

## Off the Wall

By Merlyn Robinson

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It's easy to understand how Morrow County, land of sagebrush and sunshine, could be subdivided through changes in legislative representation. Even though the winds of time have tried to erase an invisible Mason-Dixon line, different representation for separated districts within the county could lead to less continuity.

Words that might be flaunted are, "Nah, nah. Our Senator Bigheart has more clout than your Senator Highpockets. But then that can't be as important in your end of the county, can it?"

But if the howling winds keep blowing, some people might end up in a different district anyway, just like the real estate that has been changing hands lately.

Twice recently I've flapped northward as the forces of nature grabbed every grain of loose earth and hurled dense clouds of it across roads. Crops this year will likely grow parallel to the ground. And if newly-seed potatoes manage to sprout and rise above ground, they might wish they had stayed undercover.

Maybe Eastern Oregon folks aren't strong in numbers, but they sure do have lots of grit. I'm still picking sand out of my teeth after a visit to the grain terminal near Irrigon to view a shiny-new barge.

Even the fish at the nearby Irrigon fish hatchery were being blown back into the water as they tried to jump for joy in the holding ponds. And livestock in that area looked like animated cartoon figures leaning into the wind to stay upright.

Maybe I should have spent more time there. I've read that skin sanding can do wonders for the complexion. But while I'm not shy of wrinkles, neither am I long on fortitude. And a crew cut would have been a good hair style for the occasion as both my hair and the trees there were flailed about by the wind.

Though only God could have created such hardy trees, it's man's role to nurture them. And when it comes to growing things, there are a lot of farmers trying to get spring crops planted with a lack of moisture to keep newly-farmed ground under control. I'm sure they are being blamed for environmental pollution as they do their dirty work of trying to put food on everyone's plate.

But then maybe we don't need as many loaves of bread on the table or as many potatoes in the pot if the salmon summiteers' actions cripple farming and commerce.

Ye little fishes better multiply rapidly so that everyone can kick back and go fishing when electricity rates make us revert to candles on the dinner table; when transportation costs make us wish we had camels; when boats are high and dry at river docks; when there's a lack of water or it's too costly to irrigate; or when communities dry up as agri-business industries and support services wither.

When creatures' values are placed ahead of human values, such as a spotted owl or a sockeye salmon, it's time our legislators wielded a big stick for this agricultural-based region. It seems that those urban-environmentalists must think all food is produced in a factory.

Those back-to-nature advocates should have been pioneers in the good old days, living in stone caves, not log cabins. Heaven forbid that a tree be cut in all those thousands of wilderness areas, created by their efforts, that do not contribute to the economy; but where for lack of management, valuable timber is left to rot or burn up in forest fires.

I'd vote for a weird-looking politician from Mars sporting antennae, if he went on record for a common sense approach to correcting the wrongs of the past century — instead of proposed actions destined to immediately over-correct without considering the consequences.

### Arts, crafts meeting to honor Forquers

Morrow County Creative Arts and Crafts regular monthly meetings will be April 23 at 1 p.m. at Kates Pizza.

The agenda includes a farewell to long time group supporters Seth and Volejan Forquer, who plan to move to the Willamette Valley. "Both will be greatly missed," said a spokesperson.

Volejan has been a member around 14 years. She is not only a past president but has served in every office

and some more than once. She has been chairman of several of the group's committees, including fair, which involves many hours of work.

Seth has helped make the signs that are used during the county fair for categories for art entries. "He has also been a tremendous help as general handyman," members said.

Also on the agenda is a craft demonstration by Pat Wright. She will show how to make rag coil baskets.

### St. Jude's bike-a-thon benefit

By Anne Morter

It's that time of year again, for the annual Ruggs to Ione St. Jude's Bike-a-thon. Organizer Loa McElligott will announce the exact date, time and route at a later date but she says she wants bikers of all ages to start thinking about the annual ride for charity. Participants gather pledges for each mile they ride, with all proceeds going to the St. Jude Children's Research Hospital in Memphis, Tennessee.

St. Jude Children's Hospital was founded by Danny Thomas and is open to children regardless of race, religion or financial status. The children who come to St. Jude are afflicted with the most devastating kinds of childhood diseases, including acute lymphocytic leukemia, Hodgkins disease and other forms of cancer. It is the largest childhood cancer research center in the United States and results of their research are used worldwide.

The bike-a-thon is a local drive to support the St. Jude Research hospital. "We have had a good turnout in the past and we hope that the support will continue," says

McElligott. Pledge sheets will be available soon at the Ione school, Bristow's Market and the Bank of Eastern Oregon in Ione. Anyone with questions should contact Loa McElligott at 422-7228 for further information.

### Births

**Crystal Renee Balfe**—daughter Crystal Renee, was born to Scott and Judy Balfe of Anchorage, Alaska on April 5, 1991. The baby weighed 5 lbs. 12 oz.

Grandparents are Pat Pennington, Lexington, Mr. and Mrs. Joe Balfe, Anchorage, Alaska and Gordon Pennington, Baker.

Great-grandparents are Mildred Pennington, Baker; Leila Palmer, Lexington; Leo and Irene Crabtree, Ione and Mr. and Mrs. Al Bumgardner, LaGrande. Great great-grandfather is Kenneth Marshall, Zillah, WA.

Crystal joins a brother Kenny, 4, at home.

### Kara Miller wins 1st in essay contest



L-R: Megan Proudfoot, Mandy Ball, Kara Miller, Jake McElligott. Not pictured-Nathan Rietmann

By Anne Morter

The Ione Unit of the American Legion Auxiliary recently announced the winners of their "Why I Love America" essay contest.

Kara Miller, daughter of George and Nancy Miller won the first prize of \$15. Jake McElligott, son of Joe and Jeri McElligott placed second, winning \$10 and Nathan Rietmann, son of John and Kerry Rietmann was third, winning \$5. Megan Proudfoot

and Mandy Ball received honorable mention. Megan is the daughter of Paul and Sue Proudfoot and Mandy is the daughter of Angela Devin.

The contest was open to fifth graders and was judged on subject matter, clarity, grammar, spelling and punctuation.

Kara Miller's first place essay has been entered in the state essay contest.

### Rebekahs hold card party

By Delpha Jones

The card party held at the Rebekah Hall on Saturday evening April 6, was well attended and the group finished the evening by candle light because of a power outage for a short time.

Those winning prizes were: women's hi-Shirley Connor; second hi-Luella Taylor; men's hi-Bill Padberg; second high-Clarence Buchanan; traveling-Truman Messenger and Luella Taylor. Hostesses for the evening were Holly Mosteller and Fran Peck.

Holly Rebekah Lodge met on Thursday April 4, for their regular meeting with the NG Kathy Tellechea presiding. Crystal Minster gave her speech which won her a trip to the United Nations on the Odd-fellow yearly contest. This was greatly enjoyed by everyone present. During the business of the evening the benefit spaghetti supper and card party by the Oddfellows to help raise funds to roof the building was discussed. Hilda Yocom and Delpha Jones were elected delegates to the state session in Portland in May. The club will meet on Thursday at the Tellechea home. Refreshments were served following lodge.

Virginia Peck, Leila Palmer, Joyce Buchanan, Hilda Yocom, Geri Martin and Delpha Jones were

among those attending lodge in Hermiston on Wednesday evening where the state president, Doreen Caldwell, was the visitor. Preceding the meeting dinner was enjoyed at the Golden Palace in Hermiston. Leila Palmer, Dist. 20, DDP and Delpha Jones, assistant to the state marshal were introduced and welcomed.

Thursday evening Hilda Yocom and Delpha Jones attended the Rebekah meeting in Pendleton where president Doreen Caldwell paid her official visit. At this time they were delightedly surprised when 21 members from British Columbia, Canada came to visit. Among them were the British Columbia state president and secretary of the Rebekahs and the grand master and grand scribe of the Oddfellows along with other officers. Preceding the meeting a delicious dinner was enjoyed. Other state officers were Lora Dickinson, state of Oregon V.P. Sharon Magden, P.P. and the state marshal of the Rebekah Assembly and Delpha Jones assistant Marshall. A fine time was enjoyed by the group with business and visiting. Mrs. Thomas from San Souci Lodge was welcomed into the Pendleton lodge by transfer. Refreshments were served following the meeting.

### Aledia Goodyear selected for technology program

Heppner High School student Aledia Goodyear has been selected to attend the Teen Woman in Technology and Science Program (TWIST) at Oregon Institute of Technology.

The TWIST program, funded by a Hearst Foundation grant, is designed to give young women an opportunity to explore career opportunities in engineering technologies and broaden their career options by encouraging academic preparation in math and science courses during high school.

Goodyear will join other students

from around the state on the OIT campus in mid-July for a week of study.

TWIST participants will gain hands-on experience in the civil, computer, diesel power, electronics, laser optical, manufacturing, mechanical and software engineering technologies. Other sessions during the week will cover math, physics and industrial management.

Goodyear, selected from a field of over 100 applicants, was nominated by Heppner High teacher Stephen Brownfield.

### St. Patrick's Senior Center Bulletin Board



Sixteen seniors went by bus to the Area Agency on Aging meeting at the Senior Center in John Day Friday, April 12. It was a very interesting, informative meeting.

The AAA is trying to cope with budget cuts and still provide the necessary services for the aging. A few of the many services are: comprehensive long time care, nutrition services, supportive community services, and transportation.

The John Day Senior Center provided a delicious turkey dinner for over 100 people from Umatilla, Morrow, Gilliam, Wheeler and Grant Counties. It was a beautiful day for traveling. The orchards are beginning to bloom in the John Day Valley and a few wild flowers are blooming in the mountains.

There were 87 people present for the senior dinner Wednesday, April 10, including one visitor from Newport and one from Ukiah, California. Seven meals were sent out. The meal ticket was won by Della Tash. Millie Evans won the door prize and the guest prize was won by Lois Grabeal. Members of the Episcopal Church did the serving.

The menu for April 24 is potatoes with ham, tossed salad, Harvard beets, whole wheat rolls, cake and ice cream. Serving will be done by members of the Christian Church.

The activities Committee will meet at 1 p.m. following the dinner. There will be a gardening clinic in the center dining room Saturday, April 20, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Jane Rawlins announced that there will be a meeting in the dining room Sunday, April 21, at 3 p.m. to organize the Heppner Intergenerational Theater group. Anyone interested in taking part is invited to come.

Quilters meet Monday, 1 to 4 p.m. Knitting class taught by Sandra VanLiew is Monday evenings at 7:30. Exercise class is Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10 to 10:30 a.m. Hobby time is Tuesdays from 1 to 4 p.m.

### Wranglers begin season

The Wranglers riding club announces the following results for their playdays held April 7 and 14:

April 7: Stick horse race-Becky Schiller, first.

5 & Under Barrels and Poles: first-Megan Bergstrom; second-Lacie Davis; third-Pat Schiller; fourth-Genia Grant.

Figure 8: first-Megan Bergstrom; second-Pat Schiller; third-Lacie Davis; fourth-Genia Grant.

6 & 7 year old Barrels: first-Sara Eckman; second-Brett Barber; third-Kelsey Greenup; fourth-Katie Walton.

Poles and Figure 8: first-Sara Eckman; second-Brett Barber; third-Katie Walton; fourth-Kelsie Greenup.

8-10 year old Barrels: first-Brian Knowles; second-Annie Hisler; third-Jaylene Papineau; fourth-Kathleen Greenup.

Poles: first-Brian Knowles; second-Annie Hisler; third-Jaylene Papineau; fourth-Blake Knowles.

Figure 8: first-Brian Knowles; second-Kathleen Greenup; third-Blake Knowles; fourth-Jaylene Papineau.

11-13 year old Barrels: first-Tiffanie Munkers; second-Jossie Evans; third-Dawn Boor; fourth-Stormy Howard.

Poles: first-Jossie Evans; second-Dawn Boor; third-Tiffanie Munkers; fourth-Stormy Howard.

Figure 8: first-Jossie Evans; second-Tiffanie Munkers; third-Stormy Howard; fourth-Dawn Boor.

14-18 year old Barrels, Poles & Figure 8: first-Shelley Ashbeck; second Jennie Ashbeck.

19 & over: Barrels: first-Anita Pranger.

April 14: Stick horse race winner

was Becky Schiller.

5 & under Barrels: first-Megan Bergstrom; second-Lacie Davis; third-Pat Schiller; fourth-Genia Grant.

Poles: first-Megan Bergstrom; second-Lacie Davis; third-Genia Grant; fourth-Pat Schiller.

Key Hole: first-Megan Bergstrom; second-Pat Schiller; third-Lacie Davis; fourth-Genia Grant.

6 & 7 year old Barrels: first-Sara Eckman; second-Katie Walton; third-Kelsey Greenup.

Poles: first-Sara Eckman; second-Kelsey Greenup; third-Katie Walton.

Key Hole: first-Katie Walton; second-Sara Eckman; third-Kelsey Greenup; fourth-Donald Adams.

8-10 year old Barrels: first-Angela Munkers; second-Brian Knowles; third-Casey Evans; fourth-Kathleen Greenup.

Poles: first-Blake Knowles; second-Shad Hisler; third-Brian Knowles; fourth-Casey Evans.

Key Hole: first-Annie Hisler; second-Casey Evans; third-Jared Eckman; fourth-Heather Davis.

11-13 year old Barrels: first-a tie between Jossie Evans and Kelsie Evans; third-Tiffany Munkers; fourth-Dawn Boor.

Poles: first-Tiffany Munkers; second-Dawn Boor; third-Char Coe; fourth-Kelsie Evans.

Key Hole: first-Kelsie Evans; second-Tiffany Munkers; third-Stormy Howard; fourth-Shannon Walton.

14-18 year old Barrels: first-Amy Greenup; second-Shelley Ashbeck; third-Sara Greenup.

Poles and Key Hole: first-Amy Greenup; second-Shelley Ashbeck.

18 & over Barrels: first-Anita Pranger.

### Ione students win Bill of Rights Contest



Jake McElligott and Felicity Warren

Jake McElligott and Felicity Warren, fifth and fourth graders at Ione schools, are recipients of \$50 savings bonds in the East Oregonian's "Bill of Rights Contest." Their winning entries now qualify them for the state contest to be judged in Portland against other fourth and fifth grade students.

Students wrote amendments to the United States Constitution's accom-

panying Bill of Rights which they felt were important. Jake's addition to the Bill of Rights would allow an insane person to go to an institution for the insane, if they killed someone, rather than face a jail sentence or capital punishment. Felicity's addition would insure that every person, including the homeless, would have food, shelter and medical care.

### SPAGHETTI FEED

Saturday, April 20

6:30 p.m.

Odd Fellows Lodge

Lexington, Oregon

\$4<sup>00</sup> - Dinner

\$1<sup>00</sup> - Pie and coffee

\$2<sup>00</sup> - Pinochle per person

Benefit for new lodge roof

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