

Letter to the Editor

Editor's note: The following letters to the editor were submitted by the Heppner Middle School students of Jannie Allen's sixth grade class.)

Dear Editor:
I think Tonya Harding is guilty. But even if she is guilty I think she should go to the Olympics because she is a good skater. Then after the Olympics she can deal with the authorities. If Tonya Harding doesn't go to the Olympics America might not get the gold medal.

Sincerely,
(s) Darrin Ployhar

Dear Editor:
Lately the fairgrounds has been changed and it seems to me it's crowded. The rodeo grounds had been torn down and rebuilt. I liked the way the grandstands were behind the announcer and have the grandstands go all the way around the arena.

The 4-H beef projects have been growing and it has been crowded the last couple of years. The same is true of the sheep and pig barns. I also think there should be more fun activities for the kids at the fair. We could have cool games and make more rides like the Hermiston fair.

Sincerely,
(s) Clint William Bellamy

Dear Editor:
Our town has a very small activity rate, for teen and pre-teens. We used to have a swimming pool and a roller skating rink. Now the pool is broken down and during the summer we roast. People say "Just go to the lake," but who knows, the lake may be disease infested. Others say, "Go to the pool in Ione," but that's the catch, Ione is 18 miles away and some parents don't have time to go and watch their children.

The roller skating rink was fun for all ages. It also gave children things to do and to stay out of trouble.

Now all we have is the arcade. Some people don't let kids do there because in larger cities most gang activity is found in arcades, and it may happen here.

I suggest we keep trying to raise money for the pool. Heppner doesn't have enough money but with the participation of citizens and children we just might have more activities for people of all ages.

Sincerely,
(s) Laurie Ann Michael

Dear Editor:
I think the hospital employees should be recognized more than they are for their efforts. The nurses and doctors are very nice and helpful. Often times people don't even say thank you. These men and women put in countless hours just to help us nice folks from Heppner and surrounding areas.

Many people, don't even think what it would be like without the hospital. We would have to go to Hermiston or Pendleton just to get blood taken or have a checkup. For instance if a person from Blake Ranch became seriously ill, and needed medical attention fast, one hour and forty-five minutes is a bit far to go in a life or death situation. Heppner would be the closest and that person could get medical attention there, and prevent his/her situation from getting worse. If the Heppner hospital wasn't there that person's condition could get very bad.

Thank you Pioneer Memorial.
(s) Corey Miller

Dear Editor:
I think this stuff on Tonya Harding is getting old. I think she should be forgiven and they should let her on the team.

The reason she is the way she is, is because her mom abused her when she was young.

She did not know about the attack until after and did not tell the police right away because she thought her ex-husband would beat her as he did before. All Tonya wants is for people to believe in her and stand by her side. She hopes to become a friend as well as a team mate with Nancy Kerrigan very soon. All she is looking for is a little respect.

Most sincerely,
(s) Casey Ingraham

Dear Editor:
Gang activity is growing today. People in Heppner are naive about gangs coming to this community. They are not all aware of what our youth is doing. Not that all of our youth is doing anything wrong. I don't really think that there is a gang, but just a lot of kids hanging out together. If one does come, be aware.

Sincerely,
(s) Mitch Mathews

Dear Editor:
I am concerned about ESPN being taken off. It is an expensive channel but also one of the most watched. It gives you 24 hours of sports each day and all the sports scores and highlights you can handle a day with Sports Center. They most nights have double headers for baseball. Big Monday, Super Tuesday and on some nights triple headers.

If you are not going to keep ESPN then hook us up to another station that gives us the same coverage. Give us the same kind of coverage around the world. Try to get a station that gives you sports like ESPN. I don't think that you will find one, so let's keep ESPN.

Sincerely,
(s) Ben Goodyear

Dear Editor:
The pool is a problem we can't ignore. Now we have to travel 18 miles to Ione to go swimming. The people of the pool are doing a great job raising money. We needed \$1.2 million dollars for the pool they have selected and we have collected \$11,000 already. The people of the pool have a donation bucket at Central Market. They are working on grants. They also want to thank people for the money that has been donated.

The pool is a four lane, 25 yard lap pool. It has a water slide and zero deep fan. The pool is located outside but there is a therapy pool that is 20 by 20 feet that is located inside. It is two to three feet deep. The main pool will be open in just the summer, but therapy all year around. The location of the pool is still undecided and they hope to have it done by the summer of '95.

If you have any questions or donations get a hold of George Nairns, Skip Mathews or Kay Proctor. Donations are needed.

Sincerely,
(s) Macy Rhea

Dear Editor:
I am writing this letter to tell you what probably needs to be done for kids' benefit. For instance, I asked most of the kids I know and all of them said they wanted something to do.

If we could all work hard together we can maybe get enough money to start on the swimming pool. There is going to be a long time before we save enough money to get it started again, but the longer we wait the longer it waits, right? So why not start right now.

From,
(s) Kimberly L. Marvin

Dear Editor:
I would like to thank all the coaches and referees for volunteering their time to help Colt basketball. I think it was nice of them to give up their Saturdays to help pre-teens have fun while promoting team work, physical fitness and improving skills. I appreciate them all.

Sincerely,
(s) Matthew Van Liew

Dear Editor:
It seems that there are not as many teen and pre-teen activities anymore. Ever since they closed the pool, there is a hole in kids' summer activities. I, for one got bored this summer. But when the pool was still open I was not bored. Sure a summer camp will keep the ones who can afford to go busy for a week or so. But when that is over what do we do? The sooner we can build a new pool the better.

Roller skating was something that all of my friends and I all looked forward to almost every Friday. Since they are talking about remodeling the fairgrounds then why don't they build a new exhibit hall and then use the old one for rollerskating?

People have been talking about

gangs lately. Well, if we have more teen and pre-teen activities then if gangs do move in to town not so many kids will join, or maybe none at all. And you know that if kids keep busy they are less likely to get into trouble.

Sincerely,
(s) Abby Kahl

Dear Editor:
On January 14 the sixth graders threw me a party. It was very exciting. I got balloons and stuffed animals. The reason they threw me a party was that I was going to Seattle for radiation treatments for two weeks.

I want to give thanks to all the sixth grade and to the people who gave me cards and balloons.

Sincerely,
(s) Heidi Turrell

Dear Editor:
I'm deeply amazed that kids join gangs when they know it is not very safe or responsible. Haven't they seen some real life stories on gangs? I realize that some of that stuff isn't real, but it scares me enough that I won't join one.

Why do kids want to be in a gang? Because they think it might be cool or something. The reason I think they join them is because of their home lives or that their parents don't care enough to tell them the dangers of gangs.

We all should be aware that gangs are moving to smaller towns and we shouldn't think that it could never happen here either.

(s) Amy Papineau

Dear Editor:

What has happened to our teen and pre-teen activities?

That is the question many kids have been asking since the pool closed and also the roller skating rink. Some people complain that kids have been getting into trouble a lot lately. Probably about half the kids that do get into trouble would behave if they had an activity to do. I understand that things like a pool is so expensive Heppner can not afford it. Well I was thinking that if anyone had an activity in mind for the kids of Heppner to enjoy, speak up. Tell someone if you do have an activity Heppner can afford. You might want to try contacting the school or the Parent's Club.

(s) Kimberly Hansen

Dear Editor:

The seventh and eighth grades are moving up to Heppner High School. The details of this issue have not yet been totally decided but it will not happen until the fall of 1995. There is also a bond issue that is to be voted for in March. In this issue there is money to build onto the grade school. They still do not know if they are going to tear down the middle school or not. When the seventh and eighth grades are moved to the high school a new gym and cafeteria will be built in the middle school area. The high school was built to hold people with the seventh and eighth grades we will have only about 85 more people. If the seventh and eighth grades are moved they will be kept apart from the ninth and 12th grades.

I feel that this will be very exciting and I'm looking forward to the change.

Sincerely,
(s) Trisha Adams

Dear Editor:
In Heppner very little is issued for kids to do.

Fixing the pool is a great idea. With our old pool every day it was packed full of kids and adults. A new pool would give kids something to do and in the future keep them off the streets.

Roller skating is another activity that is no longer available. Roller skating is fun for everybody, kids and adults.

Kids in Heppner need something to do. Any suggestions?

Sincerely,
(s) Jake Roy

Dear Editor:

The down town sidewalks need to be made more handicapped accessible. By the B.P. station there is a curb. I always go to the car ramp but that's dangerous. There should be a ramp. By Coast to

Coast there is another curb, only there is no car ramp close by.

Sincerely,
(s) Eric Rollis

Dear Editor:

I have heard that the new owners of the Kinzua Mill might close it. I think this would be a bad idea because most of the people in Heppner work at the mill. Also the mill helps with taxes and school money. If the mill is closed less kids would go to school here so teachers could be fired. Then the stores would quit an Heppner would become a ghost town. They could also just lay off some people. I don't know if that's true, but if it is, it's bad news.

Sincerely,
(s) Chris Bowman

Dear Editor:

What happened to all of the teen and pre-teen activities? Did they all just vanish? Will we ever get them back? An even better question, when will we get them back?

Adults say that kids get into trouble too much. Well, one of the main reasons is because there's nothing else to do. If there was something to do we wouldn't be getting into as much trouble.

An example of the vanishing activities has to do with the roller skating parties which used to be held once a year and now not even then. It makes money so why not have it?

Another example is the swimming pool. I know that some money has been made but let's hurry it up and get that pool fixed up and open again.

It would be nice if somebody who has some extra time would organize a sporting activity like tennis, soccer or badminton.

All we are asking for are one or two activities. So why can't people take this into consideration?

(s) Leah Denton

Dear Editor:

Being a kid in Heppner is pretty boring. Now that the swimming pool is closed kids have nothing to do in the summer. Most of us are at the age where we're too young for jobs and too old for playing with dolls and toy trucks. We are in great need of some fun activities.

I asked some of my classmates if they had any ideas and most of them said we should have roller skating back. Some other ideas were maybe having a kids' golfing league where we could have golf lessons and then games. Lots of people even said we should have intermural sports like kickball and badminton. One of the most liked ideas was to have colt volleyball and football like basketball. Please help because we're bored.

Sincerely,
(s) Stephanie Clough

Dear Editor:

I am writing concerning community safety. This is a problem not only in big communities like Portland but also in small communities like Heppner and Lexington. What I am trying to emphasize and point out is that it really is a problem. I think that this problem exists most at night. I feel scared to walk home from a friend's house at night hours. Because of there being no one around I feel really helpless and that something might happen to me like what happened to Polly Klass.

I feel that there should be more police officers driving and walking the streets at night because there are people out there that take kids and sadly the people of America finally figured it out when Polly Klass turned up dead. Maybe it sounds like I'm being really ridiculous about all this and am being paranoid, but Polly Klass did live in a small town like ours. I know everyone is sick of hearing that we need more police. But maybe something can be done to protect the people of Heppner and Lexington. And the law should do something to help get some of these people off the streets.

Sincerely,
(s) Kim Pointer

Dear Editor:

I am writing to state my opinion about the Heppner Middle School's computers. The computer lab upstairs has mostly Apple IIe's. Now these computers weren't that bad about 10 years ago. Today many of your children will grow up to use computers in their work and they will be using PC's (IBM compatible) or Macintosh computers. Because

of this, teaching a child to use Apple IIe's is kind of useless except for the experience in typing.

I suggest the school replace their Apple IIe's with powerful PC's or MacIntoshes. A lot of people like Mac computers because they are user friendly and don't have a whole lot of problems. However the amount and variety of software (programs) available for Mac computers is much lower than that available for PC's. Also if you want to copy a program file on a Mac you have to buy a special copy program where as on a PC all you have to do is type the copy command. The major downfall of a PC is their incompatibility with some programs and different brands of hardware. A multitude of errors can occur when you buy new products for your PC. Fixing it usually teaches you a lot about your computer and when you do get them fixed they work very well.

My personal favorite is a PC. I think it would be worth it for the school to spend the money to purchase better computers and educate kids to what they really will be using as they grow up. I encourage you to try to persuade the school to buy new computers for the middle school. After all, what is the school going to do with all the money they saved on the new lunch program anyway?

(s) Matt Jepsen

Dear Editor:

I'm writing to inform people what will happen when the seventh and eighth grades move to the high school. I've been told the work won't be all finished until fall of 1995 or 1996. The middle school building will probably be torn down. The high school is built to hold 250 people. Now there are only 150 people in the high school. If they move the seventh and eighth grades to the high school there will be enough room to hold the extra students. The seventh and eighth grades will be on separate levels than the nine-12 grades.

There will be more rooms built on to the elementary building. Also if they tear down the middle school building they will build a new gym and cafeteria where the middle school was. Also fifth and sixth grade will have rooms built on in the elementary building.

I think it would be a good idea to move the seventh and eighth grades to the high school because the middle school is so old it would collapse if there happened to be an earthquake.

If you vote on this issue in March I suggest you think of our safety if there happened to be an earthquake. I hope you will vote on this issue wisely.

Sincerely,
(s) Lindsay Greif

Dear Editor:

The Heppner seventh and eighth graders will move to the high school in 1995 and the gym and middle school knocked down. I have concerns and joys about this project. My concern is about the money situation, where is the school going to get enough money to knock down two buildings and rebuild onto the grade school? My joy about this is that the kids will be safer in the high school if an earthquake should happen.

Sincerely,
(s) Amy Drake

Dear Editor:

My concern is about the teen and pre-teen activities. What happened to the pool? The roller skating? My friends and I were saying to each other that "We need more activities for kids especially in the summer."

The pool has made about \$7,000 to \$10,000. Why can't we have some more fund raisers for the pool?

The roller skating, why did that shut down? That was something enjoyed by many kids and like the pool it was something for families to do.

People say that kids get into too much trouble. But maybe things will be different if we have more activities.

Sincerely,
(s) Kristen Marshall

Dear Editor:

I don't think the law really puts down their foot to people like child molesters, murderers, or rapists. What I mean by that is like Wesley Alan Dodd who kill-

ed two small children in Vancouver, Washington and another one in Seattle, Washington. He had been in trouble all of his life.

Or like when 12 year old Polly Klass was literally taken from her home and strangled to death. These criminals were both repeat offenders but nothing was ever done to them until they did something terrible to innocent people. Polly Klass's murderer will probably be let out of prison in about four years and he will just do it again, and I don't think that's right.

I mean some of my friends have recently told me they are afraid to go outside after dark for the simple reason of being kidnapped, stalked, or even murdered. People don't realize that that's what our world is coming to.

Sincerely,
(s) Ashely Ropp

Dear Editor:

The idea of the seventh and eighth graders going to the high school really surprised me at first. I was wondering why the seventh and eighth grades had to leave middle school, then I found out the reason why, to save money.

I went to one of the school board meetings where Mr. Starr was talking about the seventh and eighth graders going to the high school. He talked about how this would save money and then he said there would be teachers jobs cut to save money.

Just think, the seventh and eighth graders would have no place for recess and they can't drive down town. The high school teachers might expect more from the seventh and eighth graders since they are used to working with high school students.

Sincerely,
(s) Justin Nelson

Dear Editor:

As an Oregonian and a sports fan I would not want Tonya Harding to represent our country in the winter Olympics. I think Tonya Harding is guilty because she called Kerrigan's hotel and asked what room she was in. If she goes to the Olympics, I don't think the judges will forget about the incident when she skates. I don't think she can live in the same house with her ex-husband and not know what's going on. It would also be bad for Harding's career to end like this, but it seems the right thing to do.

(s) Michael Schonbacher

Justice Court Report

The Justice Court office at the courthouse annex building in Heppner reports handling the following business during the past week:

Richard Dean Baker, Jr., 28, Echo-Truck Speeding, 67 mph in a 55 mph zone, \$253 fine;

James Earl Morris, 45, Heppner-Switched License Plates, \$223 fine; Driving Uninsured, \$223 fine;

Marvin Robert Padberg, 49, Ione-Truck Speeding, 65 mph in a 55 mph zone, \$65 fine;

Cynthia Faye Poppe, 22, Portland-Violation of the Basic Rule, 41 mph in a 55 mph zone, \$37 fine;

William Joseph Kuhn, 42, Heppner-Exceeding the Maximum Speed Limit, 70 mph in a 55 mph zone, \$97 fine.

Births

Sheena Lorrissa Moore Sager-a daughter Sheena Lorrissa was born to Vida Melinda Sager of Boardman on January 25, 1994 at Good Shepherd Community Hospital in Hermiston. The baby weighed 5 lbs. 12 oz.

Logan Greer Wanous-a son Logan Greer was born to Leatitia and Gordon Wanous of Heppner on January 29, 1994 at Good Shepherd Community Hospital in Hermiston. The baby weighed 7 lbs. 4 oz.

Aleck James Harsin-a son Aleck James was born to Olivia Gavin and Brad Harsin of Anchorage Alaska on February 1, 1994. The baby weighed 8 lbs. 11 oz.

Grandparents are Jim and Karen Gavin of Heppner. Great grandmother is Maxine Cox of Lexington. Great-great grandmother is Elisie Huston, Heppner.