

# O EAST OREGONIAN PINION

CHRISTOPHER RUSH  
PublisherKATHRYN B. BROWN  
OwnerANDREW CUTLER  
EditorWYATT HAUPJT JR.  
News EditorJADE McDOWELL  
Hermiston Editor

Founded October 16, 1875

## OUR VIEW

# Recall message should linger in Salem

By now most area voters know about the two efforts to recall Gov. Kate Brown and as the effort gains steam lawmakers on both sides of the aisle should take notice.

The recall effort is serious and, while it is directed at Brown, the underlying theme is simple: Many voters don't feel their concerns are being addressed.

That's not a good thing for a democracy. It is especially troubling because the recall — which is legitimate and proper — will take attention away from important matters that lawmakers, and the governor, need to address.

Local recall organizers are already out in force, and judging by the current dominate political climate, they will probably get plenty of signatures. Eastern Oregon, after all, is a rational Republican stronghold.

Organizers justify the recall effort on Brown's support of cap-and-trade legislation — which evaporated during the last legislative session — a new law that gave undocumented immigrants



Statesman-Journal Photo via AP/Anna Reed  
**Oregon Gov. Kate Brown speaks during a rally in support of HB 2020, a greenhouse gas emissions cap-and-trade bill, and demands Republican senators return to the Legislature at the state Capitol in Salem.**

the ability to get a driver's license, and Oregon's status as a sanctuary state. The list, of course, doesn't stop there but readers can get the gist of the underpinning philosophy of the effort.

We don't oppose the philosophy of the recall effort. We support the ability of citizens to seek redress

for their perceived grievances. However, the more important question is why residents of this great state are so eager to kick off such an effort.

Clearly, many do not feel their concerns are being addressed by their elected leaders. Like it or not, Brown represents the entire state,

not just special interest groups or voters in three of Oregon's most populous counties.

The same holds true for the Democrats that hold a supermajority in the Legislature. Yes, they are beholden to their constituents — we get that — but they also should put a much higher priority on their obligation to the entire state. Doing that, we understand, can be a pretty difficult maneuver, especially when voters who elected you are clamoring for action, regardless of the consequences.

Yet the founders designed our system to be one where lawmakers, the Legislature, perform in a way to cool down the often-angry sentiments of the body politic. Lawmakers should always take to heart the concept they work for all the people, not just a select few.

The effort to recall Brown may not gain as much traction as supporters hope. However it shakes out, we hope the message that lingers is lawmakers — and the governor — need to listen carefully to voter concerns.

## OTHER VIEWS



# Foster care improvements coming, but slowly

Bend Bulletin

If Oregonians were expecting to see problems in the state's foster care system disappear overnight, they're in for a disappointment. As the Department of Human Services' July report on child welfare demonstrates, some things are improving; others, not so much.

The foster care program certainly needs to improve. A secretary of state's 2018 audit of the program made clear Oregon's foster care system was in disarray, putting children's safety at risk. A follow-up issued in 2019 showed that while improvements were being made in some areas, serious problems remain. DHS has been issuing monthly reports to Gov. Kate Brown on its progress. The July update says:

- The agency is still short of foster homes, though the numbers show a mixed bag.

- The total number of foster homes is actually down from a year ago, though it has ticked up each month since March.

- Fewer children are being sent to out-of-state facilities than were a year ago. It will take time to create programs to serve specific groups of children, and the state is working to improve the way it deals with kids who must go elsewhere to receive the services they need.

- Though the agency is working to hire and keep new caseworkers, it's still losing about half as many as it brings on. It has created a series of videos to give potential hires a realistic view of the job.

- The statewide child abuse reporting line is up and running, though it's a 24/7 operation in only nine of the agency's 16 districts. The remaining six will be added as improvements to the system and Child Protective Services are made.

The July report is based on results before the agency's budget was increased by the Legislature. The new money could help speed improvements up, and that's good. After all, the well-being of some of the state's most vulnerable residents is at stake.

# Dollar stores: Do you know the tricks of shopping there?

“What to buy (and not to buy) at the dollar store,” blared the headline for a Washington Post analysis of retail chains such as Dollar Tree and 99 Cents Only.

Although my own experiences have been mostly positive (clean, well-stocked, easily navigated stores with friendly employees), I can understand the need for the *Post*, Consumer Reports and other periodicals to offer pointers for maximizing the shopping experience.

First, the good news. Dollar stores have been a reliable source of snacks, party supplies, gift bags and toothpaste for my family. I was tickled to find perfectly serviceable reading glasses for my mother at one-fifth the price I had encountered at other “everyday low prices” stores. I am especially grateful for the name-brand “two for a dollar” greeting cards offered at dollar stores. I had always felt stupid emptying my wallet for “one and done” cards that should really say, “I can't believe you're 6 years old — and that this bleedin' card cost more than the obstetrician who delivered you.”

On the other hand, consumer advocates advise checking the package weight, ingredients and expiration dates on “too good to be true” bargains. The date on processed meat should contain a month and year, not a reference to Carbon-14! And, regardless of the advertised SPF level, you probably won't get much protection from sunscreen with a dusty label proclaiming, “When you run out of children to sacrifice, this offers last-ditch protection against that giant ball of fire in the sky.”

Critics warn that “you get what you pay for” and should be willing to shop for high-quality versions of certain items at actual hardware stores. You know the old saying: “When the only tool you have is a dollar hammer, every problem starts to look like the head flying off and coldcocking your spouse.”

Cosmetic products may be watered down or contain harsher ingredients than other brands. But in case you're

putting on a community theater production of “The Wizard of Oz,” can you really pass up spending a buck to have a realistic portrayal of someone with green skin moaning, “I'm melting, I'm melting?”

Toys can be particularly lacking in sturdiness. (“Stop crying over that busted paddle ball or I'll give you something to cry about — a sack of dollar yo-yos!”)

Skeptics say some fly-by-night suppliers are lacking in transparency, track record and accountability. On the other hand, the vaunted name-brand manufacturers can afford the best lobbyists and lawyers. (“Battery spewed acid down your esophagus? We have this bunny that just keeps going and going and going ... back to court. Don't spend your settlement in one place. Aw, you splurged on gum.”)

Dollar stores have been controversial in some communities. They are accused of driving grocery stores out of business and reducing access to fresh food. Tulsa, Oklahoma, and

other cities have imposed restrictions on the establishments. Because, you know, consumers who would invest a dollar in an extension cord are going to live long enough to reap the health benefits of kale and mangoes.

Finally, no kidding, home pregnancy tests are among the top selling items at dollar stores. Sales really spike after some Lothario stocks up on dollar bottles of wine. Perhaps those Lotharios should toss in an appropriate greeting card. (“I can't believe this wine is 6 days old — and cost more than my vasectomy.”)

Danny Tyree wears many hats (but still falls back on that lame comb-over). He is a warehousing and communications specialist for his hometown farmers cooperative, a church deacon, a comic book collector, a husband (wife Melissa is a college biology teacher), and a late-in-life father (6-year-old son Gideon frequently pops up in the columns.) Danny welcomes email responses at [tyreetyrades@aol.com](mailto:tyreetyrades@aol.com) and visits to his Facebook fan page “Tyree's Tyrades.”



DANNY TYREE  
COMMENT