

RECORD EDITORIAL

Bring war in Gaza to an end

The idea that there can be peace between Israel and Palestine without the recognition of Palestine as a country is a non-starting point.

Israel has systematically and indiscriminately bombed women and children. What has gone on since Oct. 7 of 2023 needs to come to an end.

With that said if there ever is going to be a two-state solution Hamas has to have no part in the governance of Palestine – not now, not ever.

Canada, England, Australia and about 95 percent of the world recognizes Palestine as a separate state. We can go along with the recognition of Palestine as an independent state under three conditions. First, all prisoners have to be returned to Israel. Second there has to be a disarmament of Palestine, meaning Hamas has to turn over all weapons, and third Hamas can have no role in the government of an independent Palestine. The last condition would be an admittance that Israel has a right to exist in its ancestral homeland.

As Americans we strongly believe in Israel's right to defend themselves. What occurred on Oct. 7 when Hamas attacked Israel, kidnapped 251 people and killed more than 1,200 civilians cannot be allowed to stand. Ask yourself, if that same action was committed on the United States by Canada or Mexico what the reaction would be?

So we understand Israel's pain and grief, but this war has gone beyond retribution, it is bordering on genocide. With that said Israel's actions primarily on the orders of Prime Minister Netanyahu have also crossed the line and the case could be made

that the man is a war criminal.

Whether Israel likes it or not Palestinians also have a right to their ancestral home. Palestine does not have a right to have Hamas govern their country. Clearly this is a terrorist organization funded by people who believe that Israel doesn't have a right to exist.

For Israel to say that a two-state solution is a nonstarter leads one to believe that they want to take control of all of Palestine and incorporate it into their own country.

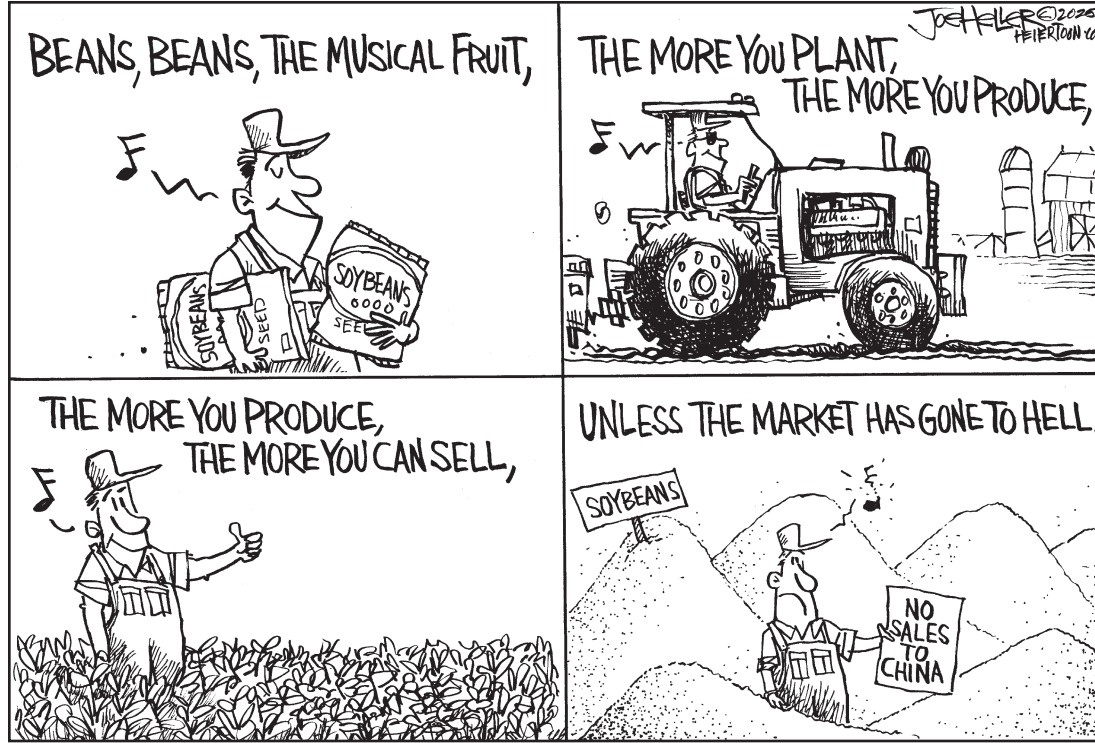
This senseless slaughter of women and children has to end. Israel has all but destroyed the economy of its neighbors. How people continue to live in that area is humbling. There is little food and with each passing day water and other basic supplies continue to diminish.

There is no excuse for what Hamas did on that fateful day of Oct. 7, 2024. It's incredible that people would kidnap their neighbors and keep them from their families and their homes. Truly it was an act of war.

It's been almost two years and the point has been made. Palestine has been reduced to rubble and it's time to rebuild and bring it to an end and rid their government of Hamas. That should be Israel's nonstarting point, along with the return of all prisoners.

The atrocities, the pain and suffering have to end. This week there will be a big push for a two-state solution. It's long overdue. Palestine if it wants to exist must make concessions to have the bombing stop and end the occupation.

— W. Todd Morgan



Turning back the clock

60 years

State Sen. Elton W. Ringsak of Grafton, who represented the fourth district in the previous session of the state legislature, was the lone Walsh County legislator opposed to the so-called Democratic tax package to be voted on in a special election on Tuesday, Sept. 21. Four Democratic legislators voiced support of the tax measure in the Thursday, Sept. 16, 1965, edition of The Walsh County Record. Sen. Ringsak, who fought passage of the tax bill at the last session of the legislature, listed several points as reasons why he was opposed to the tax page in the Monday, Sept. 20, 1965, edition of the newspaper. Later in the week, Walsh County voters joined other state voters in rejecting the tax measure.

Striking early for two quick touchdowns, the Grafton Spoilers played alert defensive ball to come through with a 19 to 0 victory over the Devils Lake Satans in a game played Friday night at Chandler Field in Grafton. The game was a North Star Conference contest and was the first conference game for both clubs.

50 years

Keith Novak and Paula Brodeur were the champions of the boys and girls divisions in the Grafton Jaycees Youth Tennis Tournament. Gibsons Discount Center

was welcoming hunters for their sporting goods sale offering Remington shotgun shells for \$2.27, thermal socks for 87 cents and Canadian goose decoys for \$3.27.

Pamela Hankey, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Hankey of Park River, was the first contestant entered in the 1975 North Dakota State Potato Queen Pageant held in conjunction with the Walsh County Fair and State Potato Show.

25 years

Stacie Ensrude of Grafton was awarded the Governor's Award for Excellence in Public Service at the state capital recognizing 21 years of employment at the State Developmental Center. As a direct training technician, she worked with clients with dual sensory impairments, teaching and communicating using sign language.

A public meeting was held at the Grafton High School library to ascertain the community's thoughts and feelings on keeping the areas around Chase and Westview schools as green spaces. The school district wanted to rid itself of the obligation of the property because it was costing the school district money to maintain and insure the property. However residents were overwhelmingly in favor of keeping the areas as parks and green spaces. The matter was brought to the attention of the city when

the school approached the city planning and zoning commission for the platting of the Westview playground area for residential housing. Scott Boura, city building official who conducted the meeting said it would be the responsibility of the commission to monitor how the community grows in respect to the city's master plan.

Keeping St. Ansgar's Hospital open was the focus of a public forum held at Park River City Hall. Catholic Health Initiatives informed the hospital in July that it would be ending its affiliation with the health center effective Dec. 13, 2000.

10 years

Ruby, a 3-1/2-year-old female purebred chocolate labrador from Park River flew by competition for a first-place finish in the competitor division at the Scheels Dock Dogs Super Retriever Series dog jumping competition held in Grand Forks. Ruby belonged to and was trained by Cody Waslaski of Park River.

Park River Area School Board members held a public hearing and were confronted with questions and emotional testimony against a property tax levy increase. PRA superintendent Kirk Ham facilitated the meeting and explained the process by which the new school addition and improvements would be funded.

Who's to say ~ Looking to the left

I will dedicate this column to my late mother Linda Babinski, who would have turned 78 on Sept. 18. Last week was birthday week in our family. I start the birthdays off on Sept. 16, then my mom, my brother Rilie John's birthday is on Sept. 19 and the boy who first made me a dad Boden James is also on Sept. 19.

My mom was wiser than her social work degree would indicate. In my world she always seemed to be ahead of the curve.

For most of my life I would describe my mom as a Democrat, I would guess many women have some liberal leanings. They see the world a little differently than men, a little more compassionate maybe, possibly a little more loving.

She grew up on the east side of Grafton with three brothers and a sister. Times were tough, times were hard. Her sister Bonnie is all that is left of that Leedahl clan.

They say we all get more conservative as we age. That was certainly true for my mom. I was surprised that she was a Trump supporter. She did not like Joe Biden at all, at anytime he was in office, senator, vice president or president.

That and the fact that the Democrats more or less have gone off the rails in support of transgender rights. She could never quite grasp the concept of men playing women's sports, probably had something to do with playing baseball with her three brothers growing up, who knows.

One thing I learned from my mom is that every human being should be treated with a certain degree of respect and decency, regardless. That, and always try to be kind and gracious to everyone at all times. Unfortunately, I am often kinder to my nieces and nephews and strangers than I am to my own children. I can be a bit of a yeller.

She also taught me that sales tax is a regressive tax, meaning that it hurts the poor and those that have to get by on less than it does the upper middle class and the more affluent. The less fortunate are always looking for their last nickel to purchase a necessity, which equates to just about every penny they earn being taxed. Whereas, some people are able to sock a little money away and don't have to pay tax on it before they get some more money to spend. Some peo-

ple can get by on 70 percent of their earnings. It's the little things like that that add up. Watch your nickels and dimes and the dollars will take care of themselves.

My mom always, even when times were hard when we were growing up, managed to sock a little money away every month. I am ashamed to say I am not as prudent with my money as my mother even though I know I should be better. I guess I rely on my 401(K) as a point of savings.

The price of food was also watched closely. My mom learned how to cook when she was young, like 10 - maybe younger, and she was good at it. She couldn't see paying good money to go out and eat when she could cook the same thing better and serve it to you hotter. To this day I like my food served hot.

Back when there were two grocery stores in Grafton she always shopped at Wally's I asked her one time, why we always shopped there, she replied that when she was a child Wally would let her family charge over the winter and they would pay him back in the spring when there was work available. She never forgot that.

We live in a world now where most Americans would be hard-pressed to cook all their meals at home, bake their own bread, jams and jellies. To work, live and walk around town and get by with what you could make, grow or earn with your own two hands.

It's funny the older I get the more I seem to be like my mom - I guess you could say I am transitioning. I am the chief cook and bottle washer at our house. Not that I am better at it than my spouse, it's just how our schedules mesh. Hopefully that will get better with my wife opening her store back up in town, but I am not going to hold my breath. Retail work might not be as bad as owning a restaurant or tending cattle but it is almost like a second marriage.

Back to the cost of food, I have been noticing the price of groceries going up at Hugo's. I didn't know if it was them for sure or just me thinking so. Last week I received an email from NDSU reporting the price of food increasing about 2.9 percent over the last year - tariffs will do that.

It's good to see the feds finally dropped interest rates, hopefully that will spur the economy. I don't know if anyone has noticed but not very many people are making any money these days. Certainly not the farmers. Soybean growers struggle moving their beans, wheat is in the tank and beans and corn aren't much better. Explain that to me. Markets I guess.

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W. Todd Morgan



Days Gone By

This Record file photo is of the "checkout gals" at Wally's Fairway Foods in Grafton possibly taken sometime in the early to mid-1970s. Anyone who can identify the teenagers and women in this photo is encouraged to contact The Walsh County Record via email at community@wcrecord.com, stop by the office or mail to us at: The Walsh County Record, 402 Hill Avenue, Grafton, ND 58237. Photos for Days Gone By may be mailed to The Walsh County Record, 402 Hill Avenue, Grafton, ND 58237 or dropped by The Record office. Photos will be returned.

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