

OUR VIEW

Landing leaves a legacy

Fifty years ago the entire world turned its eyes to the heavens as astronauts from the United States landed on the moon.

Those alive at the time remember the story. Younger readers may need a brief tutorial.

The space program was as much a political operation as it was a scientific pursuit. In the midst of the Cold War, the Soviets launched the first satellite in 1957 and the Space Race was off and running.

The military applications of rocket technology were obvious and mostly went unstated. To the public, the Space Race was a competition between capitalism and communism for ideological bragging rights.

In 1962, President Kennedy committed the United States to sending an American to the moon and back before the end of the decade. On July 20, 1969, Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin landed on the Sea of Tranquility as Michael Collins orbited the moon. NASA astronauts made five additional landings, the last in December of 1972.

Since then NASA has concentrated on unmanned exploratory missions and manned earth orbital flights.

The innovation that led to the successful exploration of the moon, and those that have followed in the post-lunar space program, have been of great value to earth-bound agriculture.

NASA has documented several examples over the years. Here are just a few:

- Wireless telemetry — the collection of measurements and other data at one location and transmitting it to another location — was not born in the space program, but it was perfected for manned and unmanned space flight.

Experiments left on the moon by the Apollo astronauts relayed data to earth for years afterward. Sensors in farm fields use telemetry to relay a variety of data regarding a variety of crop conditions directly to a farmer's cell phone. It also makes it possible for farmers to monitor and control irrigation equipment without entering the field.

- Global Positioning Systems make it possible to pinpoint the location of an earthbound receiver by triangulating the signals of multiple orbiting satellites. GPS makes possible precision agriculture and self-guiding tractors and combines.

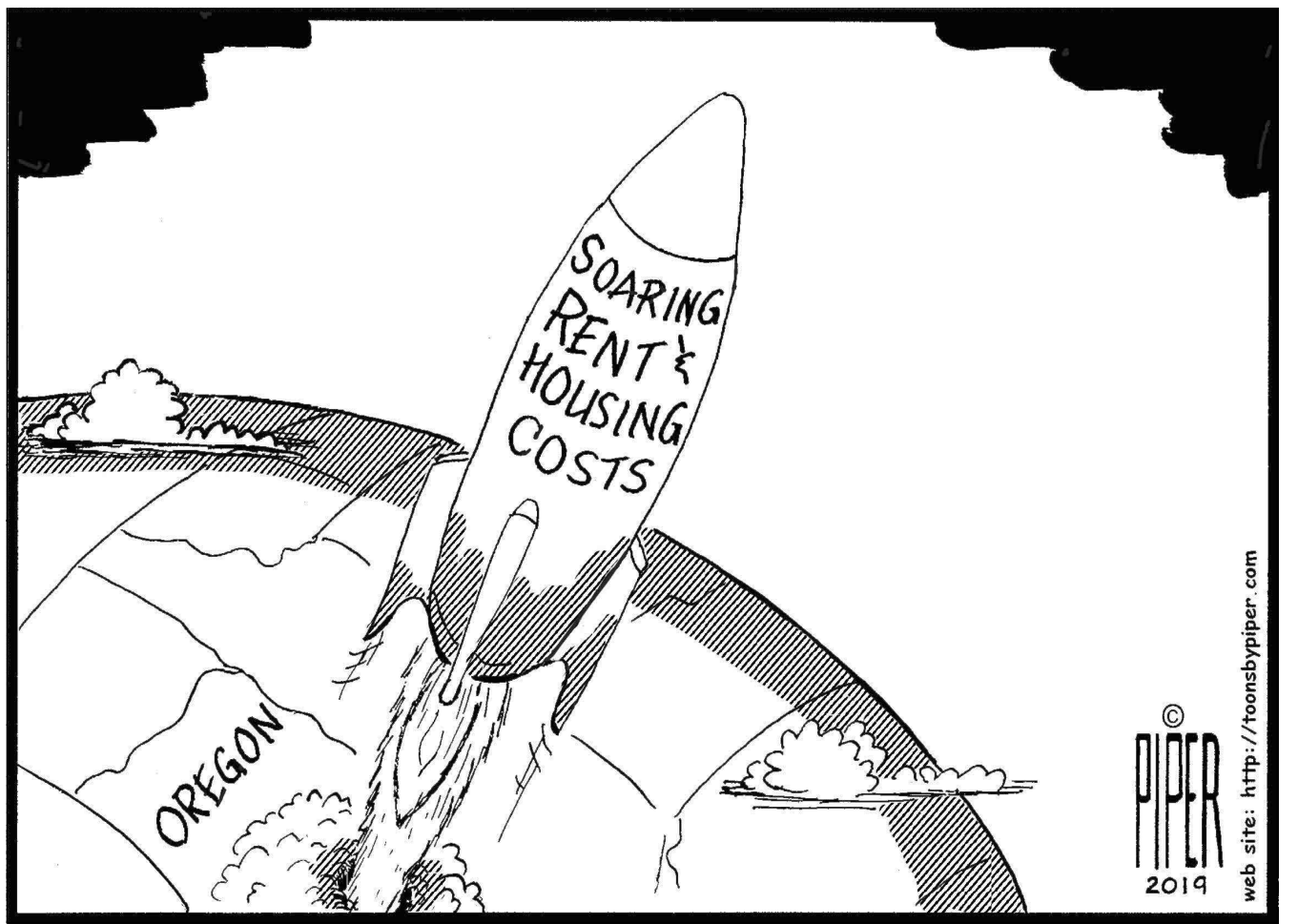
- Satellite imagery makes it possible to monitor crop conditions and forecast yields. Through remote sensing satellites help keep track of the snowpack and aid in water resource management.

- Fertilizer developed for use onboard space stations has found its way to fields on earth.

At some point in the 1970s it became fashionable, given the growing social problems of the times, to question the expense of the space program.

But the technology produced as a result of the U.S. space program has changed, for the better, virtually every industry and the lives of every person alive today in ways that could not have been imagined in 1957. Certainly that is true for agriculture and farmers.

The moon landing was a singular achievement in human history. But the practical applications of the technology that made it possible, and that have been developed as a result, are the enduring legacy of our quest for the moon.



Your views

Moore: Looking forward to The Observer's future

To the Editor:
I would like to thank Ronald Bond and Karrine Brogotti for their excellent articles on the opinion page recently and also commend Dick Mason on his well-written and enjoyable articles. Their honest sharing of how they have struggled to keep the paper coming under such a challenging time is inspiring.

Like many readers I admit I have done my share of grumbling and wondered if my subscription was worth it, but reading their perspectives has encouraged me to look forward to the future and wish those faithful employees luck.

Pamela W. Moore
La Grande

Journet: Runaway Republicans aimed to thwart democracy

To the Editor:
Discussion of the cap-and-trade House Bill 2020 in the Oregon Senate was thwarted when Republicans walked out claiming their concerns and proposals had been ignored. Prominent among the Runaway Republicans was Sen. Cliff Bentz, R-Ontario, himself a member of the Joint Committee developing HB 2020.

Contrary to claims that Republican ideas and proposals were suppressed in a power gambit by Democrats on the committee, despite the fact that much Republican activity was designed simply to thwart action, the final version of HB 2020 included 17 Republican suggestions. Yet still they walked out refusing to do the job for which they were elected.

Republicans denied a quorum, closed the government and refused to address statewide greenhouse gas emissions or engage in a rational discussion of the merits of HB 2020. Reasonably, they are being fined for this irresponsible behavior.

In addition to claiming that HB 2020 constituted a Democrat power grab, Republicans claimed that it represented an effort by urban Oregonians to impose their will on the state at the expense of rural Oregonians. In reality, however, the bill contains 30 items where HB 2020 targets economic

investment in rural Oregon. Just as reasonable would be the claim that HB 2020 is a rural effort targeting urban Oregon.

Alan Journet
Southern Oregon Climate Action Now
Jacksonville

Shippentower: President lacks the moral characteristics to lead the country

To the Editor:
The Donald certainly was not the first presidential candidate to realize that the historical and deeply ingrained racism and bigotry in our country could be tapped into for political purposes. However, other candidates who realized this had principles, values and a moral upbringing that precluded them from exploiting these negative characteristics for political and personal gain.

Unfortunately, The Donald does not have any principles and values to live by, so in 2016, he and his supporters rode racism and bigotry all the way to the White House. Currently, he is trying the same strategy and method for a second act.

We all saw the ugly scenes Wednesday in North Carolina — “Send her back! Send her back!” Back to where? Michigan?

Thankfully, as we all know, the four congresswomen are not going anywhere.

And there was The Donald, playing head cheerleader and goading them on with their racist chants. Now, is this “leadership?” Is this what we have come to accept from the occupant of the Office of the President of the United States? Could anyone even imagine this kind of conduct from Abraham Lincoln or Dwight Eisenhower (both Republicans), or from any other previous president? Of course not.

The Donald was strutting around and basking in all the glory and adulation he always receives in places like Montana and North Carolina. Why doesn't he hold a “rally” in Los Angeles, San Francisco, Portland or Seattle? After all, he is the president of the entire country. However, The Donald will only set foot in places where it is politically safe to go.

It was laughable when I read that The Donald is a “street fighter.” The Donald is the worst kind of coward; one of his official policies is to lock up toddlers and children in cages. Remember, these are his policies in his role as the President of the United States (Commander in Chief).

Also, would a respectable street fighter evade the military draft during wartime (Vietnam), or even peacetime, like The Donald did?

If The Donald is re-elected, then the Statue of Liberty needs to be removed. Otherwise, it would be blatant hypocrisy of our entire country to profess to honor its principles while electing a bigoted and racist president.

Bob Shippentower
Pendleton

Low: Some notes on Trump's America

To the Editor:
Donald, the once popular boy's name, dropped 39 places in popularity between 2017 and 2018. The name's current ranking of No. 526 is its lowest since Social Security Administration records began in the 1880s.

“In America, anyone can become president. That's one of the risks you take,” so said Adlai Stevenson.

The issue of who should make the decision about abortion — it's not some white male Republican politician or anti-abortion religious zealot, but the woman having the abortion.

The electoral college is an appendix, and it's time to get rid of the appendix.

Even in these difficult times, what inspires me are people fighting for what made America great.

Bernie Sanders has to know that if he runs for president, Republicans will crucify him because he's Jewish and he uses the word “socialist.”

Republicans have been wedded to the same anti-abortion and racist ideology for decades. Give it a break, Donald: You're not the reason for America's booming economy. Eight years of Obama-Democrats made America's economy healthy and rolling. You're just a Johnny-come-lately.

Ron Lowe
Nevada City, California

SUBSCRIPTION INFORMATION

SUBSCRIBE AND SAVE
NEWSSTAND PRICE: \$1.50
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.....\$11.80
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 EO Media Group, 1406 Fifth St., La Grande, OR 97850 (USPS 299-260)

COPYRIGHT © 2019 THE OBSERVER
The Observer retains ownership and copyright protection of all staff-prepared news copy, advertising copy, photos and news or 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
Website:
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

Publisher.....Karrine Brogotti	Home delivery advisor.....Amanda Fredrick
Regional circulation director.....Kelli Craft	Customer service rep.....Mollie Lynch
News clerk.....Lisa Lester Kelly	Advertising representative.....Karen Fye
Sports editor.....Ronald Bond	Advertising representative.....Juli Bloodgood
Reporter.....Dick Mason	Advertising representative.....Amy Horn
Reporter.....Sabrina Thompson	Graphic design supervisor.....Dorothy Kautz
Classifieds.....Devi Mathson	Graphic design.....Cheryl Christian
Customer service rep.....Sharon Magnuson	

Chris Rush, Regional Publisher