

Queen Salli McElligott regrets leaving Morrow County, but looks forward to studying abroad

By Sarah Collier

Queen Salli McElligott is really not looking forward to leaving Morrow County this fall when she heads to the University of Portland to study political science. "I was perfectly fine with being in high school and now they tell me I have to go somewhere else," said the green-eyed, blonde-haired queen.

However, something tells us that the pretty, 18-year-old lone graduate will not have a hard time making her way outside of Morrow County. Queen Salli has put a lot of time, effort and talent into school, community and church activities. Besides being the president of both the Lone High School Student Body and the National Honor Society, Queen Salli has been a part of the International Club, the parks committee, 4-H and several sports teams. She took part in a project with her Catholic Church youth group collecting hygiene products to be given to the Macdonald Center. She also received several honors this past school year, including the OSAA Scholar Award, the Big Sky Academic Award, Outstanding Math Student, Drama Award and Citizenship Award.

She is currently employed at Wheatland Insurance and babysits for a local family. She enjoys water sports, boating and hanging out with her friends and the two children she babysits, R.J. and Makenna Ramos. She especially likes to ride horses with Makenna. "She will be a princess someday," says Salli.

Queen Salli is the daughter of Paul and Charity McElligott of Ione. She has a brother, Jeremiah, 19 and a sister, Diana, 17. Her father and mother both participate in fair activities. They have donated livestock in the past and her mother is the swine superintendent. Mrs. McElligott was also a rodeo queen in Grant County and is now the court's chaperone.

The spunky queen's horse is named J.R. and she has a dog named K.L., in addition to a pig for fair.

Queen Salli is looking forward to a study abroad program she has signed up for. During the second semester of her sophomore year in college, she will go to Salzburg, Austria, to study.



2002 Oregon Trail and Pro Rodeo Queen Salli McElligott



Her "royal junior highness", Salli McElligott

Queen Salli lead the court in several community projects this year. Some of the projects included painting planter boxes at the fairgrounds, selling water bottles for Cycle Oregon and helping with the Celebrate Historic Heppner festivities.

Salli says that her favorite thing about being on the court is

all of the free food, and adds, "I want to thank everyone for their support this year and I look forward to seeing you there."

Queen Salli is joined by Princesses Genia Grant and Julie Proctor as the 2002 Oregon Trail Pro Rodeo and Morrow County Fair Court.

WCCC Ladies hold playday

The Willow Creek Country Club ladies held a playday on Aug. 6. Results are as follows: low gross of the field-Pat Edmundson; low net of the field-Luvilla Sonstegard; least putts of the field-Jackie Allstott.

Flight A: low gross-Corol Mitchell; low net-Karen Thompson; least putts-Mary Kincaid; Flight B: low gross-Loa Henderson; low net-Lorraine Montgomery; least putts-Carol Norris.

Flight C: low gross-Joyce Dinkins; low net-Maude Hughes. Chip in: Luvilla Sonstegard #16, Corol Mitchell #12.

The ladies also played Thursday evening, Aug. 8. Results are as follows:

Low gross-Cindi Doherty; low net-Pat Edmundson and Shari Stahl; least putts-Loa Henderson; birdie-Cindi Doherty #9; chip in-Cindi Doherty #9, Luvilla Sonstegard #7.

Golf players are reminded that Thursday evening play time is changing to 6 p.m.

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 \$7.)

Commitment to vigilance, tolerance required for democratic society

To the Editor:

I appreciate the responses of Stuart Dick and F. Green White to my recent thoughts about balancing our personal professions of faith with our public life. My family and Stuart Dick's family have been friends for more than 60 years.

Stuart points out that our money contains references to a deity and that the Bible is used for swearing in witnesses in court. However, those who do not recognize the binding force of the Bible are sworn in without it. It is also true that Congress and many state legislatures begin their sessions with a nondenominational prayer. As I pointed out in my letter, there are many such areas where our public statements of faith merge into our requiring such statements.

But it seems to me that these examples are not as worrisome as is the government's requirement that school children must either pay homage to my God or abstain from pledging allegiance to their country. When Congress inserted the words "under God" it changed a patriotic pledge into a public prayer to a deity recognized by me, but not by many others in our diverse nation. If we would be troubled if, in order to pledge allegiance to our country, we were required by our government to pay homage to a deity we do not recognize, we can understand why others also would be troubled when required to pay homage to a deity that they do not recognize.

Stuart Dick states that I claimed that the government's required words "under God" forced me to pay homage to a Christian God. Apparently he did not read my letter carefully. The question that I asked was: "What do I gain when I use the power of government to require others, when pledging their allegiance to our republic, to also pay homage to my god?"

I was surprised to read Stuart's claim that if I had my way I would remove God from America. Neither my GT letter nor any of my other writings urge removing God from America. It would be rather arrogant for me to think that I could do so. It would be like trying to deny the beauty of Penland Lake or the majesty of the view from Potomac Point.

Stuart Dick's unfounded statement follows a pattern in his writings of claiming or inferring that those with whom he disagrees are sacrilegious, unpatriotic, or both. I doubt that this is true. But if this were true, it would make it easy to prosecute traitors. We could ask Stuart Dick for the names of people with whom he disagrees and then just put them in jail for treason.

In fact, disagreements between those who wish to protect our country and those who wish to harm it are easily

resolved. The difficult issues are raised when people like Stuart and me wish to protect our country, but disagree on the best ways to do so. Calling one another unpatriotic does not advance the discussion.

Mr. White raises the very important and very difficult issue of how a free, open, and diverse society can protect itself from its enemies. Can we identify such people in advance? It seems to me that searching for "foreign-looking" people will not provide sufficient protection. Remember Timothy McVeigh whose murderous act killed and injured so many people in the Oklahoma City bombing. McVeigh's description: white, middle class, Anglo-Saxon, protestant, male, short hair, no beard, U.S. military background, driving a truck. Before 9/11 this was the description of America's most infamous terrorist.

The most persistent acts of terrorism in U.S. history have been the lynchings, shootings, fire bombings, and cross-burnings by the Ku Klux Klan and similar American terrorist groups.

Terrorist groups often claim to be acting on behalf of their own deity. People of the Islamic faith are as horrified at the murderous acts of those few terrorists claiming to be acting for their deity, as we are horrified at the two centuries of lynchings and other acts of racial hatred by many American terrorists claiming to be acting on behalf of our Christian God.

Mr. White's thoughtful question about how to protect our democracy without at the same time damaging its enduring principles will require our continued commitment to both the vigilance and tolerance required of those of us who live in a democratic society.

(s) Lance Tibbles
Professor of Law
Capital University Law School
Columbus, Ohio

Trueax elected to Lion's board

Irrigon resident Roger Trueax was recently elected to a second four-year term on the Board of Trustees of the Oregon Lions Sight and Hearing Foundation, a non-profit foundation that serves needy Oregonians through the Lions Clubs of Oregon.

Trueax, a member of the Heppner Lions Club, is an active leader in the community, and will be an asset to the Oregon Lions Sight and Hearing Foundation's Board, said executive director Amber Kern. "I am thrilled that Roger has been elected to the board once again," said Kern. "Roger brings a wealth of considerable experience to our organization and I look forward to his significant contribution in helping our foundation strengthen its presence in his community."

The 2002-03 Board of Trustees for the Oregon Lions Sight and Hearing Foundation consists of 30 members from across the state. The foundation, founded in 1959, is dedicated to serving the Lions Clubs of Oregon by supporting their efforts in humanitarian assistance, including sight, hearing, diabetes awareness and positive youth development. Some of the many programs that the OLSHF operates include Oregon Lions Mobile Screening Unit Program, which provides free screenings in visual acuity, hearing, diabetes, glaucoma and blood pressure to 6,000 adults each year and screenings in visual acuity and hearing to 14,000 children each year; Lions Indigent Patient Care Program, which pays for eye and ear surgeries for low-income Oregonians; Lions Eye Bank of Oregon, which prepares cornea and sclera tissues for transplant and research; and Lions Eyeglasses Recycling Program, which coordinates the collection of used eyeglasses and their distribution to needy citizens of third world countries.

Memories can preserve the "old school"

To the Editor:

I have been hearing comments and murmurings, mostly expressions of sadness, about the demolition of the Junior High School building. Other feelings, frustration, anger, all of these are natural and normal outlets for grief and even trauma from seeing the force and finality of something which was so much, and for so long, a nerve center of the community. The people truly stand in unison when the school song is sung. To a great many, the first thought is not of any of the present buildings, rather memories and experiences in the "old building and gym" are the ones closest to the surface. Such a building(s) is more than a monument, landmark or relic. In memory it is a symbol of a living, breathing entity which touches the lives of thousands who spent time in its hallways and classrooms, students and teachers alike.

It is right and proper to grieve. Now is the time to do it, when our very being is torn up, seeing the splintered beams, broken bricks, and other pieces of our beloved building being hauled to - who knows where - and for what use, if any? Out of sight out of mind, the cynic might say. I say: the group experience of that old school building will live forever, in some form, in the hearts and minds of its people - those who attended, those who taught them, and parents who were involved in their children's school experience.

My reason for writing is not to bemoan what cannot be changed at this point in time. My purpose is to suggest a way to channel and preserve for posterity, the poignancy of this moment in Heppner's history. If every person who has one thought of sadness, or remorse, will first describe those feelings; then take another hour to records an anecdote from your memory, which is related to your experience in that school. A paragraph or page, prose, poetry, letter to friend, thank you to a special teacher, or essay - whatever form is the one most

expressive for you. I will also suggest you draw pictures, diagrams or cartoons. Paint a picture, do a needlework block, wall hanging, or create a mosaic with old pictures. I am suggesting that your imagination is the limit in a task of preserving celebration and pathos, in supporting memory with a tangible record of living history gathered on the spot of drastic change.

The real wonder of such a project is in the sharing. I have not planned or discussed what I have written and suggested to any person or group. I can only offer my own post office box as a repository for those "pieces of your heart" you are willing to share. The recognition would be the satisfaction in your own heart, and being recognized by name for having participated. If there are many, I'm confident a group or committee will form to organize it and put it in book or pamphlet form for distribution.

Last April, I visited my hometown on the occasion of my brother's funeral. The family dinner was held in a building adjacent to "my old school" of similar style. The windows were boarded to keep out pigeons. The building, condemned as unsafe for one person to walk through the halls and rooms for old time's sake. I felt sad to see that kind of change in the place where I had spent 11 years of my life. Not every memory of that place is pleasant for me; nor is every memory of our building a pleasant one. If shattered beams and broken bricks could speak we would learn much about ourselves. They can speak, through you, of times past and even hope for a future none of us can imagine. Are you game for the challenge?

(s) Grace E. Drake
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Heppner, Oregon 97836

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SIXTH ANNUAL
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PLUS Music by Joe and Leanne Lindsay
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Electric Co-Op Announces Notice of Nominations
Columbia Basin Electric Cooperative hereby notifies all members that nominations are open for the following three director's positions:
For three year terms:
ZONE NO. 3: That territory served, or to be served, by the Cooperative lying East of the Morrow-Gilliam County line and North of the Baseline.
ZONE NO. 4: That territory served, or to be served, by the Cooperative lying East of the Morrow-Gilliam County line, South of the Baseline, and North of the Township line between Township 2 South and 3 South.
ZONE NO. 8: That territory served, or to be served, by the Cooperative lying within the incorporated city limits of Heppner, Oregon. (Heppner Zone).
The members of the nominating committee are:
Zone No. 3: Marnie Anderson, Ione, Oregon 541-422-7204
Zone No. 4: Charlie Daly, Heppner, Oregon 541-376-8333
Zone No. 8: Cliff Green, Heppner, Oregon 541-676-5097
The nominating committee will accept nominations up to and including the last day of August, 2002.
Nominees must be members of Columbia Basin Electric Cooperative, Inc. and they must reside in, and receive electrical service in, the Zone in which they will be running.