

# O EAST OREGONIAN PINION

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## OUR VIEW

# A moment we can't forget

No student attending high school in Pendleton, Hermiston or Milton-Freewater now had yet been born on that sunny September morning that changed America forever.

Twenty years.

Two decades.

There are many ways to measure the divide between today and the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001. Some are purely numerical. Others, like the reference to current students at Pilot Rock, Echo, Stanfield, Athena-Weston or Umatilla reflect this span of time in a way perhaps more surprising than straight statistics.

Nearly one generation of Americans has no memory of that day.

For those of us who were alive, and old enough to form specific and lasting recollections about the moment we heard what had happened — and what still was happening — the memories likely remain vivid.

The significance of even epochal events such as 9/11 inevitably fades, of course.

The years pass and they yield their dismal harvest of fresh tragedies and historic happenings.

The past 20 years hardly have been deficient in either category. We have endured the losses of some of the best among us in Afghanistan, a direct result from the 9/11 attacks, and in Iraq. We have weathered the worst economic episodes since the Great Depression.

And of course we remain mired in the most severe pandemic in a century.

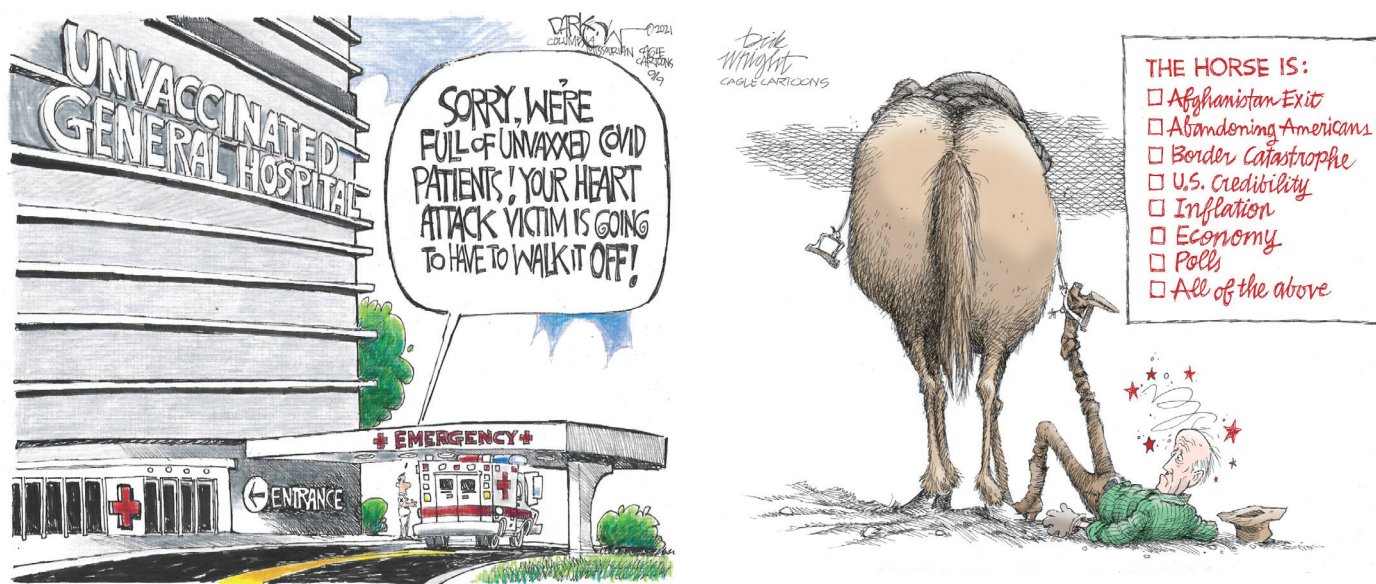
Yet that September morning remains one of the defining events in America's history, comparable, to cite a few examples within living memory, the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941, the assassination of President John F. Kennedy on Nov. 22, 1963, and the explosion of the Space Shuttle Challenger on Jan. 28, 1986.

Much as the images from those terrible days have become ingrained in our national memory, so too have the incomparable scenes of those two great towers, landmarks in our biggest city, ablaze and eventually crumbling.



September 11, 2001  
Never Forget

WHAM!&D



## YOUR VIEWS

### Pendleton parks spark joy during trying times

A big thank you to Pendleton Parks & Recreation Director Liam Hughes and his department for taking such good care of our Pendleton community parks.

During the year of COVID-19 isolation and recently throughout our spring and summer heat waves, my husband and I have been enjoying early morning walks. These walks have saved our sanity by allowing us to share a "good morning" with fellow walkers and joggers as we just enjoyed being outside. If we

were early in the morning, we could enjoy the birds, squirrels and many dogs. If we were a little later in the morning, we enjoyed watching the children participating in the summer parks programs.

We are very fortunate to have such nice community parks in Pendleton.

Jan Loughary  
Pendleton

### Let's promote the general welfare of the population

Watching the anti-vaccine and anti-mask mandate protests around the country, my first impression was, "how selfish."

As a veteran I thought of the young men and women at Walter Reed Medical Center right now. They are missing a limb, an eye or suffering from whatever atrocity war can provide. They are going to be inconvenienced for the rest of their lives. They will be inconvenienced because of serving us, all of us. Anti-vaxxers and -maskers are so weak that they cannot be inconvenienced. Inconvenienced for a week, a month, or if need be, a year. Really?

I suggest the anti-vaxxers and anti-maskers read the Preamble to the U.S. Constitution, especially the part that states to "promote the general welfare." Vaccina-

tions and mask mandates are not about restricting your freedom but are to "provide for the common defense and promote the general welfare."

The Preamble to the Constitution is where our Founding Fathers laid out what they wanted to accomplish with the Constitution. The right seems to continually ignore the Preamble to the Constitution and the media never calls them on it. One would think originalists would believe the Preamble to be the most important and significant paragraph of the Constitution. One would think?

Phil Philiben  
Bend

# The epitome of what an editor should be



ANDREW CUTLER  
FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

I was saddened recently when I learned that longtime character actor Ed Asner passed away.

Most people of a certain age remember Asner as Lou Grant on "The Mary Tyler Moore Show" where he holds sway over a zany group of characters at the fictional WJM television station in Minneapolis.

After the Mary Tyler Moore series closed in 1977, Asner was cast in the lead role of the series "Lou Grant."

"Lou Grant" premiered in September 1977 and ran on CBS until September 1982. In the show, Asner played a city editor of the fictional Los Angeles Tribune daily newspaper. Unlike "The Mary Tyler Moore Show," this series was an hour-long drama focused on the newspaper industry as it stood then. I became acquainted with Asner

through the "Lou Grant" show. While I remembered "The Mary Tyler Moore Show," it was on "Lou Grant" that I gained my first impression of the newspaper industry.

Looking back at the old episodes, they can seem — at times — to be quaint artifacts of a long-gone age of newspapers. For one, the technology is different now, as is the prominence of the newspaper industry.

A great many of us can remember when a newspaper like the fictional Los Angeles Tribune was one of the key pillars of information dissemination. Back when "Lou Grant" was on TV, it was newspapers and the three big networks that provided our view of the world.

While the show was fictional, it did deal with real life, serious issues on a regular basis.

For me, Asner's depiction of Lou Grant was the embodiment of what a "real" editor should be. Tough but fair and always trying to keep an eye out for his employees.

The series also showed the problems

and challenges reporters faced as they worked on stories, a reality I think the vast majority of the general public is unaware of.

The production of a daily or weekly newspaper doesn't happen in a vacuum and is often punctuated with unforeseen problems that seem to crop up when the story subject is extra important and deadline looms.

I am no television critic but I always liked Asner as an actor. In a sense, his depiction of Lou Grant helped me — years later — to choose journalism as a career.

Occasionally, I will call up one of the old "Lou Grant" episodes online and watch it, as a reminder of what our industry once was and to watch a very good actor play a good role in one of the gems of back-in-the-day television.

I, for one, will miss him.

Andrew Cutler is the publisher/editor of the East Oregonian and the regional editorial director for the EO Media Group, overseeing the East Oregonian and five more newspapers in Eastern Oregon.

## 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:

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