

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

It doesn't appear to me, however, that the Tea Party *wants* to have reasonable conversations or honest debate. All I see is shouting, hostility, and name calling. These tactics may be good ways to garner media attention, but they are not good ways to help address the issues we are facing today.

Perhaps they should put more energy toward offering solutions to our current problems (like how to put Oregonians back to work), rather than attacking anyone who disagrees with them.

Julie Fahey  
Eugene

### BRAZEN FILCHING

Open letter to the well-dressed couple seen by several shoppers (including me) at the Delta Oaks Market of Choice during the week of March 22: Did you know that "grazing" is really stealing? Yes. It is!

You were both wearing nice clothes and the female half of you had a clearly professionally cared-for hairstyle. Anyone would assume looking at you two that you could afford the wine you were actually paying for and the food, some of which you paid for, the rest you filched from the produce section — brazenly as a store employee was nearby — and from the bulk foods section, reaching into bins with bare hands. Not only is this stealing but it is unsanitary. You might be well-dressed, but how recently did you thoroughly wash your hands before touching unwrapped bulk foods such as the raisins and dates you grabbed and stuffed in your face?

Your assumption that groceries the rest of us actually pay hard-earned money for is just there for your taking is arrogant and it ends up costing the rest of us a lot more when the grocer has to replace stolen goods with raised prices on the remainder.

Hint: If money is tight, forego the expensive wine and pay for your food.

Roxanne Sitterly  
Harrisburg

### ECOLOGICAL FORK

The film *Lords of Nature: Life in a Land of Great Predators* showed on March 23-24 in Baker City and Enterprise. The film's information was complemented by talks on "Large Carnivores and Sustainable Ecosystems." More than 300 people attended. The attendance highlights the interest in wolves, their role in ecosystem restoration and the ways that progressive ranchers are coexisting with wolves and managing their operations to minimize wolf-livestock conflicts — such as burying their livestock carcass piles.

The condition of willows, cottonwoods and aspen, it turns out, is a key measure of stewardship skill and system health — a grazing season's final exam. The more trees that are browsed to less than 4 feet tall, the lower the grade. Because the browsers vary, a complex partnership between large carnivores and people is needed to restore watershed health and ecological diversity and function. Wolves/cougars modify wild ungulate behavior in ways that humans cannot. In turn, the

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