

# Vacation is always way too short

It's always a mixed bag returning from a week of vacation. While it's nice to get back in harness, it would also be nice to have another few days or even an extra week to enjoy leisure time.

We spent time on the Oregon coast mostly south of Newport, camping and hanging out.

While the coast is packed with natural beauty, the economic impact of the loss of lumbering as an industry is stark the further south you travel. Sometimes, we have the myopic view that Wallowa County was the only place impacted when mills were closed. Not true.

Coos Bay is a good example. While there are definite patches of progress, an obvious economic "bust" cycle is in progress.

We spent several nights in a yurt in one of Oregon's state parks. It was a fitting home away from home. We love yurts and can't wait to see the yurt village that is planned for Wallowa Lake State Park.

This is a great time of year to camp as all the children are in school, and it's mostly us older types puttering around. For some reason, I get my best sleep in a sleeping bag.

One of the highlights of our trip was a concert by the Yachats Big Band. The group is essentially a community band with young and old participating. The sound was outstanding.

How difficult would it be to get some "big band" music in Wallowa County? I think we should try.

Another highlight was whale-watching. I actually saw a whale come up out of the water and go back down this trip. My eyesight isn't the greatest, so I usually miss what everyone on the boat is oohing and aahing about.

This time there were enough of them out there and moving slow enough that I could spot them before they disappeared. Whales are amazing creatures.

**MY THANKS** to Tim Trainor, a former editor with our group, who stepped in and handled most of my duties remotely from Portland. Technology is an amazing thing. It's not easy to keep track of all the moving pieces that are part of a weekly edition of the Chieftain.

We did have a sports story on the Enterprise High School football team's crushing victory go astray. It is printed in this week's edition. Thanks to everyone who called this to our attention.

**WE HAVE** two editions remaining before the November elections. Thanks to everyone who has written election-related letters. All of them have been respectful and within the word limit.

For the edition of Oct. 31, we will not be printing anything that raises new issues or allegations since there would not be sufficient time to publish a response prior to the election.

Nearly 200 people turned out for the candidate forum last Wednesday, which was among the larger crowds in recent memory. There is considerable interest in this election, which is a good thing. Let's make sure we have a really good turnout on Nov. 7.



**WAHL TO WALL**  
Paul Wahl

# Common sense, women's sense

In a time when just about everything is politicized and monetized, when we think of states in reds and blues, sports stadiums by their corporate names and "stars" of football, Hollywood, politics, Silicon Valley and the Fortune 500 by their annual income and net worth, it might be time to discuss important issues with good old common sense.

Let's not even talk about climate change, but let's do talk about fire, about how it has changed in occurrence and complexity over the past 50 years, and what we should do about it.

We know that nature and Indians abiding with nature made fire a part of the Northwest environment for millennia. We know that white settlement began less than 200 years ago, fire suppression began 100 years ago, and that building in the urban-forest interface has increased rapidly over the last decades.

And we know that warmer temperatures and drier weather in some Western places has resulted in catastrophic wild fires. It's simple to say that we have to reintroduce fire — an idea gaining wider acceptance with many audiences. But how?

Common sense tells me that the conversation cannot just be between timber companies and environmentalists, but has to include foresters, grasslands scientists, builders, city and county planners, climatologists, ranchers, farmers, loggers and Indian elders. Lawsuits will not get us through this mess — which is largely of our own creation.

Ditto rains and floods. Would you buy a house on the Florida Coast? In California wine country? Should private and government insurance programs continue to



**MAIN STREET**  
Rich Wandschneider

rebuild in known hazardous places? Get a conversation — and one outside of arguments about climate change — going!

International affairs? How could Democrat and Republican leaders continue to support the Saudis over decades, when the Saudis were building mosques and schools and exporting Wahhabi Sunni fundamentalism across the Middle East and into Asia?

Our lost lives in Afghanistan and Iraq, our lost influence in Syria and the human disaster in Yemen owe much to our reliance on the Saudis and our hatred for the Iranians. The Israelis? Sure, they should be part of the conversation, but not its controllers.

Money. If arms sales and money have led us to the Saudi-Yemeni-Syria fix we are in, can we openly address arms sales? And Mexican border issues, for that matter. We decry the illegal drugs and people coming this way, but do nothing about the arms and the manufacturing chemicals going into Mexico. These things are not, or should not be, partisan issues.

The one factor that all of the above seem to have in common is white men, mostly old white men. In international relations, Nikki Haley and Hillary Clinton are recent exceptions to the policy-making cabal of white men. And both have received praise in their diplomacy from political opponents.

In arms and chemical companies and sales, CEOs are universally white men. Domestically, in health care, women have gained some footholds (locally as well as nationally), which might be why health care has become an open national issue.

I don't know whether we will get Medicare for All, or some kind of rational single-payer system, but the insurance companies are backing off on covering preconditions and the ripping up of Affordable Care championed by Sen. McConnell is giving way to more rational discussions of actual health care needs. I think we can thank women in Congress and in the health care business for this.

This tug between men and women in the professions and in power might be the most important battle of our times. And men — especially old white men like me — cannot be proud. If you want to get out of politics, look at the Catholic churches in Boston and Pennsylvania. And look back to Jimmy Swaggart. We white men have used our power to dominate women and girls — and sometimes boys — sexually, educationally and politically ... forever.

And if Judge Kavanaugh wasn't the reckoning, he is getting us closer. I believe him: he has no recollection of his student actions while drunk.

But I have known blackout drunks and had been too close in my own student days. I am not proud of that and not proud of the white men — Democrats and Republicans — on that committee who could not bring up blackout drinking and sexual groping, standard operating procedure in the good old '50s and '60s when boys were supposed to get as much as they could, and it was up to girls to stop them.

# Measure 106 deserves your support

Growing up, many of us were taught, "if you can't say something nice, don't say anything at all." As a young adult, I personalized this philosophy with an internal conviction that I wanted to be a positive person rather than negative and grumbly; I have tried to live up to this ideal.

Times have changed since my upbringing. A clear example recently witnessed is the intimidation, hate-filled, violent, tactics of extremists on the political front.

Against this current backdrop, I'd like to engage a civil, respectful conversation about an issue that often sends people from both ends of the political spectrum from 0 to 60 in around three seconds. A conversation centered on facts rather than emotion, a conversation about the issue of abortion in Oregon.

In the current election season, lots of yard signs are out including a bright blue one saying "YES on 106." I'm part of a group, Oregon Life United, that worked to get this measure on the ballot.

We are truly a grassroots organization with no special interest support or money; instead more than 10,000 committed volunteers across the state gathered more



**GUEST COLUMN**  
Annette Lathrop

150,000 signatures necessary to qualify for the ballot.

Oregon is the only state in the country that has zero laws limiting abortion. This includes aborting a baby up to hours before birth for any reason.

Oregon taxpayers paid \$24.4 million for more than 57,000 abortions, approximately 10 abortions each day, 2002-2017, the earliest date data is available.

Oregon HB 3391, signed into law August 2017, greatly expanded taxpayer funding of abortion. (Not insignificant is the fact this bill was rushed through the legislature in the final days before adjournment, without any committee hearings or public testimony, then declared to be an emergency thereby preventing it from ever being referred to the public for a vote.)

The result of this new law is today, anyone — living in Oregon or just here

for short time, uninsured or covered by OHP — can have an unlimited number of free (taxpayer funded) abortions at any time during pregnancy.

A "yes" vote on Measure 106 will not in any way affect anyone's right to choose abortion.

Passing Measure 106, however, is necessary to stop taxpayer funding of elective, including late-term, abortions when the baby is perfectly healthy.

What is not true — Measure 106 is not about limiting or "cherry picking" health care. While grassroots are behind this measure, the powerful well-funded special interest groups, Planned Parenthood and NARAL, will most likely be spending millions in an effort to distort and confuse facts, working to convince voters to oppose.

This is truly a David vs Goliath scenario.

Oregon taxpayers should not be forced to pay for other people's choices. Please join me in voting "yes" on Measure 106.

*Annette Lathrop is Oregon Life United Wallowa County Coordinator and formerly authored the Chieftain column "Just Thinking."*

**Letters to the Editor** are subject to editing and should be limited to 275 words. Writers should also include a phone number with their signature so we can call to verify identity. The Chieftain does not run anonymous letters.

In terms of content, writers should refrain from personal attacks. It's acceptable, however, to attack (or support) another party's ideas.

We do not routinely run thank-you letters.

You can submit a letter to the Wallowa County Chieftain in person; by mail to P.O. Box 338, Enterprise, OR 97828; by email to editor@wallowa.com; or via the submission form at the newspaper's website, at wallowa.com.



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# How I became a 'working' volunteer

I got a message from Wallowa County Commissioner Todd Nash the other day. He said they were re-doing the corrals at the timed event end of the fairgrounds arena and could use some help.

I initially thought he was in need of a good plan for the new layout. Always eager to be a consultant and share my extensive knowledge on corral configuration, I readily accepted his invitation to participate. We set up an appointment for the next day at 8 a.m.

I cleaned up and appropriately dressed in my best ranch apparel, grabbed some



**OPEN RANGE**  
Barrie Qualle

sketches I had worked on for the corral feng schui remodel and headed for the fairgrounds arriving 10 minutes early for the appointment.

Upon arrival and ready to consult, I happily headed toward Todd and Greg Seifer, the fairgrounds ace employee, who were

already at the site. After some pleasantries, Todd said, "well we better get at it."

With that, he and Greg began the demolition of the standing set of corrals. I became a little confused but feeling uncomfortable standing around, eventually started helping with the work. Todd and Greg worked with a steady efficiency and were making good progress.

I fetched tools and helped move things that took more than one person. I accidentally got caught up in the effort and began