

EDITORIALS

Tech and education are a good mix

At LaCreole Middle School, phones, tablets and other devices are not banished from the classroom.

Far from that, they have become part of the learning process. This is a good thing, for the students' education — and for the future of education itself.

Technology isn't going away, and we should treat it not like an unwelcome distraction, but a tool for school and career.

Jamie Richardson, one of the National Association of Secondary School Principals' Digital Principals of the Year, has embraced that idea.

So has the staff at the school, which he credits for taking his vision and making it reality — and meaningful for students. Teachers have ventured out of their comfort zones to meet this challenge and are learning alongside their students.

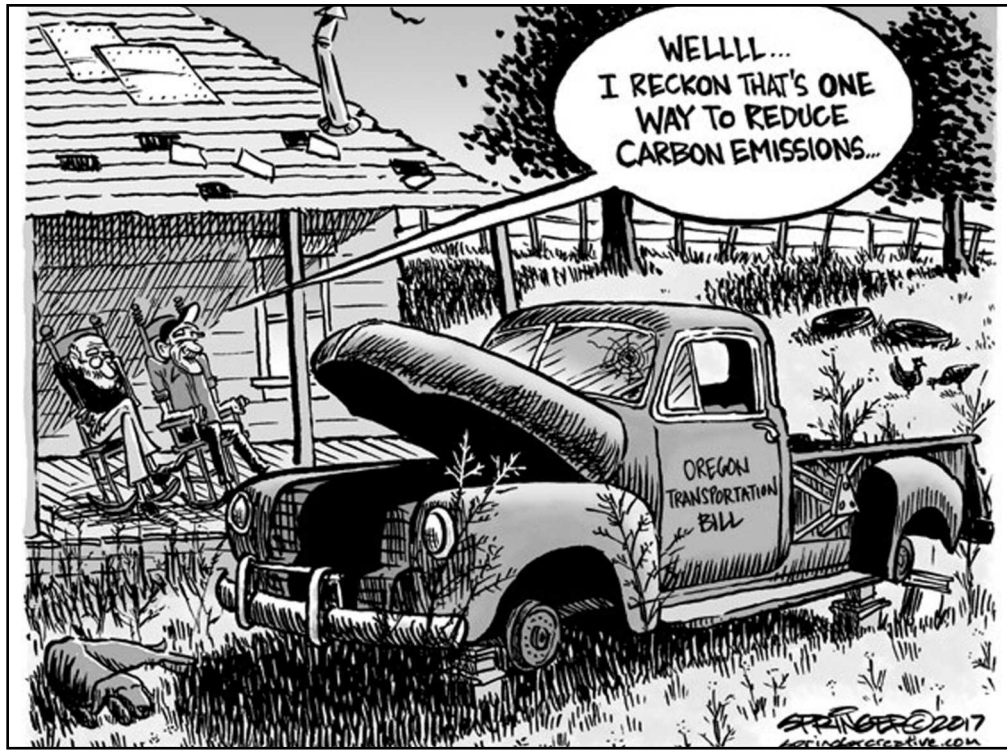
The reward for that risk? Students are excited about their education. Richardson and the teachers at LaCreole witnessed what can happen when you take things that students are passionate out of education when electives where cut during the recession.

Now they are seeing the opposite. Children using their imaginations to create things and solve problems — and they are having fun at the same time.

LaCreole is just getting started.

The school is transforming an old weight room into a makerspace designed from the ground up for that purpose. Students will be able to design, test and improve on their ideas in that space. Richardson has plans to invite the public to see how the new lab will work.

That is the kind of innovation that can change education for the better.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Good to see patriotic display

I would like to give a big "Kudos" (praise) to Stu's Auto Service and employees in Dallas for their show of patriotism and pride in acknowledgment of Flag Day on June 14. Our American flags proudly flew totally around the corner of Main & Ellendale streets at the site of Stu's. It was nice to see that some of us know it was a day to celebrate American history and independence. Shamefully though, I saw few other establishments flying our colors on that special day.

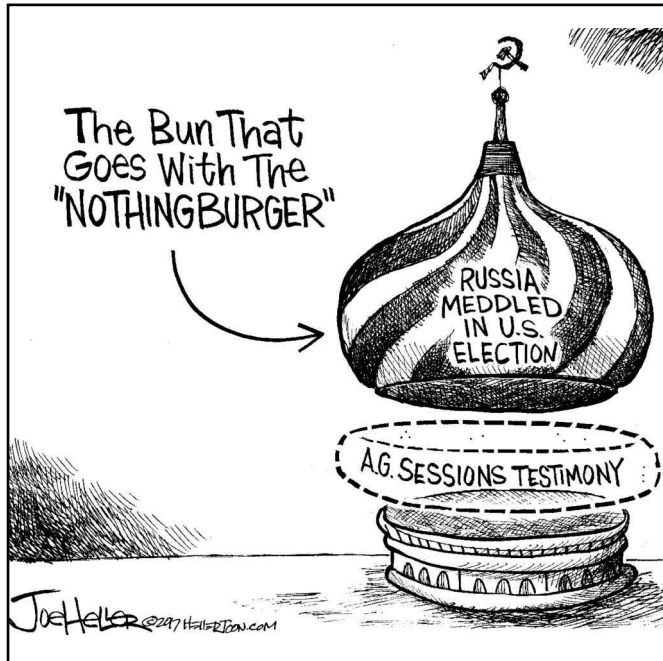
Patricia Utter
Dallas

Support made student trip possible

Twenty-nine students Falls City students got to experience Disneyland thanks to their own hard work and the generous support of local sponsors and community members.

This project and the Family Academic Community and Enrichment for Success, or FACES, after-school program could not sustain without the support of the community and we really want to thank them. Changes in priorities at the federal level make our community's support even more vital.

These local businesses generously sponsored the trip this year: Tim's Automotive Specialties, Dallas City, Cleaners, Robert Young Construction, Dogs 4 Dayz, The Bread Board, Salem Health, Elkhorn Timber, LLC



and Computer Solutions. Countless community members purchased flower baskets, candy bars and pepperoni sticks. A huge thanks to Hamblins Nursery for working with us to fundraise.

Additionally, many kids washed cars, did yard work and completed projects around the area for people who donated money to the program.

We had so much support! Students learned and applied science and math skills while experiencing an extraordinarily memorable trip.

Lynn Bailey
Program Sustainability
FACES After-School program

No need for social media policy

I am responding to your editorial of June 14.

I don't want the Dallas City Council to write policy for councilor conduct ex-

cept for council meetings and city-owned media. They are not playground monitors. Conduct outside of meetings is the responsibility of the voters. If we elect loud, rude and obnoxious representatives, perhaps we are just tired of business as usual. Whatever happened to celebrating diversity and tolerance?

Article 1 Sec. 8 of the Oregon Constitution protects freedom of expression, including your right as editor. If business can sell pornography, obscenity laws are abolished, and women can dance naked on a table in a bar and this is protected speech; I cite State v Henry, State v Ciancanelli and City of Nyssa v Dufloth / Smith, then what can a councilor do that is not protected?

Is there a limit to what conduct that the public will tolerate? I think Kathy Griffin would say: Yes.

Gary Weis
Dallas

WANT TO WRITE A LETTER?

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

Election-related letters of all types are limited to 100 words. Writers are limited to one election-related letter per election season. Election letters from writers outside of Polk County are not accepted.

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 author's name, address and telephone number. This includes letters submitted via the *I-O's* website. Names and cities of residence are published; street addresses and telephone numbers are used for verification purposes only.

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. Letters submitted may not be retractable after this deadline.

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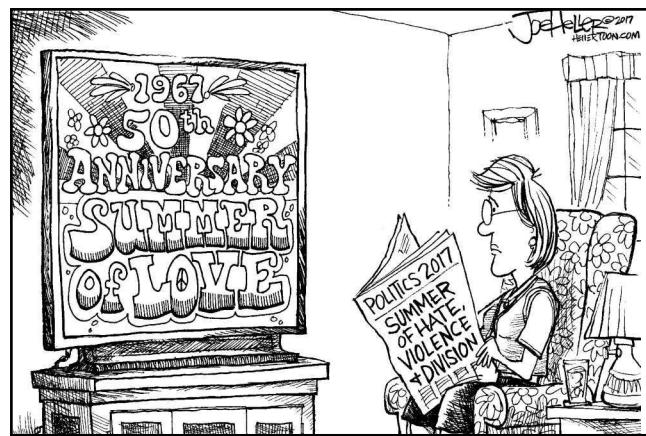
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PUBLIC AGENDA

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, JUNE 21

- **Monmouth Planning Commission** — 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, JUNE 22

- **Monmouth-Independence Networks Board of Directors** — Henry Hill Education Support Center, 750 S. Fifth St., Independence. 503-837-0700.

MONDAY, JUNE 26

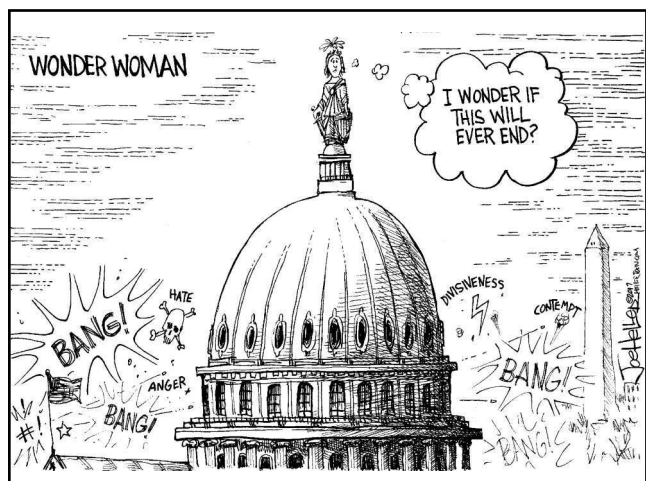
- **Independence Library Board** — 4 p.m., Independence Public Library, 175 Monmouth St., Independence. 503-838-1212.
- **Dallas School Board** — 6:30 p.m., Dallas School District office, 111 SW Ash St., Dallas. 503-623-5594.

TUESDAY, JUNE 27

- **Independence City Council** — 7:30 a.m., Independence Civic Center, 555 S. Main St., Independence. 503-838-1212.
- **Monmouth Senior Advisory Board** — 1 p.m., Monmouth Senior Center, 180 Warren St. S., Monmouth. 503-838-0725.
- **Polk County Board of Commission work session** — 9 a.m., Polk County Courthouse, BOC office, 850 Main St., Dallas. 503-623-8173.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 28

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



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