

# O EAST OREGONIAN PINION

ANDREW CUTLER  
Publisher/Editor

KATHRYN B. BROWN  
Owner

ERICK PETERSON  
Hermiston Editor/Senior Reporter

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## OUR VIEW

# We must be friends, not enemies

In his first inaugural address, Abraham Lincoln made an appeal for unity on the eve of the Civil War.

“We are not enemies, but friends. We must not be enemies. Though passion may have strained it must not break our bonds of affection. The mystic chords of memory, stretching from every battlefield and patriot grave to every living heart and hearthstone all over this broad land, will yet swell the chorus of the Union, when again touched, as surely they will be, by the better angels of our nature.”

The American people are becoming ever more divided by national politics and cultural disputes. Recent polls conducted by the Pew Research Center show the partisan differences.

The politics of the past 20 years have become increasingly divisive, intolerant and personal.

Where did it all begin? Was it the election in 2020 of Joe Biden and the specious allegations of fraud, or was it the 2016 election of Donald Trump and the equally specious allegations of Russian collusion? Does it go back to Bush v. Gore, circa 2000?

Over the last 18 months we’ve seen a host of incidents that have fueled the divide — a summer of nightly riots in major cities accentuated by vandalism, looting and attempts to burn public buildings and immolate police officers; a divisive electoral campaign; and an angry mob of our fellow citizens busting into the U.S. Capitol.

And, of course, there’s the turmoil of the COVID-19 pandemic and the response to it by state and federal officials. What could be more divisive than government by mandate?

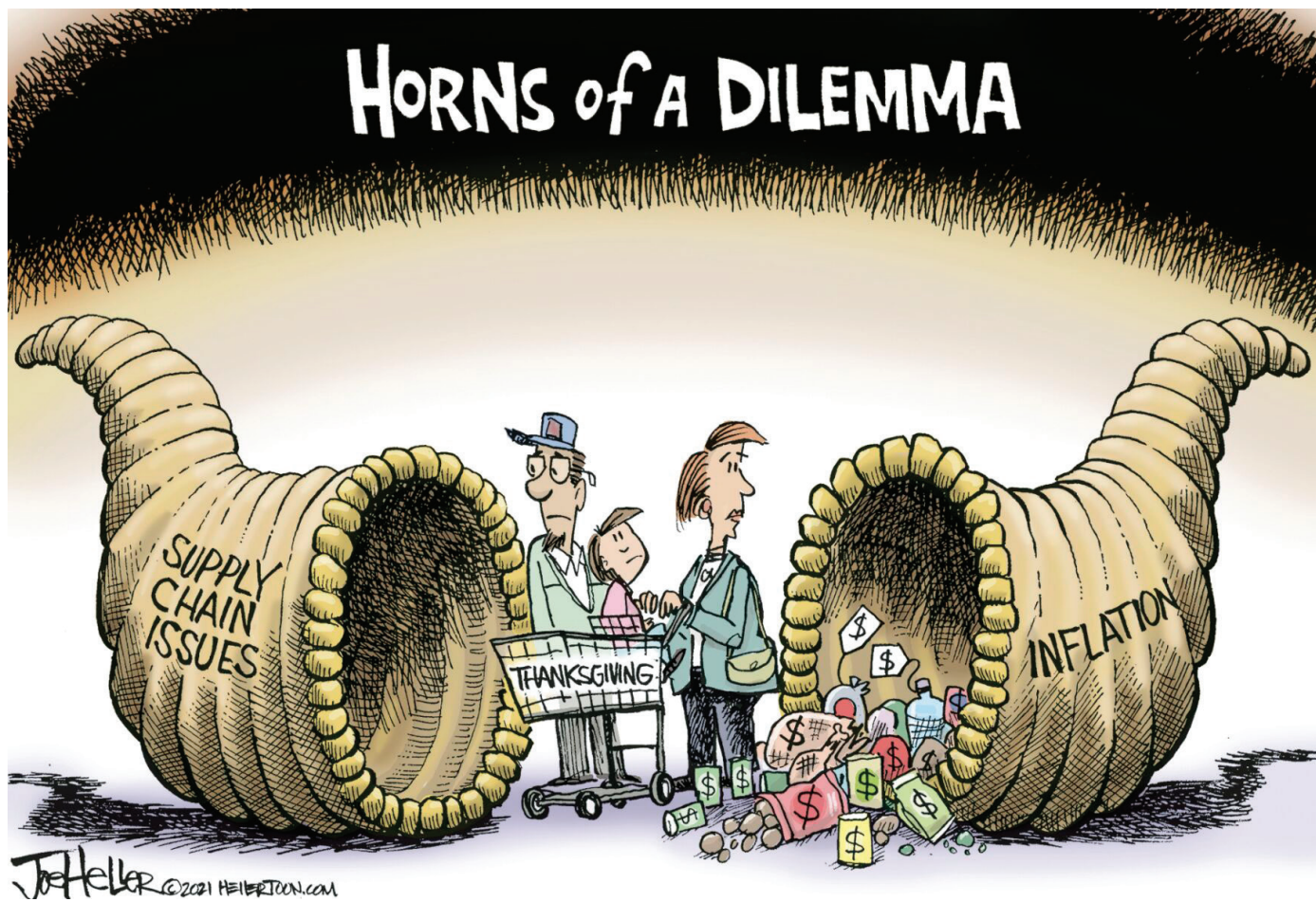
There is no shortage of provocateurs, left and right, using these incidents to whip us into a frenzy. But the real fault lies with us. We’ve taken the bait.

We have become all too occupied with the divisions, arranging ourselves neatly in one camp or another. We have listened only to those things that bolstered our world view. We allowed agitators and activists to use our fear and anger as a means to their own ends.

We stopped talking with and listening to each other. We have slapped vile labels on our neighbors and turned them into irredeemable enemies. And, when times are desperate, instinct dictates we deal harshly with an enemy.

We can disagree, but we must respect each other’s point of view. We should live our lives, not our politics. Rather than our differences, we must focus on our common values and ideals.

Our friendships are strained, but we must not be enemies.



## Forecasting snow accumulation in the area



LARRY  
NIERENBERG  
EYE TO THE SKY

Now that it is mid-November, we all know Thanksgiving and Christmas are right around the corner. It also means winter and snow across most of Oregon and Washington are not that far away, either.

In the past, the National Weather Service would forecast a range of snow accumulation for a location, say 4 to 6 inches, provide a particular time frame, and that would be it.

Currently, the NWS is not only forecasting the range but is providing the full range of possibilities from the least amount to the maximum amount for a given storm. Using the 4- to 6-inch range I mentioned above, that would be considered the “most likely” accumulation for a location. What this means is the forecaster is most confident that these amounts will occur in that particular area. However, does the forecaster think there is a better chance of 4 inches or 6 inches?

Also, though 4 to 6 inches is the most likely range of accumulations, there is still a chance the snowfall could be greater than 6 inches. Is this chance a high probability or low probability of occurring? At the same time, there is a chance the snow could be less than 4 inches. Again, is that a high percentage or a low percentage chance?

Over the last year or so, the NWS in Pendleton began forecasting probabilistic snow amounts. National Weather Service meteorologists predict the “most

likely” accumulations, based on their expertise and interpretation of the available meteorological guidance. A full set of snowfall forecast information is then developed that combines NWS forecaster skill and 50-plus U.S. and international weather models to give a range of possibilities, not just the current expectation.

Thus a more complete picture is formed with all this information that lets us know the likelihood of exceeding any given snowfall amount. Specifically, we use all this forecast data to compute a reasonable lower-end and higher-end snowfall amount based on many computer model simulations of possible snowfall totals.

The lower end amount represents a 90% chance that more snow will fall and only a 1 in 10 (or 10%) chance that less snow will fall. Conversely, our reasonable upper end snowfall amount represents a more unlikely scenario, with only a 1 in 10, or 10%, chance that more snow will fall, and a 9 in 10, or 90%, chance that less will fall. The upper end amount is considered a “reasonable worst case scenario” and has been proven to be useful for planning purposes for many of our partner agencies.

The most likely accumulations, “low end,” and “high end” are then plotted on maps. Additionally, other maps are made available for the probabilities of exceeding 1 inch, 2 inches, 4 inches, 6 inches, 8 inches, 12 inches and 18 inches or more of snow across the area.

Lastly, data is provided numerically for several cities and towns and by county. For example in Umatilla County, data is provided for Hermiston, Meacham, Milton-Freewater, Pendleton, Tollgate and Ukiah.

So, going back to my example of 4 to 6 inches, again, that is the most likely amount. Hypothetically, the chance of 8 inches or more could be only 10%, or it could be 40% or more depending on the scenario. These numbers can give you an idea if the accumulations look to be on the upper end or lower end of the forecast range, or even if they will be exceeded or come up short.

Also, the “high end” or “reasonable worst case” values can sometimes end up being fairly close to the most likely forecast. When this happens, it generally means there is good confidence in the forecast with little variation. Greater disparities between the high end, expected, and worst case amounts point to lesser confidence and a more complex winter storm system. Often, you will see quite a bit of variability (sometimes with accumulation differences in feet) over the Cascades and mountains of Northeastern Oregon and Southeastern Washington.

These probabilistic forecasts are generally updated twice a day around 5 a.m. and 5 p.m., but they can be updated at any time if the forecaster makes a significant change to the snow accumulations. The maps and data can be found on the National Weather Service Pendleton’s website at [weather.gov/PDT/winter](http://weather.gov/PDT/winter).

Hopefully, you will find this information useful the next time the flakes fly across Northeastern Oregon or Southeastern Washington.

*Larry Nierenberg is a senior forecaster for the National Weather Service in Pendleton. Nierenberg leads National Weather Service community outreach and hazardous weather preparedness and resiliency programs.*

## YOUR VIEWS

### Another perspective from an Arlington emergency responder

Information has circulated concerning the firing of David Anderson from his position as North Gilliam County Health District health care administrator. Most information has been gathered from Mr. Anderson and his supporters, without equal representations from the NGCHD board. These members cannot divulge information discussed in executive sessions. This has led to an inaccurate perception of the situation.

As an EMI intermediate who has been responding to calls in Arlington since 2010, and a clinic employee, I would like to clear a few things up. The idea that Mr. Anderson was fired “for no reason” is naive at best. There is always a reason, even if unknown to some. Current litigation will determine the justification. The “we are nothing without David” statement made by one crew member does not apply to all crew members. Hundreds of patients were transported successfully before Mr. Anderson was hired. Many patients would not have survived without our pre-David care. And though Mr. Ander-

son does respond on scene, most patients are transported by an EMT or EMTI.

To protest his firing, Mr. Anderson’s crew “walked,” leaving an entire town and a large section of Interstate 84 without emergency care. I did not support this and believe it’s morally and ethically wrong. They have since returned with the condition I am no longer a crew member. Now gossip abounds. Board members and clinic staff have been demonized. This vitriol is incredibly damaging and may prove detrimental to both the clinic and the ambulance. It needs to stop. I pray it does.

Susie Crosby  
Heppner

### Veterans need our help

November includes both Veterans Day and the Marine Corps birthday, a busy month for the veteran community. Typically there are ceremonies, parades and plenty of mattress sales. This year, in addition to all of that, I have a request. Please help us.

I’m tired of watching my brothers and sisters die, broken and alone. I don’t care about your politics or your religion. There should be nothing here but

agreement on the fact that our veterans deserve more. We have always been there for you. Please consider spending 10 minutes to be there for us. Call our representatives and tell them you care.

Here are just a few of the most influential bills:

- H.R. 147 provides transition services for military to civilian employment; to include apprenticeships.
- H.R. 886 establishes grants and assistance for state/local/tribal governments to implement programs to assist veterans charged with non-violent crimes to receive help.
- H.R. 3504 improves Veterans Affairs housing and education assistance programs.

- S. 1467 directs the VA to begin clinical trials on medical cannabis.
- S. 189 directs the VA to use the same cost of living increase as Social Security; ensuring disabled veterans keep up with inflation.

For an extensive list of proposals and more ways you can help, visit [www.vfw.org/advocacy](http://www.vfw.org/advocacy). (I am not affiliated with the Veterans of Foreign Wars, just a fan of their work.)

Kelley Dolson, USN retired  
La Grande

### EDITORIALS

Unsigned editorials are the opinion of the East Oregonian editorial board. Other columns, letters and cartoons on this page express the opinions of the authors and not necessarily that of the East Oregonian.

### LETTERS

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### SEND LETTERS TO:

[editor@eastoregonian.com](mailto:editor@eastoregonian.com),  
or via mail to Andrew Cutler,  
211 S.E. Byers Ave., Pendleton, OR 97801