

Letters to the Editor

Editor's note: Letters to the editor must be signed. The Gazette-Times will not publish unsigned letters. Please include your address and phone number on all letters for use by the G-T office. The G-T reserves the right to edit.

Support youth camp, assisted living

To the Editor:

The city of Heppner, the county court and the Port of Morrow have given a great deal of help and encouragement with our assisted living facility project. Our mission is to site an assisted living facility in the Willow Creek valley to help those seniors and disabled citizens who need help with their activities of daily living.

We also write this letter in support of those who are working to site a youth accountability camp in Heppner. The city of Heppner, the county court and the Port of Morrow have all given help and encouragement with this project too. The mission of the youth accountability camp is to help our

young men, age 14-18, who have committed non-violent crimes, to turn their lives around. They need to be accountable for their choices and learn to live and work productively in society. If one young person's life is turned around, it will be worth the effort.

We believe that meeting the needs of our youth, our disabled citizens and our senior citizens is making good use of our tax dollars in Morrow County.

Please join the three of us in supporting these very needed facilities.

(s) Suzanne Jepsen, chairman
(s) Gail Hughes, vice chairman
(s) Rene Devin, secretary
Willow Creek Valley
Assisted Living Corp. officers
Heppner

Heppner doesn't need youth camp

To the Editor:

A lot of taxpayers' dollars and countless hours of volunteer labor and effort have gone into beautifying and upgrading Heppner in the past two years. Among these projects are the new swimming pool complex, rebuilt sidewalks and curbs with underground lines and new plantings, two new baseball fields, rebuilt rodeo and fairground facilities and a mini-park. The Heppner officials and community have "done themselves proud."

It is difficult to see why all these accomplishments should be compromised by the building of the Youth Accountability Camp on farmland that will consequently come off the tax rolls. The city intends to rezone the 30-plus acre parcel in order to give it to the Oregon State Corrections Department, thus allowing the state reduced rates on water and sewer usage. Heppner doesn't need a prison-

like structure with no-climb fences on the edge of town, within 1/2 mile of the elementary school and fairgrounds.

If the county has \$50,000 of tippage fees, which ultimately belongs to the taxpayers, to contribute, plus county labor and equipment, let them be dedicated to the proposed Willow Creek Valley Assisted Living facility. The city and port resources now committed to the camp could also be re-targeted to the assisted living facility. This project will provide new jobs in the community, which is apparently the driving force behind siting the camp here. Let's put our money and effort into this kind of project which will benefit South Morrow County's senior population and help keep them in our community.

Your concerns and wishes should be heard by city, county and port officials before May 15.

(s) Karen Thompson
Heppner

Will the real Tan Hermens stand up?

To the Editor:

Tan Hermens, a very unusual name. What is even more remarkable is there must be two of them. I hear one of them on the radio telling of all the nice things that she'd like to do for us constituents of District 59. I also remember another one that I met on Grant County Road #1 while on an outing to Rudio Mountain with my two sons.

We were at the BLM gate when she and a young hired man confronted us. They were both on 4-wheelers and Tan had a video camera. We were told that we were trespassing and very rudely treated. When I protested and said that we were on a county road, Tan looked me square in the eyes and said, "Not for long, we're taking it over." Then the hired man personally insulted me and my sons immediately bristled.

All of a sudden I had a gut feeling that we were being set up—that they were deliberately provoking an incident that could be documented on the camcorder showing how disrespectful and violent we "trespassers" could be. If that was the case, we gave her no satisfaction. We quietly turned around and left with bad tastes in our mouths and our day com-

pletely ruined. Oh yes, they also had the forethought to put a pole barrier across County Road #1 that we had to remove on the way out. This lady definitely had her own agenda and wasn't concerned about her fellow Oregonians.

The following Monday I went to BLM headquarters in Prineville with questions. A supervisor immediately appeared and heard my story. He informed me that (a) they have had numerous complaints of harassment by the Hermens; (b) we were entirely within our rights being where we were; plus (c) they had absolutely no right to restrict access to BLM land at the end of Road #1.

I was also asked to make a written statement of the affair signed by my sons and I. We promptly complied. A very professional BLM ranger followed by talking to me before going out to the Hermens' ranch.

I believe that it was resolved that access to our BLM land on Rudio Mountain would be open to the public, not just their fee hunters.

So, will be real Tan Hermens please stand up?

(s) Richard Wanous
Spray

Marshall has "the right stuff"

To the Editor:

Some years ago the movie "The Right Stuff" portrayed the early years of the America's space program. The title, "The Right Stuff", referred to the fact that NASA had to find unique individuals who had a certain intelligence, charisma, style and attitude to become the first astronauts.

In many ways, the voters of Morrow County need to select a new county judge that has the "right stuff" for the job. I believe that individual is Rollie Marshall. I have worked with Rollie over the past seven years on numerous

community projects and during that time he as served as president of the Heppner Chamber of Commerce and as chair of the Heppner Coordinating Council. I have come to appreciate Rollie's firm commitment, integrity and insightful leadership. As the former manager of the city of Heppner, I know first hand what it takes to successfully meet challenges and provide leadership in local government today. I know that Rollie Marshall has the "right stuff" to be an outstanding judge for Morrow County.

(s) Gary Marks

Come together to benefit all

To the Editor:

I am writing concerning the Youth Accountability Camp being proposed for the Heppner area.

My major concern is that the town and its atmosphere that we all love and are trying to preserve will be poorly served by the divisive arguments that are occurring.

The mayor and city council of Heppner, who were elected to lead us, have acted in what they consider to be the best interests of our town. Because it might not fit with someone else's idea of what is best does not mean they have deliberately done something to harm our community.

These same elected officials have been the ones who led the rest of us in making Heppner more beautiful and more liveable.

Terry Tallman best qualified

To the Editor:

The candidate best qualified to be our new county judge is Terry Tallman.

Check his credentials: college education, keen intelligence, successful farm operator, skilled communicator, quality family life, work with youth groups, wide community service, experience in governmental concerns, and the list goes on to specifics, such as his performance as mayor of Boardman in a difficult situation,

I once lived in another small community, one which had to be totally relocated. There were months of dissension, recalls of leaders, and threats to sue, when the time should have been spent in collaborative planning. It had a long-lasting negative effect on the city.

Everyone does have a right to their opinion about the camp, but let's not tear down the town in order to win the argument.

Whatever happens about the camp (and it will be God's will, not ours), we need to come together in a way that will truly serve all of us, but especially our children and grandchildren. It can not be done with anger.

(s) Aloha DeSpain
Heppner

Lewis can get the job done

To the Editor:

Keith Lewis has just finished his second term as Lottery Commissioner. This included determining gaming policies, security of the games, overseeing the lottery budget and he was a member of the audit committee.

His ability to work with people and getting the job done should place him high in the position he seeks.

Former state senator,
Board chairman of the
Oregon Lottery,
(s) E.D. Potts
Salem

Work together despite differences

To the Editor:

From the beginning of time, people have had differing opinions on every subject. This is good. Let's remember to accept each other as friends and not to be hurt and angry over differences of ideas.

I have known him personally for 30 years. Everyone can be assured of his honesty and integrity. His background of some 27 years with the State Police; 17 years of that time was in the criminal division. At the time of his retirement, he was district lieutenant for that division, which included nine Eastern Oregon counties.

Look, enjoy, but don't help yourself

To the Editor:

The flower pots in front of Murray Drugs are so beautiful. They have been lovingly nurtured by Nansea Odinet for over a year. It is a shame that from time to

time someone has helped themselves to some of the plants. Please give Nansea encouragement for the beauty she creates. Let's all enjoy the new garden that the Murrays are making for our town's enjoyment.

(s) Cam Wishart
Heppner

Vote Walden

To the Editor:

Greg Walden has our vote for representative to the U.S. Congress from the Second Congressional District.

Mr. Walden has served in the Oregon State Legislature. Mr. Walden has served as an aide and chief-of-staff to Rep. Denny Smith in the U.S. House of Representatives. He knows how the political process works and

he will be able to "hit the ground running" in behalf of our critical Eastern Oregon issues.

Mr. Walden has an exemplary record of public service. He has high devotion to family values. There is nothing in his past that will cause us embarrassment.

We urge you to cast your ballot in favor of Greg Walden.

(s) John and Patricia Edmundson
Heppner

Van Arsdale suited for the job

To the Editor:

With such a wide selection of individuals running for Morrow County Judge, it is important for the voters to know what type of individual they are voting for. I have known Guy VanArsdale for approximately 15 years. We moved to Heppner when Guy hired my husband, Denny, to run part of his logging operation.

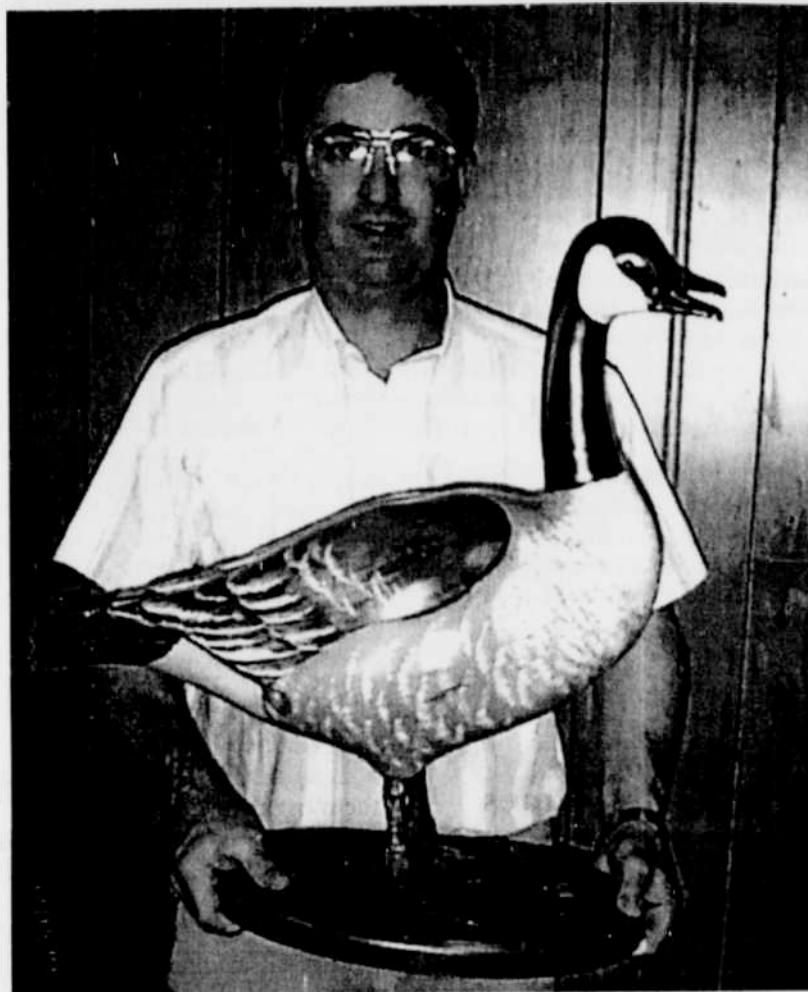
During this period of time, I watched Guy work seven days a week, 18 and 20 hour days, never expecting someone to do something that he would not do. He is highly motivated, intelligent and has succeeded in life through dedication and hard work. As Morrow County Public Works director, he has taken the

same approach. He has expanded his knowledge by becoming familiar with the county budget process, making sure that his department was being run as efficiently as possible. I believe he has proven himself well.

Guy has a high regard for the county and the people who live here. He knows what it takes to make a living in Morrow County and will work hard to make that happen. If the voters want someone who is honest, intelligent, hard working and has integrity, they could not ask for anyone more suited for the job than Guy VanArsdale. My vote is on Guy and I hope yours is too.

(s) Linda R. Nave

Ducks Unlimited banquet next week



Steve Rhea shows off the carved wooden goose that will be auctioned off at the annual Ducks Unlimited Dinner Friday, May 15 in Heppner.

The dinner will be held at the Heppner Elks Lodge and social hour will begin at 6p.m. and dinner at 7p.m.

Advanced tickets are \$15 and will be available from Rhea next week.

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Keith E. Lewis

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ELECT Keith Lewis
Morrow County Judge

Paid for by Committee to Elect Keith Lewis, P.O. Box 589, Heppner, OR 97538