

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.

Morrow County needs Wehrli

To the Editor:

My wife, Patty Wehrli, is running for Morrow County Commissioner.

Now I could go on and on about her excellent qualifications, her educational background and so on, but I'm not. I'm going to tell you about a woman that stole my heart away after 41 years of confirmed bachelorhood.

I met Patty at the candidate's forum in Heppner in April, 1996, and was taken with her from the start. I knew from our first meeting there was something very special about her and I was right. So I married her eight months later, which made my mother very happy (she was beginning to worry about me).

I have never seen a woman with such strong maternal instincts and a strong desire to be a

good wife. I am truly lucky.

This strong desire to do well has boiled over to her race for county commissioner. She has a burning desire to help Morrow County. Many times when we were dating she would get calls from Salem for good paying jobs at the legislature. But she refused to leave me or her newly adopted home in Morrow County.

She was raised by her grandparents in Fossil. Six years ago, Patty's grandmother died. Even to this day when she talks about her, it brings tears to her eyes. Her grandfather still lives in Fossil. He is the one who taught her the value of a dollar, and to never trust a politician with soft hands. Patty doesn't need Morrow County, but I believe Morrow County needs Patty.

(s) David McNary
Ione

Doug Rathbun dedicated

To the Editor:

I have worked with and known Doug Rathbun since 1971. We were in the Oregon Police Academy together that fall. He was the Chief of Police for Powers at that time.

He was a good student, but having met his family during that time, I know he is a great man. He has committed himself to serving others and made that his priority. Having served in law enforcement for almost 30 years, he has placed the people of his community and their safety first. He and Georgia have taken in kids for SCF and other agencies to protect them during a time of need. He was awarded the Max Patterson Award in 1995 from the Oregon Association Chief's of

Police. This is one of the highest honors the association can bestow upon a member.

Doug has been active as a representative to the board of directors to the Chief's Association. He brought the Kidcare ID program to Heppner to help families have a permanent record in case of a lost child or child abduction. Doug has an excellent background in management and budgeting. With over 20 years as a chief of police, it shows how effective he is. I know if I were there, I would vote for Doug Rathbun for Morrow County Judge. He is dedicated.

(s) Donavon K. Shaw, chief
Enterprise Police Dept.
Enterprise

Guy Van Arsdale stands out

To the Editor:

Within the number of able candidates that are running for governing positions in Morrow County this year, there is one that we feel stands out. Guy Van Arsdale is our choice for county judge.

In a time when common sense and good judgment seem to be in increasingly short supply in government, we feel gratified to have a candidate running who has these qualities in good measure.

Guy has built these skills in a lifetime of hard work. Running his own successful businesses, solid engagement in the aviation industry, real knowledge of our forested lands and directing the Public Works Department of Morrow County have developed these skills. This is just the background we want in a man slated to supervise the working of our county government.

(s) Jim and Carleen West
Heppner

Favors youth camp in Heppner

To the Editor:

I want people of the Heppner community to know that I am in favor of the placement of the Youth Accountability Camp in our area. I have not made my decision from an attitude of naivete or ignorance about behavior of trouble youth. Those labelled "incorrigible" exist in every community and come from families of every economic level.

For five years I was part of a citizens advisory group for the Idaho Youth Authority in eastern Idaho. I have seen how the process works, and how young persons can be taught and given more productive skills of personal relationship and responsibility. They can be ready to return to regular society, family, school or workplace, prepared to carry their own load and make constructive contributions to the places they choose to be.

I believe that Heppner has a hospitable and generous spirit to offer both youth and workers. If Heppner is chosen, I will be one in the community who will offer support in every way I can. First, I will expect the best, and then I will offer the right hand of fel-

lowship and friendship to those who come to be part of the community. If 50 youth leave our community in the course of months, or a possible 150 a year, and feel that they have been given a boost in straightening out their lives, what better advertisement could we wish for?

If Heppner is not chosen, a few may feel self-satisfied. Others, the majority, I believe, will have a hollow spot in their hearts because the community did not rise to a challenge-to create and support a process that offers hope in the formation of character of some selected young men where there has often been none previously.

I do not agree, always, with elected officials. In this instance, I applaud them for their alertness to the possibilities of being on the side of a constructive youth program and also for seeing its other advantages. I do not perceive any dishonesty in their actions and decisions on behalf of the youth camp project, or in the way it was brought to our attention.

(s) Grace E. Drake
The Rev. Grace E. Drake,
retired
Heppner

Keith Lewis dedicated

To the Editor:

My long professional and personal relationship with Keith Lewis prompts me to express my support for his bid for Morrow County Judge.

Keith Lewis was well known for his loyalty and integrity while serving in the Oregon State Police Department. Keith Lewis has a sound understanding of law

enforcement, which would serve him well, while dealing with juvenile offenders and other law enforcement matters he would be charged to deal with.

I feel certain that Keith Lewis would be as dedicated to Morrow County as he was to the Oregon State Police department.

(s) Walter S. Hershey
Retired Major Oregon State
Police

Mend your fences

To the Editor:

As a candidate for Morrow County Judge, I think it is important that constituents of the county be aware of the issues that involve all of us. One of those issues is the Youth Accountability Camp (YAC) currently under consideration for siting in Heppner.

The concern I have right now is how divisive the issue has become. I would remind each of you, that if your neighbor supports the YAC and you do not, that does not mean that your neighbor has any less concern for Heppner's livability than you do. Or if your neighbor opposes the YAC and you support it, that does not mean your neighbor has any less concern for Heppner's economic well being than you do. I have sat back and listened to both sides of this issue and have determined that whichever position people are taking, they are taking that position with a genuine concern for our future.

What do we do now? I have urged the elected officials of both the county and the city to ask Mr. Rick Hill of the Oregon Youth Authority to delay his siting decision for 30 days. By delaying the decision the elected officials will have time to take an "advisory vote" or "straw vote" if you will, to determine exactly how the community feels.

As a candidate, people are always asking me, "How do you feel the campaign is going?" I can tell you this, how I feel and what the actual results may be on May 19 can be entirely different. As a potential elected official I think it's important to know how people really feel. By taking this "advisory vote" we all will know what our community thinks of locating the camp in Heppner.

One last thing, when I was in

Re-Elect Charlotte S. Gray

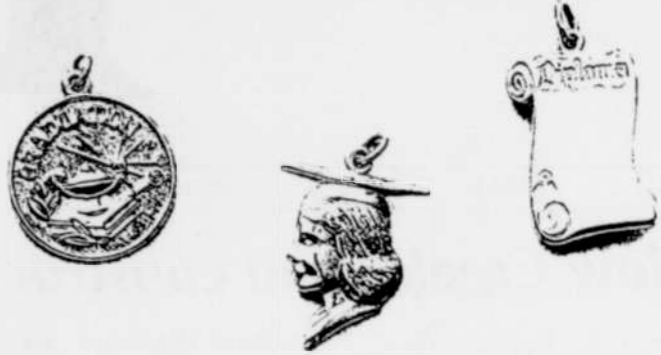


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VOTER! Through an error, Guy's information was omitted from the Voters' Pamphlet. Please consider this information and vote for GUY VANARSDALE.

Paid for by the Committee to Elect Guy VanArsdale Morrow County Judge, Lexington, 97839



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