

## Has America lost its class?

What kind of people are we? All my life, I have believed Americans were the kind of people who cared about each other, our fellow citizens. I understood that paying taxes was like joining a cooperative; we benefited from government services and so did others. It meant school children would eat a lunch and maybe a breakfast, and farmers would get reimbursed for the crops they had grown. It made sense to me that our country is stronger when our people are healthy.

### My Voice ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Evelyn Swart, of Joseph, is a retired educator. She taught mainly in Oregon and Idaho and all ages from first grade to post graduate. Since retirement she has been a consummate volunteer.



My Voice columns reflect the views of the author only. My Voice columns should be 500-700 words or as space allows. Submissions should include a portrait-type photograph of the author. Authors also should include their full name, age, occupation and relevant organizational memberships. We edit submissions for brevity, grammar, taste and legal reasons. We do not fact check. We reject those published elsewhere. Send columns to La Grande Observer, 1406 5th St., La Grande, Ore., 97850, fax them to 541-963-7804 or email them to news@lagrandeobserver.com.

I believed that everyone should have an education to their capability and aspirations, and the United States would benefit economically and competitively as we became better educated.

As a citizen, I understood that the First Amendment meant that freedom of religion was for all religions. Americans could worship (or not worship) according to their family's heritage or their personal choice.

I knew that the press did not always agree with my opinions, but I have freedom to disagree and say so. I believed that the United States of America was the best. In the world of hundreds of countries, my country was at the top. The U.S. had class.

We are changing. But these changes are not making us "great again." We are not going back to a better time, but it is definitely different.

Why are we caring less about each other, using more inappropriate language and discarding previously revered guideposts that we long depended upon?

Is our fear of the future causing us to ignore the Ten Commandments, the Beatitudes and the Sermon on the Mount from the Christian Bible? Why do we neglect the Preamble to the Constitution and the Bill of Rights?

The framers of the Constitution explained in the Preamble what the Constitution was all about. In our day, we would call the Preamble a mission statement. The Preamble clearly states that in addition to providing for the common defense, our country's mission includes promoting the general welfare and securing the blessings of liberty for our ourselves and our descendants.

In the beginning history of the country many people came from Europe without money. The Statue of Liberty expresses that our ancestors were "poor, homeless, wretched and tempest-tossed by storms..." Our European ancestors were poor, homeless and wretched, but they had class.

How can we call the U.S. a Christian nation when many of our leaders and their followers have traded the teachings of Jesus for the philosophy of Ayn Rand?

Who shall inherit the earth? The meek, or the bullies? The sick, or those wealthy enough to have health care? Those who are in prison, or those who are pardoned? Those who are hungry, or those who are dieting?

Has America lost its mission? Has America lost its class?



## Your views

### Schwartz: Which candidate will acknowledge climate is changing?

To the Editor:  
Most of us accept the scientific evidence that our world is warming. The downstream effects of warming our global environment are not good. Worldwide there will be hotter temperatures, more droughts, fires, famine and refugees. There will be more competition for dwindling resources, potentially threatening our own national security.

One major cause of this warming is mankind's activities. Thus, we have the theoretical ability to change this scenario. We need our lawmakers to acknowledge this and come up with science-based solutions. How do we know which of our District 2 congressional candidates is paying attention and willing to do this? An easy way is to

look at their websites and see their stance on global warming. Greg Walden's website doesn't mention it. Jamie McLeod-Skinner's website says global warming is the greatest threat to our environment there is. I'm voting for Jamie.

John Schwartz  
The Dalles

### New: Donations to Walden's campaign are more like payments

To the Editor:  
I was not surprised to see this piece of information in the La Grande Observer today (Aug. 20): "Walden outraises McLeod-Skinner 10:1." I absolutely believe it's true, and I do think it's worthy of publication — but not because it indicates in any way that Walden is the better candidate, or that his fundraising abilities are something to be admired or applauded. What I think is note-

worthy about this statistic is where the money for each candidate comes from. Rep. Greg Walden is funded 90 percent by outsider dollars — not just outside his district, but in large part outside the state of Oregon. These are almost exclusively corporate donors, and as such they represent a quid pro quo ("something for something") arrangement that has nothing to do with representing constituents. In fact, one could make the case that they are more payments than donations. The "somethings" are reflected in Mr. Walden's voting records on issues from climate change to gun safety to pharmaceuticals.

By contrast, Jamie McLeod-Skinner is funded largely by CD2 people. People. Individuals. From CD2. Open Secrets points out that McLeod-Skinner has raised double the amount from small donors that Walden has ([www.opensecrets.org/races/](http://www.opensecrets.org/races/)

### Write to us LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The Observer welcomes letters to the editor. Letters are limited to 350 words and must be signed and carry the author's address and phone number (for verification purposes only). Email your letters to news@lagrandeobserver.com or mail them to La Grande Observer, 1406 5th St., La Grande, Ore., 97850.

ary?cycle=2018&id=OR02). To me that says that people — actual individual people — are investing in the idea of a representative who cares about constituents more than corporate objectives.

Bonnie New  
Hood River

## CONTACT YOUR PUBLIC OFFICIALS

**State Sen. William S. Hansell (29th District/Pendleton):** Salem office: 900 Court St. NE., S-423, Salem, OR 97301; 503-986-1729. Website: [www.oregonlegislature.gov/hansell](http://www.oregonlegislature.gov/hansell). Email: [sen.billhansell@oregonlegislature.gov](mailto:sen.billhansell@oregonlegislature.gov).

**State Rep. Greg Barreto (58th District/Cove):** Salem office: 900 Court St. NE., H-384, Salem, OR 97301; 503-986-1458. Website: [www.oregonlegislature.gov/barreto](http://www.oregonlegislature.gov/barreto). Email: [rep.gregbarreto@oregonlegislature.gov](mailto:rep.gregbarreto@oregonlegislature.gov).

**State Rep. Greg Smith (57th District):** Salem office: 900 Court St. NE., H-482, Salem, OR 97301; 503-986-1457. Heppner office: P.O. Box 219, Heppner, OR 97836; 541-676-5154; Website: [www.oregonlegislature.gov/smithg](http://www.oregonlegislature.gov/smithg). Email: [rep.gregsmith@oregonlegislature.gov](mailto:rep.gregsmith@oregonlegislature.gov).

**Oregon Legislature:** Legislative documents and information are available online at [www.leg.state.or.us](http://www.leg.state.or.us).

**City of La Grande:** Mayor Steve Clements, City Manager Robert Stroppe; P.O. Box 670, La Grande, OR 97850; 541-962-1309; fax 541-963-3333.

**Union County Commissioners:** Donna Beverage, Steve

McClure and Jack Howard; 1106 K Ave., La Grande, OR 97850; 541-963-1001; fax 541-963-1079.

**Wallowa County Commissioners:** Paul Castilleja, Todd Nash and Susan Roberts; 101 S. River St., Room 202, Enterprise, OR 97828; 541-426-4543, ext. 11; fax 541-426-0582.

**Elgin City Councilors:** Mayor Allan Duffy, 501 N 11th St., 541-437-1016, [mayor@cityofelginor.org](mailto:mayor@cityofelginor.org); Mary West, 260 N 5th Ave., 541-805-0443, [councilor3@cityofelginor.org](mailto:councilor3@cityofelginor.org); Kathy Warren, PO Box 697, 541-786-9611, [councilor6@cityofelginor.org](mailto:councilor6@cityofelginor.org); Councilor Teresa Hylton-Shaffer, 540 N. 10th Ave., 541-663-6666, [councilor5@cityofelginor.org](mailto:councilor5@cityofelginor.org); Risa Halgarth, PO Box 525, 541-437-9462, [councilor2@cityofelginor.org](mailto:councilor2@cityofelginor.org); Rocky Burgess, 800 N 14th St., P.O. Box 854, 541-786-2417, [councilor1@cityofelginor.org](mailto:councilor1@cityofelginor.org); David Reed, 1011 Detroit St., PO Box 368; 541-975-3306, [councilor4@cityofelginor.org](mailto:councilor4@cityofelginor.org); Ryan Martin

**Enterprise City Councilors:** Mayor Stacey Karvoski, [mayorofenterprise@gmail.com](mailto:mayorofenterprise@gmail.com); Jenni Word; Dave Elliott; Ashley Sullivan; Micah Agnew; Larry Christman; Chris Pitchard; 541-426-

4196; mail to City of Enterprise, 108 N.E. 1st Street, Enterprise, OR 97828

**Imbler City Councilors:** Mayor Mike McLean, Corrine Wilfong, Herman Ortmann, Mark Howell, Rick Viecek, Joan Harding, Jason Berglund; 180 Ruckman Ave., P.O. Box 40, Imbler OR 97841; 541-534-6095

**Joseph City Councilors:** Mayor Dennis Sands; Pearl Sturm; Teresa Sajonia; Tom Clevenger; Kathy Bingham; George Ballard; 541-432-3832; P.O. Box 15, Joseph, Oregon 97846; 201 North Main St.; [cityofjosephoregon@gmail.com](mailto:cityofjosephoregon@gmail.com)

**La Grande City Councilors:** Mayor Steve Clements, Gary Lillard, Nicole Howard, Corrine Dutto, Mary Ann Miesner, Troy Pointer, Justin Rock; through the City Manager's office, 541-962-1309

**Union City Councilors:** Mayor Leonard Flint, LeonardFlint@cityofunion.com; John Farmer, johnfarmer@cityofunion.com; Randy Knop, councilorknop@cityofunion.com; Sue Hawkins, susanhawkins@cityofunion.com; Matt Later, mattlater@cityofunion.com; Jay Blackburn, jayblackburn@cityofunion.com; Walt Brookshire, waltbrookshire@cityofunion.com

### SUBSCRIPTION INFORMATION

#### SUBSCRIBE AND SAVE

NEWSSTAND PRICE: \$1.00

You can save up to 34% off the single-copy price with home delivery.

Call 541-963-3161 to subscribe.

Stopped account balances less than \$5 will be refunded upon request.

#### Subscription rates per month:

By carrier ..... \$10.50  
By mail, all other U.S. .... \$15

## THE OBSERVER

An independent newspaper founded in 1896

(USPS 299-260)

The Observer reserves the right to adjust subscription rates by giving prepaid and mail subscribers 30 days notice. Periodicals postage paid at La Grande, Oregon 97850. Published Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays (except Dec. 25) by Western Communications Inc., 1406 Fifth St., La Grande, OR 97850 (USPS 299-260)

COPYRIGHT © 2018 THE OBSERVER  
The Observer retains ownership and copyright protection of all staff-prepared news copy, advertising copy, photos and news or ad illustrations. They may not be reproduced without explicit prior approval.

Phone: 541-963-3161

Toll free (Oregon): 1-800-422-3110

Fax: 541-963-7804

Email: [news@lagrandeobserver.com](mailto:news@lagrandeobserver.com)

Website: [www.lagrandeobserver.com](http://www.lagrandeobserver.com)

Street address: 1406 Fifth St., La Grande

POSTMASTER  
Send address changes to:  
The Observer, 1406 Fifth St., La Grande, OR 97850

Periodicals postage paid at La Grande, Oregon 97850

### STAFF

Regional publisher.....	Karrine Brogotti	Home delivery advisor.....	Amanda Fredrick
General manager/ Regional operations manager .....	Frank Everidge	Customer service rep .....	Mollie Lynch
Regional audience development director.....	Kelli Craft	Advertising representative .....	Karen Fye
Editor.....	Cherise Kaechele	Advertising representative .....	Juli Bloodgood
News clerk.....	Lisa Lester Kelly	Advertising representative .....	Amy Horn
Sports editor.....	Ronald Bond	Graphic design supervisor.....	Dorothy Kautz
Reporter.....	Dick Mason	Graphic design .....	Cheryl Christian
Reporter.....	Audrey Love	Lead pressman.....	Chris Dunn
Reporter.....	Max Denning	Pressman .....	Jay Magnuson
Classifieds .....	Devi Mathson	Distribution center supervisor .....	Larra Cutler
Customer service rep .....	Sharon Magnuson	Distribution center.....	Terry Everidge
		Distribution center.....	Sally Neaves



A division of

Western Communications Inc.