

# Entertainment at fair deserves applause

For a small fair in a small county, this year's big-time entertainment at the Grant County Fair deserves a big round of applause.

From the opening-night talent show to the touching tribute to Fair Manager Mary Weaver from the headlining act, the grandstands were packed most evenings for shows worth well more than the price of admission.

Weaver's efforts preparing for the fair in her sixth year as manager were clearly evident long before the opening day, even though she was unable hold the reins during the actual event as she battles an aggressive case of cancer. Our thoughts and prayers are with her, as well as our thanks for a fair worthy of praise.

Weaver was a frequent figure at County Court meetings this year, explaining the difficult decision to cut the unprofitable rodeo and bringing forward new ideas and improvements for the fair and at the fairgrounds. Her yearlong passion for what is a few-day excursion for most shone through any negative news, as the positive progress — such as almost \$150,000 in grants she secured this year for safety upgrades — was clear.

And she surrounded herself

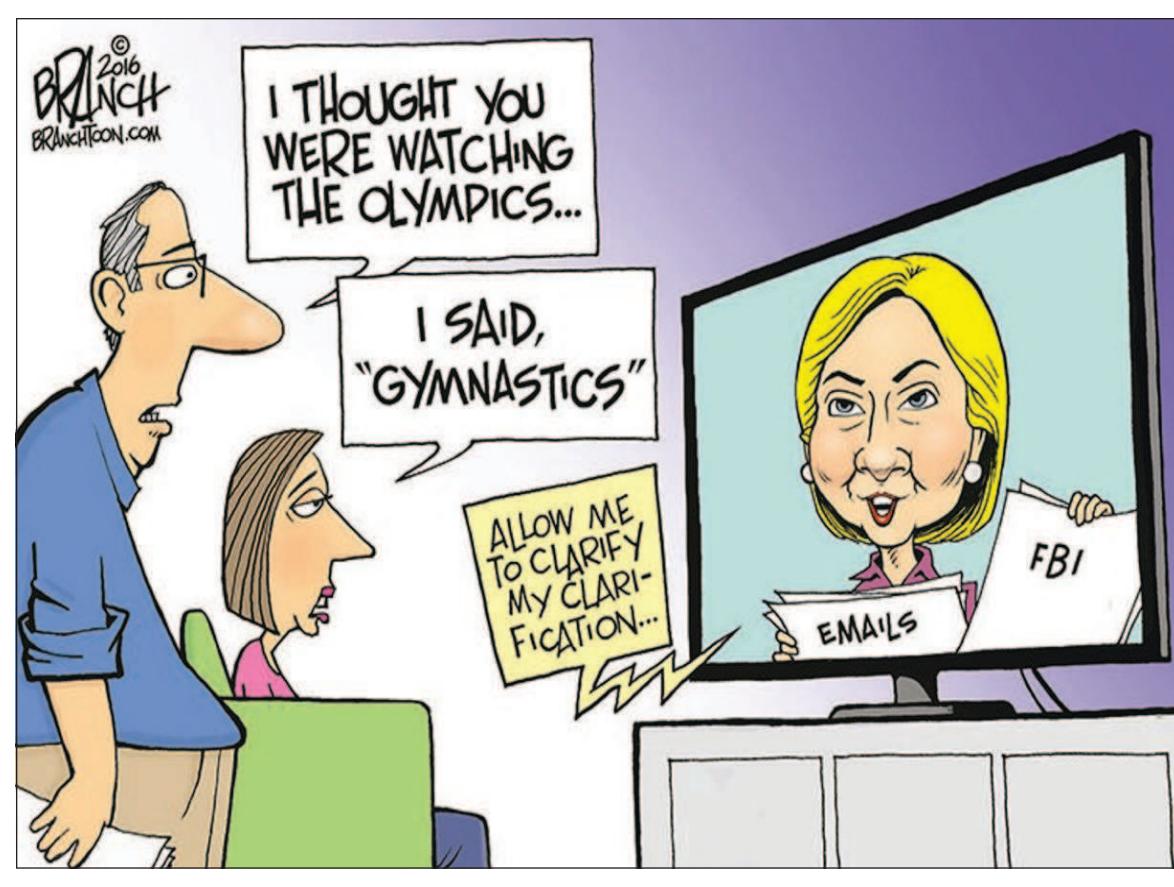
with good people — fair staff Mindy Winegar and Dusty Williams, the board and many volunteers — who stepped up to pull off the fair she helped prepare. All deserve thanks from the community for putting on such an entertaining community event.

Wednesday's Grant County Talent Search provided a venue for a variety of local entertainers — and great entertainment to the many locals who cheered them on.

Friday's freestyle bullfighting lived up to its billing as one of the most intense sports ever seen. If you can spare another prayer or two, you might send them toward the bullfighters with a torn lung and a busted knee who danced with the bulls, and got a little gored in the process, all for a good time for the rest of us.

And Sammy Kershaw was the perfect selection for the Saturday send-off. Great stage presence, great show and a great connection with local fans with the tribute to Weaver.

For a small county fair, we should all be very pleased with what was accomplished this year — and those who accomplished it.



## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Public servants must obey the law

To the Editor:

Just to set the record straight, I cling to my guns and religion as fearlessly as anybody I know. That being said, I also believe that people have the right to choose, as long as they are not trampling on my God-given constitutional rights.

There are individuals in this country and this county who are given great power and responsibility to serve and protect. With that power and responsibility comes certain obligations to be honest and forthcoming and transparent to the rest of us. Regardless of whether you are running for or serving as president of the United States or sheriff of Grant County or for that matter any public office, behavior such as deleting emails and work-related communications is unacceptable behavior. There is an epidemic of arrogance among many of our public servants that the laws of the rest of us are expected to follow don't apply to them.

On a local level, I would like to see individuals elected that will do their best to follow the highest standards demanded of our public servants.

For that reason and many others, Todd McKinley is the best choice for sheriff of Grant County.

Dan Maynard  
John Day

rather than what makes us different. May we have the fear of God in us to repent of our ignorance.

Richard Shafer  
Childress, Texas

### Let's come together for betterment of community

To the Editor:

I have heard that there are some folks out there that supported me when I ran for the Grant County Public Forest Commission that feel that I have let them down. For this, I am truly sorry. My interest is for the good of Grant County.

The voters of Grant County have spoken, and I respect their decision and will honor that. I do not work for any agency or group, but I work for the voters and citizens of Grant County. The county has become divided, so now that the recall for Boyd Britton is over, let's all citizens and agencies come to the table and leave our egos at home; this includes me. We need to all come together to work for the good of our neighbors and friends as well as those that we may not be as close to. What we all want is that the citizens of Grant County, each and every one, will get a fair shake. Please join me in working to heal the wounds that have been inflicted. Thank you one and all for coming together with me for the betterment of our community.

Nicky A. Sprauve

Grant County Public Forest

Commissioner position #2

Canyon City

### 'Burned' — again

To the Editor:

There remain a lot of unknowns about the Canyon Creek Complex fire. The only certainty about the Oregonian's analysis of it by Gunderson and Sickinger is they are obviously not knowledgeable about the nature of wildfires and the culture of fighting them. In my opinion, they failed miserably to objectively find the truth about this catastrophe.

The special edition published this week does a very grave disservice to this community, only fanning the flames all over again with outrageous judgments of the realities that played a role in the fire.

The problem with the report is that they approached it as a human interest story. The stories of loss by victims are riveting, tragic and photographically sensational. If this fire was merely a human event, it would make sense to look for who was responsible and lay the blame at their feet. But it was not merely a human-centered event; and in fact, the scope of the natural causes of the fire far, far outweighed the human actions.

The Oregonian focused on blaming the Forest Service for releasing crews when there was a potential for fire in Grant County. Very little attention was focused on the real fires (not potential) already happening in the nearby region, where help was direly needed.

The reporters failed to see the significance of this fact, and it was huge. Context was glaringly neglected in their account. Applied fire science analysis was non-existent!

Then there is hindsight. The degree of hindsight in their report reminds me of berry picking. Someone comes along behind you and only sees the berry you missed. Never mind that you had just completed the most thorough pick humanly possible. The calm of berry picking, however, does not compare to the urgency and chaos during the early stages of this catastrophe.

Humans, with all their attempts to be in control, were far outdone by generations of building conditions and by immediate natural events. So titling and slanting the report to place blame on the Forest Service is grossly unfair.

This community has been "burned" again by this sensational account.

Kay Steele

Ritter



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