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OUR VIEW

Gov. Brown tells rural Oregon to show up, speak up

When Governor Kate Brown travels outside Salem, she seems to stop in Pendleton more often than not.

This trip, her first official jaunt outside the Willamette Valley since the short session, was no different. Brown visited the Pendleton Early Learning Center, Blue Mountain Community College, a boot shop on Main Street and this newspaper's editorial board — the whole Pendleton experience.

With our board, she discussed the feeling of rural Oregonians who are represented in Salem almost exclusively by Republicans. Those Republicans are the minority party in both chambers. A minority representing a minority can find themselves far from the levers of power. And that feeling of voicelessness can manifest itself in dangerous ways, as we saw earlier this year in rural Harney County.

In an act of defiance during the last short session, Republicans didn't show up for an evening work session. The message from the GOP was that you don't listen to us anyway — you don't need us to get a partisan bill to the governor's desk — so why even take part?

At the same time, you can't blame the Democrats for plowing ahead. They have their policy goals and they have the votes to achieve them.

Brown knows what it's like to be in the minority party. She spent 14 years in the House and Senate during a time when Democrats were outnumbered both places.

Brown said she didn't think the 2016 short session was terribly partisan, although she admitted "there were certainly times when there was a lot of tension."

But through that tension, she said good legislation made its way into law. And more often than not, a Republican signature was included on each one.

"When we closed the session down, 75 bills had come through our desk," said Brown. "All but one of them had some level of Republican support." The one bill that didn't was the minimum wage increase.

She said that local Republicans Bill Hansell and Greg Barreto were pleased with the wolf bill, biomass

tax credit and a bill to incentivize investment in solar energy. And we've heard the same from them.

Of the wolf bill, clearly a priority for Eastern Oregon, Brown said: "Dor me, what was most important was sending a very strong signal that this type of collaboration and cooperation is how we want to solve problems in Oregon ... and so that's why I signed the bill. Bottom line. From a legal perspective it was certainly, no question, disconcerting for me."

The minimum wage bill is clearly the piece of legislation that will have the biggest impact on the state. And on that piece of Democratic legislation, Brown says the GOP made sizable contributions to how it will look once it's brought to life this summer.

"I believe that one of the reasons that the third tier was created was because of concerns that representatives like Cliff Bentz (R-Ontario) brought to the table," said Brown. "Obviously we were aware of the dynamic — in terms of other states. When negotiating with the business community and the labor groups, frankly it was the business community that was not interested in having more than two tiers, because it can get very complicated."

But Brown said rural Oregon legislators persisted, pointing out the differences between their districts and the urban and suburban Willamette Valley.

"Frankly I was pleased to see three tiers," said Brown. "I think it was a better fit for Oregon. And so that's why it's really important that rural Oregonians not only step up, but have their voices be heard. Because I truly believe they can impact legislation. And while Rep. Bentz would probably say he was not particularly pleased with the final product, I think he would probably say it was better (when it became law) than when it started."

Brown's three-day trip included stops in Bend and Eugene. Her time in Pendleton, speaking with local representatives and business owners and kindergartners, allow eastern Oregonians to have the governor's ear, if only for a few hours.

Unsigned editorials are the opinion of the East Oregonian editorial board of Publisher Kathryn Brown, Managing Editor Daniel Wattenburger, and Opinion Page Editor Tim Trainor. Other columns, letters and cartoons on this page express the opinions of the authors and not necessarily that of the East Oregonian.

YOUR VIEWS

EOTEC will be ready for 2017 fair and rodeo

The sky is falling. Just like Chicken Little, the sky is always falling in on EOTEC if you believe the *East Oregonian*. It does not like the acronym "EOTEC." (And what is the "EO Media Group" name?) It screeches that EOTEC is over budget! (When started, EOTEC didn't have two nickels to rub together, much less a budget.) It roars that EOTEC is behind schedule! (The lease on the fairgrounds does not run out until Dec. 31.) It anguishes that EOTEC will be a burden on local government! (It will have zero debt when completed.)

On Dec. 19 of last year, the *East Oregonian* editorial board whined about EOTEC being a "charity case" after attending an EOTEC public meeting beginning fundraising for \$2 million of private funds to finish the project. (In four months \$1.8 million in donations and pledges have been received with a total of \$2.3 million anticipated.) And in this Thursday's editorial the editors darkly warned of an impending "major catastrophe" because a brand new project manager got crossed up on the deadline for completion.

since March 2, 1983, with Joe Bums and Tom Harper, and in 1984 personally negotiated the option to purchase the new EOTEC site.

Most recently I wrote the memorandum of understanding between the city, county, school district, fair and rodeo outlining how the fair could be moved and EOTEC created. Then, at the request of the city and the county, I wrote the intergovernmental agreement that created EOTEC. All for free. And while I have worked on this project for 33 years, there are others who have invested far more time. The EOTEC success will have a thousand fathers.

To the EO Media Group and its sadly out of touch editors I say this: EOTEC will be built in time for the 2017 fair and rodeo, and at the end of this year, the Hermiston School District will take over the decrepit 24-acre old fairgrounds in time convert it into an unequal high school campus in the center of town.

The move of the fair, the expanded high school campus, and EOTEC will change the face of Hermiston forever. And what part will the *East Oregonian* and EO Media Group have played in this incredible undertaking? Absolutely nothing. In 16 months they are going to look very, very foolish.

George Anderson, Hermiston

Q. WHAT HAPPENS WHEN THE FATE OF OREGON'S WOLVES IS DECIDED BY POLITICIANS INSTEAD OF SCIENTISTS?



OTHER VIEWS

Take the Trump quiz

Donald Trump is very likely going to be the Republican nominee for president of the United States.

Take three deep breaths.

I know we've been on this path for a long time, but it's still hard getting your head around the idea, isn't it? Just to ease the transition, our first-ever exclusively Donald Trump quiz:

1. After his big string of victories this week, Trump appeared on MSNBC's Morning Joe, where he was asked who his foreign policy advisers were. He said:

- A. "I'm speaking with a lot of generals. Very impressive people. All winners."
- B. "I'm speaking with myself."
- C. "I have a long list. It's a good list. Vladimir Putin said it was the best list he'd ever seen."

2. After making his surprise endorsement, Ben Carson said that there were "two different Donald Trumps" and that the private one was "very cerebral." Asked about that comment, Trump replied:

- A. "I think there are two Donald Trumps."
- B. "I don't think there are two Donald Trumps."
- C. "I think there are two Donald Trumps? I don't think there are two Donald Trumps."

3. Trump claimed on Good Morning America that there was "nobody that's done so much for equality as I have." As an example he pointed to:

- A. His endorsements by Mike Tyson and Dennis Rodman.
- B. The black guy who won 'The Apprentice' in 2005.
- C. His \$100,000-membership club, Mar-a-Lago "totally open to everybody."

4. After a protester rushed the stage at one of his rallies, Trump claimed the man was associated with ISIS, and retweeted a video of him holding a gun in front of the ISIS flag. When NBC's Chuck Todd pointed out that it was a hoax, Trump said:

- A. "Whoops."
- B. "All I know is what's on the Internet."
- C. "As Kierkegaard said, 'The truth is a trap.'"

5. One of the groups that's been opening Trump rallies is USA Freedom Kids, little girls who sang about "President Trump" who "knows how to make America great."

- A. "And give us schools that really rate."
- B. "Teach us to love and not to hate."
- C. "Deal from strength or get crushed every time."

6. Trump defended the supporter who sucker-punched a protester being led away by security forces. He said the attack was justified because the protester:

- A. Had violently attacked an elderly woman.
- B. Had tried to grab one of the officer's guns.
- C. Was sticking a certain finger up in the air.

7. House Speaker Paul Ryan scored a great



GAIL COLLINS
Comment

triumph at the end of 2015 when the House passed a compromise spending bill that keeps the government running through the fall. Trump has been loudly critical, and at a recent rally in North Carolina, he said the bill was bad because:

- A. The appropriation for infrastructure repair is inadequate.
- B. It fails to address the really critical Puerto Rican oil export issue.
- C. It funds ISIS.

8. Sarah Palin had to leave the Trump campaign to be with her husband, who had a serious snowmobile accident. Before her departure she said Todd's multiple injuries made her appreciate:

- A. The skill of Alaskan emergency treatment centers.
- B. The time that we have to spend in doing something so worthy, and that's to get Donald J. Trump elected president.

C. The stress my family has undergone due to my unflagging pursuit of celebrity.

9. After Trump defended the use of torture against suspected terrorists, his son Eric, who was campaigning for him, pointed out that

waterboarding:

- A. Is no different than what happens on college campuses in frat houses every day.
- B. Has real efficacy when employed as a last resort in isolated incidences.
- C. Is no worse than what China's doing to our manufacturing base.

10. Since he threw his support behind Trump, Gov. Chris Christie has been humiliated on a daily basis for everything; from his slavish stare at the candidate's news conferences to widespread criticism of his absence from New Jersey while he toils on the campaign trail. To pay him back, at a pre-primary event this week, Trump:

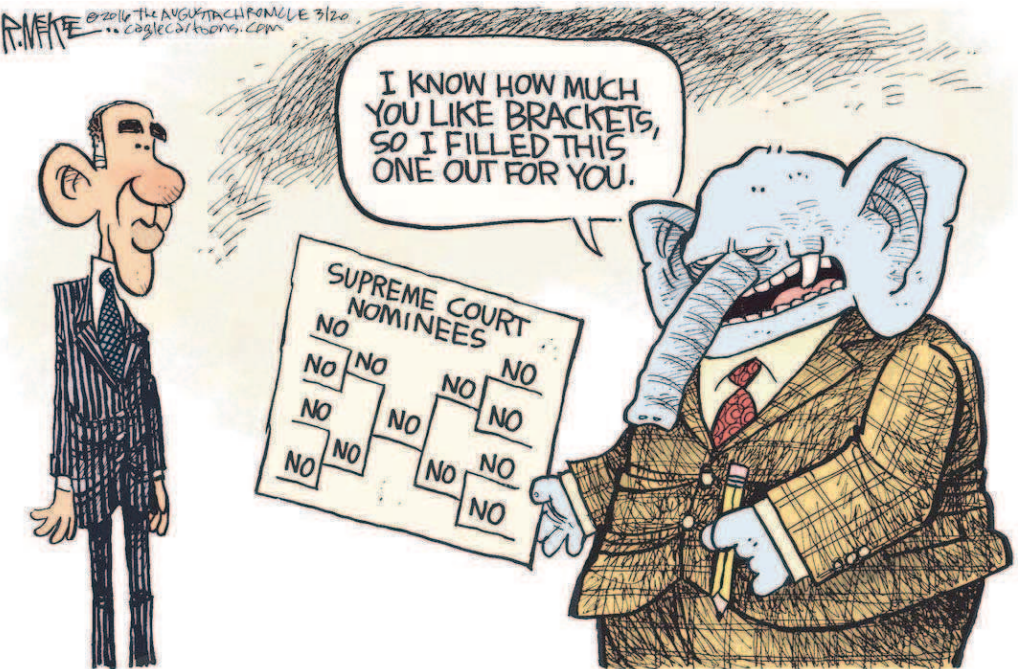
- A. Made fun of Christie for the absentee thing.
- B. Announced he was indeed planning to make Christie secretary of transportation.
- C. Invited Christie to tell the audience all the things he went through on 9/11.

11. Trump has endlessly complained about the way immigrants steal jobs from U.S. workers, but he's used loopholes in federal law to hire foreign workers himself. At a recent debate he argued that voters wouldn't care about that seeming contradiction because:

- A. Everybody would like a Romanian helper.
- B. Nobody knows the system better than me.
- C. What happens in Mar-a-Lago stays in Mar-a-Lago.

ANSWERS: 1-B, 2-C, 3-C, 4-B, 5-C, 6-C, 7-C, 8-B, 9-A, 10-A, 11-B

Gail Collins joined *The New York Times* in 1995 as a member of the editorial board and later as an Op-Ed columnist.



LETTERS POLICY

The East Oregonian welcomes original letters of 400 words or less on public issues and public policies for publication in the newspaper and on our website. The newspaper reserves the right to withhold letters that address concerns about individual services and products or letters that infringe on the rights of private citizens. Submitted letters must be signed by the author and include the city of residence and a daytime phone number. The phone number will not be published. Unsigned letters will not be published. Send letters to Managing Editor Daniel Wattenburger, 211 S.E. Byers Ave. Pendleton, OR 97801 or email editor@eastoregonian.com.