

## Hermiston Herald

VOLUME 109 • NUMBER 19



**JESSICA KELLER**  
EDITOR  
jkeller@hermistonherald.com  
541-564-4533



**MAEGAN MURRAY**  
REPORTER  
mmurray@hermistonherald.com  
541-564-4532



**SEAN HART**  
REPORTER  
smhart@hermistonherald.com  
541-564-4534



**SAM BARBEE**  
SPORTS REPORTER  
sbarbee@hermistonherald.com  
541-564-4542



**JEANNE JEWETT**  
MULTI-MEDIA CONSULTANT  
jjewett@hermistonherald.com  
541-564-4531



**KIM LA PLANT**  
OFFICE COORDINATOR  
klaplant@hermistonherald.com  
541-564-4530



**STEPHANIE BURKENBINE**  
MULTI-MEDIA CONSULTANT  
sburkenbine@hermistonherald.com  
541-564-4538

To contact the Hermiston Herald for news, advertising or subscription information:

- call 541-567-6457
- e-mail info@hermistonherald.com
- stop by our offices at 333 E. Main St.
- visit us online at: www.hermistonherald.com

**ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION RATES**

Delivered by carrier and mail Wednesdays and Saturdays  
Inside Umatilla/Morrow counties.....\$42.65  
Outside Umatilla/Morrow counties.....\$53.90

The Hermiston Herald (USPS 242220, ISSN 8750-4782) is published twice weekly at Hermiston Herald, 333 E. Main St., Hermiston, OR 97838, (541) 567-6457, FAX (541) 567-1764. Periodical postage paid at Hermiston, OR. Postmaster, send address changes to Hermiston Herald, 333 E. Main St., Hermiston, OR 97838.

A member of the EO Media Group Copyright ©2015



# U.S. combat forces in Vietnam: The 50th anniversary

One of my late father's favorite trick questions was, "What does a cat learn if it jumps on a hot stove burner?"

The answer, of course, is not "To stay off the stovetop when it's hot," but the overly broad "Stay off the stovetop PERIOD."

That comes to mind because March 8, 1965, was the date that the first 3,500 U.S. combat Marines were dispatched to South Vietnam, and I wonder if any of us (isolationist, interventionist or in-betweeners) have learned the right lessons over the past five decades.

Nowadays for something as simple as "Are you or aren't you in a relationship?," Facebook offers the "It's complicated" designation. But many people look at a conflict that directly or indirectly affected all the world's superpowers, confounded JFK's "the best and the brightest," brought down a presidency and cost more than 58,000 American lives — and smugly think they have all the answers about countering a guerilla war, the perils of the military-industrial complex and the proper role of the news media.

True, some individuals have done the requisite heavy lifting of research and wrestled with their consciences about "that old crazy Asian war" (as Kenny Rogers described it in the song "Ruby, Don't Take Your Love To Town"). But a lot of Americans either dismiss the subject as ancient history, close their ears to anything that conflicts with their entrenched worldview or talk AT their opponents over an unpleasant Thanksgiving dinner.

If we can all agree with Gen. William Tecumseh Sherman that "War is hell," one would think that playing DEVIL'S ADVOCATE would be fitting, but too few are willing to try.

Too many people get their unshakeable opinions from fragmentary memories of things their college professor spouted between bong hits or from 5,000 gung-ho sessions of listening to a scratchy 45 rpm record of "The Ballad of the Green Berets."



**DANNY TYREE**  
TYRADES!  
Cagle columnist

On one side people are dead certain that giving peace a chance was the answer and that the "domino theory" was a bunch of hooey (although documents show North Vietnam at least had ASPIRATIONS of spreading communism to other nations). On the other side are people who think that nuking the Demilitarized Zone (preferably with news anchor Walter Cronkite present) would have solved all our problems, without any lingering ecological or geopolitical ramifications.

I know that many people are squeamish about reopening old wounds, but quite often reopening old wounds helps with healing and provides useful information for future patients. Our policymakers and the people who VOTE for those policymakers need all the information they can get.

Somewhere between the extremes of the defeatist "Ah, people never learn from history" and the optimistic "If we just tweaked this..." exist practical lessons.

As the 50th anniversaries of various Vietnam War milestones roll along, I challenge you to Google questions such as "Could we have won the Vietnam War?" or "Could the U.S. have won the Vietnam War?"

Yes, you'll find a lot of name-calling, exaggerations and irrelevancies, but somewhere in there you may find facts and perspectives to give you a more nuanced view of the war.

As we wrestle with issues such as ISIS and Vladimir Putin's expansionism, we owe it to the war dead, the veterans and future generations to ask the hard questions and make an honest effort to know what we're talking about.

— *Danny welcomes email responses at tyreetyrades@aol.com and visits to his Facebook fan page "Tyree's Tyrades." Danny's weekly column is distributed exclusively by Cagle Cartoons Inc. newspaper syndicate*



# Why reading matters

*Editor's Note: The Hermiston Altrusa Society's Literacy Committee recently sponsored an essay competition asking middle school students why reading matters as part of their campaign to promote literacy. Daisy Paredes, a student at Armand Larive Middle School, was selected as the winner. She and the second-place winner, Hannah Johnson, participated in a two-hour workshop with Tri-Cities, Washington, author Maureen McQuerry Friday. This is Paredes' essay.*

BY DAISY PAREDES  
SPECIAL TO THE  
HERMISTON HERALD

Reading is essential for everyone. All age groups are, at some point, taught to read. Schools worldwide focus on refining your reading so that you become a capable adult. Most, if not all, jobs have some sort of reading material involved. Even other subjects require reading, for example, math. You cannot do a math worksheet if you cannot read the instructions on the top of the page. The point is, reading does matter. It matters in careers, households, schools and in everyday life, but it also matters for you.

Let me elaborate. When you are reading

a book, you don't pay attention to the words or the written structure. You pay attention to the story: the characters, the setting, the enticing plot twists. You become part of the story! You feel the pain of the main characters when a loved one dies. You feel the friendship and bond between these two people in a book — you feel yourself connect and relate to this. Personally, this always happens to me. I get so connected and attached to a book it's hard for me to let go. I know it sounds ridiculous, and as if I'm a total nerd, but books are my life. I can go home after a tough day and know my book is there on my desk with a bookmark on page 47 waiting for me to engage myself in

it. Everyone says that reading is good for you. It furthermore magnifies your vocabulary and knowledge; we all know this. But let's face it, not many kids and/or adults actually read to "expand their vocabulary." A great deal of people read to simply enjoy themselves. Something about reading an enjoyable book and the ups and downs and the rising feeling in your stomach just draws you in. I remember my first book series I was addicted to: "Junie B. Jones" by Barbara Park. I was in the first grade at the time and reading those books just made my day. The way Ms. Park was able to create this character with humor, wit and curiosity just drew me in. Of course, my 7-year-old self didn't know that the vocabulary was simple and the words, extra large. I just focused on Junie and her adventures.

John Green once said, "Great books

help you understand and they help you feel understood." This is 100 percent true. Books teach you so many things. You learn new things. You also learn to become a better person. You learn to become compassionate and kind, or maybe you learn to be honest and true to yourself. No matter what it is, you almost always learn something. Books also make you feel as if you're understood when nobody else seems to. They make you feel special and rare. When no one else gets you, books do.

If it is not for the knowledge and astuteness you achieve, or for the proficiency to be a better worker in your job, then reading matters for the reason of you. It shapes you. It helps you grow. When reading, you feel understood. Reading takes your mind off the unpleasant day you had. It lifts your spirits. Reading is more than just words on a page. That is why it matters.

### LETTER TO THE EDITOR

#### Hawkins incorrect in letter

Editor,  
In a recent letter to the editor by Hermiston's "new expert on everything," Perry Hawkins, he stated the following concerning me and my time on the Hermiston City Council: "While on the City Council he was an attorney for several persons who sued the city." Mr. Hawkins' statement is both false and libelous.

While on the City Council I never represented anyone who was adverse to the city in any manner. In fact, before I was sworn in, I wrote several clients who might have issues with the city and advised them they would have to get other legal counsel. I could not represent them. Additionally, I always abstained from voting

on issues which might involve a client. I even declined to vote on routine motions approving city bills because the city might be paying one of my clients.

Mr. Hawkins' facts are as off base as those in his recent letter to the editor when he excoriated Sen. Bill Hansell.

While I could sue Mr. Hawkins for libel, why would I waste time on a buffoon?

GEORGE ANDERSON  
HERMISTON

#### Progress being made for sage grouse

Backcountry Hunters & Anglers of Oregon is encouraged with current conservation efforts to save the greater sage grouse from a threatened or endangered listing. The Oregon plan, SageCon, will be released

later this spring, and, with on-going efforts by the BLM, the state and a wide variety of stakeholders progress is being made. In a report released recently by the Natural Resources Conservation Service, Oregon is leading the way in eliminating encroaching junipers, which rob the landscape of sage habitat and provide perching points for birds which prey on the grouse. Wildfire and invasive weeds are also major threats to the bird. The BLM will also release reports this summer detailing mitigation plans to help bring the bird population

numbers back — just in time for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to make a determination on listing. We are hopeful the bird won't have to be listed and so are many other conservation groups. Paul Henson, who heads Oregon's USFWS, told us he's "very encouraged" with present conservation efforts. That's notable as Henson was part of the team that in 2010 said the bird was warranted for listing. As an umbrella species, one thing is certain: What's good for the sage grouse is good for all.

BRIAN JENNINGS  
BEND

#### Letters Policy

The Hermiston Herald welcomes original letters for publication on public issues and public policies. Submitted letters must be signed by the author and include the city of residence and a daytime phone number. Phone numbers will not be published. Letters may be mailed to the Hermiston Herald, 333 E. Main, Hermiston, OR, 97838; or emailed to editor@hermistonherald.com

### ELECTED OFFICIALS

#### STATE

**District 29: Sen. Bill Hansell**, R-Umatilla Co., 900 Court St. N.E., S-423, Salem, OR 97301, 503-986-1729. 101 S.W. Third St., Pendleton, OR 97801 (541) 278-1396. E-mail: ssen.billhansell@state.or.us.

**District 30: Sen. Ted Ferrio-li**, R-John Day; 900 Court St. N.E., S-223 Salem, OR 97301, 503-986-1950. 750 W. Main, John Day, OR 97845, (541) 575-2321. E-mail: ferrio-li.sen@state.or.us.

**District 58: Rep. Bob Jenson**, R-Pendleton; 900 Court St. N.E., H-480, Salem, OR 97301, 503-986-

1458. 2126 N.W. 21st., Pendleton, OR 97801, (541) 276-2707. E-mail: rep.bobjenson@state.or.us.

**District 57: Rep. Greg Smith**, R-Morrow, 900 Court St. N.E., H-280, Salem, OR 97301, 503-986-1457. P.O. Box 215, Heppner, OR 97836, (541) 676-5154. E-mail: smith.g.rep@state.or.us.

#### FEDERAL

**U.S. Sen. Ron Wyden**  
Sac Annex Building, 105 Fir St., No. 201, La Grande, OR 97850; (541) 962-7691. E-mail: kathleen\_cathey@wyden.senate.gov; (Kathleen Cathey, community repre-

sentative); 717 Hart Building, Washington, D.C. 20510, (202) 224-5244.

**U.S. Sen. Jeff Merkley**  
One World Trade Center, 121 SW Salmon Street, Suite 1250, Portland, OR 97204; (503) 326-3386; Dirksen Senate Office Building, SDB-40B, Washington, D.C. 20510. (202) 224-3753.

**U.S. Rep. Greg Walden (2nd District)**  
843 E. Main St., Suite 400, Medford, OR 97504, (541) 776-4646, (800) 533-3303; 2352 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515, (202) 225-6730