

LETTERS*Continued from Page A4***‘Should we fear avowed protesters within our county?’****To the Editor:**

People that would become Grant County Positive Action were present with signs at a Jan. 26 meeting in John Day at the Senior Center to protest the occupation of the wildlife refuge in Burns.

While attempting to attend the meeting, LaVoy Finicum was killed by police just south of the county line. Without doubt, citizens were exercising a legal right to protest and did so in a controlled manner.

Since those individuals wear the mantle of protesters, should they be held in the same standing in Ferguson, Chicago, Philadelphia and Detroit where firebombs were thrown at police, buildings looted and set ablaze? After all, those people were identified as “protesters.” Should we fear avowed protesters within our county? It might be signs and free speech now, but what next?

There is no doubt that “protesters” have become violent and dangerous. Should there be a presentation on riots in cities and ties to protesters, even here? One can easily read the connection that is being made to patriots, and that cannot be ignored when discussing protesters. Let us compare apples to apples, oranges to oranges. Anything else is simply propaganda.

Ron Ballard
John Day

Inept agencies and reckless spending**To the Editor:**

Why is the state of Oregon/ODOT and Gov. Kate Brown spending \$1 million on an audit? How much are the director of ODOT and other management individuals paid? Maybe they aren't earning their salaries if the agency is in such bad shape that they need to be audited.

I've had my own issues with ODOT and a rest area that my grandparents deeded to the state of Oregon for a park. It became a “rest area,” and I have tried several times to get them to take better care of it. I am told they don't have the funds. It's time to do something about the ineptness of agencies and the reckless spending of money in Oregon.

Sharon Livingston
Long Creek

Where's the debate?**To the Editor:**

As an interested voter, I have been watching for a candidate debate between incumbent Sheriff Palmer and challenger Todd McKinley. In the past, debates have been sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce or other organizations. The League of Women Voters has fair and consistent guidelines for conducting a debate. In such an important election, it would be very helpful to see the two candidates discuss the important issues and answer questions from the voters. So, my question is, where's the debate?

Carla Zinn
Canyon City

Something's in the air in Grant County**To the Editor:**

I am a native of Grant County, I know Grant County and I have been at a loss to explain how so many residents have become so irrational in their thinking. I would call to your remembrance that Grant County was the first, and remains the only county in the U.S.A., to vote the United Nations to be illegal within its boundaries. The United Nations had designated certain remarkable places throughout the world as special heritage sites. To this date, none have in any way been occupied or under the rule of the U.N.

Next, the Grant County sheriff declared himself not only the enforcer of laws but the only interpreter of the Constitution. When our sheriff went on to be recognized as the nation's first constitutional sheriff, he drew unwanted attention on our county as a radical and whacked-out place.

More recently, in neighboring Harney County, some like-minded people took over Malheur National Wildlife Refuge. In the ensuing days, some of the occupiers were traveling to John Day to promote their interpretation of the Constitution. One was shot to death by the state police as they were arrested en route. As implausible as it seems, the conspiracy-minded folks in Grant County blamed the government for “murdering” their new martyr. I thought this was probably as wild as their thinking could possibly get.

But they have outdone themselves with another example of absurd thinking.

They believe that the vapor trails (contrails) left by

high-flying aircraft are, in fact, mind-controlling chemicals being dispersed on the population by the government. I really laughed when I heard this.

I thought this was the most ridiculous bit of rubbish they have come up with yet. However, after reviewing all the irrational ideas they have thus far produced, I'm quite sure that they must be inhaling something besides Eastern Oregon air.

Terry Steele
Ritter

‘How does one tell the difference between a good patriot and suspect ones?’**To the Editor:**

A presentation by Rural Organizing Project hosted by Grant County Positive Action held at the Canyon City Community Hall on Friday Oct. 7 could have been informative except for the one-sided narrative on just what a patriot is. Organizations from here in the West and across the nation were identified and the inference was, “approach with caution.” I was surprised that the American Legion and Veterans of Foreign Wars were not mentioned.

A question-and-answer period was announced with writing queries placed in a basket. Only several questions were aired, and then people in the audience with hands in the air were ignored and “meeting over.” I will probably be known as “someone who disrupted the meeting” because I stood and asked why the requested questions submitted by the audience were not being addressed.

I too was ignored so to the consternation of some present I read aloud the definition of a patriot, which is “a person who loves, supports and defends his or her country and its interests with devotion — a person who regards himself or herself as a defender especially of individual rights, against presumed interference by the federal government.” My question was, “How does one tell the difference between a good patriot and suspect ones that were mentioned?” Unusual for a meeting in Grant County was the four young men at the meeting with earphones.

One stood shoulder to shoulder with the speaker, while the other three maintained positions overlooking the audience. Everyone at the meeting was duly photo-

graphed or video recorded. Does Grant County have a reputation that visiting speakers need to be protected? Grant County Positive Action is to be commended if their effort was to educate the public. However, the presentation by Rural Organizing Project was far from “fair and balanced” and failed miserably when they refused to address requested questions from those attending. By the way, written by a patriot.

Dave Traylor
John Day

‘God bless Glenn and Roseann!’**To the Editor:**

My family has lived in Grant County since the spring of 1957; during that time, we have met a lot of people. People that are still in this community; one of those people being Glenn Palmer; although at that time, 1968 to be precise, Glenn was just a first-grader at Humbolt Elementary School here in Canyon City. Time continues on in this small community of ours, and I started working with a group of friends on building a skateboard park for the young people in this community. Roseann and Glenn Palmer became very active in this group. The name of the park is Smokey Gibson Memorial Park. April 7, 1997, the group had a grand opening for the skateboard park at the Seventh Street Complex in John Day. As Gerald (my husband) and I grew older, we became more in need of personal help. Glenn's name was one of the people to be called on to help us, when the call went out for help. In the last months of Gerald's life, Glenn was called several times to come help me with his care. Glenn as sheriff came to me after I returned home from Idaho with my daughters, to talk about Gerald's passing, giving me and my daughters great comfort. Glenn is still the person to answer the call when I am in need. Twice this summer, Glenn came in re-

sponse in my time of need.

The most recent being in the last couple of weeks, when I tripped over one of my dogs during the night. Glenn was there for me. Glenn and Roseann are very good friends to me. God bless Glenn and Roseann!

Jessie M. Lewis
Canyon City

‘Serve and protect without prejudice or favoritism’**To the Editor:**

Election time is upon us, and we are about to choose a sheriff for the next four years here in Grant County.

I strongly encourage everyone, especially those of you who are still undecided to attend one of the meet and greet Todd McKinley community meetings published in this week's paper.

You will find a man that will give straight answers. A man who strongly believes and lives our Constitution.

A Christian family man who has a wonderful wife and seven children.

In Todd McKinley, you will find a man who will have his priorities focused on the administration of the Grant County Sheriff's Office without distraction.

This is a man who carried a lost and disabled man out of the woods on his back.

A man who gave little or no thought to his own safety as he went door to door and evacuated folks who were in peril in our terrible fire.

Get to know Todd McKinley. He will carry the weight of the responsibility of our next sheriff with the same dedication and enthusiasm as he has shown countless times in the past.

So many times when there is a call for help, a fire or a young person just needing some positive guidance, Todd McKinley is there to serve. Serve and protect without prejudice or favoritism.

It is time for a new leader in the Grant County Sheriff's Office.

Vote for positive leadership. Todd McKinley for Sheriff, 2016.

Dan Maynard
John Day

Vote for Hillary**To the Editor:**

It seems like the election season has gone on forever, but now it is time to make our decision on who will be our next president.

Over the past few months, the choice has become clearer and clearer. One of the candidates, Hillary Clinton, brings a lifetime of relevant experience to the position, having served as first lady of Arkansas, first lady of the United States, as a U.S. senator and for four years as our secretary of state. All of her life, she has worked for the betterment of our country.

The other candidate, on the other hand, brings his own rather spotty business experience as a real estate developer and reality TV star.

During the campaign, he has shown a questionable temperament, which should worry us all. Is this really the man we want to put forward to our children as a role model and to represent us before the world?

A man who coins phrases such as “Lynin' Ted” or “Crooked Hillary,” and whose behavior would have him sent to the principal's office in any elementary school I ever worked in.

The proudest moment of my public service career was representing the voters of Eastern Oregon as a Hillary Clinton delegate at the 2008 Democratic National Convention. She was the right person for the job in 2008, and she is the right person today.

I urge you to cast your vote, when your ballot arrives, for Hillary Clinton for president.

Jack Lorts
Wheeler County Democrats vice-chair
Fossil

COPS & COURTS

• Driving with a suspended license: Talia Christine Maloy, 40, Prairie City, Aug. 25, fined \$435; James Edward Jewel, 34, Creswell, Aug. 9, fined \$435; Camden Jay Rhinehart, 19, John Day, Sept. 16, fined \$370.

• Driving uninsured: Talia Christine Maloy, 40, Prairie City, Aug. 25, fined \$260.

• Exceeding the speed limit: Jacob William Obrist, 32, La Pine, 42/25 zone, Sept. 29, fined \$160; Gerald Paul Hampton, 54, Haines, 75/65 zone, Sept. 20, fined \$135; Kate Lorraine Hartnell, 30, Shedd, 50/35 zone, fined \$160.

• Violation of the basic speed rule: Lucido Salvatore, 62, Carmel Valley, California, 72/55 zone, Sept. 30, fined \$135; Ronald A. Forsyth, 60, Seneca, 70/55 zone, Sept. 28, fined \$135; Thomas Lee Watson, 48, Estacada, 74/55 zone, Sept. 30, fined \$160; Willard B. Wolf, 65, Ashland, 72/55 zone, Oct. 4, fined \$160; Tami Sasser, 34, Kimberly, 69/55 zone, Sept. 29, fined \$160.

• Semi-trailer exceeding 53 feet in length: Rafael Obregon Barajas, 45, Panorama City, California, Sept. 21, fined \$110; James M. McCracken, 57, Boise, Sept. 21, fined \$110.

• Operating with a leaking or sifting load: Ivan Keith Mulder, 69, John Day, Sept. 27, fined \$220.

• Use of cellphone while driving: Kimberly Diane Neault, 32, Prairie City, Sept. 25, fined \$135.

Dispatch

John Day dispatch worked 167 calls during the week of Oct. 10-16. Along with the various traffic warnings, trespassing, injured animals, noise complaints and juvenile complaints, these calls included:

• John Day Police

Oct. 10: Received a report of a restraining order violation. Responded to a dog complaint in Prairie City.

Oct. 12: Arrested a 30-year-old woman on a parole and probation violation detainer warrant.

Oct. 13: Responded to a report of harassment and arrested a 26-year-old for probation violation.

Oct. 14: Responded to a report of a break in. Conducted a traffic stop and cited a 27-year-old John Day resident for driving with a suspended license and driving uninsured. Performed a traffic stop and arrested a 37-year-old Mt. Vernon man for DUI.

• Grant County Sheriff

Oct. 10: Dispatched to a report of a dog complaint.

Oct. 11: Took a report of possible animal abuse.

Oct. 14: Received a report of gas being siphoned. Received a report of vandalism of phone company equipment.

Oct. 16: Received a report of someone placing a dead deer on the county courthouse steps.

• John Day ambulance

Oct. 11: Responded for an 85-year-old female who was choking.

• Oregon State Police

Oct. 11: Arrested a 44-year-old on a Crook County warrant.

TODD MCKINLEY



for
**Grant
County
Sheriff**

**Come meet him
and greet him;
he will be there for you!**

Seneca
Thurs, Oct 20 - 7:00pm
City Hall

Mount Vernon
Fri, Oct 21 - 7:00 pm
Mt Vernon Community Hall

Prairie City
Sat, Oct 22 - 7:00 pm
PC Community Center

Dayville
Sun, Oct 23 - 6:30 pm
Dayville Community Hall

Long Creek
Mon, Oct 24 - 6:30 pm
7th Day Adventist Church

DO YOU HAVE CONCERNS AND QUESTIONS about:
increases in crime?
property thefts?
emergency preparedness?
drug abuse?
registration of sex-offenders?
outreach to youths?
cooperation with other law agencies?
training of law enforcement?
search and rescue training?
Todd will listen and answer you!

Paid for by Todd McKinley for Grant County Sheriff Committee