

## EAST OREGONIAN

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## OUR VIEW

## Incoming Portland mayor offers hope for rural Oregon

Portland Mayor-elect Ted Wheeler could be one of agriculture's best friends in a city that has over-sized influence on Oregon's vast rural expanses.

We've written often on the divide between urban and rural America. The divide between Portland and rural Oregon is a chasm.

Farmers and ranchers may not fully appreciate Portland's importance as a market and a hub of vital services. But there's no mistaking Portland's willingness to push its agenda on farming practices, labor, economic development and the environment on its rural neighbors.

It's a problem.

"What can agriculture do," the Oregon Farm Bureau's Dave Dillon asks, "to better connect with city government and thought leaders who seem to have insularity and sometimes utopian vision of food production that does not match the marketplace and the demands of a growing world population?"

In Wheeler, rural Oregon may have a partner in Portland. His family made its money in the timber industry. He appreciates the urban-rural divide and urban-rural interdependence.

"You can't talk about success in the agricultural industry without talking about the role urban areas play," he said. "Urban communities in America are increasingly clueless about the challenges facing rural communities."

And though Wheeler is sincere and earnest on the subject of the urban-rural divide, it's not the biggest problem he faces. Not by a long shot.

The police bureau is in turmoil —

chronically understaffed, mistrusted by many residents, plagued by poor morale. There are miles of city streets that are still unpaved, and many more miles of paved streets that need repair.

As people flock to Portland in costume and in character to become part of the city's quirky, offbeat fabric, they find rents are sky high and vacant housing hard to come by. Any development not nixed outright

by strict land-use policies will almost certainly be opposed by vocal activists.

Then there are the homeless — 4,000 largely substance-addled or mentally ill souls who have overwhelmed both the services available

to help them and the patience of a town that prides itself on tolerance. Their situation is desperate and tragic.

Portland's situation is made more difficult because solutions to these and a host of lesser problems must be crafted, spun, bent and twisted — perhaps beyond recognition — with care so as not to offend the sensibilities of a wide variety of progressive interests that will take to the streets at the drop of a hat.

Wheeler's plate is full. If he could get more of Portland's activist class to focus on the city's problems instead of exporting their agenda to rural Oregon everyone would be better off.

From our distant vantage, Wheeler seems the best choice Portland has made in recent years. He's a smart guy, a sensible choice for voters who often prefer the unconventional.

Though we won't know for sure until he takes office in January, Wheeler seems like someone agriculture can work with to advance both rural and urban interests.

## In Ted Wheeler, rural Oregon may have a partner in Portland.

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.

## OTHER VIEWS

## Is summer vacation too long?

The (Albany) Democrat-Herald

An interesting story in the *Democrat-Herald* recently examined the phenomenon that educators have termed the "summer slide" — the natural tendency for students to lose academic ground during the long, warm weeks of summer vacation.

School districts around the mid-valley have started programs intended to help students keep an educational mindset during the summer months, and those are showing some signs of success.

Engaged parents and guardians also have a role to play: Something as simple as frequent trips to a public library can keep kids reading during the summer, and libraries themselves increasingly are offering innovative programs intended to keep young brains buzzing in that stretch between the end of the last school year and the start of the next.

Summer can be a good time to encourage children to follow their own passions and to explore them. If that means one of your kids spends a long afternoon taking a long, careful look at bugs, well, that's probably for the best. And savvy parents often are on the lookout for opportunities during family vacation to sneak in some learning under the guise of fun (that is, until the parents collapse, exhausted, at the end of each vacation day).

All that is worthwhile. But it seems that we continue to dance around a question that we should be asking more directly: Is the summer vacation too long?

Jim Golden, the superintendent of the Greater Albany Public Schools district, is among the educators who's been asking that question. (We should emphasize here that the district is nowhere near making any decision about summer vacation, and any decision along those lines will be made only after considerable opportunities for input from parents, students, teachers, administrators and school staff members.)

The idea Golden was floating last year involved shortening the 10-week summer vacation and scattering what he called "mini-breaks" throughout the year.

For example, schools could schedule mini-breaks around holidays such as Memorial Day to give families five-day weekends. (The mini-breaks in the schedule also could offer stressed students a chance to catch up on their schoolwork, an opportunity students likely would embrace.)

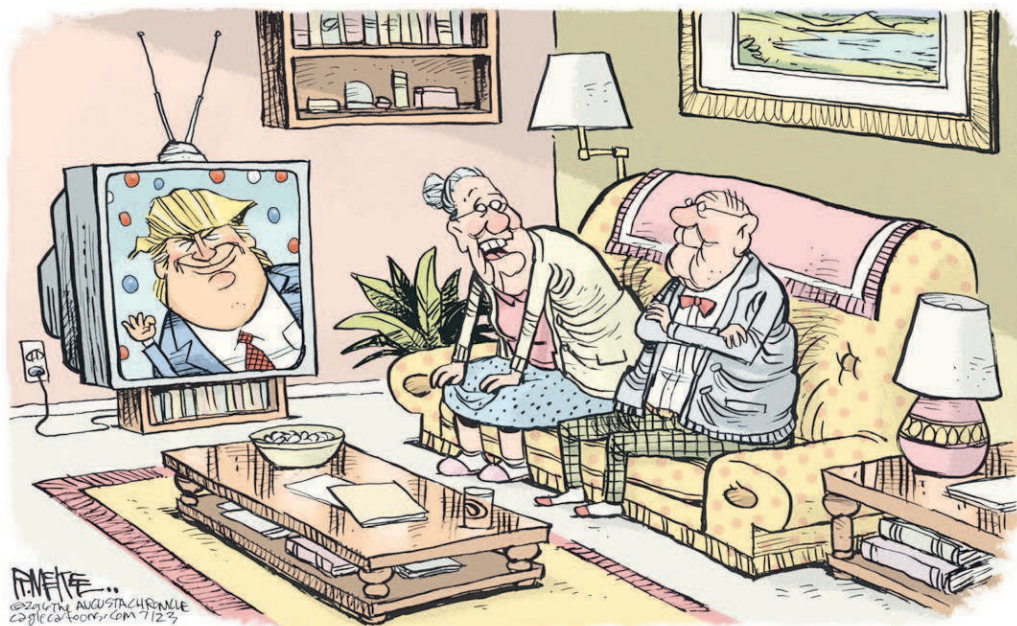
There's nothing particularly new about the idea of trimming back summer vacations; the notion has been kicking around ever since it became apparent that most children were no longer required on the farm during the summer.

In fact, some Oregon schools have experimented with the idea of doing away with extended summer vacations: Rosa Parks Elementary School in Portland, for example, has used what amounts to a year-round schedule. The school operates on a nine-weeks-on, three-weeks-off rotation. (Rosa Parks students do get five weeks off at the end of the school year — and the school offers extra instruction during the three-week-off periods to students who need it.)

No one is saying yet that this is the model that all Oregon schools should follow. And any plan to shorten summer vacations will require working through a long list of details. It likely will come with some increased costs. (Although Rosa Parks students have about the same number of school days as other Portland students, the extra instruction during the three-week-off periods costs about \$60,000.)

But it stands to reason that a student who stays sharp in the summer will be better equipped to attack the new school year with gusto. Would a different approach to vacation time improve the quality of education we provide our students? No one knows for sure, but it seems silly not to at least ask the question.

## OTHER VIEWS



"THAT SETTLES IT... I'VE MADE UP MY MIND: I'M VOTING FOR ONE OF THE TRUMP KIDS!"

## In Cleveland, the GOP's 'Come to Trump' moment

CLEVELAND — There's always been a disconnect between what pundits and political insiders hear when Donald Trump speaks and what rank-and-file Republicans hear. But when Trump gave his acceptance address on the last night of the GOP convention here in Cleveland Thursday night, the opinion gap was absolutely vast.

To the critics offering first opinions on Twitter, Trump's 75-minute speech was dark, angry, bigoted, fear-mongering, deceitful and more. And to the thousands of Republicans in the room at the Quicken Loans Arena, it was ... great.

Immediately after Trump finished, as the halls filled with delegates and activists on their way to after-convention parties, I asked people for quick reactions to the speech. These are the first 20 reactions I got:

"Awesome."  
"He rocked it."  
"I loved it — it was fabulous."  
"Wonderful — everything about law and order and the military — it was huge."  
"Oh my gosh, I was blown away."  
"Great — very presidential, actually."  
"A grand slam."  
"Fabulous — will go down in history as a great speech."  
"LGBTQ — I was so happy. He nailed that one."  
"A phenomenal job. I get how he speaks to people."

"It was a total out-of-body experience. I've never been so filled with hope and gratitude and excitement for our kids. He was John Wayne — the cavalry is on the way."  
"Ronald Reagan on steroids."  
"A home run, full of red meat for Republicans and conservatives."  
"Incredible — touched all the bases."  
"Superb — he hit every point. Just great."  
"He's going to make American great again, and I believe him."  
"He's so articulate about his vision and his plan, and he gives us confidence he can do it."  
"Entertaining and uplifting, with substance too."  
"Absolutely pitch perfect, full of details. There's so much we have to fix."

"I loved it. Four years ago it was one-man-one-woman, and this year we actually heard 'LGBTQ.' I teared up. It made me so happy."  
Of course, those were the people in the hall, committed Republicans all. They weren't the millions of general-election voters watching on TV. But their reactions, along with a lot of other signs, suggested at the least that whatever Republican disunity existed going into the convention had disappeared going out.

"Everybody has a come-to-Trump moment," a Southern politico who originally did not support Trump explained not long after Trump formally won the Republican nomination Tuesday night. The GOP's get-on-board moment came later this year than in recent presidential elections, but it finally arrived at Quicken Loans on Thursday.

In a backhanded way, the previous night's Ted Cruz debacle helped make it happen. What the widely negative reaction to Cruz showed was that the delegates and Republican activists gathered here no longer have any appetite for the conflicts of the GOP primary season.

BYRON YORK  
Comment

Those conflicts officially ended when the 1,237th delegate cast a vote for Trump, making him the party's nominee. Cruz tried to extend the fight. It didn't work.

In conversation after conversation over four days, delegates and other attendees said something like this: "Donald Trump wasn't my first choice. But he's the nominee. The primaries are over. It's time to get behind him."

Some added this: "I wasn't all that happy about supporting John McCain, but they told me to support the party's nominee. I wasn't all that happy about supporting Mitt Romney, but they told me to support the party's nominee. Now it's time to support the party's nominee."

Trump's speech generally followed the themes his campaign mapped out for each night of the convention — make America safe again, make America work again, make America first again and make America one again. But Trump's strongest moments — and by far the passages that won the most enthusiastic response from the audience — focused on safety and security.

Pointing to Dallas, Baton Rouge, Orlando, San Bernardino and more, Trump said, "The attacks on our police, and the terrorism in our cities threaten our very way of life. Any politician who does not grasp this danger is not fit to lead our country."

The response was strong from an overwhelmingly pro-police crowd. And later, when a Code Pink demonstrator staged what has become a traditional disruption of the GOP gathering and was taken out by authorities, Trump ad-libbed, "How great are our police?" The ovation was thunderous.

If the applause meter were the only guide, Trump should probably talk about police all the time.

It was just one part of Trump's appeal to voters who believe something has gone terribly wrong in the United States. "This is a speech trying to speak to the seven out of 10 Americans who say we are on the wrong track and the half who say we are less safe today," tweeted the Republican pollster and *Washington Examiner* columnist Kristen Soltis Anderson.

There's no doubt that for the Republicans who came to Cleveland, the convention, occasionally troubled, ended on a high note. (As such things go, the balloon drop at the end was epic.)

This is impressionistic, but there seemed to be an unmistakable enthusiasm deficit in the convention's first three days. Of course there were moments, like Rudy Giuliani's amped-up address on Monday night. But in general, the excitement level seemed lower and significant numbers of seats remained empty, even during the prime-time parts of the program.

That changed with Trump's appearance on Thursday. At the very least, the RNC finally had a lot of happy customers. The (vastly) bigger question, of course, is what those millions watching on TV thought.

Did they see darkness and anger, as the commentariat did? Or did they see an extraordinary political performer with the potential to actually fix the nation's problems? Now the campaign begins in earnest.

Byron York is chief political correspondent for *The Washington Examiner*.

## YOUR VIEWS

## Sanders supporters should now back Clinton

An open letter to the people who worked very diligently on Bernie Sanders' campaign:

Thank you for your efforts, be they in work, cash or both. Your work has not been trashed or forgotten. Now it is time to shift gears and think party, not personnel.

On election day you can do a number of things:

1. Not fill out your ballot and not vote at all.
2. Write in Bernie's name
3. Write in someone else's name
4. Vote Republican
5. Vote for Hillary Clinton

Numbers 1-4 will not provide any solace for your hard work and can only lead to a disastrous outcome.

Number 5 will lead to fruition of your hard work and solidify Bernie and Hillary's work of the past few weeks, since the agenda of both has been marginally similar throughout the campaign.

If I heard Bernie's speech correctly, he will continue to work legitimately on his agenda but will have very little success with a Republican president and will need a Democratic president.

Think it over between now and November — attitude can only provide short term solace.

John Gilson  
Pendleton

## LETTERS POLICY

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