

O EAST OREGONIAN PINION

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OUR VIEW

A tip of the hat to the Lady Bucks

Hoo-ray for the Lady Bucks softball team!

As readers probably are aware, the Pendleton varsity softball team defeated Wilsonville last weekend to claim the Class 5A state softball title.

The narrow 2-0 victory gave Pendleton the championship trophy and certainly created a legacy for future teams to emulate.

The win, though, is all about teamwork and individual commitment, two values that need to be reflected upon by all of us.

America likes to fashion itself as a nation of individualistic triumphs. We celebrate the rugged individualism that harkens back to the mountain men who traversed the West in the early 1800s. We applaud those who seemingly single-handedly overcome steep challenges and remember and honor their victories.

Yet very little in life is accomplished successfully without teamwork. From the family to large organizations, people working together toward a common goal is the defining demarcation line to success.

Our military is considered — rightly — one of the finest in the world, but its accomplishments are built solidly on a platform of teamwork. Victory indeed is not an orphan, but it also is not a product on a single person.

No, the triumphs in life we look back on almost always are rooted in the framework of a team. Perhaps the team is a man and wife or two partners or a family. Whichever way, the road to success is one that is paved with cooperation and teamwork.

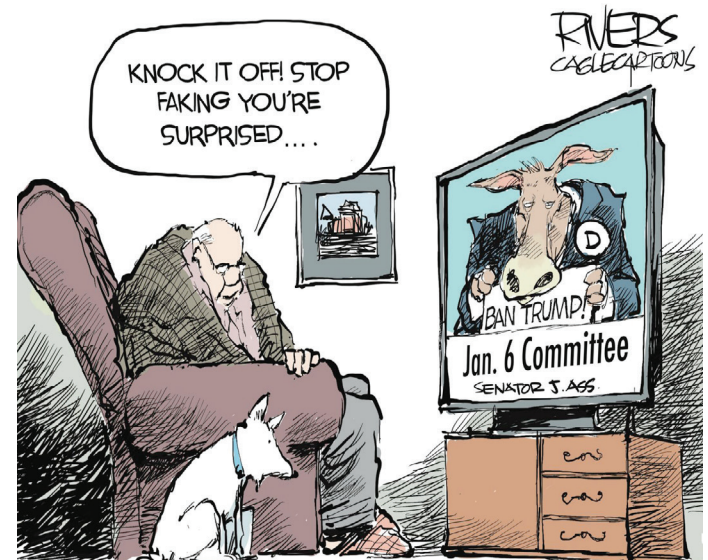
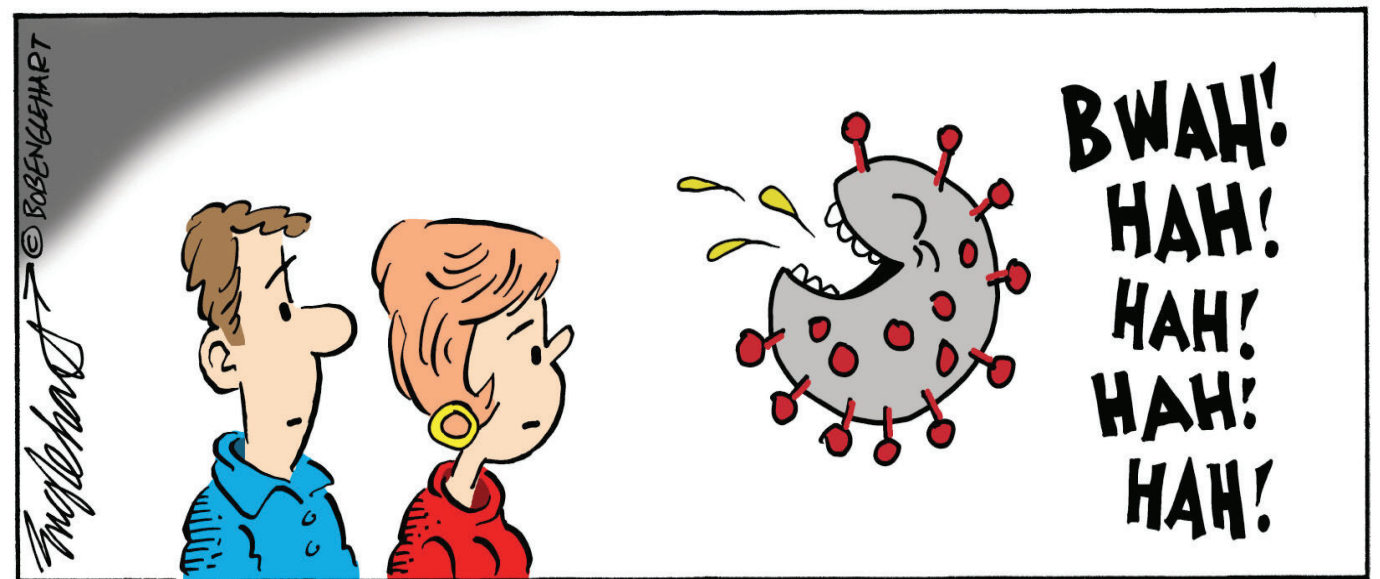
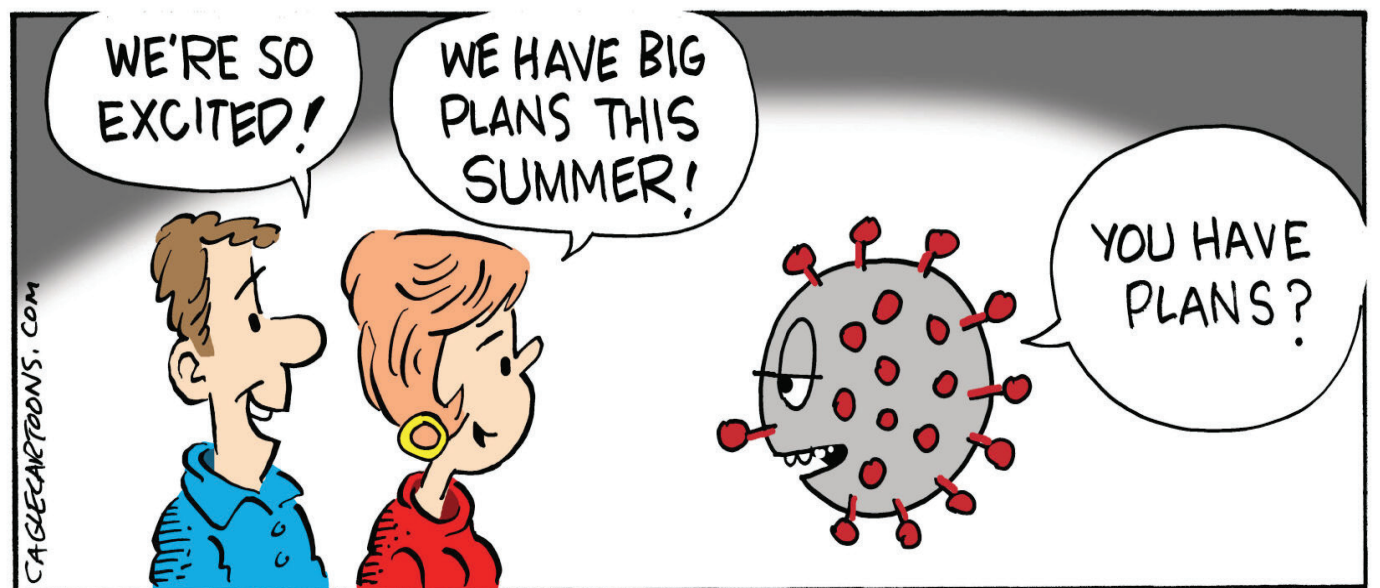
That's why team sports are so wonderful and why the victory by the Pendleton varsity softball team should resonate.

The Lady Bucks didn't achieve their great win through the actions of a single person. In their state championship victory, no single piece of the team was greater than the sum, yet each individual played a key role. The same is true of the parents and school officials who supported the team on its road to the big win.

Without everyone working together toward a common goal, victory would be far more difficult if not totally elusive.

When a local prep team achieves a great victory, it should be lauded but there always must be the realization that the win was a product of a lot of people with different perspectives working together to active something extraordinary.

The Pendleton varsity softball team showed that working together really does work. Good for them!



YOUR VIEWS

Reflecting on Pendleton's 2020 Black Lives Matter protest

In 2020, mostly as a result of George Floyd's death by police in Minneapolis, the Black Lives Matter movement was in the national consciousness and the headlines and other forms of media almost every day. BLM also showed up here in Pendleton via an event at the Roy Raley Park in August of that year. I attended the event, but unlike many others, I never did publicly comment on it, until now.

To their credit, the BLM organiz-

ers of the event in the city park kept their supporters very disciplined and orderly while practicing their constitutional rights of protesting the reckless, and lethal, actions of an out-of-control police force. However, the same cannot be said for the armed group across Southwest Court Avenue in the parking lot of a convenience store that day.

It was clear and obvious this armed group was trying to goad and taunt the peaceful protesters into a physical confrontation that afternoon. Some of the youth in this group were no more than 12 or 13. Their "leaders" had these young people taunting

and insulting the BLM group with the obvious intent to compel them to react in kind. However, to their credit, the BLM group did not overreact, but maintained their composure and kept "their cool."

A legitimate question now, even almost two years later, is why did some feel the need to bring the deadly weapons to a peaceful and legal protest? Also, if the BLM supporters had reacted to the insults and jeers, would those carrying deadly weapons have used them? And where and what would that have left us?

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