

Opinion / Local

So I was thinking ...

Everyone's a comedian

By Jimmy Ingram
Special to The Baker County Press

About a year ago I wrote a "rant" of sorts on my personal Facebook page about the annoying tendencies of some people on social media.

Somehow it found its way into print and to a far greater audience than I originally intended.

That sort of social jab has become somewhat of a theme in this column.

I make the assumption of good faith that everyone has a sense of humor and the ability to laugh at the absurdity around them, and more importantly at themselves.

But as I've found out over the years, not everyone has the same sense of humor.

The Sarcastic Smart Aleck: You are a tough nut to crack. Your two-word statements like "nice hat" can be taken one of two ways: as a sincere compliment or a humorous insult.

There's no in between.

Your humor is frequently misunderstood, and normally appreciated by quick-witted people who know and like you, but still think you occasionally need punched in the face.

The biggest challenge you face are those moments when you *are* actually being sincere and the world around you just can't tell. You always keep us wondering and that's okay. Not everyone can sense sarcasm, but most everyone can sense an asinine comment. Tread lightly.

The Demonstrative Storyteller: You have taken physical comedy to a level that would make the late Chris Farley proud. Your re-enactment of scenes from your life, complete with sound effects and flailing motions is two parts comedy, one part theatre.

Seeing the animated recollection of even your most mundane daily activities feels like going to the circus.

Your comedic choreography has the added benefit of being classified as a full body workout.

So while everyone else feels guilty after eating that gluttonous holiday meal, you have managed to burn off 3,500 calories recreating for us what happened the first time you went skiing.

And we loved every minute of the story.

Mr. Not-So-Subtle: You like to keep things simple. Sarcasm requires us to analyze before we react.

Physical comedy requires us to listen and to provide a four-foot radius for the narrator to act out stories. You need none of the above.

Fart sounds, obscenities, and phallic references are all you need for your comedy. You insist that you coined the phrase "that's what she said" and use it no less than 20 times a day.

Some say your humor is juvenile and uncalled for and that's true on occasion. But the fact that you find the same things funny as you did



Submitted Photo

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

when you were 12 years-old indicates a life-long dedication to your jokes.

"Stick with what works" is your motto. And you have. Plus, your comedy is always a hit with the teenagers during the holidays.

The Professional Practical Joker: You take your brand of humor to another level. A level that has lost you a couple friends and seen a dozen more friends refuse to go out with you in public.

Exploding golf balls, greased door handles, laxative laced drinks, phone hijacks ... you've done them all. You tread the thin ice between comedy and vandalism that few dare.

Your presence at any public or private function will result in phones being pass code locked, cars being parked three blocks away, and people avoiding the punchbowl.

Most of your apologies end with the phrase, "Oh, c'mon have a sense of humor."

In your opinion, the only thing better than your practical jokes is getting to tell the stories of them over and over—usually to a room full of people who were once unsuspecting victims of your pranks.

The Joke Teller: You are a throwback to time when jokes had a setup and a punch line.

And somehow, after 50+ years you remember them all. Sure, some aren't politically correct. In fact, some are downright offensive, but you're a seasoned comedy veteran and know your audience.

Your repertoire consists of no less than 200 jokes catered to any audience ranging from a church congregation to a group of drunken steel workers.

So while some might not appreciate the joke about a clown, a chicken, and a catholic priest walking into a bar, most of us appreciate your chipper demeanor and willingness to make people laugh.

No Sense of Humor: A few of these folks exist in the wild. I've only come across a couple in my days and they didn't seem like unhappy people, just misunderstood—and boring.

Their defenders will say they "just have a dry sense of humor."

That's adult code for "limited personality."

Regardless of their humorless public persona, I'm sure they manage to function perfectly well in society... more than likely working for the IRS in some capacity.

My belief is that most everyone has a good sense of humor in one form or another. I'm certain this column and my tongue-in-cheek observations don't appeal to everyone, and that's okay.

I hope a few of you get some enjoyment out of it.

Letter to the Editor Policy: The Baker County Press reserves the right not to publish letters containing factual falsehoods or incoherent narrative. Letters promoting or detracting from specific for-profit businesses will not be published. Word limit is 375 words per letter. Letters are limited to one every other week per author. Letters should be submitted to Editor@TheBakerCountyPress.com.

Advertising and Opinion Page Disclaimer: Opinions submitted as Guest

Opinions or Letters to the Editor express the opinions of their authors, and have not been authored by and are not necessarily the opinions of The Baker County Press, any of our staff, management, independent contractors or affiliates. Advertisements placed by political groups, candidates, businesses, etc., are printed as a paid service, which does not constitute an endorsement of or fulfillment obligation by this newspaper for the products or services advertised.

OTEC's 2017 Nominating Committees Appointed

The Board of Directors for Oregon Trail Electric Cooperative (OTEC) have appointed the director nominating committees for Baker, Harney and Union Counties.

Appointed to serve were:
Position 1 (Union County) currently held by incumbent George Gal-loway

Dale DeLong - 541-786-4343

Mike McLean - 541-786-5735

Mary West - 541-910-4546

Position 2 (Baker County) currently held by incumbent Chuck Hoffman
Diana Brown - 541-523-3679

DeeDee Clarke - 541-524-1999

Fred Warner, Jr. - 541-524-2040

Position 3 (Harney County) currently held by incumbent Robert Cargill
Ethel Bossout - 541-573-2887

Mike Choate - 541-573-6932

Scott Franklin - 541-573-6171

The nominating committees are responsible for interviewing and recommending qualified candidates for the 2017 OTEC Board of Director Elections. If you are a member of the cooperative and interested in running for the OTEC Board of Directors, please contact the committee members in your county.

The committees have requested any members interested in stepping forward for consideration, please contact them on or by January 23 for Position 2 (Baker County) or Position 3 (Harney County) and January 24 for Position 1 (Union County).

Committees must submit their nominations to the board secretary no later than January 27.

Any member wishing to petition for placement on the 2017 Board or Directors Election Ballot should contact Lea Gettle

(541-524-2831) or Lara Petittlerc-Stokes (541-524-2858) for the petition and conflict of interests forms.

Nominations by petition must be filed no later than February 28, must be signed by the candidate and by at least 50 OTEC members qualified to vote.

In addition, there must be a request that the candidate's name be placed on the ballot.

A copy of the bylaws describing the terms of the office, application and qualifications needed to serve on the nine-member board of directors and well as a conflict of interest policy are available online at www.otecc.com/about/annual-meetings.

Each director's term of office is for three years. The election will be completed at the annual meeting scheduled for April 29, 2017 in La Grande, OR. All OTEC cooperative members and their families are invited to attend.

OTEC to return \$2.6 million in Capital Credits to members

Oregon Trail Electric Cooperative Board of Directors is pleased to announce the return of \$2.6 million in Capital Credits to its members beginning mid-December.

During their regularly scheduled board meeting in October, a motion was made and seconded to retire capital credits in an amount equal to \$2.6 million of member's patronage as of December 31, 2015.

This return includes 100 percent of the remaining balance of 1994 capital credits which is to be retired.

"This is the largest amount of capital credits we have ever retired in one year," said OTEC's Chief Financial Officer Anthony Bailey. "The amount is more than double from what we gave away just a

few years ago."

"Being a member owned non-profit cooperative, this is always a good time of year and a great opportunity for the cooperative to give our member-owners 'credit' - in the form of a check - for continuing to help build, sustain and grow their electric cooperative," said OTEC's new General Manager Les Penning.

To date, OTEC has retired approximately \$31.5 million to its members.

Current members who have eligible capital credits of \$15 or more will be mailed a check in mid-December. Members with capital credits of \$14.99 or less will receive a credit in the amount owed to them on their December bill.

Capital Credits distinguish cooperatives from any other business model

in the utility world.

When people sign up to receive electric service from OTEC, they become a member of a non-profit electric cooperative.

While for-profit utilities (like Idaho Power and Pacific Power and Light) return a portion of any profits made back to their stockholders, non-profit electric co-ops, like OTEC, operate on an at-cost basis.

OTEC operates in a four county service territory that includes Baker, Burns, Grant and Harney counties. The cooperative allocates and periodically retires funds (called "capital credits") back to the members who live in the communities OTEC serves.

For more information on capital credits and the cooperative model visit www.otecc.com under the "Members" tab.

Subscribe today! See page 9 for how!

— CONTACT US —

The Baker County Press

PO Box 567
Baker City, Ore. 97814

Open Monday-Thursday for calls
9 AM - 4 PM

Open 24/7 for emails

Phone: 541.519.0572

TheBakerCountyPress.com

Kerry McQuisten, Publisher
Editor@TheBakerCountyPress.com

Wendee Morrissey, Advertising and Sales
Wendee@TheBakerCountyPress.com

David Conn, Advertising and Sales
David@TheBakerCountyPress.com

Published weekly every Friday.
Subscription rates per year are \$29.95 all areas, e-mail delivery. \$39.95 print issue, home delivery, Baker City city limits only. \$49.95 print issue, mail delivery, outside Baker City city limits only.
Payment in advance.

A division of
Black Lyon Publishing, LLC

Copyright © 2014 -2016

YOUR ELECTED OFFICIALS

President Barack Obama

202.456.1414

202.456.2461 fax

Whitehouse.gov/contact

US Sen. Jeff Merkley

503.326.3386

503.326.2900 fax

Merkley.Senate.gov

US Sen. Ron Wyden

541.962.7691

Wyden.Senate.gov

US Rep. Greg Walden

541.624.2400

541.624.2402 fax

Walden.House.gov

Oregon Gov. Kate Brown

503.378.3111

Governor.Oregon.gov

State Rep. Cliff Bentz

503.986.1460

State Sen. Ted Ferrioli

541.490.6528

[Baker County Commissioners](http://BakerCountyCommissioners.com)

Commissioners Bill Harvey;

Mark Bennett; Tim Kerns

541.523.8200

541.523.8201