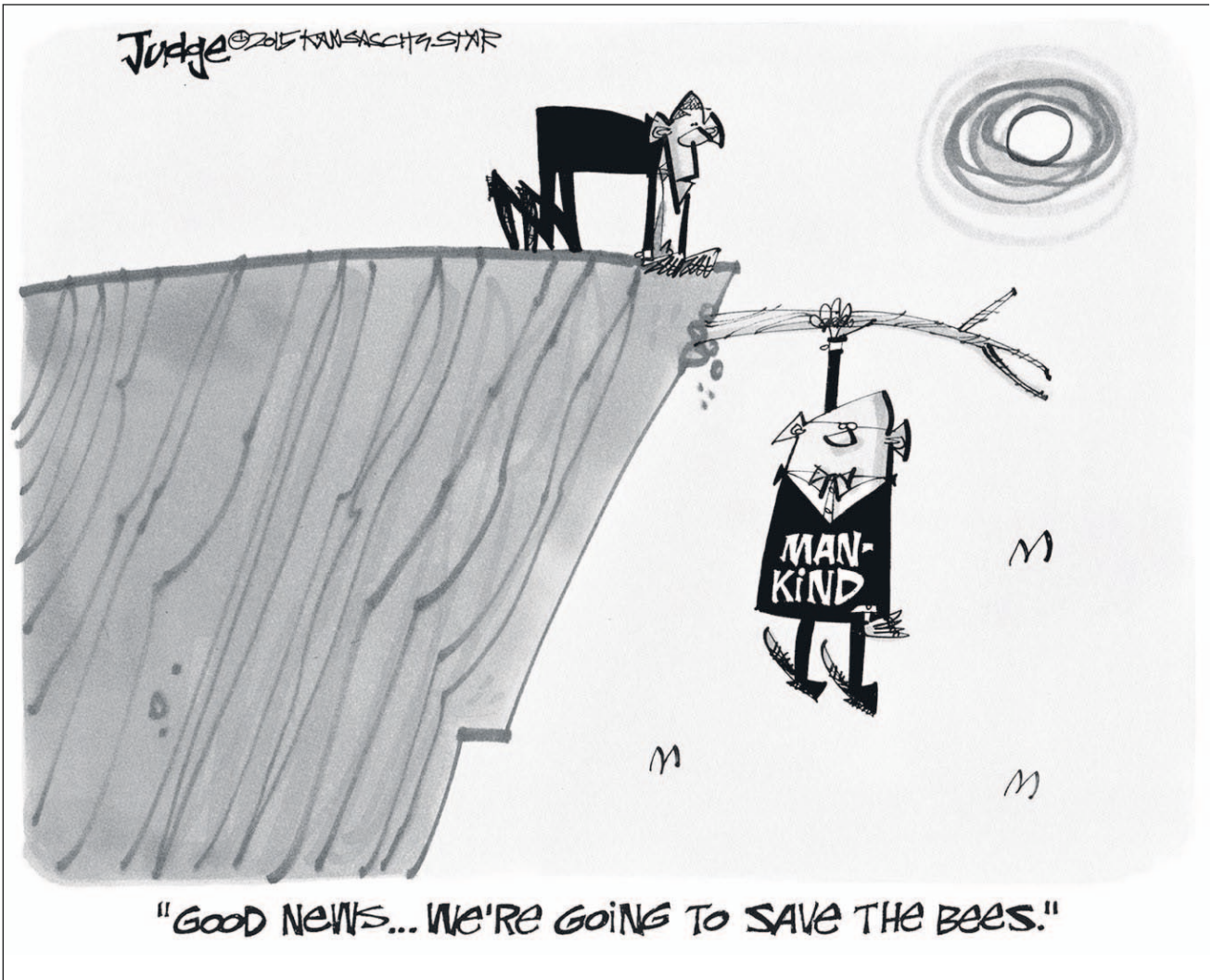
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## Fixing immigration

“A federal appeals court on Tuesday denied the Obama administration’s request to lift a hold on the president’s executive actions on immigration, which would have granted protection from deportation as well as work permits to millions of immigrants in the country illegally.” (“Federal Panel Lets Injunction Against Obama’s Immigration Actions Stand,” New York Times, 27 May 12)

Ouch. It hurts when your own court system won’t support you.

The immigration issue has been a problem for Americans since the first Patuxet said, “What the heck were we thinking?” There is, however, a way to cut the Gordian Knot irony of immigrants and descendants of immigrants denying entry to other immigrants. It simply involves taking everybody at his word.

Realize that every person on this continent is either an immigrant, or descended from immigrants. Whether they got here by leather-shelled coracle, steamship or jet airliner (or Asian land bridge, depending on what you believe about the ice ages), we — or our ancestors — all came from Somewhere Else. Presumably all or mostly all left for a better life, because who in his right mind leaves home for the unknown if he doesn’t believe the new place will be better? Which is why we have people immigrating illegally today — they want a better life, just like my ancestors.

So let’s accept that that’s what they want. What, then, is wrong with setting up something like the bracero program of the last century? Someone wanting to work in the U.S. goes to his nearest U.S. consulate, demonstrates a clean criminal and medical history, posts a return bond — requirements far less costly than paying a coyote — and is given something we’ll call a Q visa. Upon arrival, he’s given a Tax ID Number, and off he goes into the labor pool as a regular employee.

Here’s the first catch — a Q visa would be nothing more or less than a work permit. It conveys no rights to eventual citizenship and no rights to social safety net programs. Those would



**THOMAS CREASING**  
OFF THE BENCH  
Herald columnist

be reserved for citizens and those on a citizenship track. After all, the Q visa applicant supposedly is just looking for a job, right? Normal protections as enshrined in the Bill of Rights would be preserved, of course, as would access to emergency services and the justice system. The second catch would be that children of Q visa holders would also be ineligible for citizenship unless or until they completed a formal application process through the home country of the Q visa holder. Most nations have waiting lists of people wanting to enter America for more than just employment purposes, and there’s no reason why Q visa children should leap to the head of that line. The children would be eligible to apply for Q visa status of their own, should they so desire, but while holding Q visa status they could not apply for citizenship.

What’s not to like? Conservatives can stop complaining about nefarious schemes to get those who’ve immigrated illegally into the voter ranks. Liberals can stop complaining about the criminal implications for people who are just here to work. Free marketeers can take comfort in the free movement of peoples and employment thereof, and taxpayers should be satisfied that the new Q visa workers can never become a “burden on society.” I foresee disgruntlement among those who DO have nefarious schemes to increase their own voter base, and those who would prefer to keep labor expensive will also not be terribly happy.

But you can’t cut a Gordian Knot without some pain, after all.

That’s just the “knotty” opinion of an opinionated guy. Share your opinions in response! Letters to the editor or by email to hermistonherald@hermistonherald.com. Names of the terminally shy will be withheld on request.

— Thomas Creasing is a Herald columnist and the Hermiston Municipal Court judge

## OP-ED: Eastern Oregon needs representation on ODFW Commission

BY SEN. BILL HANSELL  
FOR THE HERMISTON HERALD



Hansell

One of the duties of the Oregon Senate is to confirm or not confirm the governor appointees to the many state boards and commissions. The Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission is one of those commissions, and I believe one of the most important citizen boards we have in all of state government.

Bobby Levy of Echo has served with distinction on the ODFW Commission for the past eight years including time as the chair. But she was term limited and unable to be reappointed. Her position along with three others on the commission were recently up for consideration and confirmation. Because ODFW plays a critical role in fish and wildlife management, there was a tremendous amount

of interest in who the governor would nominate, and if the Senate would confirm.

Four positions were up for consideration — two new and two reappointments for a second four-year term. Gov. Kate Brown appointed former state Sen. Jason Atkinson to replace Mrs. Levy, and Bruce Buckmaster to fill an empty position from northwest Oregon.

Many sports fishers viewed Bruce Buckmaster’s appointment as controversial, and others viewed the appointment of Jason Atkinson with apprehension. When the governor’s office contacted me about these two appointments, I made it clear that my first priority was representing the interests of eastern Oregon. During that

conversation and over the next few weeks I learned the following: Gov. Brown filled the two vacancies as a package deal and if one failed, both would fail. Both individuals had opposition, and both had strengths, and both were unfairly represented at times by their opposition. All of the Indian Tribes of the Columbia River, including the Confederated Tribes of Umatilla Indian Reservation, endorsed Mr. Buckmaster.

I believed it was important for eastern Oregon to have someone familiar with wolf issues, someone who is a land owner and someone who understands livestock production sit on the commission. The governor heard my concerns about the lack of representation for ranchers and landowners and chose to defer on the two reappointments. Those positions will be considered in September.

I have been assured by her office that someone from northeast Oregon with those qualifications will be considered for the board at that time.

I voted in support of the governor’s package — the two new appointees — with the assurance our part of the state will be considered for a new appointment in September.

Bobby Levy was an excellent advocate for eastern Oregon on the ODFW Commission, and come September, I anticipate a new commissioner who has her qualifications will be appointed and confirmed.

— State Sen. Bill Hansell, a fifth generation Eastern Oregonian represents District 29, a seven-county area from Hells Canyon to The Dalles Dam. He and his wife, Margaret, live in Athena, where he was raised and where they raised their six children.

### THANK YOU

#### Me and My Prince Ball a success because of community

Editor,  
The volunteer members of the Me and My Prince Ball Committee would like to take this opportunity to express our deep gratitude for the unprecedented support we received from our community this year. We had the most sponsors we have ever had for the ball — 21 in all — and more than half of them were for the top two levels of sponsorship! It is because of all of our sponsors that we are able to keep the tickets prices the same in our 11th year of the ball as it was at the first one. Some of the sponsors even donated their complementary tickets to our family assistance fund, so that those who are experiencing financial difficulty could

go to the dance.

We would also like to thank the businesses and individuals who donated items that were given as door prizes. Moreover, we would like to extend a huge thank you to 60 Minute Photo for taking hundreds of portraits of our guests, Serenity Sisters for working diligently to provide refreshments for everyone and 60 Minute Photo and the Hermiston Chamber of Commerce for selling the tickets. We are grateful for the Girl Scouts, Girl Scout volunteers, friends of Girl Scouts, the Umatilla High School Key Club and Umatilla Robotics Team for helping us set up before, host during and clean up after the dance, as well. All of their support helped to provide an elegant evening for girls of all ages in our community and their fathers or father figures.

Finally, we would like to show our appreciation to the men who brought their girls to the Me and My Prince Ball this year. We were amazed when our tickets sold out nine days before the big event! It is very touching to see the beaming faces of both the young ladies and their “dates” as they walk in the door, and watch as the men give their undivided attention to their special “little girls” for an entire evening. We hope you took away many wonderful memories of the evening that you will forever hold dear.

On behalf of the Girl Scouts of Oregon and Southwest Washington, Service Unit 22, thank you for making the 11th year of the ball so special.

MICHELLE KANE  
ME AND MY PRINCE BALL COMMITTEE MEMBER

### ELECTED OFFICIALS

#### STATE

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