

**OUR VIEW**

## Both sides can work together

Wolves reintroduced themselves to Oregon. Ever since, there's been a lot of debate about what to do about them.

They aren't usually predators of people, though don't try to make friends. As for ranch cattle, wolves can treat them like a buffet.

Nobody knows that better than rancher Ted Birdseye. His Mill-Mar Ranch of 275 acres in Butte Falls has had more losses to wolves than any other rancher in Oregon, according to Oregon Public Broadcasting. Eight of his cows and two of his dogs have been killed by wolves. It's the Rogue Pack at work.

Is that bad luck? The cost of doing business? Something the government should compensate him for?

Oregon has a compensation program. It has paid out money to help ranchers hire riders, buy radios, hang flags from fences and compensate for losses of cattle, sheep and working dogs. That seems absolutely justified if government and Oregonians want this natural predator to return.

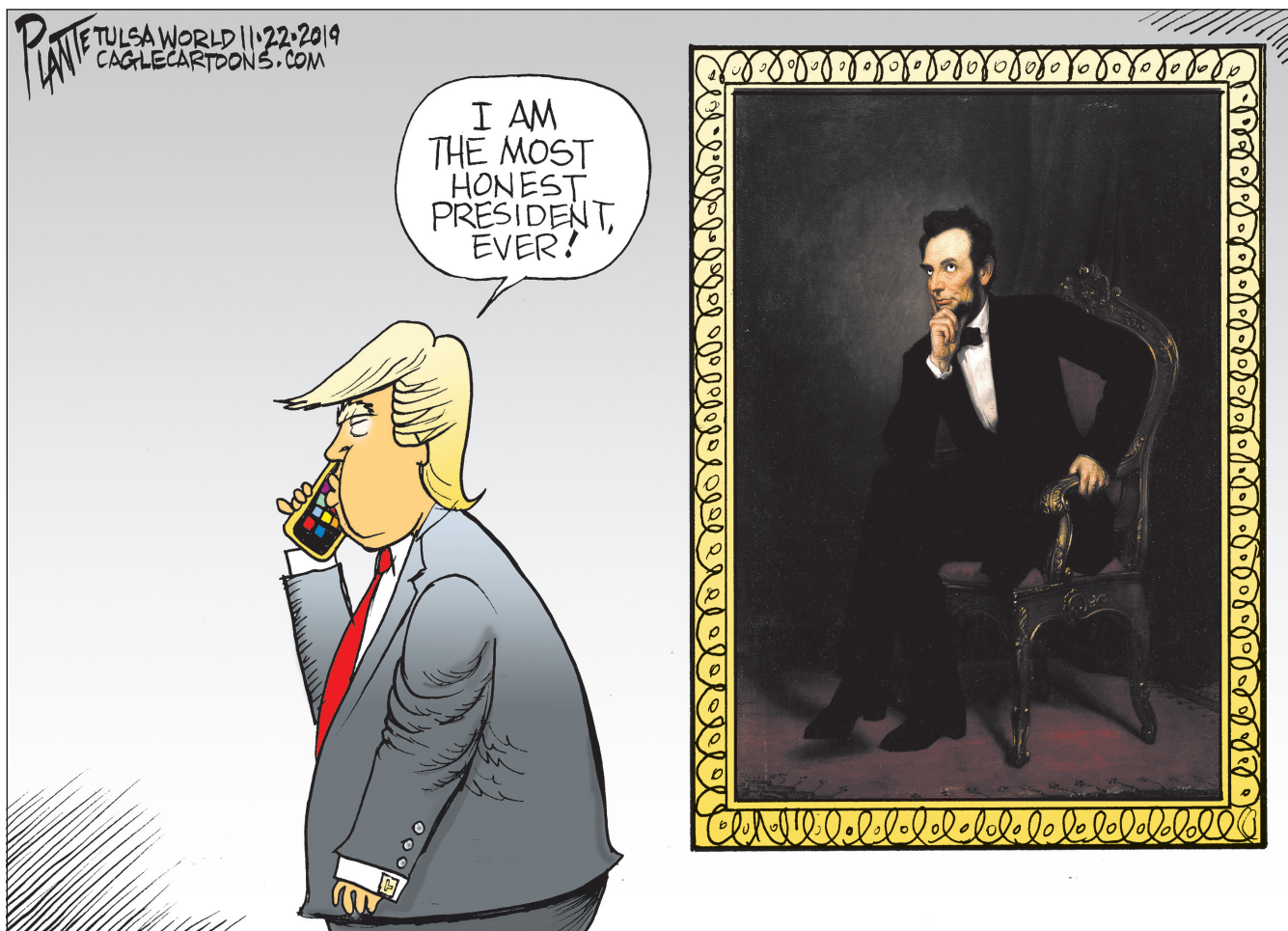
What's good is that people who want wolves to thrive in Oregon are working so hard to help Birdseye's ranch from being the place the Rogue Pack goes for meals. A school group came to his ranch and helped him remove some bone piles, according to OPB. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service wolf biologist John Stephenson has spent nights at the ranch to try to keep wolves away. He helped Birdseye put up flagging on its fences. Birdseye even tried those inflatable dancing men you see on car lots.

Thanks to Oregon's compensation program, federal grants and contributions from environmentalists Birdseye is getting 3 miles of electric fencing around his ranch. It cost more than \$46,000. Made from recycled steel posts spaced 90 feet apart, with eight strands of high-tensile electric wire running between 1-inch fiberglass rods, Birdseye said anything that touches the fence "is supposed to get the shock of its life." It is powered by a 3-foot-by-3-foot solar panel and battery.

"My big concern is I just hope it works," Birdseye said. "If it doesn't work, I don't know what the other options are."

The same kind of fencing has worked in Montana to keep wolves out.

The return of wolves is a welcome sign to some and a bad sign to others. But it is great to see different ends of the spectrum of views cooperate. Prevention of wolves killing livestock is key for people on all sides of the issue.



### Your views

#### Roberts: A Thanksgiving prayer for all of us

To the Editor:  
Our Thanksgiving holiday is Nov. 28 this year. This is a special day to thank our loving heavenly father for all he has provided. We sometimes forget it all belongs to him. Even we belong to him, and he deserves all the praise and glory for it all.

What an awesome God we serve. May our loving heavenly father bless each of you in our beautiful community of La Grande and surrounding areas with a blessed Thanksgiving, that is my prayer.

**Janice Roberts**  
La Grande

#### Rice: Lack of shelter from cold will result in deaths

To the Editor:  
Homelessness is a major obstacle to recovery from addiction and/or mental health disorders. Without a warming shelter many patients will not only fail to recover, they may die of overdose, hypothermia-related medical conditions or suicide. That will certainly be the case every year the warming shelter in Union County remains closed. Let me be clear: There will be deaths.

I am embarrassed and outraged that our community is considering forcing the warming station to close. And, make no mistake about it, excessive regulation and restriction is in fact an act of forcing the warming station to close.

While most deaths will be unacknowledged and quickly forgotten by all but family and friends, there will sooner or later be a death so clearly related to a failure to provide simple warmth that the city will be sued, and they will lose. Sadly, there will be many of us who will line up at that point to testify, "I told you so."

**Dr. Joel Rice**  
La Grande

#### Nelson: Where can the warming shelter be?

To the Editor:  
I am very disappointed that the opening of the Union County Warming Station has been delayed. The first location for the warming station two years ago was at Zion Lutheran Church when I was the pastor there. It was a trial run for just a couple of months. When a neighbor objected to the location, the council decided that future locations for

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the warming station should not be in residential areas.

The Union County Warming Station Board dutifully sought locations with commercial zoning and this year found one on Third Street. Now some members of the business community are objecting. If the warming station can't be in a residential area or a commercial area, where can it be?

Every community has people who are without a place to stay, and La Grande is no exception. We can decide to ignore them and hope they don't cause too much of a nuisance, or we can provide a place for them to gather, a bed for the night, a warm meal, physical resources, emotional support and referrals for assistance. In La Grande, a large group of volunteers has decided that the latter is the best course of action. They need your support.

I am convinced that the citizens of La Grande are people of good will and that we can come together to solve the issue of the Union County Warming Station location in a timely manner. The nights are already very cold for someone without shelter.

**Rev. Colleen Nelson**  
La Grande

#### Swart: Impeachment process is not a waste of time

To the Editor:  
I would like to put forth another

voice regarding the U.S. representatives in the impeachment process because, contrary to your opinion as stated in the Nov. 20 issue of The Observer, the impeachment is not a waste of time.

We are confirming in this impeachment process, according to your words, "Many of the president's actions and words since the time he stepped into office have been questionable, divisive and, at times, embarrassing. His lack of knowledge of history and his indifference to the truth are gravely disturbing."

How anyone could have been unaware of these characteristics of Mr. Trump when they voted for him is beyond my comprehension. But he was elected.

You indicate that both political parties make up their own facts. From my point of view, that is not true of both parties. However, anyone can determine the real facts by doing their own investigation. The president has people wearing T-shirts that say "Read the transcript." Have you read it? The Mueller report was made available to the public. How much of it have you read? This week of hearings has been open on television. How much have you watched? Both parties have had time to make their points. If you watched, you could make up your own mind as to the facts, rather than have some pundit give you their opinion.

The reason the impeachment hearings are not a waste of time is that we citizens have the opportunity to know and make up our own minds not just about this process but about the importance of knowing what happened in the last election and what is bound to happen in the next if we do not wake up.

Three years ago we elected a president that everyone knew was untruthful, who encouraged violence in his rallies, who had no respect for the constitution of the United States. We elected this kind of man to the highest office of the land, to be the leader of the free world, and to be an example to our children. We elected a man whose loyalties bend toward our enemy, not our own country.

We American citizens have to make up our minds about the kind of country in which we want to live, and the impeachment hearing process can help us decide.

**Evelyn Swart**  
Joseph

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