

OUR VIEW

A tip of the hat to the Tigers

Jarett Armstrong probably said it best in a story in this newspaper earlier this week “It was pretty great, to be honest,” he said.

Armstrong, of course, was speaking about the triumph of his team — La Grande High School varsity baseball — at the OSAA Class 4A baseball championship.

In a spectacular show of offensive firepower and defensive prowess, the Tigers defeated Hidden Valley 10-1 to claim the state crown.

The victory caps another great season by the Tigers and should firmly place them in the pantheon of great prep diamond squads in the history of the state.

We often spend a great deal of time focusing on issues that seemingly transcend our local area and that is why it is a pleasure — from time to time — to stop the news train, so to speak, and take stock of a feel-good tale such as the big win by the Tigers.

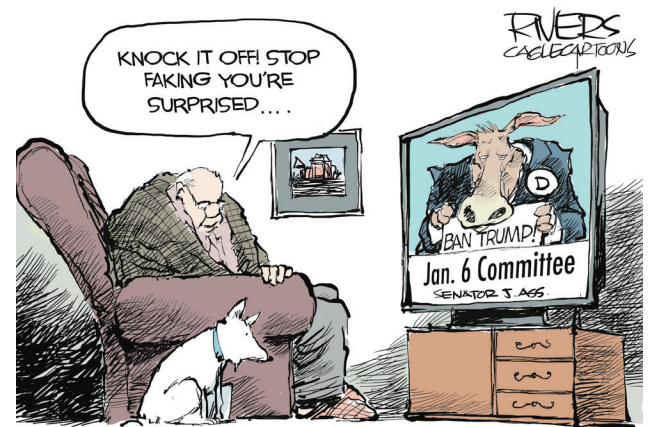
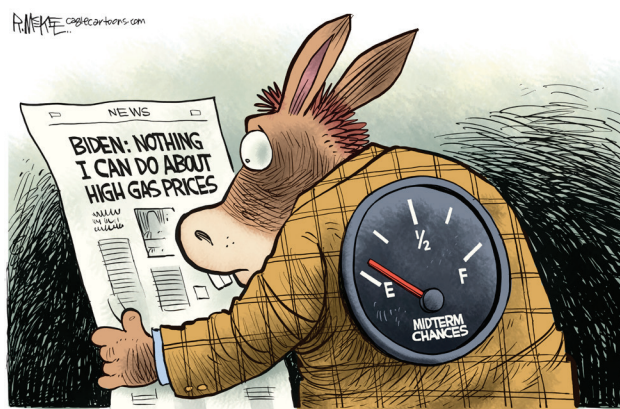
In a way, the win by the Tigers signifies a victory for the entire town. For a brief moment, we can all put aside the worries and hopes of our lives and simply reflect on a story that is pure in its simplicity.

The La Grande win allows us to remember, if only for a moment, the days when practical items — such as winning a state championship baseball game — took center stage. We can all bask in the prep glory of the Tigers’ triumph and remember that, occasionally, small things really do mean a lot.

The players and coaches deserve a great deal of credit, but so do the parents who stood by their players and supported them throughout the season. The administrators and other school officials behind the team should also be lauded for lending their support.

The Tigers’ victory was very much about a team with a dream coming together at a crucial time. Teamwork paid dividends for La Grande and helped it earn a huge win. We hope this success is remembered because it was a unique triumph, not easily achieved.

Our collective hats are off to the LHS baseball team. Great job!



Walter Cronkite, we need you



ANDREW CUTLER
FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

As the U.S. House of Representatives opens its investigation into the Jan. 6, 2021, attack on the Capitol I can't help but remember a similar series of hearings during the past 50 years over other such high-profile issues as Watergate and the Iran-Contra arms sale controversy.

As I reflect on these similar-in-scope controversies I am reminded of how much has changed in our lives and why that impacts how we as a nation absorb such episodes.

The Watergate scandal pretty much needs no introduction or explanatory analysis. The scandal brought down President Richard M. Nixon and sent the nation off on a different trajectory we are, in some ways, still on today.

The Iran-Contra affair was a big deal in the mid-1980s. It was, in essence, another political scandal where, between 1981 and 1986,

senior Reagan administration officials secretly cleared the way for the sale of weapons to Iran to hopefully use the profits to fund the Contras in Nicaragua. At the time the Contras were a guerrilla group supported by the U.S. who were trying to overthrow the Nicaraguan government.

Both scandals rocked the nation and created a tremendous amount of controversy. Now, as the House begins its live hearings the item that resonates the most with me is how much our media landscape has changed and how these new hearings will be presented.

Now, more than ever, the hearings are inside a new level of controversy and partisan bickering. Many Republicans don't think the hearings will even be fair. Fox Network won't carry the hearings live.

The entire episode will, it appears, evolve into yet another political quagmire with no real results except for more partisanship.

In short, there will be no single “honest broker” to come forward and present a factual, nonbiased view for the American public. Instead, our news media will be — as it has been now for almost a generation — in its

own particular silos.

Fox will cater to a certain group. CNN will too. Other networks will pander to who they believe are the most important. The truth? Well, forget about it.

That, I think, is the real shame. We no longer have a Walter Cronkite who can come on the screen and give us a simple just-the-facts report that lets each of us make our own decision. That type of reporting is something I push very hard for in my position with the EO Media Group. I want that type of just-the-facts reporting to be our hallmark. As long as I am able, I will continue to do so.

Yet, as I look across the broad media landscape and I review the hearings that began June 9, I have to admit I feel a bit disappointed. I wish we could, as a nation, do better.

I am, in the end, left with only a single sentiment: Walter Cronkite, where are you now when we need you?

■ Andrew Cutler is the interim editor of The Observer and the regional editorial director for the EO Media Group, overseeing The Observer, East Oregonian and four more newspapers in Eastern Oregon.

CONTACT YOUR REPRESENTATIVES

U.S. PRESIDENT

Joe Biden
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave. NW
Washington, DC 20500
Comments: 202-456-1111

U.S. SENATORS

Ron Wyden
221 Dirksen Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20510
202-224-5244
La Grande office: 541-962-7691

Jeff Merkley
313 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510
202-224-3753
Pendleton office: 541-278-1129

U.S. REPRESENTATIVE

Cliff Bentz
2185 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515
202-225-6730
Medford office: 541-776-4646

GOVERNOR

Kate Brown
160 State Capitol
900 Court St.
Salem, OR 97301-4047
503-378-4582

STATE REPRESENTATIVES

Bobby Levy, District 58
900 Court St. NE, H-376
Salem, OR 97301
503-986-1458
Rep.BobbyLevy@state.or.us

Greg Smith, District 57
900 Court St. NE, H-482
Salem, OR 97301
503-986-1457
Rep.GregSmith@state.or.us

STATE SENATOR

Bill Hansell, District 29
900 Court St. NE, S-415
Salem, OR 97301
503-986-1729
Sen.BillHansell@state.or.us

EDITORIALS

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

LETTERS

• The Observer welcomes letters to the editor. We edit letters for brevity, grammar, taste and legal reasons. We will not publish consumer complaints against businesses, personal attacks against private individuals or comments that can incite violence. We also discourage thank-you letters.
• Letters should be no longer than 350 words and must be signed and carry the author's name, address and phone number (for verification only). We will not publish

anonymous letters.

• Letter writers are limited to one letter every two weeks.
• Longer community comment columns, such as Other Views, must be no more than 700 words. Writers must provide a recent headshot and a one-sentence biography. Like letters to the editor, columns must refrain from complaints against businesses or personal attacks against private individuals. Submissions must carry the author's name, address and phone number.
• Submission does not guarantee publication, which is at the discretion of the editor.

SEND LETTERS TO:

letters@lagrandeobserver.com or via mail to Editor, 911 Jefferson Ave., La Grande, OR 97850

SUBSCRIPTION INFORMATION

SUBSCRIBE AND SAVE

NEWSSTAND PRICE: \$1.50

You can save up to 55% off the single-copy price with home delivery.
Call 800-781-3214 to subscribe.

Subscription rates:

Monthly Autopay\$10.75
13 weeks.....\$37.00
26 weeks.....\$71.00
52 weeks\$135.00

THE OBSERVER

An independent newspaper founded in 1896

www.lagrandeobserver.com

Periodicals postage paid at Pendleton, Oregon 97801
Published Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays (except postal holidays) by EO Media Group, 911 Jefferson Ave., La Grande, OR 97850 (USPS 299-260)

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.

COPYRIGHT © 2022

Phone: 541-963-3161

Toll free (Oregon): 1-800-781-3214

Email: news@lagrandeobserver.com

POSTMASTER Send address changes to: The Observer, 911 Jefferson Ave., La Grande, OR 97850

STAFF

Regional publisher Karrine Brogotti Home delivery adviser..... Amanda Turkington
Interim editor Andrew Cutler Advertising representative Kelli Craft
News clerk Lisa Lester Kelly Advertising representative Amy Horn
Reporter Dick Mason National accounts coordinator Devi Mathson
Reporter Isabella Crowley Graphic design Dorothy Kautz

