

EAST OREGONIAN
Founded October 16, 1875

KATHRYN B. BROWN Publisher
DANIEL WATTENBURGER Managing Editor
TIM TRAINOR Opinion Page Editor
MARISSA WILLIAMS Regional Advertising Director
MARCY ROSENBERG Circulation Manager
JANNA HEIMGARTNER Business Office Manager
MIKE JENSEN Production Manager

EO MEDIA GROUP

East Oregonian • The Daily Astorian • Capital Press • Hermiston Herald
Blue Mountain Eagle • Wallowa County Chieftain • Chinook Observer • Coast River Business Journal
Oregon Coast Today • Coast Weekend • Seaside Signal • Cannon Beach Gazette
Eastern Oregon Real Estate Guide • Eastern Oregon Marketplace • Coast Marketplace
OnlyAg.com • FarmSeller.com • Seaside-Sun.com • NorthwestOpinions.com • DiscoverOurCoast.com

OUR VIEW

What Cascadia will do to Eastern Oregon

You might not even notice it. A low, distant rumble may be all Eastern Oregon feels of the most destructive natural disaster in this country's history.

Cascadia. A massive earthquake off the Pacific coast registering above 8.0 on the Richter scale.

The quake itself will likely leave a disaster zone many hundreds of miles wide. Thousands of people will be dead and missing. The Oregon Coast will be left unrecognizable. Everything west of Interstate 5 in both Oregon and Washington will be damaged.

As we learned in a five-part series published this week in the *East Oregonian*, the short term effects in our area will not be so immediately catastrophic. But the lights will go out. Cellphones will be inoperable. Service stations may soon run out of gasoline. Grocery store shelves will have difficulty staying replenished.

While the initial quake won't topple our region or its buildings, the impact will be felt for at least a generation.

Hundreds of thousands, if not millions of people in the Northwest will be homeless. And the economic hub of the northwest will be devastated. The influx of people to and through our area will be enormous.

The series, reported deftly by *EO* staffer Jade McDowell, was an attempt to get past the fear and anxiety. The quake itself is terrifying, and as a state and region

we must do what we can to mitigate its most fatal effects. Schools in tsunamis zones should be rebuilt on safer ground. Key economic and emergency buildings in Portland, Salem, Seattle and Vancouver

should be made earthquake-resistant, despite the high price tag of doing so.

But we cannot rely on government to make such investments, especially at a time in Oregon when the state budget is already trying to climb out of a sinkhole of its own.

We cannot rely on a specific Cascadia reality. Scientists believe the plate shifts every 250 years or so, and we're 50 years behind schedule. The best guess is a 30 percent chance the massive quake is triggered in our lifetime. There will be a tremendous difference in the result depending on where, when and how it hits.

But we can learn to depend on ourselves.

We can learn lessons from Minamisoma, New Orleans and San Francisco. We can be personally prepared. We can talk with our loved ones about emergency preparation and options. We can have a plan to meet if communication systems go down. We can and must keep an emergency food and water supply, and include flashlights and candles and emergency radios. Even if the 'big one' doesn't shake in our lifetimes, lesser emergencies will surely come our way.

We can be ready, come what may.

While the initial quake won't topple our buildings, the impact will resonate for at least a generation.

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

Threats cause Murdock to abandon his principles

The headline of George Murdock's Feb. 11 column cut to the chase. Murdock himself is for immigration but nervous that the president could retaliate if our state is for it. As a result our county would be shorted needed funds.

Commissioner Murdock lists some programs that will suffer or need to be canceled outright. He says being fully funded faces a roadblock. Federal funding is vital but tenuous. Workers would have to have it carefully explained to them why they'd be without jobs.

The reason: We counties and states dare not tick off the President because he can decide to withhold federal funds. Be very afraid of him. The state of Oregon could suffer from presidential retaliation.

Commissioner Murdock seems to be saying if counties and states tiptoe and whisper, Mr. Trump will allow deserved funds to come through. Don't play chicken with the president.

Did past presidents also punish individual counties by withholding congressionally authorized funds? What a micromanaging nightmare! Is Congress easily seduced into approving funds so these moneys can be gerrymandered at executive whim?

If we are to be very afraid of Mr. Trump, are we also to be very afraid of offending our county commissioners? Will they withhold a graveled road here, a supported park there, if one of them becomes piqued at some nonpartisan sentiment we express?

The most disturbing of comments our commissioner made is that it's OK to be moral when all is going well, but if threatened, abandon principles. I realize he has an important task. County

funding is essential. So is clear-eyed leadership.

Don Reese
Echo

Hermiston schools bond much too expensive

The Hermiston School District is ramping up for another large bond issue. The one in 2008 runs for 29 years; this proposal would also run for 29 years.

Various school taxes are now in excess of 50 percent of your total property taxes. About a year ago this bond issue was reported to be at 53 cents per \$1,000 of assessed value. There have been several reports since, each climbing to the one reported Feb. 16 at 90 cents.

Hermiston has some of the fanciest schools in Oregon now. This is not a big city. Vote no on new taxes.

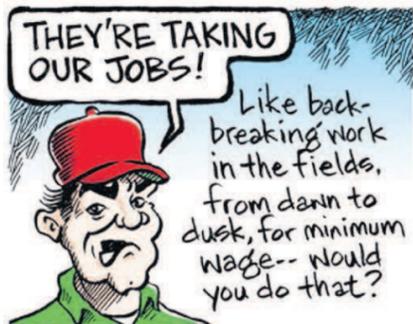
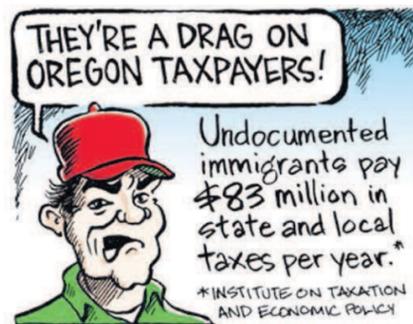
Jim Tiede
Hermiston

Obama oversaw much bigger market gains

Before the Republicans get giddy with glee about the recent stock market surge, let's remember that on Election Day in 2008, the Dow was hovering around 6,900. When Obama left office, it was over 18,000. All the while the GOP claimed that he had nothing to do with its ascent.

Either the president has the power to affect the market or he doesn't. You can't claim now to give Trump credit when the same courtesy wasn't granted to Obama. I hope the surge stays upward, but if you go back decades, you'll notice that the market has performed better under Democrats, so don't hold your breath.

David Gracia, Hermiston



OTHER VIEWS

Fight Trump, not his voters

A few days ago, I blithely tweeted a warning that Democrats often sound patronizing when speaking of Trump voters. That provoked a vehement reaction.

"Sorry," Jason tweeted back, "but if someone is supporting a racist ignoramus who wants to round up brown ppl and steal my money, I'm gonna patronize."

"This is normalization of a hateful ideology and it's shameful," protested another.

"My tone isn't patronizing," one person responded. "It's hostile. Intentionally. I won't coddle those who refuse to recognize my humanity."

"What a great idea!" another offered. "Let's recruit a whole bunch of bigoted unthinking lizard brains because we could possibly 'WIN!'"

And so the comments went, registering legitimate anxieties about President Donald Trump — but also the troubling condescension that worried me in the first place. I fear that the (richly deserved) animus toward Trump is spilling over onto all his supporters.

I understand the vehemence. Trump is a demagogue who vilifies and scapegoats refugees, Muslims, unauthorized immigrants, racial minorities, who strikes me as a danger to our national security. By all means stand up to him, and point out his lies and incompetence. But let's be careful about blanket judgments.

My hometown, Yamhill, Oregon, a farming community, is Trump country, and I have many friends who voted for Trump. I think they're profoundly wrong, but please don't dismiss them as hateful bigots.

The glove factory closed down. The timber business slimmed. Union jobs disappeared. Good folks found themselves struggling and sometimes self-medicated with methamphetamine or heroin. Too many of my schoolmates died early; one, Stacy Lasslett, died of hypothermia while she was homeless.

This is part of a national trend: Mortality rates for white middle-aged Americans have risen, reflecting working-class "deaths of despair." Liberals purport to champion these people but don't always understand them.

In Yamhill, plenty of well-meaning people were frustrated enough that they took a gamble on a silver-tongued provocateur. It wasn't because they were "bigoted unthinking lizard brains" but because they didn't know where to turn, and Trump spoke to their fears.

Trump tries to "otherize" Muslims, refugees, unauthorized immigrants and other large groups. It sometimes works when people don't actually know a Muslim or a refugee, and liberals likewise seem more willing to otherize Trump voters when they don't know any.

There are three reasons I think it's shortsighted to direct liberal fury at the entire mass of Trump voters, a complicated (and, yes, diverse) group of 63 million people.



NICHOLAS KRISTOF
Comment

First, stereotyping a huge slice of America as misogynist bigots is unfair and impairs understanding. Hundreds of thousands of those Trump supporters had voted for Barack Obama. Many are themselves black, Latino or Muslim. Are they all bigots?

Second, demonizing Trump voters feeds the dysfunction of our political system. One can be passionate about one's cause, and fight for it, without contributing to political paralysis that risks making our country

ungovernable. Tolerance is a liberal value; name-calling isn't. This raises knotty questions about tolerating intolerance, but is it really necessary to start with a blanket judgment writing off 46 percent of voters?

My Oregon hometown, a farming community, is Trump country, and I have many friends who voted for Trump. I think they're profoundly wrong, but please don't dismiss them.

When Trump demonizes journalists as "the enemy of the American people," that is an outrageous overstep. But suggesting that Trump voters are enemies of the people is also inappropriate.

The third reason is tactical: It's hard to win over voters whom you're insulting.

Many liberals argue that Hillary Clinton won the popular vote and that the focus should be on rallying the base and fighting voter suppression efforts. Yes, but Democrats flopped in Congress, governor races and state legislatures.

Republicans now control 68 percent of partisan legislative chambers in the U.S.

If Democrats want to battle voter suppression, it's crucial to win local races — including in white working-class districts in Ohio, Wisconsin and elsewhere.

Yes, a majority of Trump voters are probably unattainable for Democrats, but millions may be winnable. So don't blithely give up on 63 million people; instead, make arguments directed at them. Fight for their votes not with race-baiting but with economic pitches for the working and middle classes.

Clinton's calling half of Trump voters "deplorables" achieved nothing and probably cost her critical votes. Why would Democrats repeat that mistake?

Yes, the Trump camp includes some racists and other bigots. But it's a big camp, and let's not be so quick to affix labels on every member of a vast group.

This column may offend everyone, from Trump enthusiasts to liberals who decry them. But my message is simple:

Go ahead and denounce Trump's lies and bigotry. Stand firm against his disastrous policies. But please don't practice his trick of "otherizing" people into stick-figure caricatures, slurring vast groups as hopeless bigots. We're all complicated, and stereotypes are not helpful — including when they're of Trump supporters.

Nicholas Kristof grew up on a sheep and cherry farm in Yamhill. A columnist for The New York Times since 2001 he won the Pulitzer Prize in 1990 and 2006.

