

GUEST COMMENT

Prevention is possible

By Matt Ipson
For the Blue Mountain Eagle

April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month. This year's campaign focuses on ways that individuals, communities and the private sector can help prevent sexual violence. Nearly one in five women, and one in 71 men, are victims of sexual assault (Black et al., 2011), but all of us are impacted by sexual violence.

Everyone understands that sexual abuse impacts victims and their families, but the effects of sexual violence on communities and society are less obvious. Sexual violence creates a climate of fear, anger and disbelief in the workplaces, schools and communities that it occurs in. Additionally, sexual violence burdens the criminal justice system, medical facilities and crisis and mental health service providers. Further, societal contributions of survivors may be hampered as a product of psychological trauma that can cross generations and last a lifetime.

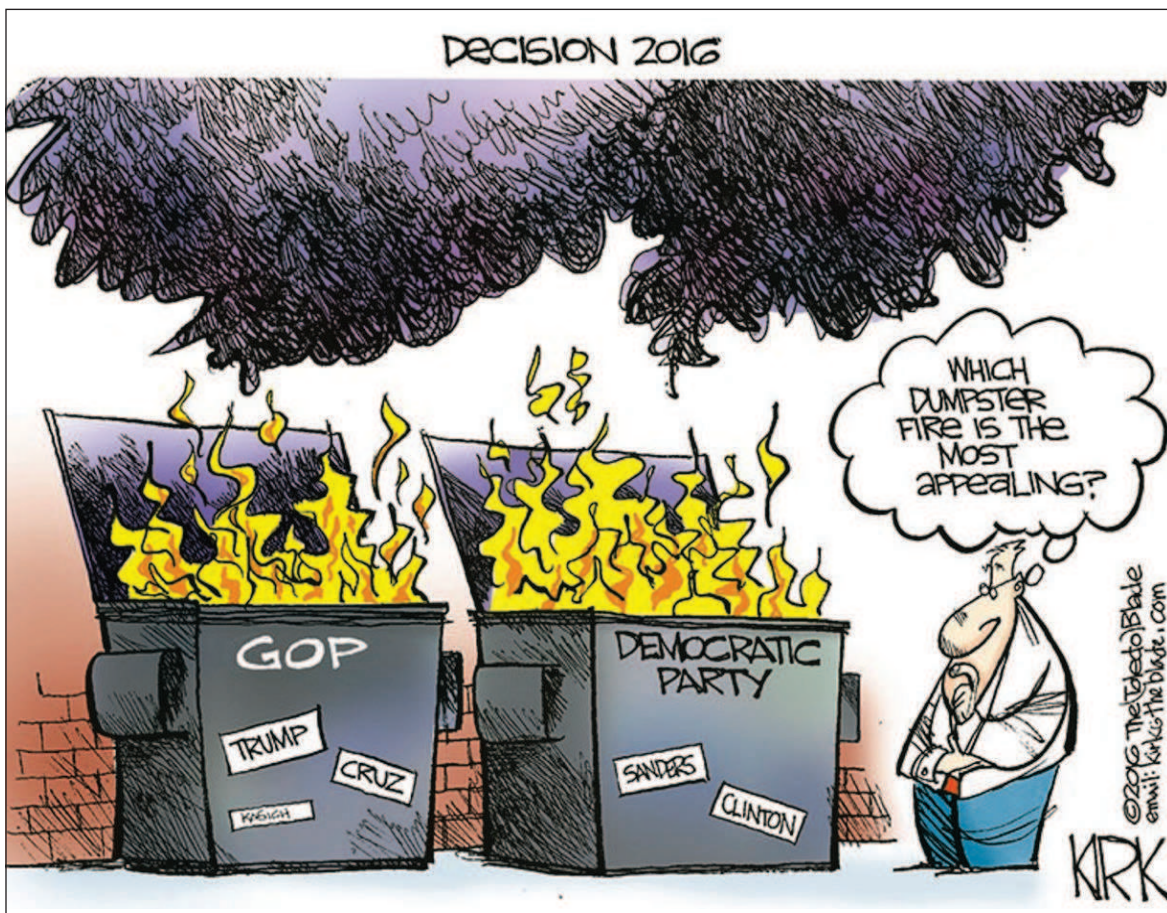
Preventing such a far-reaching and prevalent social issue as sexual violence may

seem overwhelming or even impossible. This mentality implies that there isn't a solution — or if there is, we can't achieve it. But we can. There are many practical steps that are currently being taken in our homes, neighborhoods, schools, faith communities and workplaces. But there are many more things we can do to promote safety, respect and accountability.

Together, we must resolve to change the prevailing culture that questions the actions of victims, rather than the actions of their attackers. Individuals can model supportive relationships and behaviors, call out harmful attitudes and challenge the societal acceptance of rape. We cannot look the other way. Communities, businesses and schools can take action to implement policies that promote safety, respect and equality.

As this year's slogan declares, prevention is possible! Join us in helping everyone see their role in preventing sexual violence. You can learn more at www.nsvrc.org/saam.

Matt Ipson is the deputy district attorney for Grant County.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Collaborative process yields better projects

To the Editor:

Those who were concerned by Mr. (Mark) Webb's court challenge to the (Public) Forest Commission's validity or those wanting more back story, please read the original charter posted (as a link with this letter) in the online version of the Eagle. It was drafted in more bleak times of local forestry and local economics.

As the timber wars subsided, two approaches were embarked on in hopes of a solution. First was the establishment of the Public Forest Commission in a 2002 vote with members voted in during 2004. It was ambitious and brave, if not somewhat desperate in nature, and basically very likely not legal. Had it been fully implemented, I am pretty sure some major litigation time would have been involved.

A few years later came the collaborative effort that would become the Blue Mountains Forest Partners and then the Harney County Restoration Collaborative.

While it is easy to sit back, refusing to learn new ways and fight for our long held positions, it's much harder to educate ourselves and step out of our comfort zones to co-create a better future. These two collaborative groups have been successful so far and are on a good path to continue that trend. Joining BMFP from very near the beginning, I will say it was not easy and exceptionally trying at times in the early years; I almost quit numerous times out of frustration with some members' extreme or unreasonable viewpoints.

Speaking for myself, I think better projects come out of a collaborative process. I do not want to see the forest managed by a small group of people who think very similarly or the Forest Service alone. The increasing trend of extreme polarization, personal attacks and name calling observed on social media is highly unlikely to move our community forward; respectful dialog is more likely to yield meaningful results. I do think the PFC can serve a useful role in forestry issues for the county though the charter needs a lot of work. If elected, this would be one of my goals moving forward.

Dave Hannibal
Mount Vernon

Concerning the recall of Boyd Britton

To the Editor:

Many of us here in Grant County benefit from working for the Forest Service. Loggers, construction workers who put in culverts to working on forest roads. Thinning, piling, burning. You might be hard pressed to find someone who has never benefited from working for the Forest Service.

From what I can find, Boyd Britton Welding may have received \$4,000 to \$5,000 net a year from work for the Forest Service — the Forest Service used them because his business could take a credit card.

About county road closures: In

one situation, Boyd went out past "Wickiup" to look at a road that the Forest Service was putting "tank traps" into. He stopped the work and called Scott Myers, and together they put a stop to that road being closed.

The County Court had people apply to be on a roads committee. The committee only existed a short while. Some quit. What happened to that group that was to bring information on roads to the County Court?

D.R. Johnson filed a lawsuit with the Forest Service over the "Summit Fire." We knew the ranchers who had it surrounded but were told to pull back by the Forest Service. D.R. spent a great deal of money. He never could prove the F.S. was at fault or that the way they managed the forests was wrong. We joined D.R. as landowners who had land burnt. I think that lawsuit went on for over three years. No one won.

What if you find a citizen did something wrong at the very beginning? Are you going to blame the entire fire on that one person? Maybe a F.S. employee? He could be your neighbor. Maybe the wind blew the smoke jumpers off target? What if it was a volunteer? You will be hard pressed to get volunteers in the future.

Many homes were lost. People are still hurting. Things are gone that can't be replaced. People still have nightmares!

The past can't be changed. We can only learn from it. Hopefully!

Jan O'Rourke
John Day

Farmers: Providing nourishment and economic opportunity

To the Editor:

The way in which we improve a communities' lifestyle is to add value to it. In order to add value, we must create something new, something wanted by consumers and providing net gain. Consumers need more tangible usefulness than small strips of paper and coin. We add value by doing just that, adding more to the marketplace than we remove. Do public sector jobs, after massive overhead costs, add value to our economy?

Imagine if you would that your pantry was our economy. You walk in and immediately notice more cans at the top than the bottom. This does not suit you, so you reorganize. The goods are distributed among the shelves in an even manner. When finished, you look at the work you've done, pleased with the aesthetics of it all, and walk out with a couple cans for dinner. Ask yourself, "Did I add any value to the storeroom?" The shelves certainly look better. So do our unemployment numbers, as reported in the March 30, 2016, edition of the Blue Mountain Eagle. Did we add any value by taking from some and giving to others, plus overhead?

Now imagine a seed placed in the soil. From the dirt and the rain, two leaves rise and a root taps down. Through time and care, leaves and roots continue to grow, resulting in a tangible and quantifiable product. Farmers harvest this crop to feed the needs of the peo-

ple. Taking only from soil, rain and time, crops are then traded for fiat currency. Has value been added to the marketplace? Yes.

We may help our neighbors by helping our farmers, and frankly our energies are more properly aligned to help each other with long-term solutions. Farmers are the mothers and fathers of society. They care for the land and their communities far more than themselves. Though, even the caretakers of the land need help at times. Please support our local farmers by allowing them to grow and harvest what God placed on this planet. Please support Initiative 12-58 in adding value to our governmentally impoverished county.

Cassandra Ross
Vancouver, Washington

Wake up, Grant County

To the Editor:

The date to vote on initiative 12-58 is fast approaching. Voters will decide on May 17 whether or not citizens in Grant County have the right to use private property for a legal profitable business. 12-58 allows citizens to open and operate facilities for production, processing and retail sales of marijuana products.

It also opens the door for hemp production on private land. In 2014 Oregon voters approved the legalization of recreational marijuana. That law allows residents over 21 the right to grow up to four marijuana plants as well as possess 8 ounces of dried marijuana. The laws set no boundaries state-wide. It's legal in every county in Oregon including Grant.

Agree or disagree with the law, but this is the current state law in Oregon. Oregon is now in the phase of implementation. Once the system is set up counties that participate become eligible for revenue from the state tax system as well as giving counties around the state an opportunity to produce good paying sustainable jobs. Counties that have opted out receive nothing! Not a dime of revenue or a single job!

Not only have state representatives unfairly denied Eastern Oregon communities their right to receive revenue under this program, they essentially have told the private citizens the government will dictate what they believe is appropriate use of private property. This has now become a land use issue for private property owners. If we vote no on 12-58, we set a precedent that allows elected officials to decide for us without a vote what is and will be appropriate use of our land now and into the future.

Voting no on 12-58 does nothing to the existing law for recreational marijuana; your neighbors can still grow and smoke it even if you vote no. So why vote no if the only thing you're blocking is private property rights and the opportunity to bring in revenue and produce jobs in our community? Let's vote yes on 12-58 and send a clear message that the people of Grant County will decide what is appropriate use of our land.

Norma Russell
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.
- **Canyon City** — P.O. Box 276, Canyon City 97820. Phone: 541-575-0509. Fax: 541-575-0515. Email: tocc1862@centurylink.net.
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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.
- **Prairie City** — P.O. Box 370, Prairie City 97869. Phone: 541-820-3605. Fax: 820-3566. Email: pchall@ortelco.net.
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SALEM

- **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.

WASHINGTON, D.C.

- **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.
- **U.S. Sen. Jeff Merkley, D** — 313 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington D.C. 20510. Phone: 202-224-3753. Email: senator@merkley.senate.gov. Fax: 202-228-3997. Oregon offices include One World Trade Center, 121 S.W. Salmon St., Suite 1250, Portland, OR 97204; and 310 S.E. Second St., Suite 105, Pendleton, OR 97801. Phone: 503-326-3386; 541-278-1129. Fax: 503-326-2990.
- **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.



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