

OPINION

Cheers goes to Sanmans

Carol and Mark Sanman are recent arrivals from Cincinnati. She was born in Kentucky but raised in Cincinnati where she received her degree in nursing. Mark was born in Lewiston, Idaho and received his degree in electrical engineering at the University of Idaho in Moscow.



Carol and Mark

His profession led him to Cincinnati and employment with Proctor and Gamble. It was there at a church social function that he met Carol. They married and have two children, a daughter, Laura who is a PHD candidate at Stanford University, and a son, Carl who is a circus instructor with Club Med in Malaysia, teaching things as trapeze and other acts. Not to be ignored are their two cats, Rambo and Dippy who out-do themselves in providing affection and entertainment.

Carl's work led to his becoming manager of the information technology department of Proctor and Gamble and traveling worldwide overseeing the installation of a communication network for the company's global expansion. Carol, in addition to raising the family, engaged in her profession of nursing.

Carl's dad, a teacher in Idaho, had a permanent summer job in Glacier Park which led to Carl spending 15 idyllic summers of his youth in the park. After marriage they made a summer visit, then later a ski vacation to check out the winter. Upon retirement two years ago they moved to Whitefish.

Having been active volunteers they knew that the

best way to get involved in a community was to volunteer. Friends of Carol in the Whitefish Walkers suggested she volunteer at North Valley Hospital which she did. She chose the gift shop where she works in a friendly and efficient atmosphere while engaging in an avocation she thoroughly enjoys.

Carl learned that North Valley Hospital, as Proctor and Gamble on a smaller scale, was in the process of establishing network communications with other hospitals and physicians and promptly offered to donate his considerable knowledge and experience.

In addition, they help out with many other activities such as Boy Scouts, Special Olympics, and projects sponsored by their church. They love Whitefish and want to be a part of it, saying, "It has the right touch and feel," and "It's small but not too small," and "There's lots to do year-round."

Carl and Carol, we are fortunate to have you. The work you do and your expressed desire to "roll up your sleeves and pitch in" makes our community a better place, and we thank you.

— Jake Heckathorn

Max always unpredictable

I first met Max Baucus in 1973 when he entered the Montana House of Representatives as a freshman member from Missoula. His seat was at the back of the chamber near bright and articulate Dorothy Bradley of Bozeman, the previous session's only woman and future Democratic candidate for Governor.

I got to know him well because we served together on the Judiciary Committee. We learned that we had the same birthday, and began a warm 40-year friendship.

One evening, late in the session, I entered the House chamber to pick up some things from my desk, and noticed bright lights and activity in the rear House gallery. When I went to investigate, there was my friend Max performing before television cameras. The following day he told me he was considering a run for Congress, and was working on advertising for a possible campaign. He asked me what I thought his chances were against the incumbent Republican Dick Shoup.

I was surprised. Max rarely spoke, and generally kept a low profile in

In My View

Bob Brown

the legislature. I would have imagined Bradley, Tom Towe of Billings, or Mike Greeley of Great Falls as more likely candidates for higher office than Max Baucus.

I told him I doubted he could win. He replied that he thought Shoup was vulnerable. Max was carefully calculating from the beginning, and his calculations were correct. Democratic challengers defeated scores of Congressional Republicans in the post Watergate election year of 1974, and one of them was little known Max Baucus over the hapless Shoup.

The more obvious young Democratic stars in 1973 all attempted greater things, but Bradley was defeated for Governor by Republican Marc Racicot; Towe lost for Congress to Republican Ron Marlenee; and after serving as Attorney General, Greeley lost in the Democratic primary for

Governor.

The underestimated Max Baucus went on to serve for decades as Montana's most prominent public official, and most resilient political survivor, never losing an election in eight straight campaigns.

Shoup told me years after his defeat by Baucus that Max had dropped by his office before running for the legislature to sound Shoup out on a possible career in politics. Shoup told me he knew Max's family was Republican, and strongly encouraged him. "Little did I know," the former Congressman commented with a rueful chuckle.

Maybe those Republican roots offer some insight into the sometimes unpredictable Baucus congressional record. He has been described as "independent," "moderate," "pragmatic," an "insider," and a "maverick." Never as an "ideologue," or party loyalist.

I've always genuinely liked Max, and by the election returns many other Republicans have, too. Perhaps under different circumstances he might not have entered politics as a Democrat, and instead have

been a pragmatic, unpredictable and perplexingly independent Republican. I think that thought has crossed the minds of both Montana Democrats and Republicans over the years.

No doubt, though, Baucus has been a powerful force for Montana Democrats, providing opportunities for many young party activists. And, he has given vital financial and other assistance to Democrats down to the local level of state politics.

Our state will certainly miss Baucus's influence in the seniority driven U.S. Senate. I hope he won't try to cash in on the long opportunity Montanans have given him to master the system by selling his knowledge as a paid lobbyist. I think he will retire to his Montana roots as he has told us he will.

And Max, if you ever feel like some fly-fishing with an old Republican friend, let me know. I have some good places up here in the beautiful Flathead country.

— Bob Brown is former Montana Secretary of State and State Senate President.

Letters to the editor

Dog trouble on the trail

As I patiently wait for the snow to leave the high country trails I enjoy walking the Whitefish Trail three to five times a week. This past weekend I had a very scary experience involving two German shepherds.

It all happened very quickly as I came around a bend in the trail and looked up to see the two dogs with a young girl holding one on a rope about 25 feet away. The dogs saw me at the same time. One let out a furious growl, lowered its head and ran straight at me with the second dog right beside it.

I only had a few seconds to tell myself to stay calm and stand as it ran up to me, grabbed my thigh in its mouth and continued running past me. They turned, ran back to the girl, then whirled and did the same exact thing a second time. At that point I yelled at the two adults who were back up the trail to "call their dogs off."

The dad hurried down, picked up the dog's rope and walked right past me. I was stunned. He never stopped to ask me if I was OK or never bothered to apologize. There is probably someone who would say I was moving fast, which I was, and the dogs were protecting their owner. What if I

had been a young person on a mountain bike? What if I had my grandchildren with me? The outcome could have been very different.

About two weeks ago the opposite happened — a big furry Malamute type dog on a retractable leash, with its owner on his mountain bike, ran up to me, jumped up and planted a sloppy kiss on my cheek. Yuck!

The rule is that dogs need to be "under control" and these were not. Dog owners need to obey the rules.

— K.C. Voermans

Looking at landscape care and water quality

Spring is here and so is the desire to get outside and spruce up our yards. It is important to know how landscaping practices affect the quality of our water.

Yards can have a positive impact on water quality by slowing down and filtering runoff water or it can contribute to water quality problems. We all have the power to properly manage the landscape, water movement and chemicals around our homes. Here are some of the things you can do to protect water quality.

- Redirect downspouts to vegetated areas.



Water closet

- Select landscape plants that are well adapted to your site and have low water requirements.
- Mow your grass high and often so that clippings and their nutrients can be recycled.
- Water your lawn on an "as needed" basis, rather than

on a calendar schedule.

- Adjust sprinklers to avoid watering paved areas.
- Use slow release forms of fertilizer.

- Treat specific weedy areas rather than resorting to general "weed and feed" mixtures.

- Use only the amount of fertilizer that is recommended. More is NOT better.

- Keep fertilizers and pesticides off sidewalks and driveways.

- Wash off fertilizer application equipment on the lawn, not on the sidewalk or driveway.

- Maintain natural buffer areas where no chemicals are applied between your property and any stream, lake, or drainage way.

Fertilizer use

Improper use of fertilizers can negatively impact our lakes and streams and affect our drinking water. Effective lawn fertilization starts in the

fall, not the spring.

Did you know that spring application alone may promote excessive top growth, leaving shallow root systems that poorly sustain lawns during hot dry spells or harsh winters? However, fall fertilizer applications on established grass promotes healthy root systems and hardy lawns.

According to Montana State University Extension's Successful Lawns, Montanans should generally apply no more than 2 to 4 pounds of actual nitrogen per 1,000 square feet of lawn per year spread across two to three applications of no more than 1 1/2 pounds at one time.

It is important to learn how to read the label on fertilizer bags. They describe the active ingredients such as nitrogen, phosphate and potash (the numbers on the bag appear in this order.) For instance, a ratio of 30-10-10

would include 30 percent nitrogen, 10 percent phosphate, and 10 percent potash.

There are also carriers such as sand or ground limestone in the mix. Fertilizer should be selected based on nutrient analysis. A 100 pound bag will contain 30 pounds of available nitrogen. Figure out how much you need to apply using this formula: pounds of nitrogen you want, divided by the percentage of nitrogen in the fertilizer mix, equals pounds of fertilizer mix needed.

The precise times for fertilizing varies, but fertilizing around Memorial Day and Columbus Day after the last mowing but four weeks before the soil freezes, are good rules of thumb. If you only apply fertilizer once or twice a season, the two fall applications are the key fertilizing times.

Consider organic fertilizers such as plant and animal byproducts. Organic fertil-

izers re-emphasize the role of humus and other organic components of soil and act as a slow-release fertilizer. They increase physical and biological nutrient storage mechanisms in soils, mitigating risks of over-fertilization.

Water wisely

Over-watering causes loss of nutrients and is not good for most landscape plants. It can transport contaminants via runoff from the soil surface or percolation below the root zone. Watering requirements are determined by plant need, soil type, and weather conditions. Remember to turn off or reset sprinkler timers after rain or during periods of cool weather.

— Bill Kahle is a Whitefish City Councilor, and Tom Cowan is a septic system engineer

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MUNICIPAL COURT

Terry Wade Dack, 53, Whitefish, theft, \$185, deferred imposition.

Bree Anne Felton, 33, Whitefish, reckless driving, \$335; failure to notify after accident, \$200.

Michael Kuhnert, 35, Cascade, disorderly conduct, \$185.

Breanna Hopper, 19, Coram, MIP, \$335, 20 hours community service; using fictitious ID, \$250.

Benjamin Jacob Moran, 35, Mesa, Ariz., reckless driving, \$335, credit for time served.

Michelle Elicia Selway, 49, Whitefish, no insurance,

\$285.

Amanda Joy Pierce, 34, Whitefish, reckless driving, \$335; restitution of \$289.96.

Ian Melvin Red Crow, 42, Lethbridge, Alberta, disturbing the peace, \$350.

Shane Widdifield, 24, Whitefish, obstructing a peace officer, \$585; careless

driving, \$100.

Adam James Shettel, 30, Whitefish, theft, 15 days confinement, restitution of \$240.

Michael Alexander Johnson, 31, Kalispell, no insurance, second offense, \$410.

Sean Ringer, 20, Whitefish, cell phone, \$100.