

# EAST OREGONIAN

Founded October 16, 1875

**KATHRYN B. BROWN**  
Publisher

**DANIEL WATTENBURGER**  
Managing Editor

**JENNINE PERKINSON**  
Advertising Director

**TIM TRAINOR**  
Opinion Page Editor

## OUR VIEW

# We need a nuanced solution from Salem on minimum wage

When the Oregon Legislature convenes a 2016 short session, lawmakers will confront various proposals to raise the minimum wage. And voters next November could confront multiple minimum wage increase ballot measures.

The reality of the Legislature's coming minimum wage discussion carries at least two elements. Thanks to a 2002 ballot initiative, Oregon has a minimum wage that is the second highest in the nation. It is indexed to rise with inflation. Secondly, any discussion of abruptly hiking the minimum wage to \$13.50 or \$15 must reckon with Oregon's two economies: that in Portland and that in the rest of the state.

Last week's issue of *Willamette Week* reported that Senate President Peter Courtney is leery of a one-size-fits-all approach to a major minimum wage hike. Courtney recognizes there is a gulf between Portland's economy, which is one of the hottest in the nation, and the rest of Oregon, much of which has not recovered from the Great Recession. "If we increase the wage, I want to see a minimum wage that has a floor — less than \$13.50," said Courtney. "Portland should be allowed to go big time, but I can't have a very big minimum across the state. It'll just crush smaller

communities."

Sen. Courtney's skepticism is well founded. While many Portland employers would have little or no difficulty handling a large wage hike, such a boost would push many small and mid-sized businesses in smaller economies to the margin of survival and perhaps failure.

State Sen. Betsy Johnson recently led legislators on a trip around Oregon. She says: "From Ontario to Roseburg to Astoria, I've talked to people who say \$15 is crippling. I don't think we have anticipated all of the unforeseen consequences. I am still absorbing information."

Gov. Kate Brown's press aide Kristen Grainger says: "The main point she's trying to make is she wants to make sure that it meets the needs of rural Oregon and small businesses and in Portland. She has been careful to stay away from a dollar amount."

Our own Republican legislators Bill Hansell, Greg Smith and Greg Barreto have all talked about the job-killing effect of a steep increase to the minimum wage. Hopefully they have been able to get that point across with their colleagues across the aisle.

A nuanced solution from the Legislature would be a good thing. That would give Oregonians a landmark in the ballot initiative campaigns we expect.

## There is a gulf between Portland's economy and the rest of Oregon.

Unsigned editorials are the opinion of the East Oregonian editorial board of Publisher Kathryn Brown, Managing Editor Daniel Wattenburger, and Opinion Page Editor Tim Trainor. Other columns, letters and cartoons on this page express the opinions of the authors and not necessarily that of the East Oregonian.

## YOUR VIEWS

### Echo's honor for veterans was moving

On Thursday I had the privilege of helping the Echo elementary and junior high school students honor veterans. My three children attend Echo School, and my wife is a teacher there, so I may be somewhat biased. Having said that, I was highly impressed with the level of preparation and, most importantly, honor that went into celebrating our veterans.

To begin the festivities, all the students dressed in patriotic garb, made floats from wagons, and carried handmade signs in a parade through Echo to honor each branch of the military. Veterans and their families from the surrounding communities were invited to attend a ceremony later in the day, and were introduced by name and honored by the students, one by one.

There were several songs and a couple of videos to further highlight those who have served our nation since its inception. After the main celebration, the guests were invited to a reception with cake, and a display by Echo students dressed as historical military figures, ranging from the Revolutionary War to Navy Seal sniper Chis Kyle. These students put in a tremendous amount of work to honor veterans. Well done.

Further, I would like to commend the staff members that were overseeing these presentations and offerings. It is a rare thing to see a school take time from their already tight academic schedule to show honor where honor is certainly due. Thank you for that. It is no less important to their education as math and reading.

My wife and I have made it a priority to make sure that our children understand the sacrifice our military personnel make on a daily basis, and have made over the years of our nation's existence. We teach them that it is not only polite, but required, to show honor and respect to veterans, as they are truly the reason our nation lives in relative safety, and I am confident and grateful that Echo School reinforces that practice.

So, again I say thank you to our veterans, and job well done to Echo elementary and junior high students and staff.

Justin Russell  
Pendleton

Stephen Peck  
Walla Walla

## LETTERS POLICY

The East Oregonian welcomes original letters of 400 words or less on public issues and public policies for publication in the newspaper and on our website. The newspaper reserves the right to withhold letters that address concerns about individual services and products or letters that infringe on the rights of private citizens. Submitted letters must be signed by the author and include the city of residence and a daytime phone number. The phone number will not be published. Unsigned letters will not be published. Send letters to Managing Editor Daniel Wattenburger, 211 S.E. Byers Ave. Pendleton, OR 97801 or email editor@eastoregonian.com.

## OTHER VIEWS



©Taylor Jones - all rights reserved.

caalecartoons.com

# Fearing fear itself

Like millions of people, I've been obsessively following the news from Paris, putting aside other things to focus on the horror. It's the natural human reaction. But let's be clear: It's also the reaction the terrorists want. And that's something not everyone seems to understand.

Take, for example, Jeb Bush's declaration that "this is an organized attempt to destroy Western civilization." No, it isn't. It's an organized attempt to sow panic, which isn't at all the same thing. And remarks like that, which blur that distinction and make terrorists seem more powerful than they are, just help the jihadist cause.

Think, for a moment, about what France is and what it represents. It has its problems — what nation doesn't? — but it's a robust democracy with a deep well of popular legitimacy. Its defense budget is small compared with ours, but it nonetheless retains a powerful military, and has the resources to make that military much stronger if it chooses. (France's economy is around 20 times the size of Syria's.) France is not going to be conquered by ISIS, now or ever. Destroy Western civilization? Not a chance.

So what was Friday's attack about? Killing random people in restaurants and at concerts is a strategy that reflects its perpetrators' fundamental weakness. It isn't going to establish a caliphate in Paris. What it can do, however, is inspire fear — which is why we call it terrorism, and shouldn't dignify it with the name of war.

The point is not to minimize the horror. It is, instead, to emphasize that the biggest danger terrorism poses to our society comes not from the direct harm inflicted, but from the wrong-headed responses it can inspire. And it's crucial to realize that there are multiple ways the response can go wrong.

It would certainly be a very bad thing if France or other democracies responded to terrorism with appeasement — if, for example, the French were to withdraw from the international effort against ISIS in the vain hope that jihadis would leave them alone. And I won't say that there are no would-be appeasers out there; there are indeed some people determined to believe that Western imperialism is the root of all evil, and all would be well if we stopped meddling.

But real-world examples of mainstream politicians, let alone governments, knuckling under to terrorist demands are hard to find. Most accusations of appeasement in America seem to be aimed at liberals who don't use what conservatives consider tough enough



PAUL KRUGMAN  
Comment

## Killing random people in restaurants and at concerts is a strategy that reflects its perpetrators' fundamental weakness.

language.

A much bigger risk, in practice, is that the targets of terrorism will try to achieve perfect security by eliminating every conceivable threat — a response that inevitably makes things worse, because it's a big, complicated world, and even superpowers can't set everything right. On 9/11 Donald Rumsfeld told his aides: "Sweep it up. Related and not," and immediately suggested using the attack as an excuse

to invade Iraq. The result was a disastrous war that actually empowered terrorists, and set the stage for the rise of ISIS.

And let's be clear: this wasn't just a matter of bad judgment. Yes, Virginia, people can and do exploit terrorism for political gain, including using it to justify what they imagine will be a splendid, politically beneficial little war.

Oh, and whatever people like Ted Cruz may imagine, ending our reluctance to kill innocent civilians wouldn't remove the limits to American power. It would,

however, do wonders for terrorist recruitment.

Finally, terrorism is just one of many dangers in the world, and shouldn't be allowed to divert our attention from other issues. Sorry, conservatives: when President Barack Obama describes climate change as the greatest threat we face, he's exactly right. Terrorism can't and won't destroy our civilization, but global warming could and might.

So what can we say about how to respond to terrorism? Before the atrocities in Paris, the West's general response involved a mix of policing, precaution, and military action. All involved difficult trade-offs: surveillance versus privacy, protection versus freedom of movement, denying terrorists havens versus the costs and dangers of waging war abroad. And it was always obvious that sometimes a terrorist attack would slip through.

Paris may have changed that calculus a bit, especially when it comes to Europe's handling of refugees, an agonizing issue that has now gotten even more fraught. And there will have to be a post-mortem on why such an elaborate plot wasn't spotted. But do you remember all the pronouncements that 9/11 would change everything? Well, it didn't — and neither will this atrocity.

Again, the goal of terrorists is to inspire terror, because that's all they're capable of. And the most important thing our societies can do in response is to refuse to give in to fear.

Paul Krugman joined *The New York Times* in 1999 as a columnist on the Op-Ed Page and continues as professor of Economics and International Affairs at Princeton University.

## CONTACT YOUR REPRESENTATIVES

### U.S. Senators

**Ron Wyden**  
Washington office:  
221 Dirksen Senate Office Bldg.  
Washington, DC 20510  
202-224-5244  
La Grande office:  
541-962-7691

**Jeff Merkley**  
Washington office:  
313 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510  
202-224-3753  
Pendleton office:  
541-278-1129

### U.S. Representative

**Greg Walden**  
Washington office:  
185 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515  
202-225-6730  
La Grande office:  
541-624-2400

### Governor

**Kate Brown**  
160 State Capitol  
900 Court Street  
Salem, OR 97301-4047  
503-378-4582