

## Off the Wall By Marilyn Robinson

It takes more than one rainstorm to break a long drought cycle. Like the persistent prevailing winds, this year's political campaigning seems to contribute to a long, dry spell. And the prospects of a bleak agricultural picture helped create a dry ink spell for myself.

No change in the weather pattern is hardly expected until after the November general election. My predictions don't include a change in the country's mode of operation after said election; but it might leave enough airspace for drops of moisture to fall.

Government inefficiency tops my present gripe list; things that are out of control by the general masses. The present emphasis on critter comforts seems to be more important than the welfare of people. With the exception of sparrows and starlings, all birds are protected. And every strawberry grower knows that the produce must be shared with the robins.

Misconceptions abound about the products we use. Back-to-nature advocates would have us grinding corn and sun-drying fruits to eliminate preservatives. However gardening is a popular and rewarding pursuit.

Everyone knows that sampling garden produce out of the patch enhances the taste. A little good old garden dirt must improve the flavor even when the ground has been laced with some old-fashioned fertilizer straight from the cow barn. But one must be gentle if bugs attack your garden, chemical sprays might upset nature's balance.

A multitude of prepared cereals are loaded with additives and sugar, though they all claim to supply the daily nutritional requirements. A standard daily fare of plain old oatmeal would dent all the cereal commercials that saturate our minds. And without that bountiful selection, it might reduce the many offers on colorful boxes that create household arguments over which peapicker gets to send for what.

My personal gripe list is topped by the increased volume of the television commercials. It's necessary to mute the TV audio to prevent further hearing loss. And many commercials are also detrimental to a person's health since they contribute to evening snacking—a sure way to put on pounds.

By chance if a television program of educational or entertaining quality is found, telephone solicitations often interrupt. But more often, sales people target home calls during the dinner hour when people are the most apt to be in the house.

Junk mail can be eliminated by having names removed from mailing lists. But I'm irate that the postal system is allowed to sell lists of names and addresses. However what would rural mail carriers do without sufficient bulk to keep mail sacks from blowing in the wind?

My first attack on new magazines is to tear out all the cardboard advertising inserts that impede the ease of turning pages. I really don't need collectables such as plates or dolls. However if you skip the advertisements it doesn't take long to read a paper or magazine.

With so much wasted paper, I've tried to be conscientious about recycling; especially since my "save it" mindset doesn't leave any surplus storage space. So I've turned into a first class can stomper, though I learned it's best not to stomp cans flat when wearing slippers.

But one thing for sure there's no limitation on attacking house dust and there always seems to be a plentiful supply. And weeds don't seem to be on the endangered plant species list as yet, so it's time for a weed attack. They always seem to prosper even when the ground is bone dry.

## Women trailblazing for affordable health care

The U.S. health care system doesn't very often prompt anyone to get on their horse and ride across the country, but Pat Burke and Maggie Jones were mad enough to do just that.

The two are unhappy with the American health care system and are traveling by horseback along the Oregon Trail just to urge people to get involved. "Don't sit at the kitchen table and complain," said Burke.

Burke, 39, and Jones, 35, quit their jobs in Eugene, took their last paychecks and sold their vehicles to finance the trip. They started out near Camp Sherman, about 15 miles northwest of Sisters. They had hoped to travel 20 miles a day to make St. Joseph, Missouri, by the end of September, but found that they can average only around 10 to 15 miles a day. An injury of their mare, the heat and longer layovers than expected have slowed them down. Burke now says that they probably won't be able to reach Nebraska.

The pair stayed at the Morrow County Fairgrounds in Heppner Tuesday and Wednesday and stayed at the Dave Wright place at Ruggs the night before. Before that they stayed at the Gilliam County Fairgrounds at Condon. From Heppner they will travel to Pilot Rock, Pendleton, LaGrande, Baker and then on through southern Idaho, Wyoming and Nebraska.

Burke and Jones said they have met "wonderful people" along the way, adding that many of the people who have a corral in one town can connect them to people with a corral in the next.

Besides visiting folks along the way, they are spreading their message to senior groups. They spoke to seniors at the mealsite in Heppner and to seniors in Condon.

Pat, an LPN who has worked for several nursing homes, is campaigning for affordable health care. "We need to change the health care system," she said. "We need health care for everyone. What we need is a state-wide non-profit insurance pool."

She advocates a health care system run by the people, more like a co-op, which would be affordable and accessible to everyone. The present system stresses institutionalization, she maintains.

"The very people who need it the most are exempt from the health care system," said Burke. "It's not working for the people, it's working against them. If you survive the illness, you may not survive the economics of health care. And that's immoral."

"We should be providing access to in-home care," added Jones. In-home care for the elderly and disabled makes sense both economically and for their quality of life, continued Burke.

The two are also videotaping



L-R: Pat Burke with horse Rain and Maggie Jones with Maramia

people for whom the health care system has failed. "Everyone has a horror story like someone spending an hour in the hospital and being charged \$2,000," said Maggie. They eventually plan to make a documentary and present it to Congress.

Strong supporters of Oregon Fair Share, a citizen's advocacy group in Portland, the two urge citizen involvement to change the

health care system and suggest ways to get involved in the health care reform movement:  
-vote to elect congressman involved in the reform movement;  
-write to representatives in Congress;  
-join a group fighting for fair accessible health care  
-support your community in-home care program or organize a group to create one;

-send letters to the editor;  
-encourage TV stations and newspapers to cover the health care crisis;  
-talk with health care professionals and ask their opinions;  
-share your views with your friends and neighbors;  
-tell your family and your doctor your wishes in the event of a long-term or significant injury;  
-think about other things you can do and "do them."

## Lions club/day care to sell fireworks



Heppner Lions Club members (l-r) Steve Rhea, Bob Kahl and Bill Kuhn display some fireworks to be sold soon.

The Fourth of July is just around the corner and with it comes fireworks.

The fireworks stand, operated jointly by the Heppner Lions and

Heppner Day Care, will be open Friday, June 26 from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m.; Saturday, June 27, noon to 4 p.m.; Monday, June 29 through Thursday, July 2 from 4-6 p.m.; Friday, July 3 from 11 a.m. to 5

p.m. and Saturday, July 4 from 11 to 2 p.m.

The booth is located next to the offices of Kuhn and Spicer on Main Street in Heppner.

## Booster Club to save labels

The Heppner High School Booster Club has begun a drive to collect Western Family labels. For each label collected the club will receive one cent.

All Western Family product labels may be used—milk, bakery items, cheese, canned goods,

cleaning supplies, etc.

The group is hoping to put the money earned toward purchase of an item for the school.

Those wishing to donate labels may drop them off at Central Red Apple Market.

**We sell Rubber Stamps**  
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SIZE	PRICE	SIZE	PRICE
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P185/70R13	56.50	P235/70R15	83.10
P195/70R14	63.10	P255/70R15	91.60
P205/70R14	71.20		
P215/70R14	75.00		
P205/70R15	73.10		
P215/70R15	76.95		

AS LOW AS **5488** P195/70R14\*

### BETTER Silver Mark

A steel belted radial passenger car tire designed to give great performance in all seasons. 80 series for greater tread width, polyester/steel construction.

SIZE	PRICE	SIZE	PRICE
P155/80R13	38.99	P205/75R14	55.30
P165/80R13	46.95	P215/75R14	56.40
P175/80R13	48.10	P205/75R15	57.90
P185/80R13	50.35	P215/75R15	59.85
P185/75R14	51.90	P225/75R15	64.35
P195/75R14	53.50	P235/75R15	67.40

AS LOW AS **3899** P155/80R13

### GOOD Weather Mark

A distinctive tire that will enhance the appearance of any vehicle. A distinctive tire that will enhance any vehicle. All season tread design. M & S Ratings.

SIZE	PRICE	SIZE	PRICE
P155/80R13	37.50	P205/75R14	46.65
P175/80R13	40.50	P205/75R15	49.00
P185/80R13	42.40	P215/75R15	50.70
P185/75R14	43.85	P225/75R15	54.45
P195/75R14	45.20	P235/75R15	57.30

AS LOW AS **3750** P155/80R13

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## FIREWORKS STAND

### June 26 - July 4

Friday, June 26  
4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.  
June 29 through July 2  
Mon. - Thurs. 4 p.m. - 6 p.m.  
Friday, July 3, 11 a.m. - 5 p.m.  
Sat., July 4, 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Next to Spicer & Kuhn's office

## FASHION BRACELETS

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