

LETTERS to the EDITOR

Democrat party objective

It appears to me that the Democrat Party has one and only one objective, to take down President Trump. There are some twenty plus prospective candidates and all with radical so-called Progressive agendas... The Democrat party has swung so far to the left that it has really become The Socialist Party...

Listening to some of the top Democrat Party members you can detect vitriol in their comments toward President Trump... They really do not seem to have a platform other than that... all they appear to be doing is to obstruct, obstruct, and they have the full-fledged support of the left-wing media.

My heart goes out to the average democrat voter that is trusting their representatives to work for them. It seems that, without exception, every single Democrat representative in the House and Senate is committed to the single matter of getting Trump impeached at all costs.

If Democrat voters are listening or watching only news from the far left propaganda, pro-democrat point of view, then after constant "fake news" there is little hope of getting an objective view. I would challenge all Democrat voters to tune in to Fox News, or One America News or Newsmax plus some smaller outlets and get a dose of the truth... That "Truth" is that President Trump is doing an excellent job of fulfilling his promises with the goal of "MAKING AMERICA GREAT AGAIN!"

Stormy Burns Joseph



Ellen Morris Bishop

Houndstongue produces small, attractive flowers that turn into burrs that stick to everything.

poisonous to wildlife and domestic animals, damaging the animal's liver. It may cause death to grazing animals. Ironically, hounds tongue becomes more palatable after it is sprayed with herbicides, according to the Washington State Department of Agriculture.

For most people the main problem is that houndstongue produces seeds that stick to everything — you, your dog, and wildlife. If you wait till the seeds form, they are as big as your little fingernail with tiny barbs. People call them beggars lice. They are just the right height to get in your dog's fur and cling to fawns and calves that spread them every where.

Houndstongue grows to about two feet and is the tall broad leaf plant you see now above the grass in the pastures and long the road. The flowers start to bloom a lavender pink and turn blue as they come out. The root is a long tap root so take your shovel,

break off the blooms, and dig the weed. If you do not get the root, the weed will grow back with two or three bearing stems instead of one. Do dig the houndstongue NOW.

Ingrid Cook Joseph

SAT Scores: No 'Arbitrary Points' added

In Barrie Qualle's column in the May 29, 2019, Chieftain, he laments the proposal for the College Board to calculate an adversity index for students taking the SAT test and to use the index to adjust SAT scores, in particular by adding points to the scores of students deemed to be disadvantaged. This would clearly be a gross injustice if it were true, but it's not exactly true.

It is true that the adversity score would be assigned based on a combination of factors, including a student's neighborhood environment (based on crime and vacancy rates), school environment (graduation rates; the number of students receiving free or reduced-price lunches), and family environment (income, education level, and marital status of the parents). Race, by law, cannot be considered as a factor.

But, it is decidedly not true that the adversity score would be used to "give disadvantaged students extra points" on their SAT scores. The adversity score would be a separate, independent measure intended as an additional tool for use by college administrators to assess the potential worth of students applying for admission. In deciding between two students with identical SAT scores, for example, it could reasonably be assumed that the student with a much higher adversity score might have more intelligence, more native ability, and more gumption than the student with a lower adversity score, and thus more likely to suc-

ceed in college and beyond.

There can certainly be valid questions about the algorithm used to assign the adversity score and the score's transparency. But the assertion that the score will be used to add "arbitrary points to someone's SAT score" is completely false.

Terry Hiatt Enterprise

The plight of wolves

President Donald Trump plans to prematurely strip Endangered Species Act protection from gray wolves in nearly all of the lower 48 states. But some of the country's top wolf scientists just pointed out major flaws in the administration's proposal.

According to the peer reviews commissioned by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the agency's proposal contains substantial errors and misrepresents the most current science on wolf conservation and taxonomy.

Today, wolves have expanded their range into more of the upper Midwest, the northern Rockies and Oregon. But they remain absent from the vast majority of their former range. This includes areas that could support and benefit from wolves, like the southern Rockies, most of western Oregon and Washington, the Sierra Nevada and the Adirondacks.

These important animals remain threatened by the same animosity, persecution and killing that nearly drove them to extinction in the first place. For all these reasons, wolves need continued Endangered Species Act protections.

Wolves are integral to healthy wild lands. If they are stripped of lifesaving federal protections, decades of work and millions of dollars spent on their recovery would be undone. This would be tragic for the wolves and the natural systems they benefit.

Collette Adkins Center for Biological Diversity

Dig hounds tongue NOW!

Houndstongue (*Cynoglossum officinal*) is an invasive, noxious weed in Wallowa County that is just starting to bloom. It is

Measles can easily be prevented with a vaccine

In recent months, the news has begun covering small outbreaks of a disease that has mostly become unfamiliar to our society—measles. This virus causes cold-like symptoms—fevers, cough, sore throat, and inflamed eyes—which makes it difficult to distinguish from other common illnesses. However, the distinguishing symptom is the development of a specific type of rash which normally starts at the hairline and moves downward.

The complications of the disease range from the previously mentioned to neurological impairment and even death. The two most ominous complications are encephalitis (brain swelling) or a long-term infection of the nervous system that slowly causes deterioration to the brain (SSPE). Both of these com-



MOUNTAIN MEDICINE Kelsey Allen

plications can lead to death. In fact, 1 out of 4 people who contract the measles virus will require hospitalization.

Previous to our era, measles was a common virus infection that dates back to the 9th century. Before the release of its vaccine in 1963, approximately 3 to 4 million people (in the US) were infected every year—nearly all children were infected before the age of 15. As well as nearly 500 people a year died from the illness. The disease

was so prevalent due to its incredible infectious nature. 9 out of 10 people exposed to an infectious individual will become infected. The transmission can happen via contact or simply via breathing the same air in a room. In fact, the virus' presence continues up to 2 hours after the infected person leaves a room.

Upon the vaccine's release, reports of infections fell by the thousands. In the 1980s, the CDC planned to eradicate the disease by increasing the required administrations to 2 occasions. With this practice, in the year 2000, the disease was considered "eliminated." This means that no cases had been observed for a 12-month period. Since then, cases have ranged from 63 to 667 a year. Most of

these infections are due to international travelers who may have not received the vaccine and enter the USA already sick. In the year 2019, we have already seen 940 reported cases... and we're only half way through the year.

Often, doctors are asked if the patient is immune to the measles virus or not. Generally speaking, if a person was born before 1957, they are immune because they were likely exposed to the virus. However, doctors can draw blood and test if you have immunity or not. No vaccine is perfect, but individuals who have received two doses of the vaccine are 97% likely to never contract the virus.

Nearly all individuals who are over the age of 1 are recommended to receive the vaccine. If some-

one plans to travel internationally, it is recommended that you have received the vaccine at least 2 weeks in advance. Those who should not consider receiving the vaccine are those who have compromised immune systems due to treatments of disease (chemotherapy, steroids, HIV, etc...) or if the individual is pregnant.

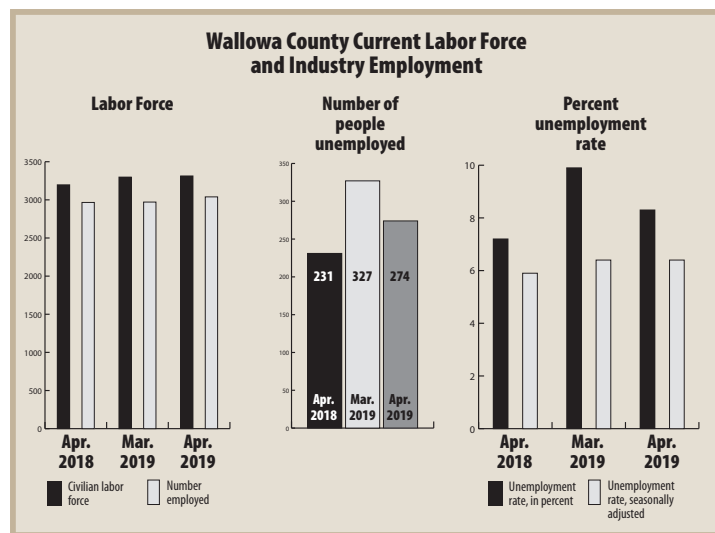
Measles is a serious and very infectious disease that can easily be prevented with a vaccine. If you have questions or concerns, feel free to speak with your doctor to make the right choice for yourself and your family.

Kelsey Allen, D.O., is a family medicine physician at Mountain View Medical Clinic in Enterprise. Mountain Medicine is a collaboration between Ron Polk and Allen.

Wallowa County non-farm employment holds steady

By Ellen Morris Bishop Wallowa County Chieftain

Wallowa County non-farm employment rose from slightly in April while unemployment fell from 9.9 percent to 8.3 percent. Both figures calculate to a seasonally-adjusted 6.4 percent unemployment, higher than last April's seasonally adjusted 5.9 percent, according to statistics from the State of Oregon Employment Department. Largest gains here were in local and state government, construction, trade, transportation, and utilities. Employment in logging and health services fell slightly. Wallowa County's April, 2019 payroll, non-farm labor force stands at 3,039 people.



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Wallowa Valley Eye Care

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Shotgun, Pistol, Rifle All Firearms and Ammo For Events Will Be Provided

GAMES FOR THE KIDS

HUNDRED YARD 22LR AR SHOOT

MUZZLELOADER DEMO AND SHOOTING

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LUNCH PROVIDED BY THE STUBBORN MULE STEAK HOUSE

RAFFLE PRIZES/WIN A GUN

TRAP SHOOTING DEMONSTRATION

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