

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

RETURN TO SANITY!

I'm not on board with EVERY idea that the state and national Democratic Party has brought to the forefront. However, I believe the alternative is much, much worse.

The political domain in the state of Iowa has become a stagnant cesspool run by Trump sycophants— toadies, flunkies, suck-ups, parasites feeding off of the hate-speech and self-centered, self-serving figure that is DONALD JOHN TRUMP. They've continued to back him no-matter-what for only one reason. They feel that if they turn on him and call him out as being the threat to democracy that he actually is, their political careers will be over.

Almost none of the Republican leaders have had the moral backbone to stand up against his despicable rhetoric, blatant lies, unconscionable behavior and insane rants since he entered the political arena. And the few who've done so have been chastised and ridiculed unmercifully as a result. Trump's actions and unhinged tirades defy rational explanation and logic.

Tell a lie long enough and feeble-minded people will believe it no matter how outrageous or implausible! That has been his strategy throughout his political career and, in fact, his entire life. And it has obviously worked to get him elected once, and to enable him to bamboozle, lie, intimidate and threaten his way into a third nomination from the once respected Republican Party.

Since he began his first campaign, it felt like we had entered an alternative universe where absolutely nothing made sense— from mocking the reporter with disabilities, to calling veterans who've died defending democracy "losers and suckers", to totally disrespecting a true hero -- John McCain -- and any other vets who were captured trying to defend our country and ideals, to praising dictators and white supremacists, to bragging about what he could do to women because of his celebrity, to totally denying human influenced climate change, to his pompous: "I'm much better looking than her (Kamala)!" statement.

There seems to be nothing he won't stoop to in order to stroke his massive, out-of-control ego. Five-year-olds show more restraint, empathy and intelligence!

He's pathetically laughable, but also the most dangerous threat to ending our democracy and way of life since World War II and the subsequent Cold War.

When I see the enormous TRUMP political signs that litter the landscape across our state and nation, I feel embarrassment for the people who put them there and have been so taken-in by his rambling narcissistic idiocy.

It seems impossible that so many who see themselves as Christians have abandoned any and all tenants of true Christianity to follow one of the least Christ-like figures on the planet.

PLEASE come to your senses, return to some semblance of sanity before November 5th, and relegate this charlatan to the trash-heap of history; and in the process keep intact the ideals and values that have represented our country since its founding— for ALL our sakes!

Tom Gingerich
Kalona

We should invest in ourselves

Republican candidates for our local legislative seats – HD 92 and SD46 – have again gone to ground, too chicken to attend even the nonpartisan

League of Women Voters candidate forum held on October 7.

Anna Banowsky and Ed Chabal showed up.

Anna and Ed believe in restoring Iowa's first-in-the-nation system of public education, of safeguarding and restoring our natural resources, and of getting politics out of the exam room.

I can't be sure because they won't talk to me, but I think the Republicans in these races are just interested in stripping this state down for scrap and selling it for parts. Good sellers' commission, if you can get it.

Or we can invest in ourselves, and our future.

Jon Green
Lone Tree
Johnson County Supervisor

Let's invest in Highland's future

My name is Dan Gilles and my wife Amanda, and I have lived in the district since 2012 and have four kids at the elementary school – Eli (10), Leo (8), and twins Elliott (4) and Isla (4). As parents who will have kids in the Highland Community School District (HCSD) for the next 13 years, we'd like to see our community continue to invest in our district's children and its own future. One of the best ways to ensure young families don't move out of the district is to show that we're willing to continually invest in our facilities.

The district hosted a series of Facilities Advisory Committee meetings beginning August 2023 that continued through January 2024.

The meetings allowed constructive discussion and many different perspectives to be expressed amongst the large group. The group was made aware of needed facility improvements and heard directly from district staff/parents dealing with building/space issues every day. The experts from OPN Architects facilitated discussions and provided valuable insight, having helped many other Iowa school districts work through similar improvement efforts.

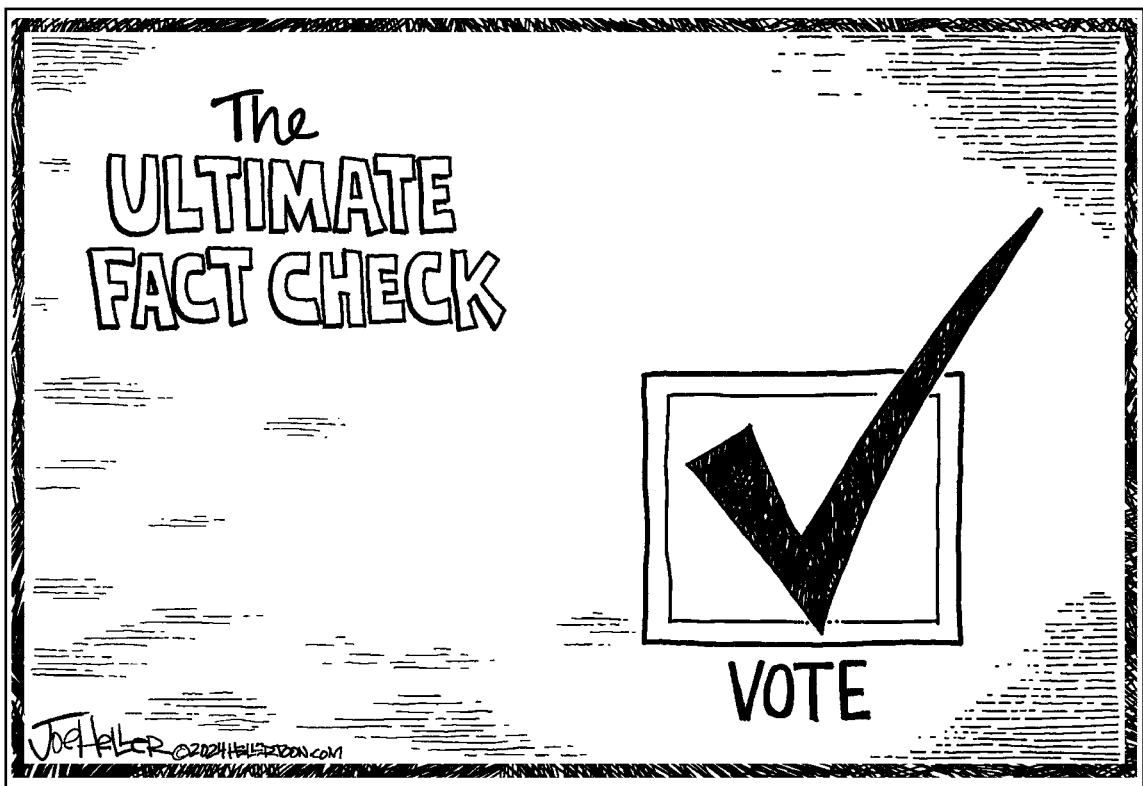
After much discussion and consideration, the committee reached consensus on a list of HCSD's most needed projects to prioritize.

At the elementary school, the funds would provide a new secure front entrance and additional classroom/colaboration spaces. This would provide much needed space for one-on-one sessions with education and counseling specialists. At the high school, a facelift of the entrance and commons area would provide a more functional meeting/event space and be much more welcoming to guests.

At the secondary campus, a multi-use building would be constructed along with much needed locker room improvements. The multi-use building would provide a competition size basketball court along with a large open practice space capable of supporting several different activities (golf, baseball, football, weightlifting, marching band, etc.). Additionally, the multi-use building will alleviate many scheduling conflicts amongst athletics teams and will provide a more stable schedule for performing arts to rehearse and set up for performances.

The Highland Community School District has a great opportunity to invest in its future by passing the upcoming bond vote with no tax levy rate increase. Many of our surrounding school districts would love to be in our district's financial position.

If our community doesn't pass this bond issue, the costs of these needed improvements will continue to climb, and our



district's great kids will be missing out.

Please join me in voting YES for the HCSD bond issue.

Dan Gilles

Miller-Meeks should not be returned to Congress

Check the rumor response section of the fema.gov website and you will find the most appalling and ridiculous falsehoods imaginable regarding aid and assistance to victims of Hurricanes Helene and Milton. FEMA officials have had to spend time responding to the lies perpetuated by certain members of the Republican party on social media.

The man arrested in North Carolina for threatening FEMA employees was motivated by these social media postings. Mariannette Miller-Meeks is among those perpetuating these rumors.

Numerous Republicans from the affected areas have expressed their support for FEMA and have asked that the lies stop. Even Iowa Senator Charles Grassley has expressed confidence in FEMA.

In an interview at the height of the pandemic, Miller-Meeks stated that children do not spread COVID-19 which is not true. She also said she would take hydroxychloroquine to treat a COVID-19 infection despite the fact that no significant clinical trials have proven it to be a valid treatment.

In some of her anti-abortion television ads, she declares, "birth control is the best answer;" as if that solves all reproductive health issues. She concludes another by saying, "I'm a doctor." Yes, she is a doctor—an ophthalmologist, a doctor who specializes in diseases of the eye. Her specialty is not reproductive health issues, nor is it epidemiology.

Miller-Meeks should not be returned to Congress. Cast your vote for Christina Bohannan.

Diane DeBok
Riverside

Farmers should have the right to repair

After the sun sets on the Iowa landscape this fall, farmers across the state will keep working, unless their machinery breaks down. Not long ago, an Iowa Farmer would get out his toolbox and a flashlight and go to work repairing the problem, but not anymore.

In 2024, the harvest is on hold until the manufacturer's certified technician from an authorized dealership is available.

A farmer's hammer, wrench, and duct tape have been replaced by a 1-800 number, an email, or a dreaded help chat box.

Iowa farmers and ranchers need the right to fix their own

equipment.

Here's the problem: It's the farmers against the corporations.

The right to repair means equipment manufacturers must share software, codes, and tools with farmers and independent service technicians. In Iowa, House Republicans won't even let this bill out of committee.

Iowa Republicans have a choice: Farmers or Corporations. They're choosing corporations, again.

Even the Farm Bureau has stepped in, and is working to "Enhance the ability of Farmers to timely control the lawful operation and upkeep of Agricultural Equipment" and "...ensure farmers have access to the tools they need to keep their farms running, and America's families fed." Unfortunately, their work has no real teeth. It's going to take legislation.

As a member of the Iowa House, I will support common-sense legislation that gives Iowa Farmers the freedom to repair and maintain their own equipment. We need to do all we can to save our farmers time and money.

Anna Banowsky
Washington
Candidate for
State Representative
District 92

Who is influencing our representatives' actions?

Too many elected officials are voting by party orders, not by the constituents' views. We must pay attention to their actions.

Check out your lawmakers' record of voting, and contributions: <https://justfacts.votesmart.org/elections>. The site gives a fair picture of who your representative works for. Then ask these questions:

Is protecting guns MORE important than protecting our kids? Driscoll and Hora think so.

Is a child's gender MORE important than a child's education? Driscoll and Hora think so.

Are private, less regulated schools MORE important than public schools? Driscoll and Hora believe so.

Do students deserve special services to enhance learning? Driscoll and Hora say NO.

Should underage kids be encouraged to work in dangerous jobs? Driscoll and Hora think so.

Should the government control your own personal health decisions? Driscoll and Hora think so.

A vote for Anna Banowsky means a House Representative (District 92) who believes that public education benefits us all. She is already listening to voters more than her opponent and will respond to your questions with sensible answers.

Ed Chabal is running for

the Senate in District 46. His expertise in school finance far out qualifies him over his opponent. Chabal's interest in protecting Iowa's public school system and his knowledge of Iowa agriculture through family farming will ensure a diverse representation.

Driscoll's inappropriate contributors come from out of state and from business developers in Cedar Rapids (not in our district). Both she and Hora are heavily funded by their political party to whom they answer.

Jeanine Redlinger
Lone Tree

We need to clear the decks in this election

According to Statista.com Democrats have won the popular vote in 7 of the last 8 presidential elections.

In 2000 George W. Bush lost the popular vote but became president by winning the electoral vote. Likewise for Donald Trump in 2016 where Hillary Clinton won the popular vote by nearly 3 million votes.

Whether it's banning books, taking public funds away from public schools and giving them to parochial schools, overturning Roe, demonizing asylum seekers at the Mexican border, whitewashing history, or treating gay and transexual Americans as predators and perverts, polls show that most Americans don't want what Republicans are selling.

Recognizing this fact, the R's have attempted to limit people's right to vote and to have their votes counted fairly. Across the nation measures have been introduced by Republicans to do just that.

I'm old enough to remember when, after Bill Clinton's sexual escapade while in office, Republican Christians informed us that this made Clinton unfit for office and he must be removed. Now, even after Trump was convicted by a jury of "sexually abusing and defaming" E. Jean Carroll and ordered to pay a 5-million-dollar penalty, these same "Christians" are standing by their man.

Iowa's Attorney General Byrd even went to stand with Trump at trial, thereby debasing herself and Iowa voters by her slavish support of philandering Donald.

We need to clear the decks in this election and give these Trump lickspittles a chance to make a living in another field. You don't get to hold Democrats to a high moral standard and then blindly support an unethical pig on your side.

A vote for Democrats is a vote for returning decency and civility to our politics. We need to toss out these churls and hope the once proud GOP can find its moral compass.

Thomas Jacobson
Riverside

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