

Letters to the Editor

Editor's note: Letters to the Editor must be signed. The Gazette-Times will not publish unsigned letters. Please include your address and phone number on all letters for use by the G-T office. The G-T reserves the right to edit. The G-T is not responsible for accuracy of statements made in letters. (Any letters expressing thanks will be placed in the classifieds under "Card of Thanks" at a cost of \$5.)

Slippery slope to fascism

To the Editor:

At the end of his term, Pres. Eisenhower predicted that the emergence of an industrial-military complex, not communism or Russia, would bring American democracy down. He did not use the word fascism, but one may recognize that our recent presidential election may have put us on the "slippery slope" leading to fascism.

Fascism is an ugly word, an anathema to most Americans. What exactly does it mean? Dictionary definitions have three parts: "Fascism: a philosophy of government that (1) advocates or exercises a dictatorship of the extreme right, (2) typically through the merging of state and business leadership (3) together with an ideology of belligerent nationalism."

Look at part (1) "advocates or exercises a dictatorship of the extreme right." The president's party is definitely on the right, though he tried to soften that by adopting the campaign slogan "compassionate conservative" in an attempt to get more votes. However, he has chosen and accepts helpers such as Cheney with a far right Congress voting record, Senator Trent Lott, Rep. Tom Delay, former Senator Ashcroft and others.

Did George W. exercise a hint of dictatorship when, knowing he had lost the popular vote by over half a million votes and that 40,000 ballots (of mostly African-Americans, other minorities and poor people in Florida) had never been counted, he asserted that he had won and began behaving as if he had been given a sweeping mandate? At the same time, the Florida Supreme Court decided to permit a hand-count of the 40,000 ballots. Although he had signed into law a bill making the hand count the preferred method in Texas, Bush fought hard against the hand count in Florida. Why? Because obviously, he felt that with that count, he would not win.

Meanwhile, brother Governor Jeb, under the guise of recusing

himself, had found an attorney to appeal to the U.S. Supreme Court to stop the counting. Furthermore, undercover, he was encouraging leaders in the Republican-controlled Florida legislature to plan to send an extra set of electors to the Electoral College, just in case. However, the Republican U.S. Supreme Court overturned the constitutional provision that elections belong to the states and stopped the counting, thus denying voting rights of some minorities and the poor in some Florida cities.

The frightening result is that we now have a president's party who may have usurped the office (remember Hitler's Beer Hall Putsch? The German did not act then when they could have). Will we ever know the truth about the 40,000 votes in Florida?

Even more frightening is the fact that for the first time in history the U.S. Supreme Court (by one vote) has chosen the president and that all three of the three branches of our federal government, executive, legislative and judicial, are controlled by the party on the right, one that denied voting rights. Where is our constitutional provision for checks and balances? Where is our government of, by, and for the people?

...When asked how he expected Congress to pass his trillion plus tax cut, W. said, "I'll just keep repeating it until it passes (pause). It would be easier if we had a dictatorship (pause), if I were the dictator." Was that a jest, a slip-of-the-tongue? Maybe a hint of fascism? Are we on a "slippery slope" toward Eisenhower's prediction?

In November, some pundits kept saying, "The people are taking it in their stride. There's no blood in the streets." One prediction is sure: if we, the people, lose our right to vote, in order to regain that right, we will see blood in the streets of our country that will make the protests in Seattle, Los Angeles, Florida and the parade route on Inauguration day seem microscopic.

(s) Jane Rawlins Heppner

Opal butte not open to rock hounders

To the Editor:

There has been a lot of confusion the last couple years due to an honest mistake by the Oregon Department of Geology and Mining Industries, and several other web sites.

Since 1996 the Oregon Dept. Of Geology has advertised the entire Opal Butte as being open to rock hounding. This has caused mass confusion among hounders in traveling to the Butte to gather opals just to be run off. In talking with local hounders this past week, the majority still believed the Butte to be open; however, I contacted the state geologist who himself believed it was open, until I urged him to look into it, at which time he discovered that they had failed to update their web page.

So unless you can gain permission from the lease owners, or property owners, don't include Opal Butte in your rock hounding trips this summer, as you may find yourself facing criminal charges and possible civil penalties.

There are still many places in Northeast Oregon to gather opal eggs. We have found opal egg beds just outside of town. Some lower-grade opal has been found by several hounders right here in town. If you're up to traveling, then Richardson's Ranch about 75 miles south of here offers fee digs that can yield some outstanding opal, and agate thunder eggs. You may get lucky and find some amethyst, or crystal points while on your endeavors.

We are temporarily working on a small rock shop to display specimens and rocks for sale. We will also be looking into doing some commission work. Due to the large volume of calls received from local hounders, the prospects look good for starting up "Heppner's Rock and Gem Club" where we will teach different cutting techniques, cabachon grinding, rock identification and numerous other activities for all age groups. We will also be looking forward to several field trips this summer, one of which will be to Richardson's

Origins of St. Valentine's Day

To the Editor:

At the lovely Sweethearts Banquet produced by the youth group of First Christian Church last weekend, the group at our table began wondering how Valentine's Day got started, and no one knew. So I went home and did some research, and here's an answer for anyone else who wants to know:

According to the History Channel website, St. Valentine was martyred in Rome in the third century for defying Emperor Claudius II by performing secret marriages and helping tortured Christians. While in prison, he supposedly fell in love with the jailer's daughter and wrote her a letter signed, "From Your Valentine."

St. Valentine's feast day is February 14, which the early Church

may have chosen to "Christianize" the pagan Roman fertility festival of Lupercalia. In France, that date is also the beginning of the mating season for birds, which adds to the romance connection.

The first Valentine's Day note was written in 1415 by the French Duke of Orleans to his wife while he was imprisoned in the Tower of London.

In America, handmade Valentine's Day cards were given to loved ones beginning in the early 1700s. The first commercial cards were made in 1840 in America, and now about one billion are purchased annually.

St. Valentine might be confused by it all, but he'd also be proud of all the love shared in his name.

(s)Lea Mathieu Ione

Parents vaccinate your children

To the Editor:

As Feb. 21 school exclusion day looms, two medical care providers who are experts in their field and who care about children have an important message to share.

Recent cases of measles in Oregon reemphasize the importance of protecting children against vaccine preventable diseases. Measles is an extremely contagious and serious, even life-threatening infection, that is fully preventable. The measles case also comes at the time of year when parents need to think about school exclusion day.

On February 21, state law says every Oregon child must have had required vaccinations if they are to stay in school. Soon counties will send exclusion letters to parents of children who have not had all of their vaccinations.

This year, many more children than usual will receive exclusion letters. That is because students in the seventh grade must now provide documentation that they have received a second dose of measles vaccine, have either a history of chickenpox disease or received chickenpox vaccine and must be

up-to-date on their hepatitis B vaccine series.

Some of these diseases, like measles, chickenpox and hepatitis B, are more severe in older children and adolescents. Requiring vaccines for school attendance protects the individual child and helps to prevent outbreaks of disease in schools.

We urge parents to take action and make sure that your child has all of his/her required vaccinations. If shots are missing, call your doctor right away and schedule an appointment. Vaccinations are also available through county health departments and other special vaccination clinics. For dates, times and locations of vaccination clinics, call your county health department or Safenet at 1-800SAFENET. In addition, remember, you must update your child's records at school to avoid exclusion.

(s) Ron Stock, M.D. President, Oregon Academy of Family Physicians
(s) Brian Lauer, M.D. Chief, Dept. of Pediatrics Legacy Emanuel Children's Hospital

Obituary

Terry Marrinan

Terry Marrinan, 54, died Monday February 5, 2001, at his home on Blake Ranch, just outside of Heppner.

Mr. Marrinan was born January 16, 1947.

He served with the U.S. Air Force, and was an avid collector of military insignia and relics from WWI, WWII and Vietnam.

He was an artist by trade and enjoyed carving birds and painting murals.

He was loved dearly and will be greatly missed by family and friends.

Sweeney Mortuary of Heppner is in charge of arrangements.

MCGC News

By Sandi Day

It was a cold and windy morning for the weekly meeting at the Morrow County Gun Club in Lexington but the warm fire and hot chili brought the shooters out for a day of fun.

Club president Curt Day and Tony Greenup led the way at the 16-yard line, each shooting a 23, followed by Bill Greenup and Barry Munkers with 22 and Rob Ashbeck, third with a 21.

Curt Day also took first at the 20-yard handicap line with a 23, Sandi Day and Rob Ashbeck tied for second with 21 each and Bill Greenup had 20 for third.

In the junior shoot Chance Day, Cody Ford and Zane Ford each shot an "awesome" 12 of 25.

In league shooting for the week, the team of Mark Schlichting and Sandi Day took the lead from second place last week and the teams of Curt Day and Shelly Ashbeck and Barry Munkers and Tony Greenup are currently tied for second.

The MCGC will hold a meat shoot on Saturday, Feb. 17, beginning at 10 a.m. Prizes of hamburger, bacon, sausage and turkey will be provided by Central Red Apple Market. Lunch and beverages will be available in the clubhouse throughout the day.

Local student named to dean's list

Matthew Van Liew of Heppner has received a 3.76 grade-point average at Stevens Institute of Technology at Hoboken, N.J. Van Liew also made the dean's list. He is majoring in civil engineering.

Correction

The name of Dr. Lytle's wife was erroneously listed as Karen in a story about providers at Pioneer Memorial Clinic in the Feb. 7 Gazette-Times. Mrs. Lytle's name is Laurie.

MORROW COUNTY GUN CLUB MEAT SHOOT

Saturday, February 17th at 10 a.m. Cutsforth Corners, Lexington

Jack-n-Jills, Annie Oakleys, Buddy Shoots Straight Trap, Ladies and Kids Shoots

Prizes will include: turkey, hamburger, bacon & cash

For more information, call Curt Day at 676-5275

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David Sykes Publisher
April Hilton-Sykes Editor

News deadline is Monday at 5 p.m.

For Advertising: advertising deadline is Tuesday at noon. Cost for a display ad is \$4.50 per column inch. Cost for classified ad is 40¢ per word. Cost for Card of Thanks is \$5 up to 100 words. Cost for a classified display ad is \$5.10 per column inch.

For Public/Legal Notices: public/legal notices deadline is Monday at 5 p.m. Dates for publication must be specified. Affidavits must be required at the time of submission. Affidavits require three weeks to process after last date of publication (a sooner return date must be specified if required).

On the HEPPNER WEBSITE: www.heppner.net

- Start or Change a Subscription
- Place a Classified Ad • Submit a News Story
- View Real Estate for Sale • City Council & Planning Minutes
- Local Businesses • County Park • Willow Creek Park Reservations
- Free Digital Postcards • Senior Housing • and more!

4-H News

Pins and Pots & Patterns and Pans By Emily Bergstrom, reporter

On January 26 the club had their meeting with members Brianne Jones, Krystal Nairns, Megan Orr and Emily Bergstrom. Members worked on their record books. Robyn Jones came in and helped members with them.

Members also talked about old and new business that they didn't have done. The club has a new leader, Rita Bergstrom.

Northwest Livestock 4-H Group By Emily Rietmann, reporter

The Northwest Livestock 4-H group had a meeting on Jan. 12, at the home of their leader, Cathy Rauch.

Most of the members are first or second year 4-H members so they discussed what they wanted to learn this year and they talked about attending other shows close by so members could get some ideas and experience before Morrow County Fair. Members also talked about their fair steers, meetings in the future, letters to buyers, field trips, weigh in and equipment they have or need to get before fair.

Members elected officers as follows: President, Shelby Krebs; Vice President, Mackayla Anderson; Secretary/Treasurer, Emily Rietmann; and Call Person, A.J. Rauch.

The club's next meeting was Feb. 11 at Cathy Rauch's home.

We Little Lambs

The first 4-H meeting was held for the year for the We Little Lambs 4-H group.

Members for 2001 are Katie and Cody Walton, Jake Winslow, Lacey and Brandon Davis, Darren, Matthew and Nathan Van Cleave and Joey Whelan.

Members discussed fund

raisers for the year and elected officers. Officers elected were: Katie Walton, president; Lacey Davis, vice-president; and Joey Whelan, reporter/secretary.

The group will meet again in March.

Justice Court Report

The Justice Court office at the courthouse annex building in Heppner reports handling the following business:

Wilma Louise Norton, 44, Spray-Driving Uninsured, Failure to Use Seatbelt, \$147 and \$59 fines, Driving while License Suspended infraction, \$358 fine;

Jay D. Clarke, 48, Vancouver, WA.-Failure to Validate Deer Tag, \$157 fine;

Gene Darryl Heliker, 52, Heppner-Violation of the Basic Rule, \$147 fine;

Steven M. Ziemba, 35, Kennewick, WA.-Careless Driving, \$297 fine;

Stephen R. Meier, 52, Turner-Failure to Validate Deer Tag, \$182 fine;

Marla James Anderson, 31, Lexington-Failure to Use Seatbelt, \$59 fine;

Samuel D. Martin, 31, Hardman-Driving while License Suspended infraction, Driving Uninsured, \$474 fine;

Joshua Hamilton, 22, Prineville-Theft III, \$250 fine.

Births

Clint Michael Stewart-a son Clint Michael was born to Jamie and Troy Stewart of Irrigon on February 3, 2001, at Good Shepherd Community Hospital in Hermiston. The baby weighed 7 lbs. 12 oz.

ATTENTION, Outdoorsmen

17th Annual Eastern Oregon Sportsman Show

At the Pendleton Convention Center
Featuring, Hunting, Fishing, and Outdoor Sports.
February 16th, 17th, & 18th
Sponsored by **Coors Graybeal Distributing**

Organized by the Pendleton City Club
All proceeds go to local youth activities.
Show Hours: Fri 5pm - 9pm, Sat 10 am - 8pm, Sun 10am - 5pm
Admission: Adults \$4.00, Students \$3.00, Kids under 12 are FREE

OVER 50 BOOTHS FEATURING

- Latest equipment and gear showcased.
- Rifles to Mountain bikes
- Boats, RV's, Lodges, Trips
- Outdoor equipment of every kind including: snow shoes, cross country, & fishing equipment.
- Antique hunting and fishing display with lithographs & antique guns sponsored by St. Anthony Hospital
- Outdoor art
- Horn scoring with official B.C./Pope & Young certified scorer
- Award winning white tail deer mount.
- Trophy animals featuring over 20 exceptional mounts and pending world record antelope sponsored by Bures One

Kids will be able to catch fish at the FISHING BOOTH

treat pond Sat. & Sun. shoot a gun, shoot a bow, and go home with a fishing lure.

SEMINARS INCLUDE

- Fly Tying
- Basic Archery Hunting
- Duck & Goose Calling
- Salmon Fishing
- Steelhead Fishing
- Elk Bugling
- Basics of Black Powder Weapons
- And more!

CONTESTS WITH QUALITY PRIZES!

- Elk bugling
- Outdoor photo contest co-sponsored by EAST OREGONIAN

Also Sponsoring: