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EAST OREGONIAN

PINION

CHRISTOPHER RUSHKATHRYN B. BROWNWYATT HAUPT JR.

PublisherOwnerNews Editor

Founded October 16, 1875

YOUR VIEWS

Stanfield school bond supports our students

This May the Stanfield School District will be asking voters to pass a new school bond. The new bond proposal for \$18 million will focus on safety, efficiency, and expanding classrooms. The proposed projects include:

- Replacing the Jr. High modular classrooms with an expansion to the current high school. The modular classrooms are not energy efficient and cost the district thousands of dollars each year due to poor insulation.
- The bond would also pay for an additional gym attached to the junior high. Currently, young elementary athletes are asked to practice as late as 8 p.m. due to the lack of gym space.
- Safety upgrades are also necessary to keep our students safe. This bond will pay to replace asbestos and lead

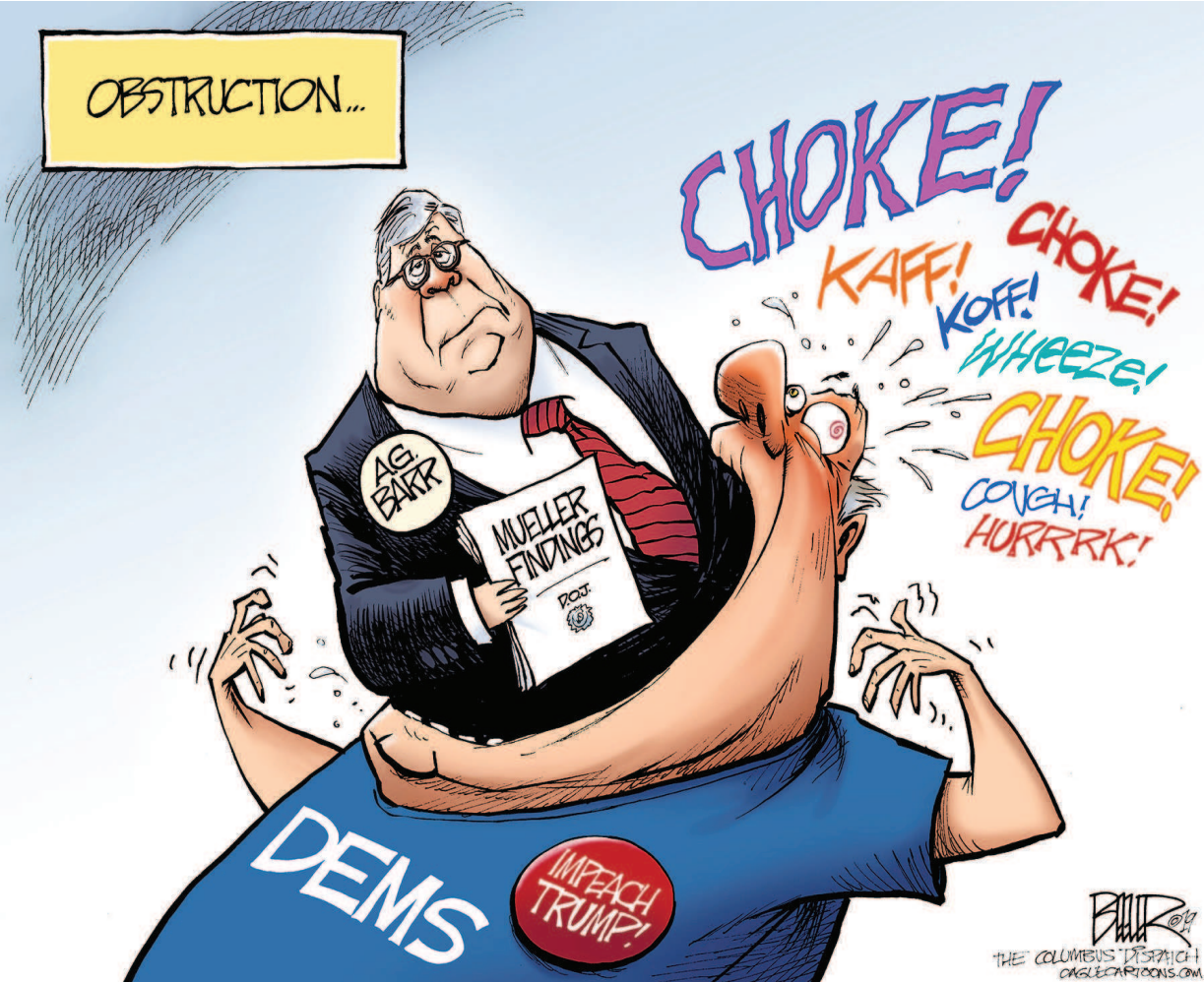
pipes that have no place being in our schools.

- Other safety improvements include reconfiguring parking and dropoff locations at the elementary school. The new parking lot would be designed so that students can safely walk from the parking lot to the front entrance without cars pulling in and out in front of them.
- The bond would also allow Career and Technical Education programs the ability to serve more students. The current wood shop and welding room are far too small and can accommodate fewer than 21 students.

Stanfield School District was also selected to receive \$4 million in matching funds from the state of Oregon if the bond passes. This is a rare opportunity to receive additional funds.

Please consider voting yes for Stanfield students this May.

Kalie DavisStanfield



OTHER VIEWS

Winning the war on poverty

Jesus said the poor will always be among us, but there are a lot of people in Canada testing that proposition. According to recently released data, between 2015 and 2017, Canada reduced its official poverty rate by at least 20 percent. Roughly 825,000 Canadians were lifted out of poverty in those years, giving the country today its lowest poverty rate in history.

How did it do it?

The overall economy has been decent but not robust enough to explain these striking outcomes. Instead, one major factor is that Canadians have organized their communities differently. They adopted a specific methodology to fight poverty.

Before I describe this methodology, let’s pause to think about what it’s often like in American poor areas. Everything is fragmented. There are usually a bevy of public and private programs doing their own thing. In a town there may be four food pantries, which don’t really know one another well. The people working in these programs have their heads down, because it’s exhausting enough just to do their own work.

A common model is one-donor-funding-one-program. Different programs compete for funds. They justify their existence using randomized controlled experiments, in which researchers try to pinpoint one input that led to one positive output. The foundation heads, city officials and social entrepreneurs go to a bunch of conferences, but these conferences don’t have much to do with one another.

In other words, the Americans who talk about community don’t have a community of their own. Every day, they give away the power they could have if they did mutually reinforcing work together to change whole systems.

In Canada it’s not like that. About 15 years ago, a disparate group of Canadians realized that a problem as complex as poverty could be addressed only through a multisector comprehensive approach. They realized that poverty was not going to be reduced by some innovation — some cool, new program nobody thought of before. It was going to be addressed through better systems that were mutually supporting and able to enact change on a population level.

So they began building citywide and community-wide structures. They started 15 years ago with just six cities, but now they have 72 regional networks covering 344 towns.

They begin by gathering, say, 100 people from a single community. A quarter have lived with poverty; the rest are from business, nonprofits and government.

They spend a year learning about poverty in their area, talking with the community. They launch a different kind of conversation. First, they don’t want better



DAVID BROOKSCOMMENT

poor; they want fewer poor. That is to say, their focus is not on how do we give poor people food so they don’t starve. It is how do we move people out of poverty. Second, they up their ambitions. How do we eradicate poverty altogether? Third, they broaden their vision. What does a vibrant community look like in which everybody’s basic needs are met.

After a year they come up with a town plan. Each town’s poverty is different. Each town’s assets are different. So each town’s plan is different.

The town plans feature a lot of collaborative activity. A food pantry might turn itself into a job training center by allowing the people who are fed do the actual work. The pantry might connect with local businesses that change their hiring practices so that high school diplomas are not required. Businesses might pledge to raise their minimum wage.

The plans involve a lot of policy changes on the town and provincial levels — improved day care, redesigned transit systems, better workforce development systems.

By the time Canada’s national government swung into action, the whole country had a base of knowledge and experience. The people in the field had a wealth of connections and a sense of what needed to be done. The two biggest changes were efforts in city after city to raise the minimum wage and the expansion of a national child benefit, which can net a family up to nearly \$6,500 a year per child. Canada essentially has guaranteed income for the young and the old.

The process of learning and planning and adapting never ends. The Tamarack Institute, which pioneered a lot of this work, serves as a learning community hub for all the different regional networks.

Paul Born, head of the institute, emphasizes that the crucial thing these community-wide collective impact structures do is change attitudes. In the beginning it’s as if everybody is swimming in polluted water. People are sluggish, fearful, isolated, looking out only for themselves. But when people start working together across sectors around a common agenda, it’s like cleaning the water. Communities realize they can do more for the poor. The poor realize they can do more for themselves. New power has been created, a new sense of agency.

Born doesn’t think you can really do social change without a methodology, without creating community-wide collective impact structures. But in many American communities we’re mostly scatter-shot. That’s the problem with our distrust and polarization. We often don’t build structures across difference. Transformational change rarely gets done.

David Brooks is a columnist for the New York Times.

OTHER VIEWS

Even after a trade deal, be wary of China



NICHOLAS KRISTOFCOMMENT

President Donald Trump and President Xi Jinping of China will probably soon reach a trade agreement, but that won’t solve the biggest problems.

The Chinese regime is interning people based on religion in a more systematic way than any other regime since perhaps the Nazis. Its tolerance of fentanyl trafficking leads to some 20,000 drug overdose deaths in the United States each year. It steals intellectual property and ratchets up persecution at home.

I lived in China, speak Chinese and deeply admire the country. Yet I am increasingly repulsed by Xi’s China, for he is dragging the country in the wrong direction by imprisoning lawyers, journalists and people of faith; tightening controls over the internet; creating international security risks in the South China Sea; and fostering a personality cult around himself.

In fairness, it’s also true that the Chinese government has helped lift more people out of poverty than any other government in human history. Just since 1990, the mortality rate for children under 5 has fallen in China by 83% — suggesting, by my calculations, that an additional 676,000 Chinese children survive each year who previously would have died.

Those of us who condemn China for human rights violations must also acknowledge this uncomfortable truth: A child born in Beijing today has a substantially longer life expectancy (82 years) than a child born in Washington, D.C. (77 years).

In short, the Xi regime is complicated. It cheats, oppresses and brutalizes, but it also educates, enriches and saves lives.

I’ve seen the worst of China: I was on Tiananmen Square in 1989 when troops opened fire on the crowd I was in. I’ve also seen the best: impoverished families in western China moving out of caves into modern homes and sending their children to universities. I used to believe that China was best approached with ambivalence, but in the last few years the ambivalence has faded into wariness.

When a trade deal is reached, Trump may hail it as a triumph, and it will probably result in announcements of Chinese purchases of American goods. A trade deal is a good thing, but I hope that the United States will work with allies and firmly stand up to China on three issues in particular.

First, to the extent possible, we should try to curb Chinese high-technology firms’ access to Western markets. These businesses are a security threat, and the Trump administration is right to be concerned. If a company like Huawei is asked to cooperate with Chinese State Security spies, its executives simply can’t say no.

This doesn’t mean that China is evil.

American companies sold telecommunications equipment to China beginning in the 1980s that let us intercept officials’ conversations there, and we have inserted cyber “back doors” into goods and software sold to China so that we can cause damage in the event of a conflict. China purchased a Boeing 767 in 2000 to be its presidential jet and it arrived riddled with listening devices. China inevitably will try to do to us what we already did to it.

Second, we should continue to highlight human rights, especially China’s internment of perhaps 1 million Muslims in re-education camps. This is a staggering affront to religious liberty, with Chinese officials reportedly forcing Muslims to violate their faith by eating pork and drinking alcohol.

Bravo to Secretary of State Mike Pompeo for forthrightly denouncing China’s “awful abuses” in detaining “hundreds of thousands and possibly millions of Uighurs,” as well as its persecution of Christians. The Chinese authorities have even installed monitoring cameras inside Muslims’ homes, and they have sent many Muslim parents to re-education camps, leaving the children left behind to be brainwashed in boarding schools.

Third, we need continued pressure on China over its exports of fentanyl, the synthetic opioid that is killing Americans in huge numbers through overdoses. Two-thirds or more of the fentanyl in the U.S. originates in China, where the authorities have been promising since 2016 to crack down on it.

A few days ago, China announced that it would soon ban all variants of fentanyl, a welcome step that may make a difference. But China often promises cooperation that does not materialize, and everything will depend on enforcement over the country’s 160,000 chemical companies. Too many lives hang in the balance to take China at its word.

About 20,000 Americans appear to be dying each year from Chinese fentanyl (some of it entering via Mexico). That’s a toll of devastation far greater than that caused by terrorists in the U.S. over multiple decades, and it should arouse far more outrage than Chinese companies pirating videos.

So, sure, a good trade deal with China is welcome. But when so many Americans are dying from Chinese fentanyl, when 1 million Muslims are interned, when Emperor Xi is dragging China in the wrong direction, let’s not celebrate but, instead, keep up the international pressure.

Nicholas Kristof, a columnist for the New York Times, grew up on a sheep farm near Yamhill.

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