

LEGACY

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In Washington, D.C., in 1970, during the growing protests over Vietnam, my distrust grew and ambassadorial dreams faded; in 1971 I came to Oregon.

I have thought since then that this distrust, which is blamed by many on the left on conservatives who want to deregulate and privatize as much of government as possible, owes as much to leftist distrust and sometimes disdain for government that began with Vietnam.

Marlantes argues that America did some great things in the wake of WW

II — built the interstate highway system and went to the moon — things dependent on a high functioning government and supportive electorate. Things that collapsed with Vietnam.

But he argues that good came out of Vietnam too. Although Truman integrated the military in 1948, it was in Vietnam that, despite “racial tensions,” some real integration occurred. Marlantes grew up where racial tension was “Swedes and Norwegians squaring off against the Finns.” In Vietnam he learned about Mexicans and tamales, and when he “needed an M-79 man,” he didn’t think about color, but about Thompson, “who was the best.”

In Vietnam, whites learned about soul music and African Americans listened to country. I think of this now, when I watch eastern Oregon high school basketball players warming up to rap and chest bumping before games.

Vietnam chased me and many away from American cities and government jobs. Bill Clinton finessed his way around Vietnam with a scholarship to Oxford. Now, no one seems to care how Donald Trump escaped the draft. But “draining the swamp” is Vietnam’s legacy.

And so are blonde eastern Oregon teenagers listening to rap.

Columnist Rich Wandschneider lives in Joseph.

Chili cook-off offers hot competition in Joseph

By Steve Tool
Wallowa County Chieftain

What do you do when it’s a 0-degree January Saturday and you’re in the mood to mingle? Last Saturday, about 150 Wallowa County citizens descended on Embers Brew House on Main Street in Joseph for its 10th annual chili cook-off coupled with its second annual buffalo wings eating competition.

About 20 competitors displayed their chili concoctions on Embers’ large deck as dozens of onlookers waited patiently for the various cooks to dole out samples that ranged from burning hot chili to white and vegan chili on the milder side.

Nearly all the crowd cast a vote for their favorite chili, while on the inside, five judges, including county commissioners Todd Nash and Susan Roberts sampled the fare at a center table. When the dust cleared and Embers owner Teresa Sajonia announced the results, Dave Hayslip of Enterprise had



Steve Tool/Chieftain

Just some of the chili aficionados who braved cold temperatures last Saturday to sample the wares of about 20 competitors in the Embers Brew House 10th annual chili cook-off in Joseph. An estimated 150 people attended the event.

won the People’s Choice award while Norman Senn, also of Enterprise was the clear judges’ choice with his five-alarm Stockman’s Chili. Both Hayslip and Senn received \$50 cash for their efforts.

Although only three people competed in the buffalo wings eating contest, interest among spectators was high as Embers patrons packed the inside and around the table for the culinary warfare. After eight minutes,

Joseph resident Sam Warr had far outclassed his opponents, downing 37 red-hot buffalo wings without even breathing hard.

Asked how he prepared, Warr answered, “I didn’t eat breakfast, and that’s it. In all honesty, I think my competition ate more than me beforehand.”

Warr also received \$50 for his efforts.

Sajonia said she thought the event a tremendous success.

KLAVINS

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While most law-abiding hunters share a disdain for poachers and do their part, far too many make excuses or turn a blind eye to it in their own communities — especially when its wolves, condors, or other wildlife viewed as controversial. Poaching has become so accepted in some communities that it is not only tolerated in online forums, but on bumper stickers proudly proclaiming the poacher’s cowardly creed to “shoot, shovel and shut up.”

Despite all this, even acknowledging poaching can be controversial. Oregon’s leaders and Department of Fish and Wildlife lack the resources — and the will — to study the problem.

What Oregon has done in-

stead is propose policies to suppress carnivore populations by killing them if less controversial and common wildlife decline. So, while it is estimated that 20 percent of some game populations are killed illegally by humans, rather than increase enforcement or risk angering some constituencies, Oregon leaves the door open to reward poaching by increasing the legalized killing of native hunters.

Scapegoating wolves, cougars, cormorants, sea lions, and ravens — and the people who appreciate them — is deemed a higher priority than enforcing the law or addressing root problems that make powerful interests uncomfortable.

Oregon needs to take poaching seriously, not just the illegal trafficking of exotic animal parts from around the world, or charismatic game species — but all illegal kill-

ing. Right here at home. The issue of poaching cries out for more study, funding for enforcement, and wildlife policies that are in line with broadly held public values.

Wildlife belong to all Americans. It’s time to stop letting poachers steal from us.

Rob Klavins is the Northeast Oregon Field Coordinator for Oregon Wild. He and his wife also own and operate a B&B and working farm in rural Wallowa County.

ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

This week’s athlete of the week is Joseph Charter School student Tyler Homan. The JCS guard on the school’s basketball team turned in two stunning performances in Jan. 13-14 games versus Pine Eagle and Griswold respectively.

Homan, 15, turned in a team high 17 points in the victory over Pine Eagle and cashed in 10 points in the win over Griswold.

Homan also competes in football and maintains a regular presence on the JCS honor roll.



Tyler Homan

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