

Everyone should help prevent child sexual abuse

Reading Wade Cates' firsthand account as a survivor of child sexual abuse is a sobering reminder that more needs to be done to protect the children of the community.

Today's front page story points out that child abuse and sexual assault are serious problems.

And they're not someone else's problems. They're happening here. At an alarming rate.

While the extent of child sexual abuse may be difficult to believe — or easy to ignore because victims rarely tell their stories publicly — Cates' courageous decision to speak out provides a face to represent the often anonymous victim.

By telling his story, he regained not only his voice, which he said was silenced by his abuser, he also acted as a voice for other victims.

It's much easier to believe and harder to ignore when a problem is voiced by someone familiar, and Cates describes what he went through in a way that should make everyone want to prevent it from happening again.

To help community members recognize and prevent child sexual abuse, Prevent Child Abuse Oregon and Blue Mountain Hospital District are

sponsoring a free training for county adults from 2-4 p.m. Friday, April 27, at the Canyon City Community Hall.

This is an excellent opportunity for people to learn more about how they can help. The more people who are trained, the better chance the community has at protecting children.

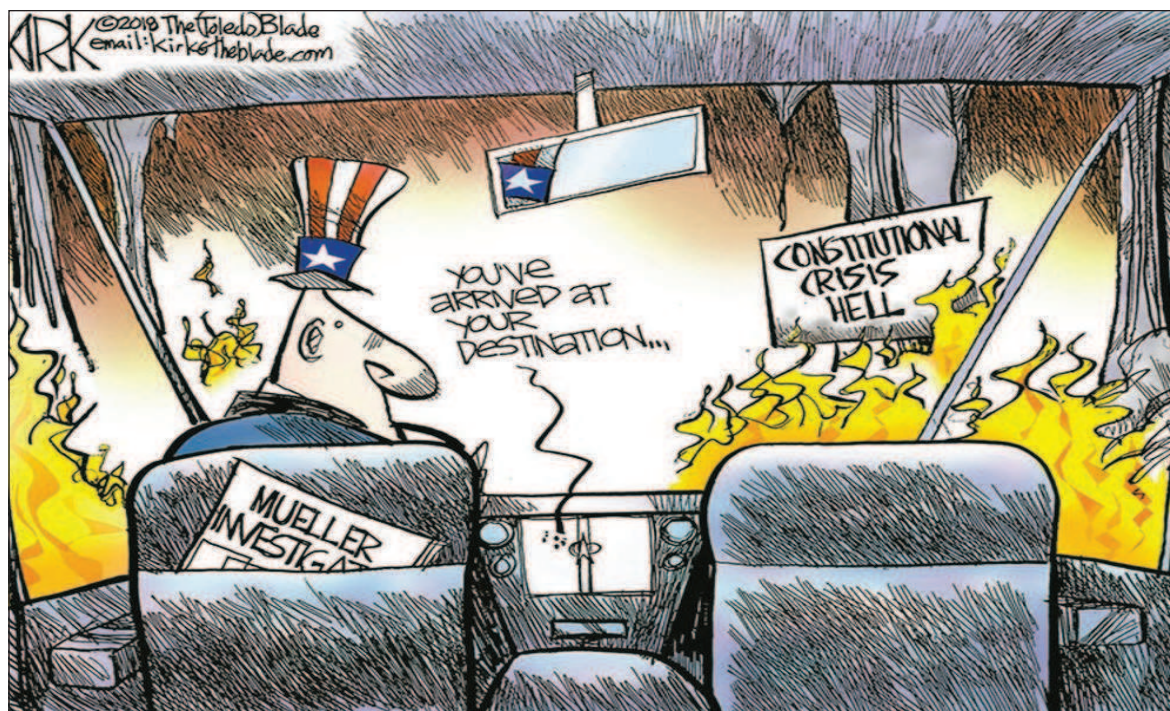
Nationally, the statistics should be a wake-up call. One in 10 children will be sexually abused before age 18. Victims know the abuser in 90 percent of the cases. Most child abuse victims, 60 percent, never tell anyone.

And, remember, that one child out of 10 is not just a statistic. That one child is someone like Cates.

Grant County proclaimed April as Child Abuse Prevention Month. April is also National Sexual Assault Awareness & Prevention Month. Friday's training provides community members a chance to learn more and do something about these problems plaguing the community.

For all the victims in Grant County — known and unknown — we urge everyone in the community to do everything possible to protect the children.

Our future depends on it. And they depend on us.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Larson has experience

To the Editor:

I support Gordon Larson for county commissioner. The responsibilities of our county court require broad administrative experience. Gordon has that experience. Gordon's experiences on the school board give him a unique perspective into the needs of our students to have access to the latest technology to give them the tools to be successful in today's technology-based work force.

Gordon recognizes the divisiveness that exists in this county and will use his experience to foster a climate in which we can work together in a positive direction, a positive economic direction. He recognizes that we will still have differences of opinion, and those differences will be respected.

Yes, I support Gordon Larson for county commissioner for these reasons and more. I hope you also will support Gordon Larson for county commissioner.

Eva Harris
Canyon City

County steps up to help individuals and or groups in need. Grant County Senior Center is replacing their condensing units for their walk-in cooler and freezer. We had no place to store our perishable foods. I approached Pete Teague, owner of John Day Dairy Queen and Figaro's, about using his refrigerator truck. Even though the truck hasn't been used since the eclipse last year, Pete got it up and running for us. We will be using the truck for at least a week, while the units are installed by a local business. We are truly blessed to have individuals, such as Pete, stepping up to help our fellow neighbors.

Chris Labhart, president
Grant County Senior Center

'Do not vote for Jim Hamsher'

To the Editor:

As a resident of Prairie City, I have watched Jim Hamsher reign as mayor for two terms. He has proven himself to lack the leadership skills it takes to run a small population like Prairie City. Our struggle for a sufficient supply of water stems back to bad decisions made when Jim was mayor 15 years ago. Bad decisions made under his leadership are exemplified in Iron Triangle's new log deck based in Seneca. Iron Triangle first approached Prairie City with the opportunity. Instead of accepting a reasonable offer for the surplus city property, the council led Mayor Hamsher in a counteroffer of \$50,000 over the appraised value. Iron Triangle then took their job opportunities to Seneca, where they were welcomed with open arms. Jim Hamsher has failed us on a city level and county level when he led his council to a no vote for the opportunity to better our internet in Prairie City (and the county). He fails to realize a better internet connection to the outside world would bring the much needed internet-based educational and employment opportunities that our community needs. Mr. Hamsher is unable to see valuable opportunities. On Jim Hamsher's Facebook page, he likened the position of a county judge to that of a mayor. To see how Jim has done as mayor, take a look at Prairie City. Our lack of water, empty storefronts and inefficient internet is a prime example of how Prairie City has sat idle during his terms as mayor. The same will happen to Grant County if Jim Hamsher is appointed county judge. Do not let yourself be swayed by the black hat and smile. There is too much at stake. The position of county judge should not be filled by a popularity vote, but instead should be filled with someone who has shown himself to have the leadership skills that Judge Scott Myers has demonstrated. Do what is best for Grant County and do not vote for Jim Hamsher. Re-elect Scott Myers for Grant County judge.

Susan Harris
Prairie City

Public safety

To the Editor:

Come on, folks. Do you really believe initiative 43 and 44 that may show up on the ballot this November are about public safety? Are we the people really that naive or that gullible? Do we think gang members, common criminals or mass shooters are going to register their arms or disable them with trigger locks? Nice thought, but most of those folks are already felons, so don't try to frighten them with that threat. Have we become so afraid now that we will vote away our own rights and allow the criminal element free access to those rights? They will not be controlled by these initiatives for public safety, because they aren't concerned about the safety of the public. These initiatives, if they become law, will only infringe on those who are harmless not on the harmful.

"America was not built on fear. America was built on courage, on imagination and an unbeatable determination to do the job at hand."

— Harry S. Truman
Michael R. Christensen
John Day

Larson for the future

To the Editor:

It's time for a new conversation in Grant County — a conversation focused on our future instead of our past. I believe that Gordon Larson is the candidate to lead our county in having a new, positive conversation focused on our future. I have seen Mr. Larson in action during his 12 years of service on the District 3 School Board. He listened to all sides of an issue, and was dedicated to representing all parts of the school district. His positive and collaborative leadership gets results. Because of his years of public service, he has common sense experience in working constructively with both private and public sectors, as well as experience in management and budgeting. Please vote for Gordon Larson — the candidate for county commissioner who emphasizes working together to restore and revitalize our county's economy!

Adele Cerny
Bear Valley

'Who really has the background and experience?'

To the Editor:

In looking at the decisions to be made by voters for the May election, it comes to mind individuals like Jim Maple, George Hansen, Francis Cole, Lorene Allen and others who were the governing body for Grant County in years past. Matters before the court were important but seemingly insignificant compared to issues facing the court now. Money was not so much of a challenge, as the county was blessed with interest from forest receipts. Those days are history, money is limited and issues before the court are much more numerous and complicated with various individuals having interest and a suggested "how to" address these issues.

The recent Blue Mountain Eagle provided candidates for commissioner and county judge an opportunity to comment on their position on various matters. While each feel qualified and likely hope to have a quick fix to pressing matters, it is yet to be seen if their qualifications and thoughts will adequately provide solutions to the many pressing matters.

Commissioner Britton will be leaving an empty seat at the court, and I ask voters, who really has the background and experience to replace Boyd? While each commissioner candidate stated their position on various issues, being right or wrong, none have the governing experience as Gordon Larson. He will prove to be the best candidate worthy of your vote. It is also fair to state Scott Myers has demonstrated a commitment for the welfare of Grant County, and there is no basis for change in that position.

Jim Spell
John Day

Myers 'hard working and dedicated'

To the Editor:

Hard working and dedicated are the words that I would use to describe Scott Myers. Being the county judge isn't an easy job: There are more than 30 boards and committees that the position of county judge is obligated to fulfill, and at the same time, he is the CEO of the county plus the county administrator. Scott succeeds in all these roles, building positive relationships across the county and the state.

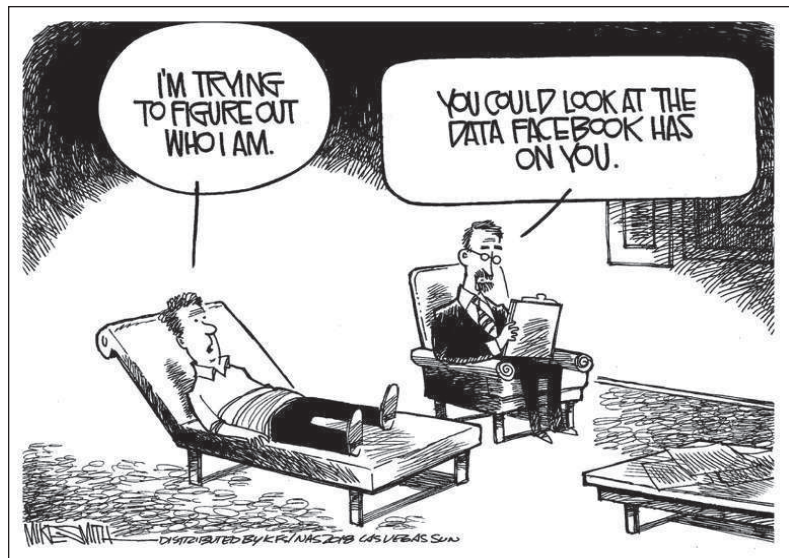
Scott has been willing to step up time after time to be in a leadership position in Grant County, from being councilman and mayor of Canyon City and then county commissioner and now judge. He's willing to do it again. He has history with every other set of commissioners and council persons in Eastern Oregon. He has a wide network of partners, stakeholders, state agency staff that he is willing to call to get a question answered. He gets answers if he doesn't know. He is non-partisan and looks at both sides of an issue. I am voting for Scott Myers because I believe Grant County will benefit by re-electing Scott Myers as county judge. Keep a good man working for us!

Mark Cerny
Bear Valley

Blessed by generous neighbors

To the Editor:

I am always amazed how Grant



WHERE TO WRITE

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