

EDITORIALS

Brown's visit sheds light on attitudes

We still have a long way to go to healing as a county, state and nation after the recent polarizing presidential election.

During a visit from Gov. Kate Brown to Ash Creek Elementary School on Thursday — as part of Read Across America — she told students about a recent trip to Washington, D.C., where she took a picture with President Donald Trump.

The children jeered.

In the same day, a photo of the governor reading to kids garnered comments on our Facebook page such as, "I would have kept my kid out of school that day," and other politically charged rhetoric.

We wonder what kind of climate we live in when it is wrong for the governor to read to kids, and the president can be booed by school children without anyone counseling, "Remember, he's our president."

We understand that a lot of the sentiments for both Brown and Trump likely stem from each's track record. People have strong feelings when it comes to politics — that's why it's on the list of things you're not supposed to talk about with friends (politics and religion).

Gov. Brown missed an opportunity Thursday morning to lead by example when it comes to the way we need to treat people who do not share our opinions. At the same time, it's an honor that the woman who holds the highest political power in the state of Oregon chose to come to Monmouth's Ash Creek Elementary School on Dr. Seuss' birthday, when she would have been welcome at any school.

It's clear from the comments online and letters to the editor that children are paying close attention to what is said at home — or in the classroom halls. They are absorbing their parents' biases and agendas. It's great to have kids aware of social issues, but let's help them learn the basics of getting along in this world — how to share, how to play together, laughing together, playing video games and running outside.

It will prepare them to be better leaders than we are or have now.

PUBLIC AGENDA

Public Agenda is a listing of upcoming meetings for governmental and nongovernmental agencies in Polk County. To submit a meeting, send it at least two weeks before the actual meeting date to the *Itemizer-ObsERVER* via email (ionews@polkio.com).

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 8

- **Independence Heritage Museum Commission** — 4 p.m., Independence Heritage Museum, 112 S. Third St., Independence. 503-838-1212.
- **Monmouth Library Advisory Board** — 7 a.m., Monmouth Public Library, 168 Ecols St. S., Monmouth. 503-838-0725.
- **Monmouth Parks and Recreation Board** — 7 p.m., Volunteer Hall, 144 Warren St. S., Monmouth. 503-838-0725.
- **Polk County Board of Commissioners** — 9 a.m., Polk County Courthouse, first floor conference room, 850 Main St., Dallas. 503-623-8173.

THURSDAY, MARCH 9

- **Polk County Fire District No. 1 Board** — 6 p.m., Central Station 90, 1800 Monmouth St., Independence. 503-838-1510.
- **Western Days Commission** — 7 p.m., Independence Civic Center, 555 S. Main St., Independence. 503-838-1212.
- **Falls City City Council** — 6:30 p.m., Falls City Community Center, 320 N. Main St., Falls City. 503-787-3631.

MONDAY, MARCH 13

- **Hops and Heritage Festival Commission** — 6 p.m., Independence Elks Lodge, 289 S. Main St., Independence. 503-838-1212.
- **WIMPEG Board of Directors** — 7 p.m., 150 N. Knox St., Monmouth. 503-838-0725.
- **Dallas School Board** — 6:30 p.m., Dallas School District office, 111 SW Ash St., Dallas. 503-623-5594.

TUESDAY, MARCH 14

- **Independence City Council** — 7 p.m., Independence Civic Center, 555 S. Main St., Independence. 503-838-1212.
- **Dallas Planning Commission** — 7 p.m., Dallas City Hall, 187 SE Court St., Dallas. 503-831-3565.
- **Polk County Board of Commission work session** — 9 a.m., Polk County Courthouse, BOC office, 850 Main St., Dallas. 503-623-8173.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 15

- **Polk County Board of Commissioners** — 9 a.m., Polk County Courthouse, first floor conference room, 850 Main St., Dallas. 503-623-8173.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Driver needs fixing, not intersection

About that roundabout. First of all — having driven through roundabouts in other countries, I do agree that they work very well for traffic flow. So far, the "roundabouts" around here are nothing more than cute little decorative traffic circles that present an obstacle in the roadway that most drivers don't know what to do with.

I do believe we already have a pretty good road system. We don't need to throw millions of dollars at it to make it safer. It's not the roads that need to be addressed. What needs to be addressed is the idiot behind the wheel that has become impatient and inattentive.

*Julianna Burke
Independence*

Trump should resign presidency

Were it only possible, I'd like to see AG Jefferson Beauregard Sessions in front of a jury charged with hearing all of the evidence and deciding whether or not he lied to the Senate panel about his contacts with the Russian ambassador. As interesting as that would be, it won't happen of course. As long as I'm dreaming though, how about his submitting to a lie detector test or taking sodium pentothal instead? He's one lying "bad hombre" who should "man up" and resign — now — as he's already been in office for far too long.

Then there's his boss, DDT — Dithering Donald Trump; his Twitter-pated rants and raves seem to indicate that he is close to being certifiably loco en la cabeza (I think that's Spanish for "crazy in the head"). He should resign too, for both his own and, more importantly, our country's sake. Moreover, it's the per-

fect time for him to go. I hear there's an opening on "Celebrity Apprentice" right now. Let's face it, he's an entertainer not presidential material — never was and never will be.

*Tom Augustyn
Dallas*

Too much traffic, development

What's the deal with all the huge construction trucks on Ellendale? Why can't they be routed to use Highway 22 to Kings Valley to avoid the already overly congested and dangerous conditions they attribute to on Ellendale, which is already a burden because of the excess traffic caused by the huge Fowler subdivisions and other building going on. There was no infrastructure put in place to accommodate the thousands of new residents and the thousands of vehicles they drive.

Why is the entire town impacted in such a negative way because of a couple people? Some are not even residents of Dallas but live out of town or in the county. Why are the city fathers not addressing the negative impact of this too rapid and rampant growth, which is causing Dallas not to be the cute and quaint, slow-paced family community that it was up until a couple of years ago? Now it is just a bedroom community for Salem, where people come to sleep, occasionally shop in the already limited and crowded few stores that are here. It is sad that Dallas is becoming ruined by over building.

*Ali Rion
Dallas*

Republicans show they hate everybody

It is clear the Republican Party despises average Americans. Their hatred is intense and clearly mani-

fests itself.

Social Security is the most successful program of any government on earth. Working citizens and employers pay into a required savings program; and at work's end, have a modest retirement. Prior to this, millions of elderly lived in abject poverty. Now they can save. Eliminating the program will return millions to poverty. That's OK with the GOP.

Of course, Medicare and Medicaid are on the chopping block too. Again, millions of Americans will live out their years without health care. Very likely they will die of preventable diseases. No problem for the GOP.

Republicans fight to prevent any sort of rational gun control. America suffers a world beating gun-death rate. Firearm restrictions? No chance, so we get murdered. Between paid-off congresspersons, the NRA and its lap dog, the GOP; no gun control.

Should we be cheated by our banks and investment advisors? Yes, says the GOP. If Republicans can kill the Consumer Financial Protection Board we will be easy pickings for those folks who put America in the trash can in 2007.

Should we protect the environment? No way, says the GOP.

Why do they hate us? Perhaps they want us to be third-world level workers so corporations may enhance profits. Maybe we are not good or successful enough to rate their respect. Readers should give the question some thought. Perhaps you can come up with something.

The truly sad part of this question is that many Americans support the GOP though it is clearly not in their interest to do so. They happily work to destroy their and their children's futures. This effort at self-delusion is astounding.

*Fred Brown
Dallas*

WANT TO WRITE A LETTER?

Letters to the editor are limited to 300 words. Longer letters will be edited.

Each writer is restricted to one letter per 30-day period.

Letters that are libelous, obscene or in bad taste will not be printed. Attacks by name on businesses or individuals will not be printed.

Letters to the editor that are obvious promotions for a business, products or services will not be printed.

The *Itemizer-ObsERVER* does not guarantee the accuracy of facts presented by letter writers; dissenters are welcome to respond. Letter writers who disagree with other published letter writers should maintain a civil discourse and address the subject, not the author.

Letters, like all editorial material submitted to the newspaper, are edited for length, grammar and content.

Letters must include the au-

thor's name, address and telephone number. This includes letters submitted via the *I-O's* website. Letters must be submitted from individuals, not organizations, and must be original submissions to the *I-O*, not copies of letters sent to other media.

Letters of thanks to businesses, individuals and organizations are limited to 10 names.

The deadline for letters to the editor is 10 a.m. Monday.



Polk County
Itemizer-ObsERVER

Vol. 142, No. 10

(USPS) - 437-380

The official newspaper of Polk County • Serving Polk County families since 1875

Winner of 2010, 2011, 2013 and 2014 General Excellence Awards from the Oregon Newspaper Publishers Association

Periodicals postage paid at Dallas, OR, Independence, OR and Monmouth, OR. Published weekly at 147 SE Court Street Dallas, Oregon 97338 Phone: 503-623-2373

SUBSCRIPTION RATES:
Polk County — One Year \$35
Other Oregon Counties — One Year \$40
Outside of Oregon — One Year \$45

POSTMASTER:
Send address changes to: Polk County Itemizer-ObsERVER, P.O. Box 108, Dallas, Oregon 97338

The Polk County Itemizer-ObsERVER assumes no financial responsibility for errors in advertisements. It will, however, reprint without charge for the portion of an advertisement which is in error if the Itemizer-ObsERVER is at fault.

How to Contact Officials

GOVERNOR
Gov. Kate Brown (Dem.)
160 State Capitol
900 Court St. NE
Salem, OR 97301
503-378-4582
Email: via website,
<http://governor.oregon.gov/>

STATE LEGISLATORS
Sen. Arnie Roblan
(District 5, Democrat)
S-417 State Capitol
900 Court St. NE
Salem, OR 97301
503-986-1705
sen.arnieroblan@state.or.us
www.oregonlegislature.gov/roblan

Sen. Jackie Winters
(District 10, Republican)
S-301 State Capitol
900 Court St. NE
Salem, OR 97301
503-986-1710
sen.jackiewinters@state.or.us
www.oregonlegislature.gov/winters

Sen. Brian Boquist
(District 12, Republican)
S-305 State Capitol
900 Court St. NE
Salem, OR 97301
503-986-1712
sen.brianboquist@state.or.us
www.oregonlegislature.gov/boquist

Rep. David Gomberg
(District 10, Democrat)
H-471 State Capitol
900 Court St. NE
Salem, OR 97301
503-986-1410
rep.davidgomberg@state.or.us
www.oregonlegislature.gov/gomberg

Rep. Paul Evans
(District 20, Democrat)
H-281 State Capitol
900 Court St. NE
Salem, OR 97301
503-986-1420
rep.paulevans@state.or.us
www.oregonlegislature.gov/evans

Rep. Mike Nearman
(District 12, Republican)
H-378 State Capitol
900 Court St. NE
Salem, OR 97301
503-986-1423
rep.mikenearman@state.or.us
www.oregonlegislature.gov/hearman

U.S. CONGRESS
Sen. Ron Wyden (Dem.)
221 Dirksen SOB
Washington, D.C. 20510
Phone: 202-224-5244
Fax: 202-228-2717
Salem office: 707 13th St. SE,
Suite 285, Salem, OR 97301
Phone: 503-589-4555
Email: via website,
www.wyden.senate.gov

Sen. Jeff Merkley (Dem.)
313 Hart SOB
Washington, D.C. 20510
Phone: 202-224-3753
Fax: 202-228-3997
Salem office: 161 High St. SE,
Suite 250, Salem, OR 97301
Phone: 503-362-8102
Email: via website,
www.merkley.senate.gov

Rep. Kurt Schrader (Dem.)
108 Cannon HOB
Washington, D.C. 20515
Phone: 202-225-5711
Fax: 202-225-5699
Salem office: 544 Ferry St. SE,
Suite 2, Salem, OR 97301
Phone: 503-588-9100
Fax: 503-588-5517
Email: via website,
www.schrader.house.gov

POLK COUNTY Board of Commissioners
850 Main St.
Dallas, OR 97338
Phone: 503-623-8173
www.co.polk.or.us

CITIES
Dallas
187 SE Court St.
Dallas, OR 97338
503-623-2338
www.ci.dallas.or.us
Falls City
299 Mill St.
Falls City, OR 97344
503-787-3631
www.falls-city-oregon.gov
Independence
555 S. Main St.
Independence, OR 97351
503-838-1212
www.ci.independence.or.us
Monmouth
151 W. Main St.
Monmouth, OR 97361
503-838-0722
www.ci.monmouth.or.us

HOW TO REACH US

NEWSROOM

Emily MentzerEditor/Monmouth/Independence Reporterementzer@polkio.com
Lukas Eggen.....Sports Editor.....leggen@polkio.com
Jolene Guzman.....Dallas/Falls City/Polk County Reporter.....jguzman@polkio.com

DISPLAY ADVERTISING

Heidi LeppinDisplay Advertising Managerhleppin@polkio.com
Rachel BestDisplay Advertising.....rbest@polkio.com
Karen Sanks.....Client Servicesksanks@polkio.com

CLASSIFIED LINE ADVERTISING

Dawn Ohren.....ioads@polkio.com

PRODUCTION

Kathy Hugginsiosales@polkio.com
Karyn Presseliosales@polkio.com

Web: www.polkio.com

Phone: 503-623-2373

Fax: 503-623-2395