

PARK: Doesn't get a lot of litter, but some vandalism

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launched itself from the top of a cottonwood tree, a seagull sunned itself on a river rock, swallows swooped and smaller birds twittered all around. A squirrel chattered. Neon blue dragonflies navigated like tiny helicopters on joy rides. Water bugs skittered across the surface of the water. A snake slithered into a pile of branches.

Gavette, retired supervisor at the Boardman coal-fired power plant, maintains the park himself. He mows a grassy area — a native grass — with a weed eater every few weeks. He gathers branches carried into the park by spring flooding. He picks up occasional trash, but has been surprised by how little he finds.

"There's not a lot of litter, but there's been some vandalism," he said.

Gavette pointed to a nearby maple tree where spray paint marred the bark. Several months ago, someone absconded with a bench he placed at the park. Gavette replaced it, but chained this new one to a tree. The bench is heavy enough not to float away during spring flooding.

Recently, Gavette cleared trail westward for seven blocks and a short way to the east. The retiree spent many hours using a bow saw to clear branches. He opted against a chainsaw to avoid disturbing wildlife.

"I try to be as quiet as possible," he said.



Staff photo by E.J. Harris

Ron Gavette stops to look at a wildflower on a trail he cut through the brush on the north side of the Umatilla River in Pendleton.

Gavette walked along his trail, calling it "primitive," but realizing it might be a good thing. Across the river is the more traveled paved path of the Pendleton Parkway. Unlike the parkway, this trail winds through the woods and grassy openings in a way that plunges the walker into nature.

Gavette carefully navigated a small log he had placed over a marshy spot and stepped off on the other side. The aroma of mint was thick. Up ahead, he noticed something that made him frown. Someone was camping on the trail. Gavette walked up to the red tent and called out to the occupant. A groggy voice answered

from within, protesting that he wasn't bothering anyone. Gavette advised him to move on, then continued his walk.

On the way back to the park, he passed a tree gnawed by a beaver. A little further, he pointed to a tree that had been lying across the path until a neighbor cut through it with an axe. Wood chips littered the ground. This neighbor is just one of many people who have caught Gavette's spirit and have added improvements to the park. Others plant flowers and pick up trash. Retired Pendleton City Manager Larry Lehman recently decided to purchase a second bench for the park, a place he visits often.

"The park is gorgeous and it brings you close to the wonderful Umatilla River," Lehman said. "I appreciate what Ron did here."

Gavette's tiny park probably won't become part of the city's park system any time soon. The city would need to find money for upkeep and also provide access for people with disabilities.

Gavette said he will continue maintaining the oasis he created for as long as he can. He loves to see people there.

"People are enjoying it," he said. "That's what I get pleasure from."

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SANCTUARY: Law was passed in 1987

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IP 22 was sponsored by Oregonians for Immigration Reform and three Republican state lawmakers — Greg Barreto of Medford, Sal Esquivel of Medford and Mike Nearman of Independence. Last week, Oregonians United Against Profiling launched an official opposition campaign against the measure. More than 80 businesses, labor organizations, faith and civil rights groups and law enforcement have joined the coalition against IP 22.

Oregon lawmakers passed the sanctuary law in 1987 in response to a spate

of racial profiling of immigrants by police in the preceding decade.

In one high-profile case in 1977, Delmiro Trevino, a U.S. citizen of Mexican descent, was arrested at a restaurant in Independence because police suspected that he was undocumented. He later filed a class action suit. His lawyer, Rocky Barilla, won election as a state representative in 1986, marking the first time a Latino was elected to that position in the state's history. He introduced the legislation that enacted the sanctuary law, which passed with bipartisan support.

BOUNDS: Apologized for his college writings

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four finalists for a judicial vacancy on the 9th Circuit Court.

Soon after the selection, several columns published by Bounds in a Stanford college newspaper in the mid-1990s were released by The Alliance for Justice, a liberal judicial advocacy group. In the opinion pieces, Bounds wrote dismissively about multiculturalism, sexual assault and the LGBTQ community. With the revelation of the writings, both senators declined to deliver "blue slips" of approval for Bounds' nomination.

Bounds quickly apologized for the writings, calling them "overheated" while the senators referred to them as "inflammatory." The blue slip, while not a binding legislative process, has been a practice followed since 1917 in which home state senators have the ability to approve or deny nominees before they go before the Senate.

Merkley said Tuesday he was concerned about the

content of the writings and Bounds' failure to disclose them to the committee, but spent more time in his opening statement arguing in favor of respecting established practice.

According to a statement from Merkley's office, if confirmed Bounds would be the first nominee in modern American history sworn in as a federal judge without a blue slip from a senator.

The purpose behind the blue slip, Merkley said, is to give the Senate the ability to check the presidential power to appoint judges to a lifetime seat. He and others warned about what the degradation of the blue slip process would mean for future nominations, including when Democrats control the presidency or Senate.

"Where has all the honor and principle gone in this chamber?" Merkley asked.

President Trump has so far successfully appointed 22 judges to circuit courts, and another nominee is awaiting confirmation.

VOLUNTEER: 'We don't see new people ... entering into volunteering'

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hard to build a volunteer base on those inquiries."

The organization utilizes volunteers for its food delivery program, as well as people to work at warehouses and local food pantries.

Hall said CAPECO tracks volunteers and volunteer hours, and has seen a trend in the past few years.

"We don't see new people of the younger generation entering into volunteering," she said. "I don't know if it's because people are working longer, caring for grandchildren." She said. "The number of new volunteers is dwindling at a rapid pace."

She said many of the volunteers operating food pantries are the same ones who were doing so 10 or 20 years ago, and are now in their 80s.

Dave Hughes, director of Hermiston's Agape House, agreed that most service clubs are struggling to maintain membership.

Hughes said they always need people to help deliver items in the summer when the donation of household goods increases.

"There's a lot from yard sales and people cleaning house, and we struggle finding enough people to help sort and pick things up," he said.

Agape House tries to focus on helping younger people cultivate an interest in volunteering, Hughes said.

"If we can instill in them a spirit of being volunteers now, it'll carry on the rest of their lives," Hughes said.

They offer positions on their board of directors for juniors and seniors in high school, or college students. But some of those board members recently left for college, and all those positions are now vacant.

Recruitment is also tough, Hughes said, especially in the summers when many public events tend to fall on the same day.

"For example, the golf tournament," he said of Agape House's fundraiser last Saturday. "It falls on the same day as Funfest. It stretches us pretty thin to have a presence at both."

United Way of Umatilla and Morrow Counties refers people to organizations that need volunteers and donations.

Director Cricket Nicholson said volunteerism has decreased, for a variety of reasons. Many of the people who used to be stay-at-home moms would volunteer, she said.

"Most are now in the workplace," she said. "Even younger people — employers expect more of them. Or people have time, but they have their own things."

Nicholson added that monetary donations have gone down as well.

"There are so many causes, and non-profits asking for money," she said. "It's almost like, who gets to the donors first."

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Staff photo by E.J. Harris

Volunteers Jan Maitland, from left, LaVern Sanchez and Marcie Myers work on sorting clothing donations Tuesday at Agape House in Hermiston.



Staff photo by E.J. Harris

Volunteers Kyran Miller and Maria Trevino fill food boxes on Tuesday at Agape House in Hermiston.

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TUESDAY	1:30pm	Bucking Horse Stampede — Main Street
WEDNESDAY	9:00am	Little Buckaroo Special Needs Rodeo
	2:00pm	Slack — Arena
	6:00pm	Rodeo Gates Open — Harley Tucker Memorial Arena
	7:00pm	PRCA RODEO — Harley Tucker Memorial Arena
	9:00pm	Family Fun at the Thunder Room — DJ
THURSDAY	9:00am	Tough Enough to Wear Pink Walk
	9:00am	Steer Tripping, Three Rounds
	2:00pm	Slack — Arena
	6:00pm	Rodeo Gates Open — Harley Tucker Memorial Arena
	7:00pm	PRCA RODEO — Harley Tucker Memorial Arena
	7:00pm	Tough Enough to Wear Pink — Wear Pink
	9:00pm	Music and Dancing at Thunder Room — DJ — No Cover Charge
FRIDAY	8:00am	Golf Tournament — Alpine Meadows Golf Course
	10:00am	Chief Joseph Junior Parade — Main Street
	2:00pm	Slack — Arena
	6:00pm	Rodeo Gates Open — Harley Tucker Memorial Arena
	7:00pm	PRCA RODEO — Harley Tucker Memorial Arena
	9:00pm	All Teen Dance — Joseph Community Center
	9:30pm	Music and Dancing at Thunder Room — FrogHollow Band
SATURDAY	6:00am	Shrine Breakfast begins
	10:00am	Grand Parade — Main Street
	12:00pm	Nez Perce Friendship Feast — Encampment Pavilion
	2:30pm	Slack — Arena
	3:00pm	Traditional Indian Dance Contest — Encampment Pavilion
	6:00pm	Rodeo Gates Open — Harley Tucker Memorial Arena
	7:00pm	PRCA RODEO — Harley Tucker Memorial Arena
	9:00pm	All Teen Dance — Joseph Community Center
	9:30pm	Music and Dancing at Thunder Room — FrogHollow Band
	After Rodeo	Cowboy Breakfast — Rodeo Grounds — til 3:00am
SUNDAY	6:00am	Cowboy Breakfast — Rodeo Grounds — til 10:00am
	9:00am	Cowboy Church Service

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