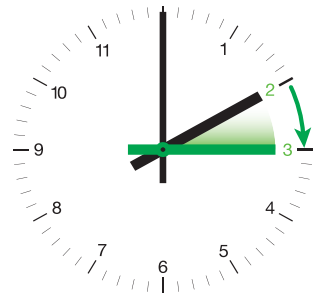


SPRING FORWARD



Daylight saving time starts on **Sunday at 2 a.m.** when clocks are turned to **3 a.m.** Sunrise and sunset will be about one hour later than the day before, which means there will be more light in the evening.

Richardson's courage still needed in politics

Dennis Richardson was a courageous man.

It may seem an easy eulogy for a former U.S. Army helicopter pilot who flew missions during the Vietnam War, hauling caches of ammunition into the battlefield and injured soldiers out.

But Richardson's courage, while surely forged during wartime, didn't solely manifest itself in battle. The late secretary of state, who died last week of brain cancer, showed a resolve in his life of elected public service not often seen in politics.

Richardson was a man willing to stand on personal principles while serving the greater good of his state. And he showed that those objectives aren't mutually exclusive, even in a state that didn't often align with his own values.

He has been remembered as a budget hawk, demanding that government be held to account for spending taxpayer dollars. It was that credibility, based in his political philosophy, that sealed his win as a Republican secretary of state, Oregon's second-highest ranking public office. And he lived up to the promise, leading audits that shined a bright light on problems and malfunctions in government programs. That work will carry on after his death.

He was particularly effective, even while undergoing cancer treatments, because the job wasn't a stepping stone to a higher office. His unsuccessful bid for governor in 2014 nearly ended his political career, and he showed no intention of trying again.

As a state representative,

Richardson was an advocate for his southern Oregon district's values. He spoke in strong terms against abortion and same-sex marriage, counting them as affronts to God and his faith.

But as a secretary of state, Richardson used his position to benefit the state as a whole, not just his conservative constituents.

He even changed course on his approach to voter registration, supporting as secretary of state the growing number of registered voters where he once advocated in the House for stricter rules.

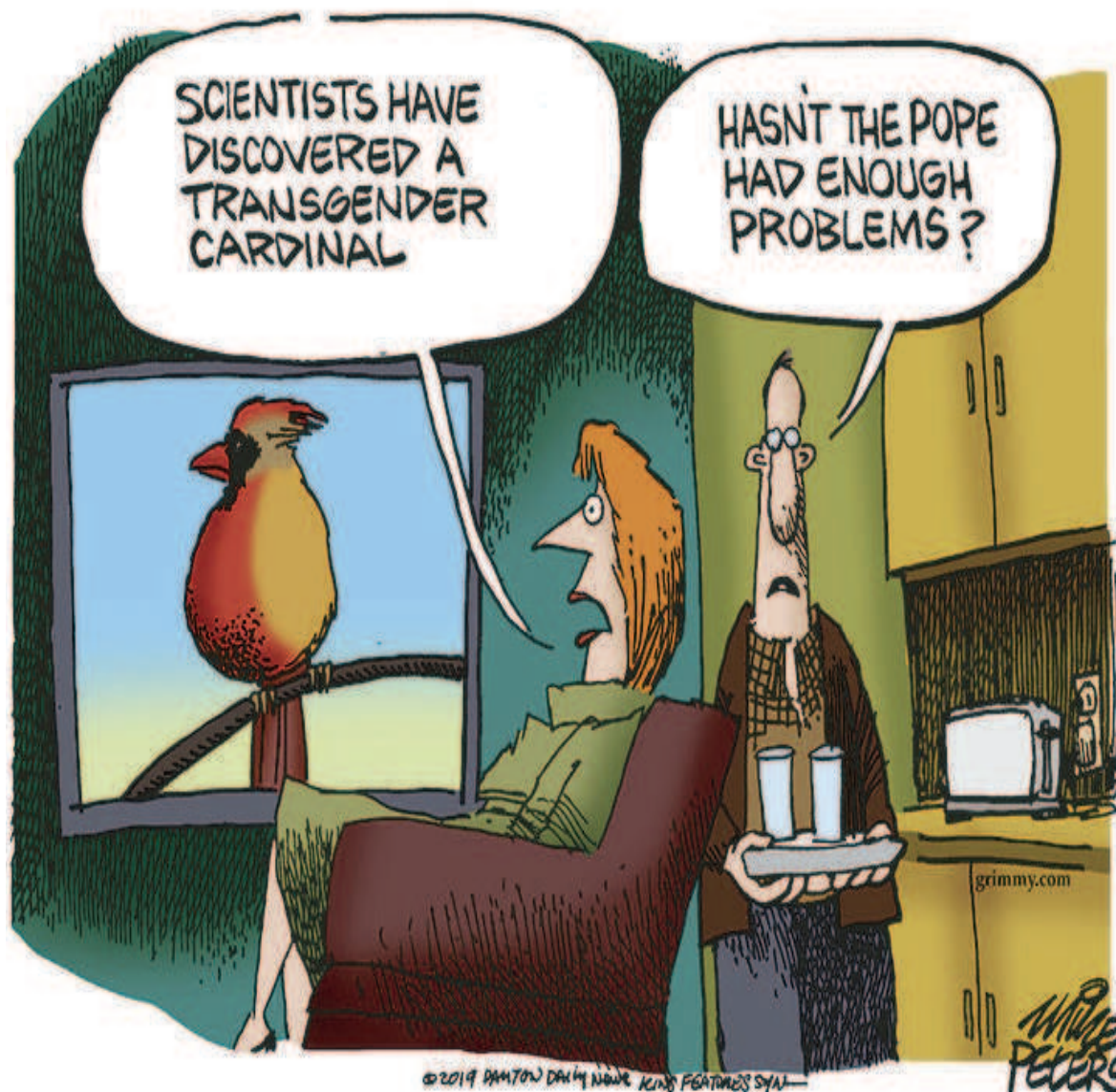
But in matters of personal faith and values, he was clear-eyed while remaining contemplative.

In an interview with Oregon Public Broadcasting's "All Things Considered" in September 2017, he was asked directly whether he believed homosexuality was immoral. He said he did, and the act of voters didn't change the perspective of God. But he also said the matter was legally settled and that he was willing to accept both the humanity and personal choices of others.

Voters didn't change his beliefs, either, though he knew the responsibility of being elected to state-wide office meant representing a much wider and more diverse electorate.

We need more of these kinds of people in government leadership, willing to state their beliefs clearly while understanding that their job is not to enforce them on others.

In Dennis Richardson we had a true and decent public servant, and that takes all kinds of courage.



GUEST COMMENT

You're more than a customer

By Andrew Cutler
To the Blue Mountain Eagle

Author Anthony J. D'Angelo noted that, "Without a sense of caring, there can be no sense of community."

To a large degree, this reflects Oregon Trail Electric Cooperative's philosophy toward our member-owners and the broader service territory that we serve. As a cooperative, we have a different "bottom line." While our priority is always to provide reliable and safe energy, there is another equally important part of this equation. Your well-being and that of the larger community that we serve are of paramount concern.

To us, you are not just a customer; you are a member of our co-op, and without you, we would not exist.

In 1989, Oregon Trail Electric Cooperative was founded to fulfill a vital need in our community that would not have otherwise been met. Concerned local leaders came together to build this co-op and bring electricity where there was none.

At that time, members of the community understood we were different because they likely knew someone who helped to create OTEC. For most people, our founding and its circumstances have been long forgotten. Over time, folks in the community may have come to think of

us as simply another energy provider. However, OTEC strives to be more than that. We are a co-op that is constantly evolving to meet the needs of our members and the communities we serve. We are able to do this because of members like you.

Since our inception, we have sought feedback and engagement from you and that of the larger community to guide our long-term decisions. This is why we hold annual meetings and other events, such as town meetings, and attend local chamber and other business meetings in each of our communities throughout the year. We host events like this to engage with you and obtain your feedback.

We are always looking to find new ways to help you use energy more efficiently, whether that's home or business energy audits, or offering you rebates to purchase energy efficient appliances and do so locally or flexible payment options like leveled billing. In short, we are always seeking to keep pace with the changing energy environment, evolving technology and shifting consumer expectations.

As a local business, we have a stake in the community. That's why we support local charitable organizations such as United Way of Eastern Oregon, Soroptimists, Lions Club and Rotary, and through our donation programs like Member to Member.

When you support these efforts, you are supporting the community and making it a better place for everyone.

Another role for OTEC is engaging the membership. One of the ways the cooperative strives to accomplish this goal is through the OTEC website, which is undergoing a major overhaul, both in look and in name. Formerly otecc.com, the new website will be found at otec.coop. While changing names, its mission remains the same: provide useful information and tools to help our member-owners. More than ever before we want to differentiate the work and achievements of your electric cooperative from others in the social media world.

The relationship you have with your cooperative is special and one no other electric utility can offer. As a member of an electric cooperative, you are far more than just a customer. You are a member and an owner. You belong. You are part of making a difference.

While the times may have changed, our mission and outlook have not. We view our role as a catalyst for sustaining and growing our communities. Working together, we can accomplish great things for our community now and in the future.

Andrew Cutler is the manager of communications and public relations for Oregon Trail Electric Cooperative.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Cap and trade bad for industry

To the Editor:

Baker County and the surrounding rural areas will be greatly impacted by HB 2020, the cap and trade bill. This is not just a one time tax. It is a forever tax that will impact and devastate industry, ranch and farm jobs in Eastern Oregon and Baker County.

I wish to thank the state Legislature for the outreach hearings held here in Baker City. There were a great many people that wanted to speak against the cap and trade HB 2020 bill, but with the time limit and over-crowding by over 300 people, only a few got to vent their frustrations.

I truly believe the bill is about a tax and is not directed at a problem, which there is none. Back when Oregon was part of the inland sea, volcanoes vented into the sea, spewing tons upon tons of carbon dioxide into the air and sea, saturating the landlocked retreating seas with the carbon dioxide combined with calcium-rich sea beds, creating thousands of feet of limestone here in Baker County and surrounding areas. The three major volcanic eruptions in recent history put more CO2 into the atmosphere than man has since the industrial revolution.

All of the carbon restrictions on motor vehicles taxing the fuel is just about tax and control. If we had pollution problems like in the Far East, like China and India

where smog is prevalent, then we have a problem. But to tax Americans because other countries pollute is ridiculous and is all about the tax money and control.

Oregon's counties have been engulfed in forest fires ravaging the national forests burning thousands of acres. Each tree that burns gives up all of the carbon dioxide gasses that it has absorbed in its lifetime, pouring millions of tons of CO2 into the air. If you want to tax someone, tax the Forest Service for massive CO2 and carbon ash pollution and mismanagement of our national forest.

All of these are facts and can be verified.

Chuck Chase
Baker City

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, or Blue Mountain Eagle, 195 N. Canyon Blvd., John Day, OR 97845; or fax to 541-575-1244.



Blue Mountain EAGLE
Published every Wednesday by
EC MEDIA group

Grant County's Weekly Newspaper

Publisher.....Chris Rush, crush@emediagroup.com
Editor & General Manager.....Sean Hart, editor@bmeagle.com
Reporter.....Richard Hanners, rick@bmeagle.com
Community News.....Angel Carpenter, angel@bmeagle.com
Sports.....Angel Carpenter, angel@bmeagle.com
Marketing Rep.....Kim Kell, ads@bmeagle.com
Administrative Assistant.....Makenna Adair, office@bmeagle.com
Office Assistant.....Alixandra Hand, office@bmeagle.com

1 YEAR SUBSCRIPTION RATES
(including online access)
Grant County\$45
Everywhere else in U.S.....\$57

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

Copyright © 2019 Blue Mountain Eagle
All rights reserved. No part of this publication covered by the copyright hereon may be reproduced or copied in any form or by any means — graphic, electronic or mechanical, including photocopying, taping or information storage and retrieval systems — without written permission of the publisher.