

# You can be a Nazi, or you can be an American

It was hard to dispassionately watch and read the news last weekend, as groups of neo-Nazis and counter protesters clashed on the streets of Charlottesville, Virginia. One woman was murdered. Two police officers died in a terrible accident.

That much anger, hate and violence is hard to stomach, and it surely left Americans across the country seething on their couches as Nazi and Confederate sympathizers marched angrily through our public space.

There were dozens of major issues at play in Charlottesville, and we could write a tome on each and every one.

But we would like to expand on just one small fact that can hopefully find universal agreement: You can either be a Nazi — you can't be both. You cannot call for the overthrow of America's core principles and still call yourself a patriot.

Photos of protesters waving American, Confederate and Nazi flags are incongruent. Those governments — their principles and their history — are opposites, enemies. They opposed each other, they warred against each other.

Take just the historical facts: The Confederacy waged war against the United States, the bloodiest and deadliest war this country has ever fought. To wave those flags together,

and to support and glorify Confederate generals and members of the Confederate government, is anti-American.

And to all those who think removing those flags from public spaces and tearing down such statues is “erasing history,” don't be so obtuse. Germany would not be stupid enough to allow monuments and statues to Nazis to remain standing — they were long ago unceremoniously destroyed. Yet as we can see, knowledge of Nazis and their history has not been erased — it has been so well studied and documented that most citizens are crystal clear on what the swastika stands for. And what it stands for is undergoing a resurgence here in America.

There is no reason a patriotic American would tolerate or promote Nazi ideals. It's the flag of a government that declared war on the United States, that killed hundreds of thousands of our brave soldiers and millions of their own people. A government that turned the world to war, too.

We have freedom of speech in this country — even for Nazis. It's one of the perversions that reminds us of our principles. But the allowance should never be confused with acceptance. The anti-American ideas and speech that was on display in Charlottesville should be challenged everywhere they raise their ugly head.



## FARMER'S FATE

# 'High Heels & Tractor Wheels'

By Brianna Walker  
To the Blue Mountain Eagle



Brianna Walker

My palms were sweating. I could feel my pulse even in my toes.

I can't remember the last time I was so nervous — maybe a high school speech class — but then again, maybe not. For the first time since I started wearing high heels, I felt a little wobbly — and I'm pretty sure even the bottoms of my feet were sweating. I was in Seattle for a book signing — my book signing.

Since I was 10 years old and learning to diagram, I knew I wanted to write. I love stories: I love to listen to stories, I love to read stories, I love to write stories. And now here I was, ready to sign my name for anyone wanting to read those stories.

It was a terrifyingly wonderful experience. I put on my best smile and my highest heels, and spent the next few hours chatting with strangers. One question I was asked over and over, “What inspired the name of the book, ‘High Heels & Tractor Wheels?’”

Well, I was always told you should write what you know best. For me that is farm life and family. And while Muck boots and work boots are the steak and potatoes of farm life, heels are the

apple pie — high heeled shoes to be exact. Life is short — heels shouldn't be.

I'd trade all the lipstick, the lash extensions, the big purses and the essential oils for forklifts, tractors, grease guns and small wallets — but when it comes to heels, I'm all girl. Mark Twain once wrote that “clothes make the man,” but for a girl, a new pair of shoes can be life-changing — just ask Cinderella.

I love shoes, but unfortunately (or fortunately, depending on who you are asking), I don't have a lot of time or money to spend shoe shopping. My aunt, however, does.

Her husband, like many husbands, doesn't seem to understand the point of owning more than three pairs of shoes: a formal pair, a work pair and a pair to play ball in. “So many heels, and only two feet,” he'll remark dryly. My aunt's shoe closet is a place where dreams come true.

I have often stood looking at box after box of gorgeous wedges, heels and platforms. She doesn't need to fear people looking in her closet for family skeletons — all anyone will find there is fabulous shoes!

I'm not sure what I did to make the stars smile, but last week they certainly were shining.

After a long and rainy spring, I was finally back out on the tractor, the sun was shining, the kids were happily playing in the tractor cab — and things were about to get even better.

My aunt is retiring and moving, and cleaning out her shoe closet — and just like Cinderella, there are only two of her nieces whose feet fit into her pretty little slippers.

My aunt would text photos of a group of shoes. Then my cousin and I would take turns picking out the shoes we liked.

Once those were through, my aunt would text another group of photos.

It was amazing. Shoe shopping from my phone while GPS and autosteer assured my rows were perfectly straight. Now that's a good day — and the epitome of the High Heels & Tractor Wheels.

And so standing in a book store, wearing new-to-me heels, I opened up the front cover of my book and in a red pen I signed:

“Say no to drugs,  
get high on heels ...  
... and buy a tractor to match!”

Brianna Walker occasionally writes about the Farmer's Fate for the Blue Mountain Eagle.

## 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.
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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.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### 'No honey bees means no food'

To the Editor:

Aug. 19 is National Honey Bee Day, a day to celebrate one of the most important and widespread pollinators of our food and flowers. And we need to do more to protect honey bees and all of our pollinators.

Honey bees pollinate many of the foods we eat, from blueberries to almonds. In Oregon, beloved foods such as cantaloupes are pollinated by honey bees. Unfortunately, millions of honey bees are dying off due to neonicotinoids, a pesticide extremely lethal to bees. Without honey bees, there will be big consequences for our environment and our food supply: No honey bees means no food.

This summer, you can celebrate National Honey Bee Day

and help protect bees by hosting a bee friendly Bee-Bee-Q or picnic. It's the perfect way to end summer — join with friends and family to enjoy delicious foods, cook with recipes shared by chefs from our Bee Friendly Food Alliance and made possible by bee pollination, all while helping to save the honey bees.

Saumya Shruti

Environment Oregon

Editor's note: For more information, email [beefriendlyfood@environmentamerica.org](mailto:beefriendlyfood@environmentamerica.org).

### A naked person in our paper?

To the Editor:

What is the matter with our Blue Mountain Eagle that they would stoop so low as to put a picture of a naked person in our paper?

I don't care whether it's in front or back. It was a shock to me.

Where are our morals? And to think they have children, besides all of our children. I know what goes on behind closed doors is not our business. But when you get it slapped in your face, and it's our Eagle.

I've taken the Eagle for many years, and it never had something like this in it.

I think it's a disgrace to Grant County, and I've heard I'm not the only one upset over this. I was raised in a religious home, and I'm so glad I was. Maybe I'm getting too old to accept the new way of life. But I'm through with the Eagle. I really thought your editor would have been smarter than to do something like this.

Darlene Forrest  
Monument

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](mailto:editor@bmeagle.com), or Blue Mountain Eagle, 195 N. Canyon Blvd., John Day, OR 97845; or fax to 541-575-1244.



### Grant County's Weekly Newspaper

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- 1 YEAR SUBSCRIPTION RATES (including online access)
  - Grant County .....\$40
  - Everywhere else in U.S.....\$51
  - Outside Continental U.S.....\$60
- Subscriptions must be paid prior to delivery

Periodicals Postage Paid at John Day and additional mailing offices.

POSTMASTER send address changes to: Blue Mountain Eagle 195 N. Canyon Blvd. John Day, OR 97845-1187

USPS 226-340

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