

From current event to history

The tragic events of September 11, 2001, happened 15 years ago. That means the event is now closer to the era of the Berlin Wall than to present day. 9/11 — the defining moment of today's world order — is moving from a current event into the realm of history. That's the neighborhood of not just the USSR, but the assassinations of the 1960s and the bombing of Pearl Harbor — dates that now live in infamy, but also textbooks and yellowed newspaper pages. Many have never forgotten 9/11, but a growing number of Americans never even knew it. Current high school students were not alive when the towers fell. They did not huddle in offices or dorm rooms or the Round-Up Grounds to watch the incomprehensible footage on television. They did not call their wives and husbands, mothers and fathers and sons and daughters, to cry onto shoulders and through landline telephones. They never knew the 3,000 people who were lost that day. They did not watch the entire foundation of the world disappear in explosions and columns of dust. They did not have the seething anger, the desire for vengeance, the foreboding sense that a world

of warfare was on the horizon and America was no longer invincible. Even the partisan poet Leonard Cohen wrote and sang soon after the towers fell: "Did you go crazy/or did you report/on that day/they wounded New York?" The legacy of September 11 — the destruction of the Twin Towers, the Pentagon crash and Flight 93 — has become muddled by the fog of two wars, further disintegration of peace in the Middle East, the current refugee crisis and an inability to stabilize the world. Our immediate sense of foreboding was right in tune. But time has stripped us of the seething anger, and it has been replaced instead by growing apathy and isolationism. There is no sense in mourning the passage of time. The hand-wringing required to do so is better spent on the wash. But we can study history in order to avoid repeating the same mistakes. The attacks exposed deep fissures in the world that two presidents have failed to heal, as have any number of world and religious leaders. As 9/11 becomes history, we have more to learn from our response — both as people and as nations — than we do from the terrible events of that day.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

'Freedom is under siege'

To the Editor:
Despotism, if not exactly "on the march" and assuming control of country after country across the globe as it did the in the 1920s and 1930s, is certainly making itself felt in global meetings of statesmen and in diplomatic forums. President Obama's decidedly unpleasant dust-up recently with the Philippines' exterminatory ruler, Rodrigo Duterte, illustrates just how dicey the diplomatic circuit can get when our own politicians find themselves obliged to interact with foreign strongmen whose views and methodologies happen to enjoy massive popular support. Duterte's approval ratings are stratospherically high. A fed-up and desperate Filipino electorate obviously has no objections to his "dose of lead" solution to that country's crime and drug problems. Duterte can legitimately point to a massive democratic mandate that he achieved within the context of multi-party political competition.

Obama's team also finds it necessary to interact fairly frequently with the likes of Vladimir Putin of Russia, X. Jin-ping of China and many other autocrats who maintain law and order with an iron fist, and who have the "masses" behind them while they do so. Dictatorship in our era, for the most part, does its "dictating" courtesy of the sovereign people. It thrives whenever and wherever that often-mysterious entity known as John Q. Public expresses a desire to simply destroy the "rotten scum" that is responsible, so they think, for all of their problems. Duterte's popularity in the Philippines derives from his nearly perfect understanding of how the Filipino masses think.

There was a relatively short "window" during the 1990s, immediately after the Cold War's end, when it appeared that unfettered and undiluted democracy would sweep the boards, and humankind's future would be one of liberty without limit. "The End of History" was envisioned. All would be peace, joy and the love of liberty.

That point of view was naive. Freedom is under siege, and iron-fisted rule is making strides even in places where one least expects it.

Frank W. Goheen
Vancouver, Washington

'Dangerous Donald Trump'

To the Editor:
Dangerous Donald Trump might be a threat to our viability. He could try to assume dictatorial powers and abolish the Constitution, Congress and the Supreme Court. Some of his supporters are far-right extremists. His candidacy is reminiscent of the Fascists in Germany, Italy and Japan during the 1930s and 1940s.

Trump has unwittingly proposed to pull our troops out of South Korea and Japan if they do not pay for our aid. This will open up the Far

East to Chinese and North Korean expansion. He might try to abandon NATO, thereby enabling Russian expansion in Europe. Trump doesn't have a problem with countries acquiring nuclear weapons. He even encouraged Russia to spy on Clinton. His blunders could lead to miscalculations by totalitarian regimes and increase the possibility of war. Amazingly, he says he knows more about ISIS than our generals.

Trump appears to be unstable, shallow and disorganized, and he does not have the requisite knowledge or understanding of U.S. and world affairs, nor the intellectual capacity, to be president and commander-in-chief.

Vote for the socially liberal and fiscally conservative Libertarian ticket of Johnson/Weld.

Donald Moskowitz
Londonderry, New Hampshire

I support McKinley for sheriff

To the Editor:
Todd McKinley worked for us for awhile. Charlie said he had everything ready for the next day and was thinking forward to the next weeks. Todd is a "planner." He likes to be prepared for everything.

I talked to a man who had worked with Todd on Search and Rescue. He had been involved for many years. He said Todd was one of the best he'd ever seen.

We knew a man who fought fire with Todd on the Mt. Vernon Fire Department. He told us Todd was very well organized and a really good leader; plus he was out there fighting fire with them.

In March 2013, I had someone vandalize my head gates at Camp Creek. I called the sheriff's office, and Todd responded. He handled the situation quickly, very efficiently and quietly. Afterwards he explained to me what he'd done and what I should do.

Most important to me, Todd is a wonderful husband, father and provider. I was told this by a close family member. His wife and children are solidly behind him.

I think Todd McKinley will make a very good sheriff.

Jan O'Rorke
John Day

City council should pledge and pray before meetings

To the Editor:
Regarding the report in the paper on the John Day City Council meeting a few weeks ago, I hope you continue the practice. It's good to know what our city leaders are doing — or not. It wasn't mentioned in the article, but I had asked that the council pledge allegiance to the flag and pray at the meetings. The last time I asked that it be done, a councilperson worried about separation of church and state. I referenced her to Marsh v. Chambers, the Supreme Court decision that reads in part, "To

invoke Divine guidance ... is not ... an 'establishment' of religion ... it is simply a tolerable acknowledgment of beliefs widely held among the people of this country."

A councilman last time objected saying John Day couldn't afford a flag! So this time I brought a small flag with me to donate to our poor city; one councilman said he knew where there was a flag, but he was quickly hushed. Another councilman said he prayed at home. Mayor Lundbom said many times there weren't enough people in attendance at the meetings to pray for, totally missing the point. Councilpersons led by a local cleric would be praying corporately for we the people of John Day, not themselves; they can do that at home.

Mayor Lundbom was concerned that prayer might offend someone. Grant County Court and the senior center offer a salute to the flag and prayer; no one has ever gotten offended that I know about.

One councilman opposed to the pledge and prayer decided to go the ad hominem route in his argument and attacked me personally. That really doesn't encourage community involvement. Appearing before the council for the average Jack and Jill citizen is scary enough without being criticized for the effort.

There really isn't a good reason not to say the pledge and a brief non-sectarian prayer as the senior center and county court do. It's simply a tolerable acknowledgment of beliefs widely held among the people of John Day.

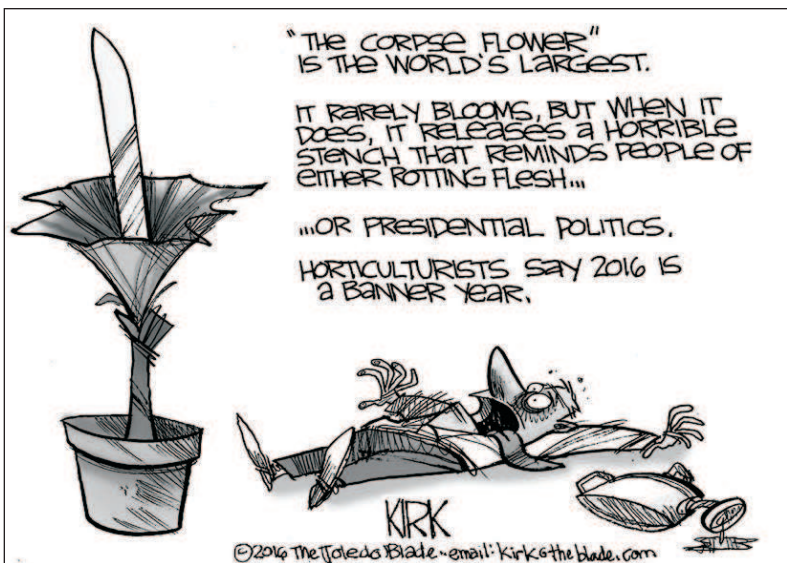
Richard S. "Richie" Colbeth
John Day

Owner, not neighborhood, should care for pet

To the Editor:
In regards to last week's front-page story regarding dogs and their owners, dogs might be "man's best friend," but that opinion is often not the view of neighbors and others close by! Too often, that "cute little pup" loses its owner's attraction once it's grown. Then it's the nearby neighbors who pay the price for the resulting dog owner's impulse and neglect. We've had an array of dogs and cats of our own through the years, mostly while living out in the country where they could run freely and not be a nuisance to relatively distant neighbors. But in city boundaries, just because one neighbor chooses to own a pet of any kind doesn't mean the whole neighborhood wants to be a part of that choice, and then become unwilling victims or caretakers of the animal. Pet owners have the freedom to own a pet — but with that comes the responsibility to care for and control it, and to be sensitive to the often unwanted involvement, intrusion and disturbance that choice forces on all those in the neighborhood.

Gary Davidson
Canyon City

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WHERE TO WRITE

GRANT COUNTY

- 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.
- Dayville** — P.O. Box 321, Dayville 97825. Phone: 541-987-2188. Fax: 541-987-2187. Email: dville@ortelco.net
- 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.
- Seneca** — P.O. Box 208, Seneca 97873. Phone and fax: 541-542-2161. Email: senecaoregon@gmail.com.

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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- PUBLISHER**..... MARISSA WILLIAMS, MARISSA@BMEAGLE.COM
EDITOR..... SEAN HART, EDITOR@BMEAGLE.COM
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT..... KRISTINA KREGER, KRISTINA@BMEAGLE.COM
REPORTER..... RYLAN BOGGS, RYLAN@BMEAGLE.COM
COMMUNITY NEWS..... ANGEL CARPENTER, ANGEL@BMEAGLE.COM
SPORTS..... ANGEL CARPENTER, ANGEL@BMEAGLE.COM
MARKETING REP..... KIM KELL, ADS@BMEAGLE.COM
OFFICE MANAGER..... LINDSAY BULLOCK, OFFICE@BMEAGLE.COM

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