

MATTHEW HOY

JULY 23, 2016 8:55 PM

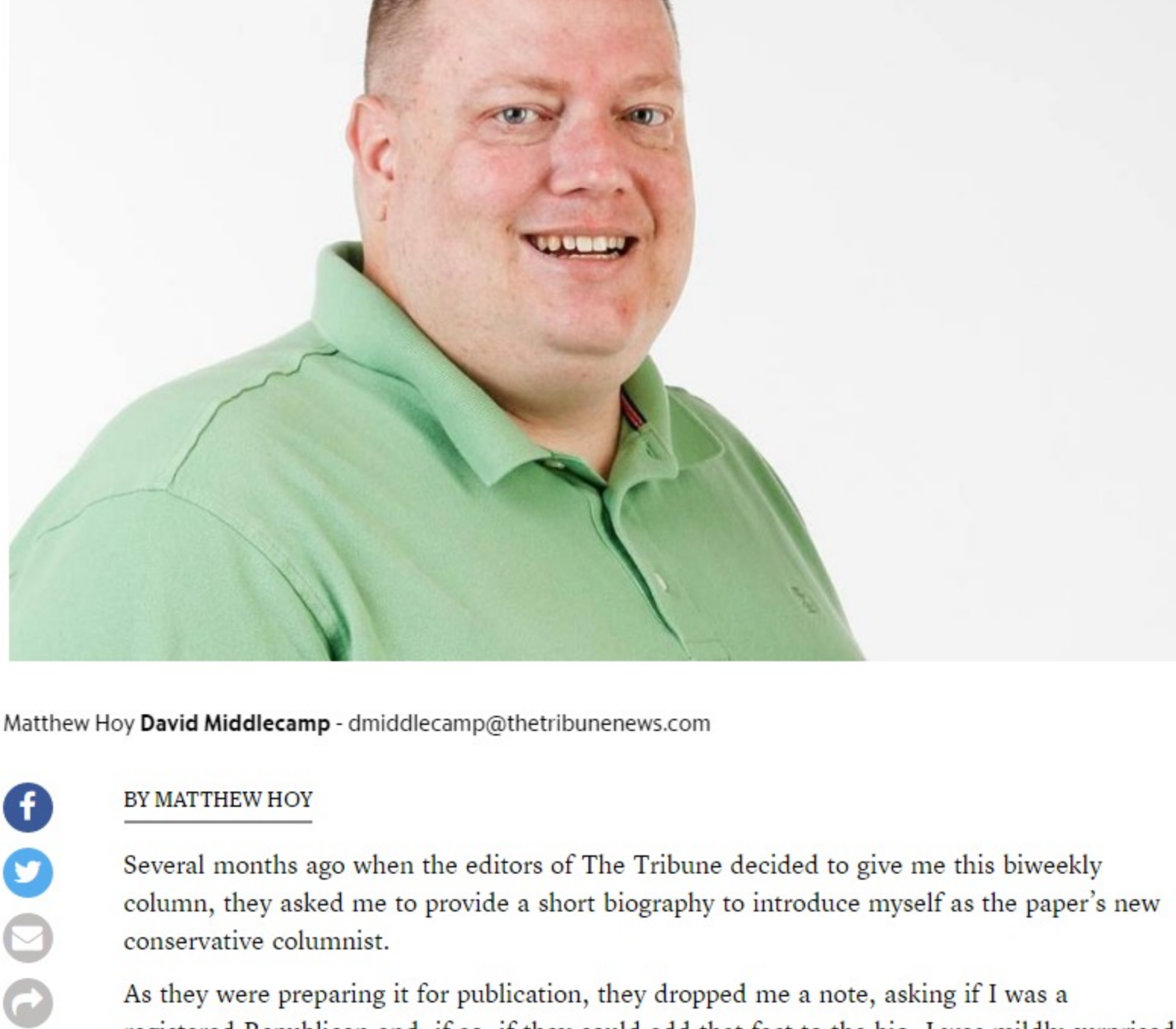
# The Republican Party 1854-2016 R.I.P.

## HIGHLIGHTS

With the nomination of Donald Trump, the GOP abandons conservatives

Republicans aren't for smaller government; they want control of big government

I'll be voting my conscience — not for Trump or Clinton



Matthew Hoy **David Middlecamp** - dmiddlecamp@thetribunenews.com



### BY MATTHEW HOY

Several months ago when the editors of The Tribune decided to give me this biweekly column, they asked me to provide a short biography to introduce myself as the paper's new conservative columnist.

As they were preparing it for publication, they dropped me a note, asking if I was a registered Republican and, if so, if they could add that fact to the bio. I was mildly surprised I'd failed to include that fact, and replied that I was and that they could.

With the decision Tuesday night by the GOP delegates gathered in Cleveland to nominate Donald Trump as their candidate for president of the United States, I'm done.

When next my name appears on the voter rolls at my polling place, I will be listed not as a Republican, but as having no party preference.

The party of Abraham Lincoln is no more. The party of freedom. The party of limited government. The party of free trade. The party of a strong military and robust foreign policy. The pro-life party.

It is gone.

It has sold its soul to a TV pitchman. A crony capitalist. A man who praises a strongman like Vladimir Putin and the butchers of Tiananmen Square in Beijing. A man who supports the use of eminent domain, not for the common good, but for private gain.

Over the years, I've held my nose and voted for candidates whom I oftentimes felt were RINOs — Republicans In Name Only.

I voted for Arizona Sen. John McCain who had proudly attached his name to a law called the **McCain-Feingold** Incumbent Protection Act — I may have the technical name wrong — which was designed to stifle criticism of candidates for office in the days leading up to elections.

I voted for "severe conservative" Mitt Romney, who, as governor of Massachusetts, created what was to be the **forerunner** to **Obamacare** (which, by the way, will **raise rates 13 percent** in 2017 in California).

It is clear to me now that Romney, McCain and many others I voted for — for offices high and low — weren't RINOs. I was the RINO.

The party platform is a fraud, abandoned by party functionaries high and low at the first sign of opposition or inconvenience.

The GOP establishment isn't for limited government. It doesn't want to get rid of crony capitalist programs like the **Ex-Im Bank**, earmarks for favored groups and failed renewable energy ventures like **Solyndra**.

It doesn't want to expand freedom by reducing government. It just wants control of the government leviathan created by the Democratic Party.

When the GOP controlled the Congress and the White House, government didn't shrink. It grew.

Trump supporters have praised their man for his rhetoric slamming the Republican "establishment" and his promises to defy them, big donors and lobbyists, and "make America great again." You've been suckered.

Once it became clear that the nominee would be either Cruz or Trump, the establishment coalesced around the one they hated the least. The one they thought they could control. And that man is Trump.

Seventeen Republicans ran for the party's presidential nomination. Sixteen I would have cast a ballot for this November — some more enthusiastically than others.

I cannot vote for Donald Trump. He is a tiny-fingered, thin-skinned, egotistical, narcissistic authoritarian with little respect for the Constitution. He is aggressively ignorant. He possesses no guiding principles and less wisdom.

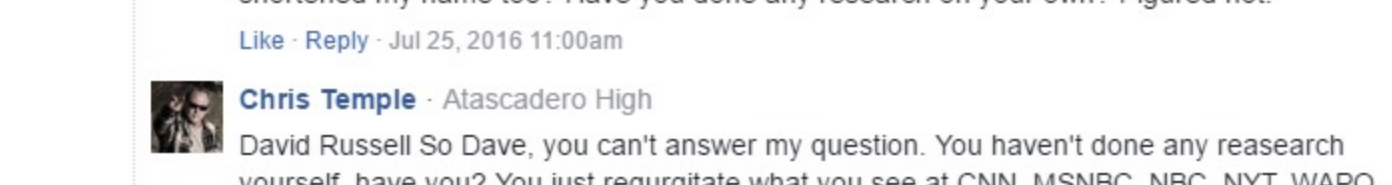
I cannot vote for Hillary Clinton. She is a secretive grifter who, had she not been the Democratic Party's presumptive nominee, would certainly be facing charges for her reckless handling of classified information. She is dishonest. She is conniving. She is unworthy to occupy the highest elected position in America.

Instead, I will do what Texas Sen. Ted Cruz encouraged people to do in his speech Wednesday night that ended in choreographed boos and shouting. I will vote my conscience. I will write in the Sweet Meteor of Death for president and vote for conservatives down-ballot. Justin Fared for Congress. Palmer Kain for state Senate. Jordan Cunningham for state Assembly.

I hope that, one day soon, a conservative party emerges in this country, but right now there just isn't one.

*Conservative columnist Matthew Hoy is a former reporter, editor and page designer. His column appears in The Tribune every other Sunday, in rotation with liberal columnist Tom Fulks. Read Hoy's blog at Hoystory.com. Follow him on Twitter @Hoystory.*

### MORE MATTHEW HOY



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The Enterprise

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### COMMENTS

10 Comments

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**Rodger Avalanchier** - Morro Bay, California  
Matthew Hoy - unable to see himself as one of the 1000 cuts.  
Like Reply Jul 26, 2016 1:58pm

**David Russell** - Chief Executive Officer at Retired  
Trump supporters crack me up, they've done no real research on his past dealings and actions, they only listen to what he currently says. I would like anyone of you to show how you approve of his business practices and the companies he has ruined in the past. What are your thoughts on his school that ripped thousands off. You never talk about that so I take it you just don't care. And don't come back at me with Hilary's faults, I know them, condemn her for them. Your morals are showing.  
Like Reply 1 Jul 25, 2016 10:40am

**Chris Temple** - Atascadero High  
Okay Dave, What are we missing? What is in Trump's past we haven't seen that would turn us against him?  
The single issue you cite has fallen out of the news because the people now making complaints wrote glowing reviews of the school then.  
Like Reply 1 Jul 25, 2016 10:54am

**David Russell** - Chief Executive Officer at Retired  
Chris Temple it's obvious Chr that your not very good on details, my name is David, maybe you missed that fact. and your assertion is not true. May I call you Chr being that you shortened my name too? Have you done any research on your own? Figured not.  
Like Reply Jul 25, 2016 11:00am

**Chris Temple** - Atascadero High  
David Russell So Dave, you can't answer my question. You haven't done any reasearch yourself, have you? You just regurgitate what you see at CNN, MSNBC, NBC, NYT, WAPO, HUFFPO, etc.  
Like Reply 1 Jul 25, 2016 11:56am

**Roger Randall**  
I woke up one morning several years ago and realized that the Republican Party, with whom I had associated for over 50 years, had left me, so I went down and re-registered as 'no party preference.' What happened at this year's convention is not a result of one man and one year, but a culmination of the party's slide from conscientious conservatism to irrelevance as the party of the one percent, and morality be damned. When I heard party leaders jeering at a speaker's urging the crowd to vote their conscience, my first thought was that Barry Goldwater must be turning over in his grave.  
Like Reply Jul 25, 2016 8:18am

**Chris Temple** - Atascadero High  
Dear David,  
Ted Cruz was my guy too, but one should understand what we all just witnessed. Donald Trump, in a short few months, turned the principled Ted Cruz into an ineffective reactionary. Ted Cruz compromised his principles and went back on his own word over a few personal insults. Those are not the actions of a principled leader. What do you think the Democrats and the media would be able to do to a President Cruz?

This may be your Dear John to the GOP but I would suggest you take the next few months before the election and rather than reading and listening to what all the pundits say... See More  
Like Reply 2 Jul 25, 2016 8:06am

**Rodger Avalanchier** - Morro Bay, California  
Trump pledged no social security cuts, no tax breaks for the wealthy, better health care. Trump then handed the platform to Ryan.  
The new platform: social security cuts, medicare cuts, 1.2T yearly tax cuts to the top 2%, reduced financial regulation. The same financial plan rejected 6 years ago by the CBO as unsustainable, by Congress as revenue negative and which 4 years ago was baggage that hurt the Romney-Ryan ticket.  
Like Reply Jul 26, 2016 7:25am Edited

**Chris Temple** - Atascadero High  
Rodger Avalanchier You are still a coward. Your persistence tells me one important thing about your character, revealing who you are would be an embarrassment, maybe not to you, but maybe your employer.  
Who is paying for your time here Roger Dodger? Your boss? Tax payers? The Trib?

Or maybe its a criminal history, something embarrassing, DUIs, public exposure, child porn?

Or maybe you're just hiding from your mom?  
Like Reply 1 Jul 26, 2016 7:21am

**Rodger Avalanchier** - Morro Bay, California  
Chris, you, a musician, artist, defending a con man who steals and abuses the work and recordings of fellow artists with out warning, permission or consent. Interesting paradox.  
Falling apart when presented (political) facts which counter ideology is something a name doesn't change, Chris.  
Like Reply Jul 26, 2016 10:44am Edited

**Mary Lucey** - Cascade High School - Everett, WA  
Wake up America smell the coffee, your rights will be no more. You will not be able to vacation outside the USA the boarders will be closed to Americans. Example, recently a fishing derby was held in Mexico. If you wanted to attend and had your boat in tow. The boarder crossing closest to the derby was closed to anyone planning on participating in the derby. Everyone who wanted to cross, were told they could enter at the next crossing 200 miles away. This is just a small example of how we as Americans will not be allowed to travel outside our borders. Yet, we'll be staying home a lot. Countines have started closing the borders to Americans.  
Like Reply Jul 25, 2016 7:48am

**Russ Byler** - Upper Management at Cathouse  
Wow! So that's what Clinton's America will look like. Won't vote for her.  
Like Reply 1 Jul 25, 2016 10:25am

**Rodger Avalanchier** - Morro Bay, California  
Zing! What a retort!  
Like Reply Jul 26, 2016 10:46am

**Lynne Gamble** - The University of Texas at Austin  
Gee Mary, is this why you're for Hillary? Have you considered that Mexicans want derby contestants to use Mexican carrier boats rather than their own boats?  
Like Reply Aug 1, 2016 7:13am

**Jay Bonestell** - Artist at Bonestell Studios  
The last old school party of Lincoln, noble-minded Republican was Dwight D Eisenhower.  
Like Reply 1 Jul 24, 2016 10:21pm

**Steve Feiten**  
'The party of Abraham Lincoln is no more.' Newsflash: The GOP left Lincoln a long time ago, picking up George Wallace's followers on the way to Richard Nixon.  
Like Reply Jul 24, 2016 6:49pm

**Paul Jvny**  
Pro-Life and Pro-drug war are both artifacts of big, not small, government. These were features, not bugs, of the 'old' Republican candidates you revered above.  
Good riddance to the Republican party. At least the Libertarians, as short-sighted and selfish as their economic policies are, are actually conservative and intellectually honest when it comes to big government intervention in other peoples personal lives.  
Like Reply 1 Jul 24, 2016 1:26pm Edited

**Larry Zacker** - California Polytechnic State University (Cal Poly)  
About time we oust the career politicians. Let them get jobs like the rest of us.  
Like Reply 1 Jul 24, 2016 12:05pm

**Lynne Gamble** - The University of Texas at Austin  
Matthew, The Presidential election is not about you and your miffed feelings. It is about the direction of our country. So, if you don't care if our country moves further in the direction of globalization, no borders, mass refugee accommodations, more taxes and the destruction of the middle class, and the progressive move to change the Constitution and get rid of the first and second amendments, put progressive Supreme Court judges into office who don't follow the Constitution, then don't vote for the Republican candidate, and look forward to the new world order of wealthy government elites and the rest of us without the rights and freedoms we have now.  
Like Reply 6 Jul 24, 2016 6:51am

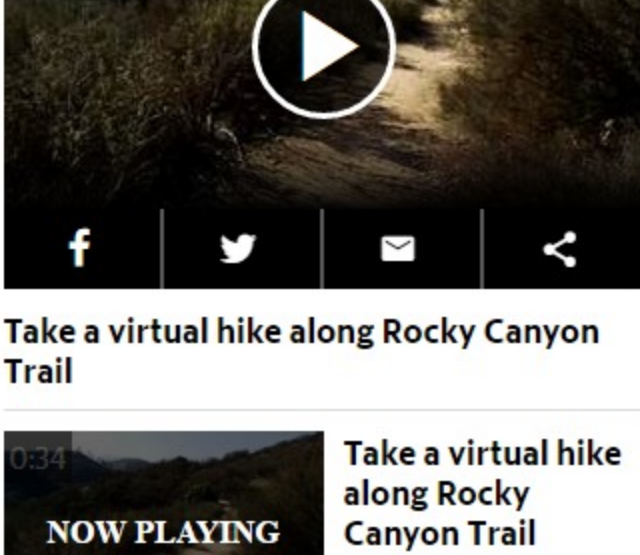
**Russ Byler** - Upper Management at Cathouse  
Lynne: I agree with all you said with the exception of the vote for the President. The simple fact is, Clinton will win CA. and all its delegates. So actually a vote for Trump is a throw away. A vote of conscience for me would be Johnson.  
Like Reply 1 Jul 24, 2016 11:14am

**David Ciaffardini**  
So, Lynne, you prefer electing a dictator? A demagogue? A sociopath? A person who claims he is the only person in the world who can solve America's problems? A person who hopes to deport millions of people and doesn't care if that creates a civil war? A person who promises to break laws and torture and kill people based on his own prejudices beyond the rule of all laws known to man?  
Like Reply 1 Jul 24, 2016 4:10pm

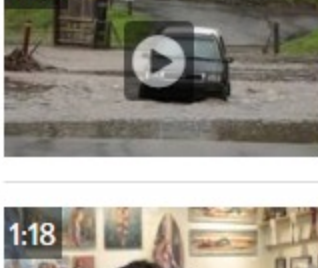
**John Gajdos** - School Of Hard Knocks, University Of Life  
David Ciaffardini there is a middle of the road with Trump. Where you liberals get your knickers in a twist and say Trump will deport all immigrants, he has in fact said just ILLEGAL immigrants. Far cry from your lies. Your stand should disgust every clear thinking American Citizen, even the legal immigrants. The bi-weekly opinion writer is nothing more than a Killery supporter in hiding.  
Like Reply 3 Jul 25, 2016 7:01am

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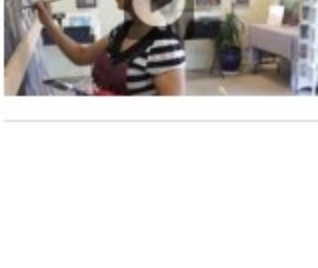
## VIDEOS



Take a virtual hike along Rocky Canyon Trail



Take a virtual hike along Rocky Canyon Trail



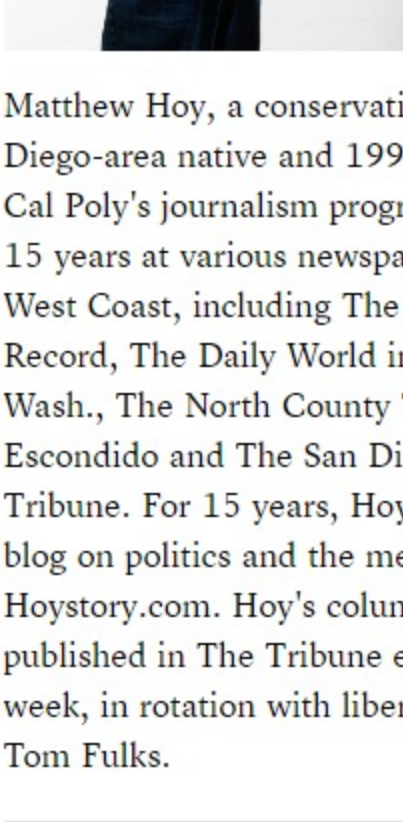
Truck stuck in flood waters as San Luis Creek rises



Artist creating murals to showcase funky past of Avila Beach

VIEW MORE VIDEO

## ABOUT MATTHEW HOY



Matthew Hoy, a conservative, is a San Diego-area native and 1994 graduate of Cal Poly's journalism program. He spent 15 years at various newspapers along the West Coast, including The Pomona Record, The Daily World in Aberdeen, Wash., The North County Times in Escondido and The San Diego Union-Tribune. For 15 years, Hoy has written a blog on politics and the media, Hoystory.com. Hoy's column will be published in The Tribune every other week, in rotation with liberal columnist Tom Fulks.

## MORE MATTHEW HOY

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