

Preparing for election letter-writing

Another election season is upon us. That means you may be inspired to write a letter in favor of one candidate or another or express one side of an issue or another on the Nov. 6 ballot.

Good for you. We will try to run all of the letters submitted to us by Wallowa County residents. Those who live outside the county may write, but their contributions will take a backseat to county residents. We reserve the right to publish out-of-county letters on our website only.

Our stated letter length is 300 words, but if you can keep it shorter than that, we will be appreciative. It's good to have letters of all lengths when it comes time to putting them on a page. It's like a 1,000-piece jigsaw puzzle.



WAHL TO WALL

Paul Wahl

Here are other tips that may help guide your submission.

- If you're going to write a personal endorsement letter, let it be based on substance rather than hair style or how well a candidate mows his lawn. Don't laugh, I've received endorsement letters that were based on both in previous elections.

- Address the issues. No name-calling, threats or anything that would get us both into a heap a trouble. Try to avoid the words stupid, insane, mentally handicapped, lame-brained and pathetic. You get the drift.

- Be factual. There's a difference between expressing an "opinion" and getting the facts wrong. If we cannot independently verify a statistic or allegation in your letter, it will be set aside until we can contact you for clarification.

- Letters submitted by email go to the top of the heap. If we have to key it into our system rather than cut and paste, it will delay publication significantly. If you can't submit electronically, provide a printed copy typed double-spaced.

- Don't participate in letter-writing campaigns in which someone sends you a form letter, you sign it and forward it on to the newspaper. These are fairly easy to spot. We simply delete them.

- There is a tab for submitting letters on our website wallowa.com. You may use it, or you may submit to editor@wallowa.com. Either way, you will receive an email response acknowledging receipt of your letter.

- All letters, whether submitted electronically, by mail or in person, must be signed, include your mailing address and a phone number. The address and phone number are for the newspaper's reference only and will not be published or given out.

- You may put a suggested headline on the top of your letter, but whether it is used depends on if the wording fits the space allotted for the headline. See reference above to the 1,000-piece jigsaw puzzle.

- A word about guest columns. Over the next month, our editorial space will be extremely tight, so the chances of getting an election-related submission published are slim if you haven't already made contact.

I feel like I should add, "Shake hands and let's have a clean fight."

LETTERS to the EDITOR

Getting it all in one location

Our goal for the new integrated health services building is that it will become a community-wide resource center. A place to access medical care, to take cooking classes — all in one location. It has already become a catalyst for new projects and programming for families, veterans and youth living in Wallowa County.

Building Healthy Families plans to house a parent resource center at the new building. This center will provide access to parent education classes, family resources and early childhood and kindergarten readiness materials as well as parent-child activities in the waiting rooms. Supporting families is one way this building will become a resource.

Another resource this building will provide is supporting our local Veterans. Wallowa County has a very large population of veterans and they often have to travel great distances to receive physical health and behavioral healthcare.

The new building will provide volunteers to help folks navigate all of the different mental and behavioral health programs, which are currently located in seven different locations.

With services being in one location, folks will not have to coordinate multiple places for multiple appointments or be met with several different screenings. This will reduce transportation needs and confusion and make services more readily accessible.

An exciting new possibility in the new building is a Career and Technical Education program in partnership with local high schools. CTE will provide career exploration and create training opportunities for students who are interested in the health-care field.

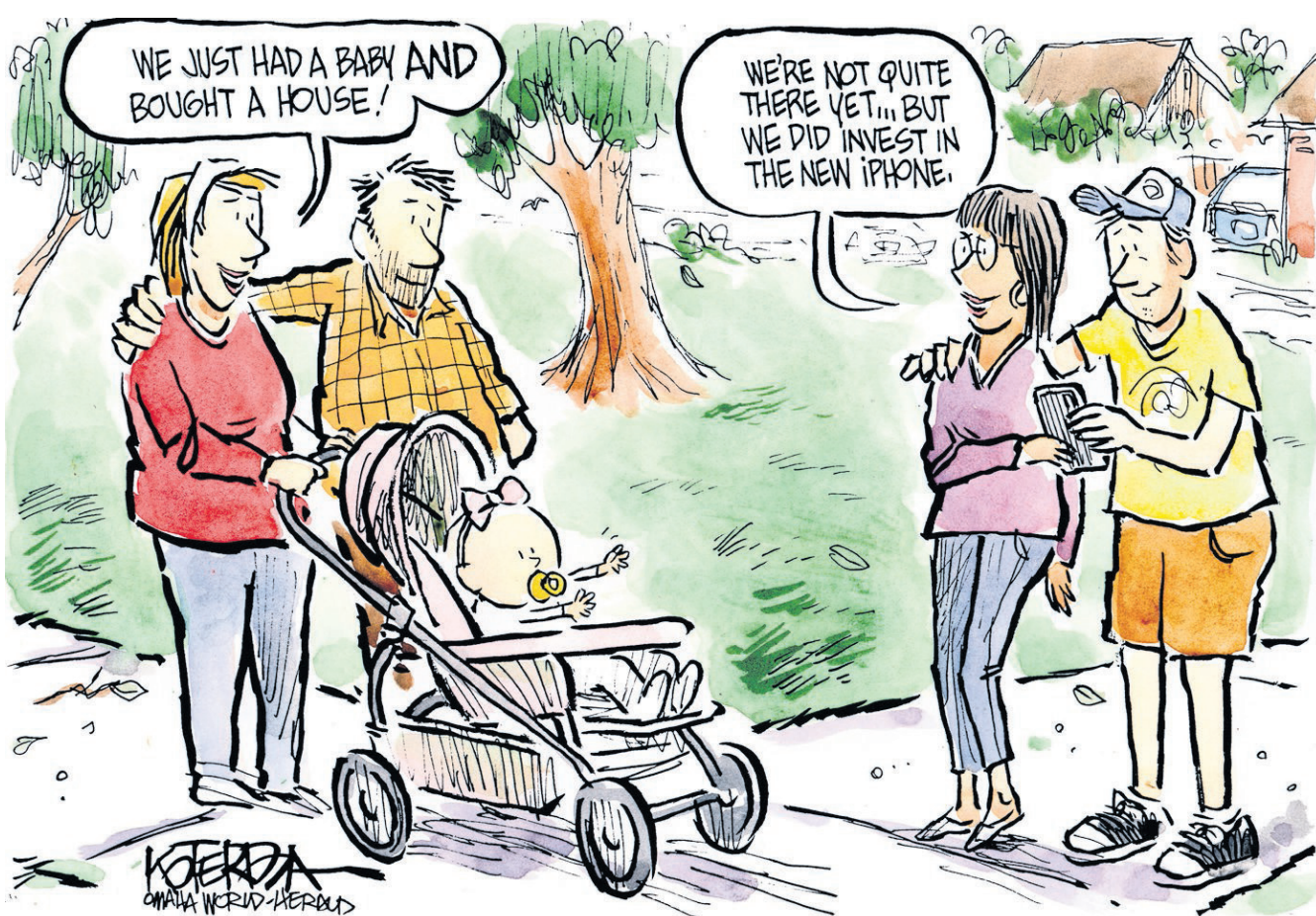
CTE could include job-shadowing, certifications, internships and even early college credits. The new building will allow us to have the classroom space to explore the opportunity of offering this component with our schools.

We can't wait to start construction on this new building.

Chantay Jett
Nic Powers
Enterprise

Jett is executive director, Wallowa Valley Center for Wellness and Powers is CEO of Winding Waters.

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Source of Democrat's desperation over court replacement revealed

Dear Democrats in Wallowa County: This will be a short primer on the design and proper function of our Constitutional Republic. Please pay attention. Our Democrat Senators are about to go off the rails.

Our Constitution divides the government into three branches — Article I is Congress, Article II is the President, Article III is the Courts. By design, the branch with the shortest term of office is the House of Representatives in Congress.

Representatives are close to their constituents, should represent the peoples' interests in the laws that they pass, and can be voted out quickly if they fail. The scope of the federal government was restricted in Article II, Section 8. This was to prevent it from taking power away from the states and freedom from the people.

Right now, the Senate is holding hearings to confirm a Supreme Court Justice to replace Anthony Kennedy who is retiring. Instead of asking serious questions, Democrat Senators have been interrupting, grandstanding and encouraging protesters who are paid for their antics.

It has been a circus! Now, when the time for interviews is over, Democrat Senators revealed an accusation that they have withheld for months. This is completely out of order and a national disgrace.

Why are Democrats so desperate? This is a serious question and the subject of today's column.

Over the decades, the Congress has allowed its primary function of passing laws to be eroded by passing only general guidelines and allowing an army of



LET'S ROLL

Anita VanGrunsven

bureaucrats to fill in the blanks with regulations. An excellent local example is the 26 pound 5,600 page Blue Mountains Forest Plan.

What chance do our local ranchers have to protect their rights against the U.S. Forest Service and their legions stretching clear back to Washington, D.C.? To change this BM Plan — who do you vote out? Congress shirked its duty and voters have lost control.

Over the decades, the Supreme Court has arrogated powers to govern the nation that it should not have. It has handed down decisions that nullified laws properly passed by several states on subjects where the court did not have the authority to make a ruling.

This is exactly why the Senate Democrats are so desperate. Here it is:

In 1973 the Supreme Court discovered a novel "right to privacy" in the Constitution that allowed them to strike down every state law restricting abortion. Five people in black robes in Washington DC nullified laws passed by thousands of voters across the nation.

But the Constitution does not give any part of the federal government any authority over abortion. Only issues specifically enumerated in Article II Section 8 are within federal purview.

Everything else was reserved to the states — to keep laws close to the people so they can make changes easily. The federal government cannot make

laws on abortion but individual states may. The court took away our rights.

Over the decades, the Democrats have come to rely on the clearly unconstitutional arrogation of power to the court system to advance their agenda. This is much easier than putting a question to the voters where they have to engage in a debate they might lose!

Couple this with Congress giving away its authority and you have the reason Senators come unhinged at the prospect of a jurist who will honor the clear meaning of our founding documents.

Imagine if Enterprise sent its football team to an away game where, unexpectedly, the football field was 20 yards wide and 200 yards long. The goal posts were 20 feet high.

When the opposing team took the field, there were 18 players and no referees. Can the game of football survive such chaos?

Similarly, can our nation survive if laws become regulations enforced by unaccountable bureaucrats and the basic structure of our government becomes a "living Constitution" to be modified at the whim of the court?

To restore stability to our governmental system, Senators need to approve Supreme Court Justices who will accept the limits of, and base their decisions on, the actual words of the Constitution.

This why our Oregon Senators should defy Democrat leadership and approve Brett Kavanaugh for the Supreme Court. Write them a letter. Keep them on track.

Anita VanGrunsven is a grandmother who lives in rural Wallowa with time to think.

Remembering McCain as a man of honor

Sen. John McCain died about a month ago, just a few days short of his 82nd birthday. Especially considering what his body and mind endured 1967-73, it is a testament to his stamina and stubbornness that he lived that long before brain cancer finally overcame his indomitable spirit.

McCain was born in 1936 on a Navy base in the Panama Canal zone, the son and grandson of two four-star admirals. He followed in the family tradition and attended Annapolis, where he was known for his leadership among his peers, his rebelliousness, and partying — which probably contributed to a ranking near the bottom of his graduating class.

His career as a Navy aviator began shakily with two crashes and a collision with power lines during his training years. He was known for "pushing the envelope."

McCain served with heroism as a fighter pilot in Vietnam and received numerous awards. On his 23rd bombing mission in 1967, he was shot down and captured by the Vietcong. His wounds were left untreated for months by his captors, and he was subjected to regular beatings and torture at "the Hanoi Hilton," the most notorious Vietnamese POW camp.

The enemy's efforts to extract a bogus "confession" from McCain taught him, as



POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY

John McColgan

he later acknowledged, that everyone had a breaking point. McCain refused to allow the Vietnamese to win a propaganda victory by releasing the son of an admiral. He insisted that he remain imprisoned until all those captured before him had been set free.

When he was finally released, McCain had some difficulty adjusting to life back in the United States. His first marriage eventually failed, due partly to his infidelity (a subject that I wrote about in a Chieftain column in 2008), and probably partly to the pressures that all war veterans endure after their return to civilian life.

But in fairness to McCain's decent character, it should be noted that he remained on good terms with his first wife and the children from his first marriage throughout his life, and that his second marriage to Cindy and his family life thereafter were a lifelong success.

One of my favorite quotes from the "straight-talking" McCain came in response

to a voter in Arizona, who accused him of being a "carpetbagger" when McCain first ran for the U.S. House in 1982.

McCain's response to the man went like this: "Listen, pal. I spent 22 years in the Navy. My father was in the Navy. My grandfather was in the Navy. We in the military service tend to move a lot. We have to live in all parts of the country, all parts of the world. I wish I could have had the luxury, like you, of growing up and living and spending my entire life in a nice place like the First District of Arizona, but I was doing other things. As a matter of fact, when I think about it now, the place I lived longest in my life was Hanoi."

Needless to say, McCain won that race, and he served in the House for four years before advancing to the Senate, where he served for 32 more until his death.

Some of his greatest achievements as a Senator probably won him more praise from Democrats and Independents than they did from Republicans. His signature accomplishment was the McCain-Feingold Campaign Finance Reform Act, but also noteworthy were his bipartisan efforts to help restore the normalization of diplomatic relations with Vietnam and his

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