

# Opinion

— EDITORIAL —

## The Christmas gift list

We saw someone post on social media the other day that each year their Christmas list gets shorter, because the older one gets, the things wanted simply can't be bought.

That's exactly how we feel—more so this year than ever.

Thinking back to childhood, opening Christmas gifts under the tree, trying desperately to go to sleep so that Santa Claus would come, eating dinner and sorting out a pile of newly acquired loot—those were magical times. We get to relive them through our own children.

But what happens to us as we mature? Hopefully our thoughts develop and turn more toward the reason for the holiday, and with that reason our spirits start to make

new lists that don't include things that can be wrapped up in neat little boxes.

With that, our wishes are pared down to the things no one should be without—love, health, joy ...

Let's face it—if you're an adult and your Christmas revolves around sinking yourself into debt to buy gifts for other adults, or you demand that friends and family members put themselves into debt for your gifts, you're missing the point probably not just of the holiday, but of life in general.

If you have those most precious to you around you for Christmas, and you're able to make memories together, be grateful. Many of us will never have the chance. Think of those who serve overseas in our military this winter, and those separated for a million other reasons.

So go bake the cookies together. Dance beneath the Christmas tree lights. Kiss under the mistletoe and watch those cheesy holiday movies snuggled up together.

Then say a few prayers. Take a few photos. And what the heck—make a Christmas wish no matter how old you are.

—*The Baker County Press Editorial Board*

— LETTERS TO THE EDITOR —

### Monument would hurt Oregon's ag industry

To the Editor:

Malheur County plays an important role in Oregon's agriculture economy. Malheur County is fourth among Oregon's 36 counties in farm and ranch sales and it is No. 1 in cattle production with more than \$130 million in annual sales.

But this industry is at risk right now.

Special interest groups, the Oregon Natural Desert Association and KEEN Footwear are lobbying President Obama to create a 2.5 million acre national monument in Eastern Oregon. The monument would dramatically restrict access in the region, and it would destroy the county's ranching industry and the livelihoods of 30,000 people.

If President Obama declares an Eastern Oregon monument, it will happen in the next seven weeks before he leaves office on Jan. 20.

We need your voice today.

Support rural Oregon today by sending a letter to Oregon's Democratic leaders. If you have the capacity, please consider a donation to support the campaign in its final weeks.

**Jerome Rosa**  
Executive Director

*Oregon Cattlemen's Association*

### We're in the danger zone

To the Editor:

All along, we've known that this is the danger zone.

If President Obama is going to declare a national monument in Eastern Oregon, it's

most likely to happen in the three months between Election Day and Inauguration Day. That's what happened with President Bill Clinton when he created or expanded eight national monuments in his final month in office in January 2001.

President Obama has created 24 national monuments and set aside more land and water than any president in U.S. history. The other side, led by the Oregon Natural Desert Association and KEEN Footwear, is keeping the pressure on. With the election over, the threat of a monument in Eastern Oregon has never been bigger.

We have just 10 weeks left to make our case.

There are three ways you can stand with rural Oregon:

1. Share our message — "No Monument Without a Vote of Congress" — with your friends and family by email or on Facebook. Check out our Facebook page for posts you can share.

2. Send letters to Oregon's Democratic leaders on our website at OurLandOurVoice.com. We've already had more than 8,000 advocates send more than 5,000 messages.

3. Make a donation. If you've already contributed, thank you. If you have the capacity to give again or if you haven't donated, you can do it today. Even a \$5 donation helps.

Thank you again for your continued support for our families and rural Oregon during the last few weeks of this administration.

**Steve Russell**  
Chairman

*Owyhee Basin Stewardship Coalition*

— SPECIAL COLUMN —

*So I was thinking ...*

## The lives of messy people and clean freaks

By Jimmy Ingram  
Special to The Baker County Press

Mess-maker or a neat freak?

While most people think of themselves as fitting directly between these two polar opposites, the truth is most of us are closer to one than the other. Life is a balancing act and neither of these personality types will ever understand the other . . .

Messy people: Everyone knows a messy person.

The person whose car has never been cleaned, whose type of bedroom flooring is still a mystery (it's under there somewhere), and whose bathroom is a level 1 biohazard.

They are gamblers at heart.

Is that shirt on the floor clean or dirty? Are matching socks really that important for a job interview? Is there enough spare change on the floorboard of the car to buy lunch? They don't know and probably don't care.

Their type B personality leads them through life in a relaxed, stress-free manner, showing little concern for things like navigable hallways, counter space or germs. Life is made more interesting with daily treasure hunts for things like clean silverware or car keys. And of course the calling card of the mess-maker is the ability to "chill."

They are able to brush the worries of the world aside along with six days' worth of dirty dishes, empty pizza boxes, and aluminum cans. In their world stains add character, as the person may point out a stains resemblance to a geometric shape or the Virgin Mary.

Did you happen to miss that article in the paper from last July?

No worries, Mr. Messy probably still has that paper, along with 300+ others piled somewhere in the garage.

Getting thirsty on that long drive? No problem, just reach to the back seat floorboard of their car and you'll find 13 almost-empty water bottles, which will provide you with a cumulative 16 ounces of refreshing, aged to perfection H2O.

While messy folks drive neat people crazy, they feel perfectly comfortable in their own skin.

They've learned to adapt to disorder with philosophies like "that's good enough for now" and "I'm sure I have it somewhere."

Plus they are given the benefit of good intentions when they offer to loan you something it turns out they can't find. It was nice of them to at least offer, after all. They once tried to arrange something but it was just too high of a mountain to climb.



Submitted Photo

Jimmy Ingram is a local farmer and father of two who enjoys people watching within our wonderful community and beyond.

That's okay. Messy or not, we still like them.

Neat Freaks: These are the order keepers. The systematically arranging, label-making, vacuum-wielding, borderline-OCD self-proclaimed super heroes of the world.

The floors of their home and automobile are clean enough to eat from—except food isn't allowed near any of those areas.

Cleaning supplies for every surface imaginable are kept neatly arranged in cabinets like soldiers awaiting battle. Their high-powered Commando 8 industrial strength vacuum is kept on standby at all times.

Household items are arranged by purpose, date, color, maybe even shape in the neat freak's home. You will be asked to remove your shoes when entering the home, but to be safe you should always leave them outside, or maybe even on the lawn.

Thirsty? Go ahead and grab a soda from the neat freak's fridge but be sure and follow their refreshment requirements: Soft drinks shall be opened over the sink and the can will be rinsed thoroughly and placed in the recycling bin open side up when finished.

No, they won't actually ask you to do this but the look on their face when you ask for something to drink says it all. The life of a neat freak is difficult. Guests in their house or vehicle are risk-assessed beforehand.

Dirty clothes, muddy shoes, or anything not spill-proof will likely deny you entrance into one of their secure areas. Sure, if you accidentally you spill your glass of wine on their carpet they'll shrug it off and say "no big deal" but deep down inside they will be on the verge of a nervous breakdown.

Neat freaks like to think of themselves as just like everyone else but their friends and families know different.

Respect their cleanliness and they will respect you. Violate their order, and you'll only be invited to outdoor events at their home. If it comes to this be sure and remind them they have a few dandelions in their lawn just to watch them squirm.

It's likely we all know someone who fits into one of these categories.

Maybe you've lived with one, are married to one, or even are one yourself.

Most people who know me know which category I fall into.

Could be one reason why I enjoy hosting outdoor barbecues.

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