

If you can read this column, thank a teacher

This time of year, many educators begin wondering if the year will ever be over. Spring fever can impact teachers as well as students.

Maybe that's why the powers that be chose this week to celebrate National Teacher Appreciation Week. Yesterday was National Teacher Day.

Having been married to an educator the past 29 years, I am aware of the challenges the classroom brings. I also have a sister, brother and brother-in-law who are retired from teaching careers, as well as several dozen cousins, aunts, uncles and others involved in the field.

My original aspiration was to be a high school English teacher. When I realized a life of sitting in a classroom all day might not fit my personality, journalism became a more suitable option.

In their own way, journalists are teachers, too.

I grew up in a small rural school in the middle of North Dakota. Several of my teachers had my brothers and sisters before me.

I heard "you're not much like your sisters" most of my 12 years of school. I thought that was a goal to be achieved; my teachers thought otherwise.

While our small district didn't always attract the creme de la creme, we were fortunate to have had educators who taught us how to learn. That has served me well to this day.

Teaching has changed over the years, but at the heart of the endeavor is the quest to instill a love for learning in students. I see that in many classrooms I have visited in Wallowa County.

Technology has changed education as it has every other industry out there. High-tech when I was in elementary school was yellow chalk instead of white.

Today the sky's the limit. The number of elementary-age students producing their own videos is impressive. I have received email communications from nine-year-olds that were created in Word documents.

I don't believe the job has ever been what anyone would consider easy. Herding a group of youngsters or teens through a day of learning comes with its own set of unique challenges.

Almost every teacher has that one student they secretly hope comes down with a particularly bad bug and misses a week. That was me for a number of my teachers, I am sure.

And all of us have teachers who influenced our lives. My love for reading and writing came from an English teacher who could make the most boring works of literature come alive.

She also made us memorize huge passages of Shakespeare and others, most of which I can quote accurately today.

So we take this opportunity to say "thank you" to every classroom instructor in Wallowa County who labors steadfastly to ensure our students are educated and challenged.

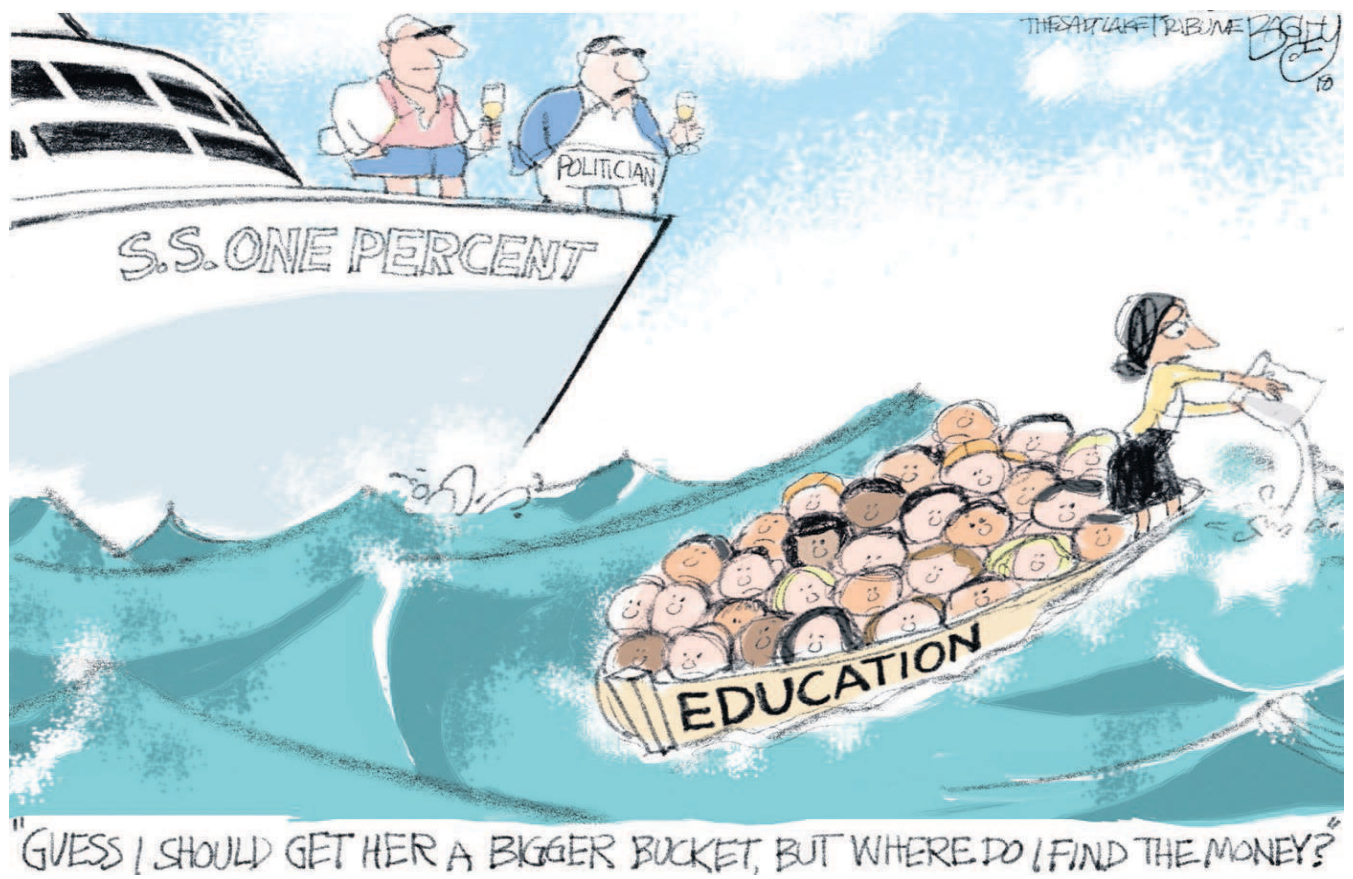
Some of you I have had the privilege to get to know personally over the past year, and I am thankful for your support of what we do here at the Chieftain.

Hang in there, the school year will be over before you know it! Have a terrific National Teacher Appreciation Week.



WAHL TO WALL

Paul Wahl



Saving Arlington from the wild calf

I have noticed over the years things like the last 10 percent of a job takes 90 percent of the time and 10 percent of the people cause 90 percent of the problems.

It especially applies to dealing with cattle. This has been proven to me on many occasions. When moving cattle, there is always a couple of bunch-quitters that require constant monitoring or they will leave with no forwarding address.

Last week I was helping Krebs Live-stock with their spring work on their ranch in Cecil, Ore. Everyone knows where that is.

Things went well until we got a call from Bobby Christiansen, an Arlington City Council member. Krebs leases some ground from the city and runs some pairs on the grass there.

One of the Krebs calves was on the wrong side of the fence and was walking the fence and bawling. The city was receiving several calls from concerned citizens since the field the calf was in was in full view just above the city.

I was dispatched to capture said calf and return it to its home range. Bobby met me in urban Arlington to show me where the calf was.

Arlington is in a fairly deep canyon and when Bobby waved me down, he pointed to the calf half a mile away on a steep side hill covered with deep arroyos, five-foot high sagebrush and lots of rocks



OPEN RANGE

Barrie Qualle

and other hazards.

I pulled the cinch into my trusty caballo and found a gate into the field. The calf was in good health and fairly athletic. Stealth failing, I had no choice except high speed pursuit.

Trying to get a throw was futile and dangerous. I finally got the calf headed for a corner and planned on roping him when he came back out of the corner. The calf didn't like that plan and escaped through the fence and headed for downtown.

I went back to the gate on my now sweaty and panting horse and was soon on the trail of the stray. Almost got a throw in a couple of startled peoples yards but Pendejo Negroito as I now called him hit the road and headed for the business district.

I had thoughts of hazing him to the golf course but had trouble catching up on the paved road. I finally Mark Dawsoned after him when he got on the highway that goes to Condon. Lots of fun going flat out on the yellow line hoping your horse doesn't make a quick move.

Got him off the road and across the railroad tracks. Once again pure thoughts and clean living paid off. There was a

fenced equipment lot with an open gate. I managed to convince the calf to enter and asked the five or six guys there to please close the gate.

The Krebs worker that had hauled me there arrived with the trailer, and I proceeded to put the capture on the calf. The calf hadn't given up. I chased him around cranes and trucks till I got a throw and thankfully caught.

It was a simple deal to load him in the trailer and rest my worn out horse. We trailered the calf back to his home range and tearfully watched as he reunited with his mom.

I discovered Bobby Christensen was part of the old Christensen Bros. rodeo stock contracting outfit. Back in the day, they had some of the best bucking stock. Horses like Warpaint and Miss Klamath were two that were seldom ridden.

Former Joseph saddle bronc rider and sculptor J. Shirley Botham was familiar with them. A few days later I visited with my friend Bill McCullough about the ordeal. Bill lived with Bobby when Bobby was attending Oregon State. A few days later Bill called and said he had talked to Bobby and mentioned he knew the guy that captured the calf that was terrorizing Arlington.

Bobby discussed the capture and commented that guy was pretty damn cowboy. To which my former friend replied, it must have been a different guy.

Be an informed voter on proposed library district

LETTERS to the EDITOR

Let me start by saying I love libraries and have been active as a volunteer with the Wallowa Public Library for almost 20 years. I have read the 33 page document "Economic Feasibility Report for a Wallowa County Library District."

I am voting "no" on the proposed library district. If the proposal were for an amount equal to current spending plus a modest increase, I could have supported it, but the ballot measure is for more than double the current spending of all the county libraries (in addition to any money received from grants).

It won't reduce any property taxes collected by the cities of Joseph, Enterprise or Wallowa, and those cities (and the county) will be required to continue to spend an estimated 20 percent of current library budgets each year to maintain the library buildings owned by the cities and county including maintenance, repair, utility bills and liability and property insurance.

I have seen inaccuracies in the claims from both sides (in the newspaper and in fliers left on my car). The pro district side claims more than 5,555 hours of annual programming for the libraries would be lost. That equals more than 15.2 hours of programming every day of the year claiming to be provided by the county library.

The pro side claims that summer reading programs will be lost. The grant money for the summer reading programs at each of the city libraries is from state library grants written by the city librarians and will not be affected by the district vote either way.

The proposed staffing plan almost doubles the paid staff hours from 3.44 full-time equivalents to 6.4. This is to cover the proposed increase of open hours from 88 to 166 per week and to pay for a district administrator and administrative assistant.

The "vote no" flier that is circulating claims the new library district board wouldn't report to any government entity. The new district would be a government entity governed by an elected board the same as the school districts and health care district and require an annual audit the same as the cities and county.

The local city library boards would cease to exist and all decisions would be made by the new district board. I am retired and on a fixed income, and I pay property taxes.

It would be cheaper for me to pay for a library card (and the cities have not indicated they would impose this fee). Just because you "like" libraries, is not a good reason to vote "yes." The city libraries will still be here after July 1. I'm only asking that you be an informed voter and to think about what Wallowa County can afford.

Sally Goebel
Wallowa

Sick of editorial bias

I hope and pray that the new publisher of the Chieftain, Chris Rush, will tone down the editorial bias that we get from the Chieftain on a weekly basis.

Last November, the "editorial" told us who we should vote for to serve us on the Enterprise City Council and in the mayoral slot. Recently, in the past two weekly editions, the Library District supporters have managed to receive four times as much

coverage as the nonsupporters.

Last week's edition ran a half-page ad funded by yesforwclibraries.com with "A Yes Vote" proclaiming "No Library Closures" and "A No Vote" lamenting that "Libraries Will Close!"

These lead-in comments are totally misleading. Additionally, to quote the editorial endorsement, which heavily supported the library district: "... a "yes" vote sends a strong signal that we prioritize literacy and education for children from all walks of life."

I'm a firm believer; however, our libraries are not responsible for this, our parenting and our school systems are responsible for both literacy and education for children. Granted our libraries play a role, but let's not believe that they alone are providing this support.

Don't get me wrong, I check out on average a half-dozen books monthly from the Enterprise City Library through the Sage Library System. But, it's not going to close if this library district is not approved; it's a funded line item in the Enterprise City Budget.

I plan on continuing to use the Enterprise library in the future, but I don't believe that we need another level of bureaucracy. The budget for the proposed library district grows from \$490,313 to \$535,896 in three years.

It will continue to grow by that same average of three percent forever, and so will your taxes for it. Please note what is missing from this budget: rent, power, sewer and water, maintenance and repair and property and liability insurance for the existing library buildings.

All of these expenses will still

come out of your taxes. Although the library district budget is huge, the library district will pay none of these costs. But you will.

Maury Bunn
Enterprise, OR

He would vote for scaled-down library proposal

I have been reading in the Chieftain the opinions of the supporters of the library measure on the merits of libraries; but little to nothing about what level of fiscal support is necessary to maintain our current library.

The library district would raise \$490,313 in the first year, and continued forever, appears to be extremely ambitious for this county and our economic situation. Could the current library be continued at half of the requested assessment (\$245,136.50)?

One could vote for a third option for Measure 32-41 creating the Wallowa County Library Service District and authorizing a permanent assessment of 65 cents per \$1,000 assessed value.

Vote "no" but be willing to entertain a future yes vote if the sponsors of this measure are willing to be more realistic in their requested levy.

If a second attempt is required, I would like to see the sponsors provide more specific economic information. For example, explain the current expenses at existing library level, create a detailed budget and justify any increased services.

Glenn Kline
Imnaha

Kudos to library district boosters

I was born and years later had my

first teaching job in Enterprise. Often I've traveled across the state to revisit my birthplace, and I've recommended Wallowa County to many for its beauty, its welcoming environment and its friendly and engaged citizenry.

This is "God's country" for sure. When people say Eastern Oregon is filled with uninformed backward people, I'm the first to shout "nay!"

The proposed library district is a great move. I now live in Jackson County, where after the county said they couldn't afford the services and all public libraries were closed for six months, voters approved a library district that brought its distant branches together with permanent funding and a locally elected board.

To learn that Wallowa County's proposed district would cost the average taxpayer the value of two hard-back books seems like a no-brainer when I see how many services would be offered.

I commend those who've worked hard on this campaign, and I hope their efforts and the evidence proves convincing for Wallowa County voters.

Ann Marie (Larive) Magill
Ashland, Ore.

We need Dunn

Bruce Dunn moved here to buy logs and manage the timberland owned by Ron Yanke (RY Timber). I met him when he walked into my office and suggested we trade logs.

His mill was designed to cut smaller logs, and Boise Cascade's mill was designed to cut large logs. From this encounter, I learned Bruce was an honest upfront guy.

He also wanted to maintain family

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