

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.)

Tales from Eastern Africa

[Editor's Note: Kelly and Laura Sager and their family left their home in Lexington in early 2004 to become missionaries in the East African country of Rwanda. Throughout their time there, Kelly will be sending letters to keep us updated on life in Rwanda. The following letter was dated May 19.]

Greeting from Eastern Africa. The Sager family has settled into our house and neighborhood. What an adventure it has been and just think, we have only been here ten days.

Learning to negotiate the highways of Kigali, the city where we call home has been terrifying at times. The second day here we watched a person get nailed by a car. Sadly, I am not sure if he survived. The driver of the taxi that struck him ended up stopping and putting him in the van and driving off. The event didn't seem to stir a lot of excitement among the locals. From my vantage point, it appeared to be a daily happening. Unfortunately, our oldest daughter, Darby, observed everything unfold before her eyes. She did not say a lot about the incident until the next day when she pointed out the pool of blood left from the accident to her brothers and sisters. We were told that people are frequently hit while crossing streets. I just hope I don't hit anyone. The rule of the land is you are guilty and must prove your innocence in court. I frequently drive by the Kigali prison on my way into town. It is not somewhere I want to end up. On top of that, they make prisoners wear pink jumpsuits. I look horrible in pink.

Our home is more than adequate. We even live on one of few paved residential streets in the city. Now, if we could only keep the electricity running. The power is off more than it is on and water must be filtered before drinking. Fortunately, we do have hired help that assist us with the daily chores of living here. Without their assistance I am not sure if we would get anything accomplished.

Laura makes frequent trips to stores and markets. Stores here are similar to the United States, but do not carry the inventory we are used to seeing. Once we are able to communicate in the local language we will probably shop more at the market, as their prices are more

reasonable. You can get most things here but pay a big price. We are still trying to get use to sticker shock. Twelve dollars for Corn Flakes is a little steep in my opinion. Prices are inflated because of a tax imposed by the government on any imported item. And most things in stores are imported.

The kids are adjusting better than mom and dad. They are already picking up words in Kinyarwanda. Our formal language study begins at the end of this month. We just learned that Kinyarwanda is one of the hardest languages in the world to learn. Ugh... Oh well, I am ready to communicate with the locals. While transporting a new stove home last week with the assistance of locals I got stranded downtown. They suddenly pulled over and abandoned me for good twenty minutes. I was relieved to see them finally come back. I never did figure out what they were up to. On top of that, they attempted to charge me more than we had agreed because they assisted me in getting the stove into the house. In the end, I was happy that I was able to get home safely and with my stove.

We have met several American families who are living in Kigali. Laura is currently walking each morning with two ladies from the United Kingdom. They have invited her to become active in the International Women's Club. We also will be swimming with Americans at a local hotel on Fridays. Over Memorial Day weekend several American families will be gathering for a potluck. During the next month, we are going to do a little traveling in the country. We have trips planned to the national university city of Butare and also to Cynagugu, which borders the Congo. I was in both cities when I was here in November. The rest of the family is looking forward to seeing more of the countryside of this country.

Kigali is an interesting city. Poverty wherever you look, with a lot of begging downtown which is difficult to get use to. For that matter, I hope to never get use to it. My compassion level must remain alert to what is really around me. It could be very easy to insulate myself inside the walls of my community and forget the less fortunate. The other side of Kigali is characterized by the rich driving expensive cars, wearing western clothing and living in expensive housing developments. It is a stark

contrast, but typical of African nations.

The people have been the best thing about being here. For the most part, they are friendly, open and loving. We caused quite the stir last week when the family went out for a walk. Wherever we go we hear a lot of comments and people stop what they are doing and watch. They especially enjoy the kids. Most want to hug them. The children want to touch their white skin. Our kids seem to take all they are observing in stride. Last weekend we were in the home of a Rwandan family. Just getting to the home was an adventure. After finding the neighborhood, we had to hike several hundred yards through a poverty stricken neighborhood unlike anything in America. It resembled a shanty town rather than an actual neighborhood. The kids were enthralled with the experience.

Nightly, before going to bed, we spend 15 minutes debriefing the day. Each share about what they saw during the day that made them happy, sad, scared, excited, etc. The most exciting day was when a monkey came to our backdoor and tried coming into the house. The kids were screaming with excitement as the monkey sat on the window sill looking in hoping for a handout.

The primary worry living here is malaria. All the kids have been bitten. Tegan especially is prone to the little creatures. Today we put up a couple of mosquito nets and will purchase more before long.

All in all God has been good to us. We are truly experiencing the joys and trials of living in Africa and believe this is where we need to be. If you ever consider coming to Africa, please consider Rwanda. We would love to see you.
(s) Kelly Sager
Kigali, Rwanda, Eastern Africa

State Forest Management Plan good for Tillamook

To the Editor:

The State Forest Management Plan is diverse. The members who made up the planning forum were also diverse. The groups represented are as follows: Oregon Trout, North Coast Land Conservancy, Coast Range Association, Sierra Club, Oregon Forest Industries Council, Oregon State University, Tillamook County, Forestry Extension Agent and Stimson Lumber Company. The plan was also peer reviewed by another diverse group.

The planning effort included input from all segments of our population. This is a thoughtful forest management plan that will ensure predictable timber and revenues for our schools and local economics, diverse habitats for wildlife and fish and recreational opportunities.

The Rainforest Coalition is a special interest group that has a one-dimensional perspective of the Tillamook Forest.

The Rainforest Coalition continually raises money for the 50/50 plan.

Does the Rainforest Coalition have a self-serving motive for the 50/50 plan?

(s) Charles J. Hurliman
Tillamook County Commissioner

Marriage Licenses

June 1: Gary Allen Krieger, 40, Heppner and Valerie Jean Hasbrouck, 37, Heppner.

June 8: Erick Juarez, 25, Hermiston and Erica Lee Garza, 22, Hermiston.

DA's Report

Thelma Gay Roubidoux was convicted of Interfering with a Peace Officer, a Class-A misdemeanor. Roubidoux was sentenced to 365 suspended days in jail, two years bench probation, 40 hours community service and payment of \$626 in fines and fees.

Lyle Daniel Smith admitted to violation of probation allegations for Attempt to Elude. Smith's probation was provoked and he was sentenced to six months in jail and 12 months probation.

WOU announces 2004 graduates

Matthew D. Shilling, of Irrigon, graduated from Western Oregon University in Monmouth.

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Obituaries

Shelia Kay Parks

Shelia Kay Parks, 44, passed away Wednesday, June 1, 2004 at St. Charles Hospital in Bend.

A memorial service will be held Saturday, June 19, at 2 p.m. at Pateros Cemetery in Pateros, WA.



Shelia Parks

Parks was born Oct. 24, 1959 at Soap Lake, WA to Mac and Bonnie Parks. She grew up in Ephrata, WA and lived in Oregon, Washington and Nevada before coming to Heppner in July of 2000.

Survivors include her mother, Bonnie Parks of Heppner, her father, Mac Parks of Austin, TX; brothers, Mike Graves of Hood River and Dale Parks of Pateros, WA; and sisters, Donna Bliss of Goldendale, WA and Corol Mitchell of Heppner. She was preceded in death by her stepfather, 'Tex' Gates.

Memorial contributions may be made to the South Morrow County Ministerial Association, P.O. Box 773, Heppner, OR 97836.

Jo Anne Milligan Lutchter

Jo Anne Milligan Lutchter, 67, a native of Pendleton, died Thursday, June 10, 2004, at the home of her daughter, Shawna Todd, in Evans, GA.

Funeral arrangements are pending at Platt's Funeral Home, 337 N. Belair Road, Evans, GA 30809.

Lutchter was born March 16, 1937, at Pendleton to John V. and Gladys Milligan. She grew up in Pendleton and attended Pendleton schools.

While in high school, she was editor of the school newspaper, The Lantern. She attended the University of Oregon, where she was president of the Delta Gamma Sorority and Mortar Board.

She was editor of the university newspaper, The Emerald, and was a member of Chi Delta Phi, a women's literary honorary society for creative writing.

She graduated from the university with a degree in journalism in 1959. In 1960, she married Lawrence Lutchter, M.D., and moved to Augusta, GA, with her family in 1970.

She was a longtime member of Our Savior Episcopal Church, a freelance journalist and an avid horseback rider and gardener.

Survivors include her children, Larry Lutchter of Heppner, Shawna Todd of Evans, GA and Derk Lutchter of Los Angeles; five grandchildren, Dillon Lutchter, William Lutchter, Brittany Todd, Grace Todd and Lauren Todd; sisters, Virginia Lindberg of Pendleton and

Mary Chase of Portland; three nieces, Shari Dallas, Pendleton, Kristin Lindberg, Pendleton and Stephanie Breninger, Portland and nephew, Ronald S. Kearney, McCord Air Force Base in Washington state.

Pete Cannon

Pete Cannon, 78, of Ione, died Wednesday, June 9, 2004, at the Good Samaritan Center in Hermiston.

A memorial service was held June 12 at the Ione United Church of Christ.

Cannon was born Jan. 8, 1926, at Heppner. He grew up and attended schools at Burton Valley near Hardman, then moved with his family to Ione where he attended school, graduating from Ione High School in 1944.

On Dec. 12, 1948, he married Laurel Palmateer at Ione.

He farmed for a time before becoming employed at Morrow County Grain Growers, retiring in 1990.

He enjoyed hunting, fishing and attending Ione ball games. He also helped refinish furniture for the annual Ione Auction as a member of the Ione United Church of Christ. He was a member of the Heppner Elks Lodge.

Survivors include his wife, Laurel of Ione; daughters, Cathy Halvorsen and husband, Frank, of Ione and Arlene Cannon of Las Vegas; son, Terry Cannon of Pendleton; and grandchildren, Ryan Halvorsen and Allison Halvorsen. He was preceded in death by a grandson, Jason Halvorsen, by three sisters and one brother.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Jason Halvorsen Memorial Scholarship Fund, c/o Bank of Eastern Oregon, Ione Branch, P.O. Box 106, Ione, OR 97843.

Sweeney Mortuary of Heppner is in charge of arrangements.

Larry Ray Bell

Larry Ray Bell, 62, a 15-year resident of Boardman, died Wednesday, June 9, 2004, at his home.

A memorial service was held June 12 in the chapel at Burns Mortuary.

He was born Sept. 2, 1941, at Bellflower, CA.

Formerly of Hillsboro, he came to Boardman 15 years ago.

He was a member of the Eagles Lodge.

Survivors include sons, Larry Bell and Joe Bell, both of Forest Grove, and Randy Bell of Yamhill; a daughter, Jody Bell of San Diego, CA and seven grandchildren.

Burns Mortuary of Hermiston is in charge of arrangements.

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THANK YOU!

We have information and enrollment forms available regarding the upcoming Medicare Discount Card. We will be participating in the Community CareRx Program sponsored by NCPA (National Community Pharmacists' Assn.). This is the only Medicare discount card which will be accepted at our stores. See us for more details!

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