

Love your enemies

As the day of Christ's resurrection approaches, it can be easy to get lost in the egg hunts, the Easter Bunny and chick-shaped marshmallow treats.

It is easy to lose sight of the historical significance of Jesus and the miracle upon which so many of us base our faith — especially in the overwhelming commercial environment of our age.

But, even as we sit in the pews and listen to the Gospels, it can be easy to miss the importance of some of the passages.

Jesus was certainly an interesting figure and speaker. Often speaking in parables, his divine wisdom was not always direct and explicit.

Yet, at times, he was quite clear.

In Matthew 5:44, in what is perhaps one of most important Biblical messages, Jesus says, "Love your enemies."

Loving one's neighbor is simple. The benefit of getting along with those in close proximity is easy to see. But loving for one's own benefit does not live up to the

Christian ideal.

Loving one's enemy is far more difficult. Are we, as humans, even capable of loving our enemies? Can we, in this day and age, truly appreciate the depth of this 2,000-year-old message?

Life is far easier with a well-defined enemy. Whether in war or politics or even games, the objective is quite simple when the situation can be described as in terms of an enemy, in terms of "us versus them."

However, except in the case of a harmless game, much can be lost by dividing the world into these categories. We are left with little choice except to believe, "We must fight and overcome these enemies."

If we come to that conclusion, we would do well to think about Christ's important message — if we haven't completely forgotten it by that point.

So this Easter season, think about your "enemies."

Then think about Jesus' words.

Then feel free to indulge in the candy.

After all, Christ is risen.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

How will you vote?

To the Editor:

There's no denying that voters across this country are disgusted with politics as usual. We elect people expecting results, and after candidates promise voters that electing them will benefit the community in so many ways both socially and economically, we go to the polls and we elect them and then we wait.

Well, we're still waiting for the economic part of their plan to kick in. Socially, I believe Grant County is in a pretty good place. We showed we reject racism, our crime rate is low and we have strong community support for our schools. On the other hand, our economy is a disaster. So my question is why would our local government stand in the way of not one, not two but three times at the opportunity to bring jobs and revenue to our county?

In all three decisions, landowners were told by local government what to do with their land. You can only wonder how the economy would look here with a new state park, a resort for motorcycle tourists, a marijuana production facility, marijuana dispensary or a hemp processing plant. I don't know — I'm no economist — but I am pretty sure we would be better off by letting the free market system work.

Wouldn't it be nice, instead of hearing of budget cuts, layoffs and cuts to our school programs, if the news spoke of a balanced budget, jobs and our schools being properly funded? With enough resources to make school fun and interesting for students. We could bring back vocational programs like wood shop, metal shop and auto mechanics to the level it should be. Fund sports programs so all athletes can afford to participate and reach their full potential.

There is hope on the horizon! We the people of Grant County get to make the decision on option number three whether to legalize marijuana production in Grant County. On May 17 we vote on initiative 12-58; we can either choose to move forward or continue down the same prosperous road we've been on. I know how I'm voting.

Sonny Dryden
Mt. Vernon

clearly they illegally set up a road block according to (Oregon State Police's) own set of regulations. It was nothing but a kill stop. They intended to murder him, and it is obvious in the video. There is no proof in the video that he went for a gun. He was shot in the back several times.

They then proceeded to shoot at the vehicle with unarmed people in it including an innocent, young teenager.

You call them militants. Have you looked in the dictionary what a militant is? Someone who is actively engaged in a war. These were not militants; they are patriots. The police and the FBI and our government are the militants. Who fired at whom? Who is taking over land from the ranchers? Oregonians need to wake up to the fact that the federal government is overreaching and taking away our liberties and freedom.

Gini Gerstner
Fox

within its boundaries or acquiring federal funding stated in the charter of the commission. This should either be changed to something much more realistic, constructive and legal, or other options sought. The taking of extreme positions will not make our community a better place to live, while working with all interested parties toward our mutual benefit most certainly will.

Dave Hannibal
Mt. Vernon

'My civil rights have been trampled'

To the Editor:

I do not intend this as anyone's opinion but mine. State your opinion loud and clear, I will listen; it is your right. But if you want me to hear what you are saying don't drown out me with your cries of angry indignation.

Now it is my opinion that John Day dispatch center coordinator and John Day police chief should tread lightly; if they have not already broken state laws, they are close to it.

The use of official city letterhead to make personal statements public, also public video comments to a news reporter while in uniform, in the wording to have statements give the appearance of being an official statement made by or with the consent of the office of the city of John Day or the people of this community and/or of this county without due process.

I would also like at this time to mention that when Chris Labhart, our duly elected county commissioner, picked up that picket sign and allowed himself to be photographed and incidentally being published publicly was not representing me through due process of his office.

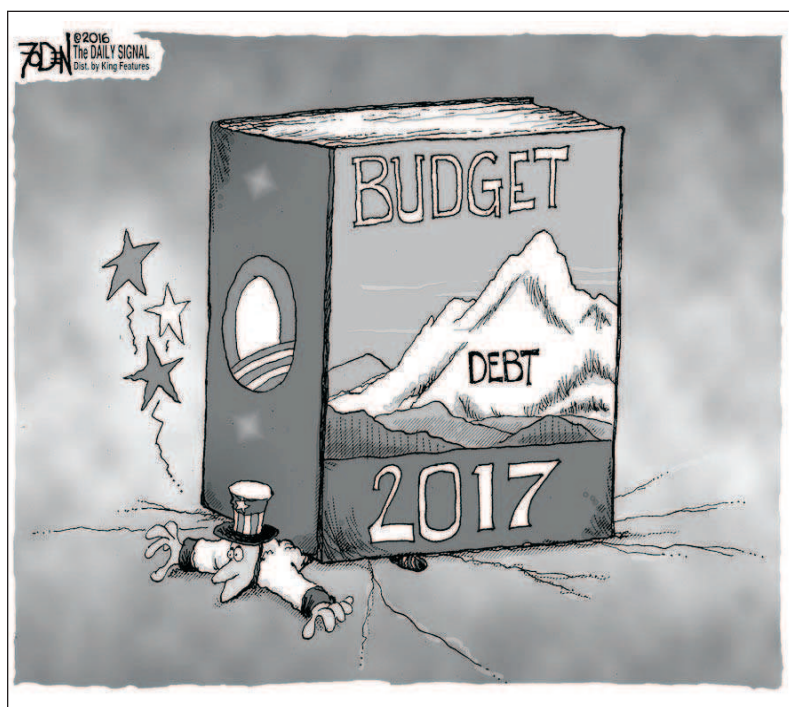
I for one have not authorized any person to speak on my behalf, nor have I been given the opportunity to review any statements to be made public by any county or city officials intending to act on my behalf and as my representative publicly. My civil rights have been trampled on by these persons using their positions to make such statements.

The law, in part, ORS 162.415: "Official misconduct in the first degree (1) A public servant commits the crime of official misconduct in the first degree if with intent to obtain a benefit or to harm another: ..."

It is my civic duty to bring this to the attention of the people of this community, and in my opinion, it is each and everyone's civic duty to see that those that would trample on the people's civil rights are held accountable. What actions have been taken to rectify this misconduct?

Paula Long
John Day

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WHERE TO WRITE

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- **Grant County Courthouse** — 201 S. Humbolt St., Suite 280, Canyon City 97820. Phone: 541-575-0059. Fax: 541-575-2248.
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- **John Day** — 450 E. Main St, John Day, 97845. Phone: 541-575-0028. Fax: 541-575-1721. Email: cityjd@centurytel.net.
- **Long Creek** — P.O. Box 489, Long Creek 97856. Phone: 541-421-3601. Fax: 541-421-3075. Email: info@cityoflongcreek.com.
- **Monument** — P.O. Box 426, Monument 97864. Phone and fax: 541-934-2025. Email: cityofmonument@centurytel.net.
- **Mt. Vernon** — P.O. Box 647, Mt. Vernon 97865. Phone: 541-932-4688. Fax: 541-932-4222. Email: cmtv@ortelco.net.
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- **Gov. Kate Brown, D** — 254 State Capitol, Salem 97310. Phone: 503-378-3111. Fax: 503-378-6827. Website: www.governor.state.or.us/governor.html.
- **Oregon Legislature** — State Capitol, Salem, 97310. Phone: (503) 986-1180. Website: www.leg.state.or.us (includes Oregon Constitution and Oregon Revised Statutes).

- **State Rep. Cliff Bentz, R-Ontario** (District: 60), Room H-475, State Capitol, 900 Court St. N.E., Salem OR 97301. Phone: 503-986-1460. Email: rep.cliffbentz@state.or.us. Website: www.leg.state.or.us/bentz/home.htm.
- **State Sen. Ted Ferrioli, R** — (District 30) Room S-223, State Capitol, Salem 97310. Phone: 503-986-1950. Email: sen.tedferrioli@state.or.us. Email: TFER2@aol.com. Phone: 541-490-6528. Website: www.leg.state.or.us/ferrioli.
- **Oregon Legislative Information** — (For updates on bills, services, capitol or messages for legislators) — 800-332-2313.

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- **The White House**, 1600 Pennsylvania Ave. N.W., Washington, D.C. 20500; Phone-comments: 202-456-1111; Switchboard: 202-456-1414.
- **U.S. Sen. Ron Wyden, D** — 516 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington D.C. 20510. Phone: 202-224-5244. Email: wayne_kinney@wyden.senate.gov Website: http://wyden.senate.gov Fax: 202-228-2717.
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- **U.S. Rep. Greg Walden, R** — (Second District) 1404 Longworth Building, Washington D.C. 20515. Phone: 202-225-6730. No direct email because of spam. Website: www.walden.house.gov Fax: 202-225-5774. Medford office: 14 North Central, Suite 112, Medford, OR 97501. Phone: 541-776-4646. Fax: 541-779-0204.

Occupiers are patriots, not militants

To the Editor:

In regards to the LaVoy Finicum investigation article, the very title of your article doesn't make sense: shooting justified but FBI being investigated? How can the shooting be justified when the FBI lied? How is it that the police investigate themselves? Do you always regurgitate what is fed to you? Do you do no research to find out the facts? Have you even looked at the videos both from Shawna Cox and the police? Clearly they were firing at LaVoy's vehicle, which caused him to speed away from the first road stop. And

Letters policy: Letters to the Editor is a forum for Blue Mountain Eagle readers to express themselves on local, state, national or world issues. Brevity is good, but longer letters will be asked to be contained to 350 words. No personal attacks; challenge the opinion, not the person. No thank-you letters. Submissions to this page become property of the Eagle. The Eagle reserves the right to edit letters for length and for content. Letters must be original and signed by the writer. Anonymous letters will not be printed. Writers should include a telephone number so they can be reached for questions. We must limit all contributors to one letter per person per month. Deadline is 5 p.m. Friday. Send letters to editor@bmeagle.com, or Blue Mountain Eagle 195 N. Canyon Blvd., John Day, OR 97845; or fax to 541-575-1244.



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