

ANDREW CUTLER
Publisher/Editor

KATHRYN B. BROWN
Owner

ERICK PETERSON
Hermiston Editor/Senior Reporter

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2021

Founded October 16, 1875

A4

OUR VIEW

Child care center a source of pride

At least recently good news can seem hard to find but for those looking for a story that showcases what community and business can do tighter one needs to look no further than the Families First Child Care Center in Boardman.

Last month, U.S. Sen. Ron Wyden visited the center and was suitably impressed. So are we, and so should be area residents.

The center serves 53 children between the ages of six weeks and 12 and provides a viable outlet for parents who must work.

The center is more than a daycare and provides educational opportunities for youth.

The program succeeds on a limited budget, but it also is a triumph because it secured the support of some key, local businesses. The Port of Morrow, Boardman Foods and Threemile Canyon Farms are key supporters of the child care center.

Businesses provided financial support while the Port of Morrow created a place for the program at its new facility.

Wyden vowed to bring the Families First Child Care Center concept to the attention of other lawmakers in Washington, D.C. We hope he does.

That's because this program is clearly a success and represents the best example of private businesses and concerned residents uniting in a common goal to help youth.

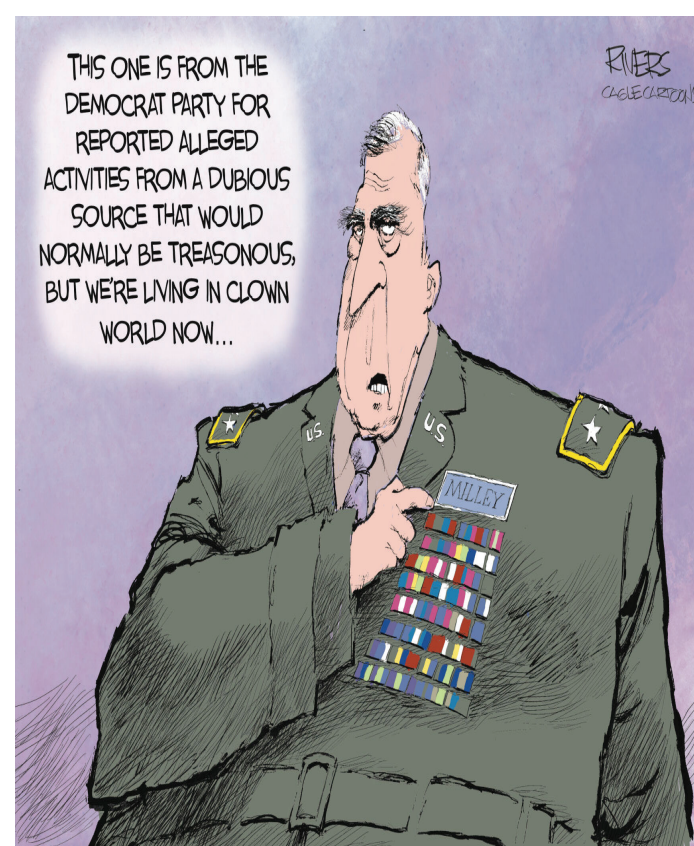
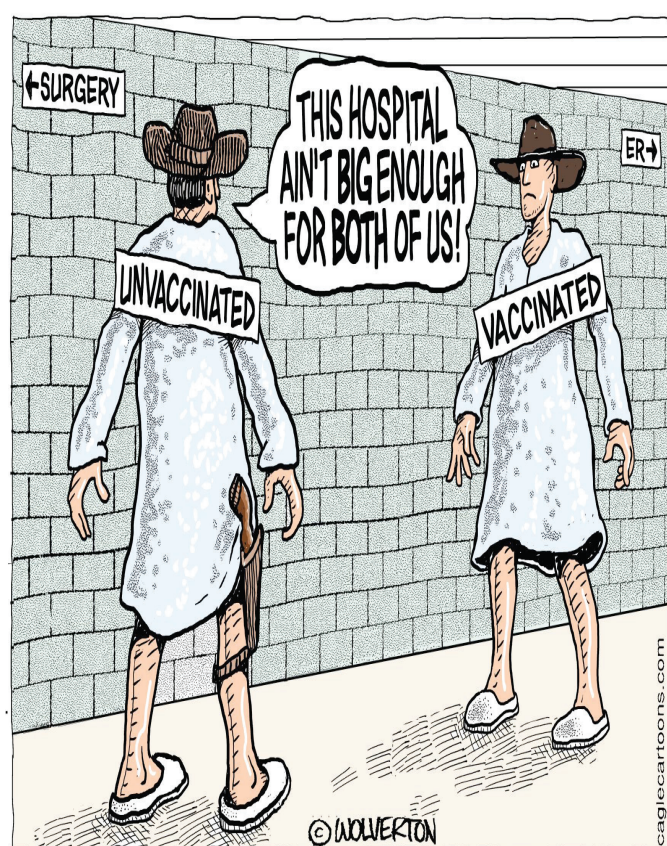
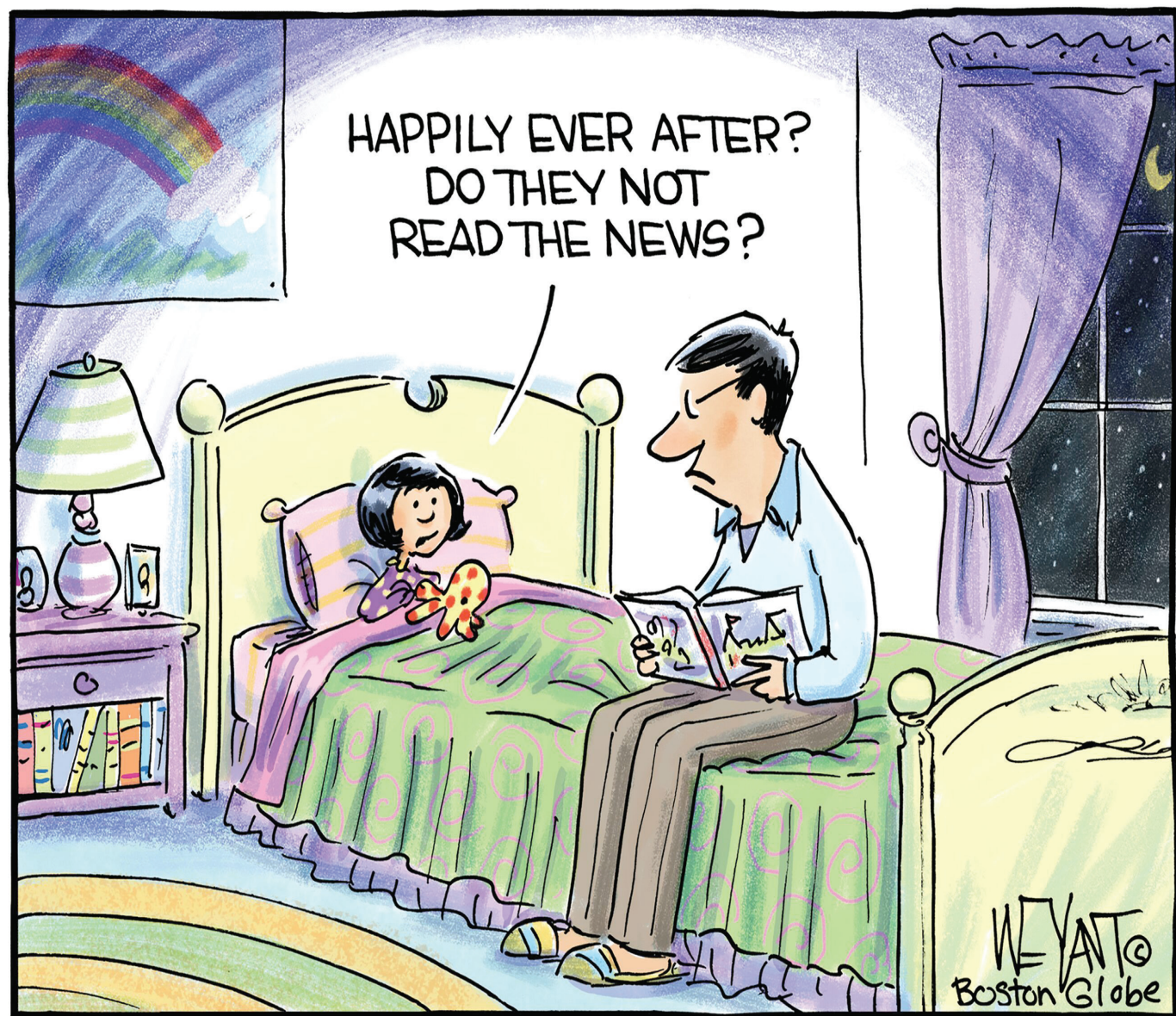
Sometimes such a venture doesn't work, or it is only partially successful. Not this program. The primary reason, we believe, is the dedication of the business owners who saw a need and decided to step up and make it successful.

The program also is a great example of local people solving a local problem. Often it can seem easier to let state or federal agencies take on a particular hometown challenge but that isn't always a good idea either.

Finding child care for workers and other parents isn't just an area problem, either. It is a nationwide challenge that grows worse by the year. The COVID-19 pandemic hasn't helped either.

We do hope Wyden can highlight this wonderful program so other states in the nation can review it and create a similar agenda.

All that were involved in this program deserve a thanks from the community.



YOUR VIEWS

It's time for an intervention

Why, why, why haven't the Trump children initiated an intervention by now for the sake of our democracy?

Janet Boyd
Hermiston

Sept. 11 was a great day for veterans

You should have seen their faces — nearly 100 veterans and professional river guides from throughout the Pacific Northwest took to the Columbia River on Saturday, Sept. 11, for a day at "Fish'n the Brave."

The smiles on their faces said it all, as each boat, proudly flying the U.S. flag, returned to Umatilla Marina in the early afternoon.

Those smiles were proof that it doesn't get much better for a vet than spending the day with fellow veterans and with guides, who are honored to donate their time, boats, equipment, fuel and door prizes for this annual free event for veterans.

Tony Fisher, of Fisher's Catch Outfitters, Tri-Cities, initiated the adventure six years ago. Today, more sponsors are coming alongside, including the city of Umatilla, its chamber of commerce, the American Legion & Auxiliary and a multitude of businesses and groups throughout the Columbia Basin and the Pacific Northwest.

The next Fish'n The Brave won't be until Nov. 11, 2022. Our veterans organization salutes this program and proudly supports its mission. If you know any veterans who would love a

day of fishing on the Columbia next year, I urge you to get their names on the roster at 509-727-7137.

Every freedom we enjoy in this country was purchased by the sacrifices of veterans. Please, always honor the fallen and support the living.

Cathy Stolz
Hermiston

River Democracy Act a good thing for all

I just wanted to briefly point out how great it is that Sen. Ron Wyden spearheaded the move to expand the wild and scenic rivers in Oregon.

Overall, the state has around 1% of its rivers and streams designated as such, and with this new push it should end up closer to 6%. Still, this pales in comparison to the 17% of all U.S. river miles that are impacted by our 75,000 or so dams.

At a time when there is a new weekly reminder of climate derangement, it is a step in the right direction to safeguard these habitats. Every little piece is worth protecting. Carbon accounting only gets us so far, and I fear that without intact ecosystems everywhere, we'll continue to face adverse effects with weather.

In this plan it's refreshing to see that clean, cold water and fire planning are put in the forefront. What's more, tribal voices will have a place in the conversation about how to manage these waterways and riparian areas. Overall, it seems to be a safe compromise that leaves private property and irrigation rights fully protected. I hope similar legislation

is given consideration here and elsewhere into the future.

Garik Asplund
Enterprise

Government shouldn't force COVID-19 shots

It is the sickest of ironies (possibly cognitive dissonance) that the same liberals who demand a woman have complete control of her body, to the point of being allowed to murder her unborn child, are just fine with a governor and president who want to force citizens to receive a COVID-19 shot.

Where are the "my body, my choice" demands regarding shots? To be clear, I support getting the shots and my wife and I got ours last spring, after discussion with our medical providers, as soon as our age group was eligible. The significance, however, is that we did it by our choice, not the governor's or president's mandate. While I encourage my fellow citizens to talk to their medical provider and evaluate getting the shots, it should be absolutely their choice and I staunchly oppose the shot mandates and consider them a gross overreach of government.

Our state and national leaders are demonstrating tyranny, not sound judgment, and causing unnecessary division within our country. If people aren't getting the shots, it means they don't need them or aren't convinced that they should. The governor and president need to come up with better information and arguments, not force.

Jim Carnahan
Baker City

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

The East Oregonian welcomes original letters of 400 words or less on public issues and public policies for publication in the newspaper and on our website. The newspaper reserves the right to withhold letters that address concerns about individual services and products or letters that infringe on the rights of private citizens. Letters must be signed by the author and include the city of residence and a daytime phone number. The phone number will not be published. Unsigned letters will not be published.

SEND LETTERS TO:

editor@eastoregonian.com,
or via mail to Andrew Cutler,
211 S.E. Byers Ave. Pendleton, OR 97801