

## OUR VIEW

# What we're thankful for in 2021

Each year, the Sun Prairie Star tells its readers what we're thankful for. Here's our list for 2021:

Farmers who battle the environment and complete a thankless job to feed the world. The World Champion Milwaukee Bucks! A warm sunny day. Pro football on Sundays and Mondays, and even Thursdays.

The Tom & Rita Tubbs Splashpad. iPhones. Gus's Diner. High fives. Sun Prairie Utilities. The Sun Prairie Cardinals -- all teams and all who compete and their toil for excellence.

The Colonial Club -- happy 50th! Hitting the snooze button. Disney Plus. Those who stand and defend -- and who have already stood and defended

-- our freedom. Safe holiday travel. Clergy members who work with us to keep the faith. The American Red Cross. The Wisconsin Badgers. Double Stuff Oreos. MeTV. Madison Reading Project. Rocky Rococo Pizza.

Board games. Winning the mental battles. Alex and the crew at Culver's Frozen Custard on West Main Street. Front line medical workers fighting to stay on the job and defeat COVID-19. Plug-in hybrids. Sun Prairie emergency responders and their dedication to helping people. Making the winning score. Prairie Athletic Club. The Green Bay Packers and the Green Bay Packers Foundation.

Hunters who responsibly hunt to control the deer

population. Christmas carols. The Sun Prairie Media Center. Chex mix. Badger Honor Flight. ESPN's Sports Center. A light dusting of snow. The Grinch Who Stole Christmas -- and put it back.

Monk's Bar & Grill. Holiday traditions that make everyone feel great. Acing that exam. Chocolate malts. Being fully vaccinated against COVID-19. An old pair of shoes that still fit.

A clean bill of health. Streaming your favorite movie or TV show on your favorite device. Eddie's Alehouse. Shopping and supporting local businesses who work hard to serve their customers.

Having it turn out after you make it up as you go along.

Bratwurst! Being sneaky good at something. Musicians whose hard work pays off in the enjoyment of listeners' ears. Salvatore's Tomato Pies.

The Ashley and Reining award winners and their service to Sun Prairie. Quarra Stone -- coming soon to the Sun Prairie Business Park. Getting the recipe right. How kids and pets play together. Sun Prairie Park Friends.

First downs. Chase Lumber Co. Finding money in your pockets. Open, honest government and elected officials with no agendas. Attacking the problem and finding the solution. The 2021 National League Central Champion Milwaukee Brewers. Groundhog Day -- the

festival and the movie! Financial institutions who grow with and invest in the community of Sun Prairie. The Sun Prairie Emergency Food Pantry, Sunshine Place and Sunshine Supper.

Crucial catches. Banana cream pie from Carl's Cakes. Sun Prairie's civic organizations who pitch in to make Sun Prairie a great place to live. The Circle of Freedom during the Token Creek Independence Day celebration. Rosati's Pizza. The seemingly immortal Rolling Stones. Coaches who prepare young athletes for life, and not just for winning. Staying #sunprairiestrong.

Most of all, we're thankful for you, our readers. Happy Thanksgiving from the Sun Prairie Star!

## THE RICH LOWRY COLUMN

# Joe Biden's incredible shrinking presidency

Joe Biden was never exactly a colossus bestriding the Earth, but he's been getting smaller by the day.

A Washington Post poll over the weekend suggested that his presidency is, for now, a smoking political crater. It had him at a 41% approval rating, despite the passage of his long-sought infrastructure bill that was supposed to buoy him and his party.

Even more striking, the survey found that Republicans lead Democrats on the generic congressional ballot by 10 points, 51% to 41%, an unprecedentedly strong showing for the GOP that forecasts an earthquake, tsunami, and maybe a few more natural disasters for Democrats come next fall.

And who can be surprised? Biden is stumbling, out of touch, and weak. Two of his major initiatives, at the border and in Afghanistan, created completely avoidable catastrophes. He has given no sense of being in control of events or even his own party. He is an accidental president who is running smack into his own inadequacies and absurd pretensions.

No one in Washington over the last four decades ever said that Joe Biden was just the man with the foresight, wisdom and deft political touch to lead the



Rich Lowry

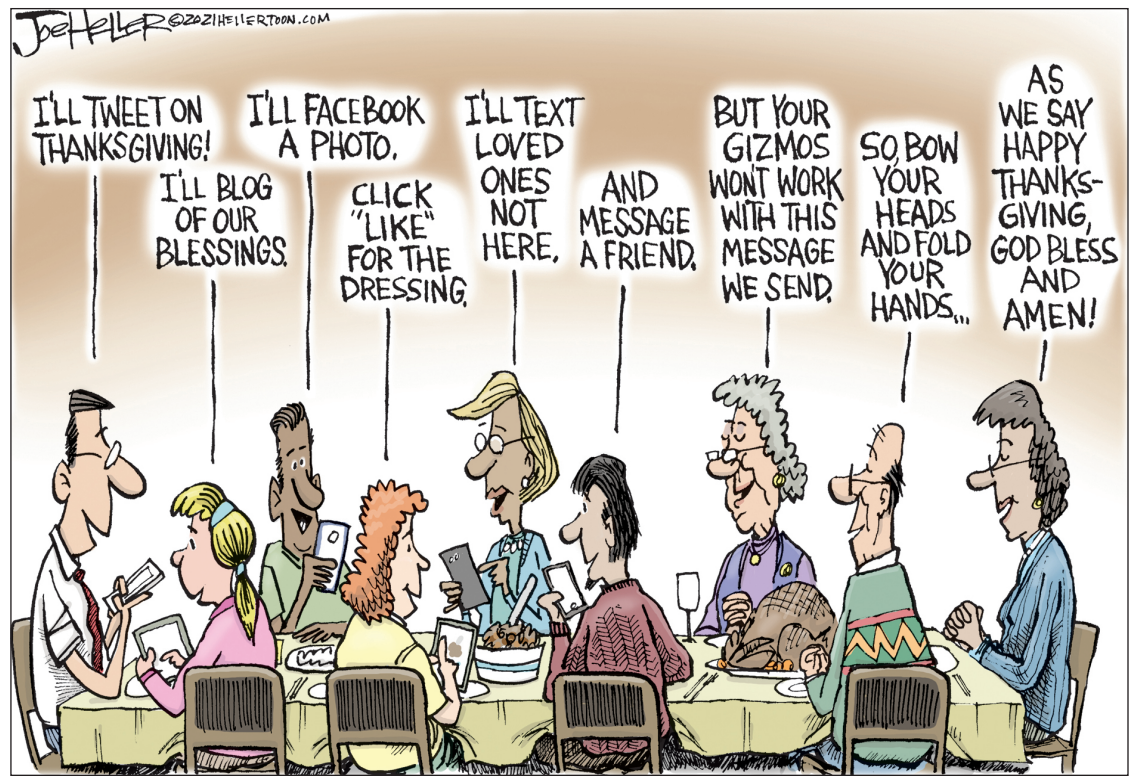
free world. No, he was an average senatorial bloviator whose first two presidential campaigns flamed out in embarrassing fashion, before he hit the jackpot when Barack Obama choose him as his running mate in 2008.

Showing the advantage of hanging around for a very long time, Biden won both the 2020 Democratic nomination and the presidency by default. In the primaries, the former vice president looked good in comparison to Bernie Sanders, and he ran in the general on not being Donald Trump.

Now, Biden is allied with Bernie Sanders, who helped write the first version of his Build Back Better plan, and Donald Trump no longer looms as large as Biden's foil.

The best case for Biden's presidency was that he could be a kind of consensus caretaker -- restoring a sense of normality and maintaining a low profile while riding in the slipstream of improving economic conditions and a diminishing pandemic.

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## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

### Main Street 25 MPH speed limit is 'just governmental stupidity'

*Managing editor's note: The following was emailed to the Sun Prairie Star as an open letter to Sun Prairie District 4 Alder Mary Polenske:*

I have been meaning to write you regarding the reduction of the speed limit on Main Street. Since I figure Sun Prairie was just following Madison, I haven't written until now. I was on the west side of Madison, via East Washington, yesterday and noticed that Madison has quietly moved their 25 miles per hour (MPH) limit back to 40/35/30 along that street.

I notice the same on normal

streets where only weeks ago they had "traffic enforcement" signs along city streets with decreased speed limits. They have, again, quietly changed the speed limit signs back to 25.

In Sun Prairie, it has become a ridiculous and futile effort by whomever decided to put the 25 mph in place.

I use my cruise control to guarantee I'm going 25 (although I know some cars can't even set a cruise limit that low).

And what do I get for my attempt to follow a law? "The finger", yelled at, almost rear-ended as people madly move around me, tailgated and seeing vehicles routinely traveling faster than the speed limit.

In the beginning there were often patrol cars monitoring this, especially in our district on Main Street. Now, that never happens. In fact, at any given

time passing the West Side Community Service Building, I see five to seven parked police vehicles. People just blow past the flashing MPH sign.

What is going to happen is either an accident or, the way this town is going, gun play.

Either put the limits back to a sane MPH, or install ticket dispensing signs, or hire some sort of traffic technicians with the authority to ticket speeders and/or gather information to see what percent of people ARE following the new limits.

Heck, give me a speed gun and I'll sit out there and gather data to support a change.

It's just governmental stupidity. It's not working so admit it and restore the original speed limits and find some other way to address the issue.

**Anne Kienitz**  
Sun Prairie

## LETTERS POLICY

We gladly accept opinion letters on topics of local importance. Letters must be typed or emailed, include the name, phone number and address of the author and not exceed 400 words. Letters may also be posted on the newspaper's website.

Unsigned or anonymous letters will not be printed. Letters must be signed by one individual rather than multiple signatures.

Letters must conform to guidelines of civility.

The editor reserves the right to edit any letter for space, spelling and grammar, without changing the meaning or intent of the letter, or decline to publish any letter for any reason.

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## THE BOB FRANKEN COLUMN

# Inflation: A politician's nightmare

In 1931, smack dab at the beginning of the Great Depression (although, when was any depression "great?"), it was a big hit: "Brother Can You Spare a Dime?" Today, 90 years later, what with inflation, the 10 cents of yesteryear has a purchasing power of \$1.82, so the song in 2021 would be "Brother Could You Spare a Buck 82?" It doesn't have the same pizzazz, does it?

John D. Rockefeller used to throw dimes at the crowds he encountered. Rockefeller was the rich guy of his generation, sort of like Donald Trump, except that Rockefeller was successful in business and Trump was a failure in business but was a success in politics, rising to president once ... or twice, if you believe him. As president,



Bob Franken

in 2017, Donald Trump tossed paper towels at his audience while delivering aid to hurricane-devastated Puerto Rico. He was always that sensitive.

He has been replaced in the White House by Joe Biden, but Biden faces a threat that is known as a saboteur of more than one chief executive: inflation. Rising consumer prices are death to a presidency.

Voters don't want to hear about supply chains; they don't even know what a supply chain is, no matter how many times TV news broadcasts the same jammed ships stuck full of

cargo containers coming from China.

They don't want to hear about the tragic pandemic that also did lasting harm to the world economy and is causing prices to rise to the highest rates in 30 years. They do want someone to blame for the cost of cars, and the gas that powers them, as they head to the grocery store and to shop for the Christmas gifts they can't afford, even online, even mis-delivered.

No matter how many jobs the new infrastructure legislation creates, inflation is a politician's nightmare -- that is, for the one who is in office. For the one who is running against the incumbent, it's a dream come

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