

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.

Stop vandalism at Day Park

To the Editor:
As members of the Willow Creek Park District, we are writing you today to inform your readers of a serious problem of vandalism at the Willow Creek RV/Day Park. Last year vandals cost the park district literally thousands of dollars and this year vandals have already cost the district considerably. Vandalism is never a positive thing, however, this year in particular funds are exceptionally tight. There just isn't money available to replace destroyed items.

It is our intention as your board members to keep the park open as a serene park that compliments the community members of the district and its potential tourists with the maximum accessibility possible; however, because money is so tight and neither the Morrow County Sheriff's Office or the Heppner Police Dept. have been able to curb the vandalism problem, we are petitioning the community members to help us curb this destructive crime.

We are offering a \$100 reward to be paid for any information given to the Morrow County Sheriff's Office that would lead to the arrest and conviction of these individuals. Any information given to the sheriff's office would be confidential.

If these crimes cannot be stopped, our only alternative as board members is to partition off the park and dramatically decrease the accessibility of the park. This is a lose/lose situation, as doing so will only turn away potential tourists. It is our strongest desire that a positive alternative can be found to solve this ridiculous crime. Any help in this matter is welcomed and truly appreciated.

(s) the board members of the Willow Creek Park District
Skip Matthews-chair
John Ripple-vice chair
Archie Padberg
David McNary
Patty Wehrli

Water supply not adequate for camp

To the Editor:
I feel that the city of Heppner's water supply system should have been studied before applying for the proposed Youth Accountability Camp. Consideration should be kept in mind about adequate supply of water in case of fires and pump failures.

In my opinion the city of Heppner's water supply system is not adequate for the demand that the proposed camp will need. Attention should be drawn to the fact that the city's wells and pumps are barely keeping up with the city's demand during the irrigation months of May, June, July, August, September and October without placing restrictions on sprinkling of lawns during those critical months.

Explanation: Starting with the well at the forks of Willow Creek. It runs continuously producing 200 gallons per minute and should not exceed that limit, due to draw down of the water level.

The next well coming towards town produces 550 GPM and pumps air along with the water.

The next well is located at what is commonly known as the Florence Ranch and is only good

to produce 350 GPM for a period of four hours and is set on a timer to shut it down for six hours for the well to recover before pumping again. Pumping only half time provides 175 GPM.

The next well is at the Wilkinson Ranch and provides 300 GPM.

The next well is south of the cemetery and has an unpleasant sulphur odor and is not used often due to complaints from users about the smell. When in use it provides 125 GPM.

Based on these facts, the city of Heppner has the availability of 1,350 GPM maximum.

My opinion is that an elevation restriction for water usage should be placed within the city and any development above that would not be served by the city. Also, I feel that plans should be made to drill for more water and restrictions on issuance of water meters above one inch until more water is available.

I request that the mayor and council of the city of Heppner request withdrawal of the city of Heppner's application for the proposed Youth Accountability Camp.

(s) Marshall Lovgren,
Retired city of Heppner administrator

Hermens stands up

To the Editor:

When we bought our ranch almost 10 years ago, we researched all the right of ways and were satisfied with the BLM easements that were listed on our deed "for logging and administrative purposes only." According to the seller there was never a problem with the county road dead-ending one mile into our property and there had never been any public access through the BLM easement, which incidentally is a trail not safe for motorized vehicles, 3.5 miles through our private property that leads to a piece of steep canyon BLM property.

No sooner had we settled in, than some BLM employees approached us at the ranch and declared that they believed they had public access through our property. We had the audacity to question their assertion and their authority, thus started the rift with BLM, and hence we were labeled "troublemakers." We locked the gate and contacted the attorney who negotiated the easement, the late Roy Kilpatrick, and he assured us that the easement was in fact negotiated for logging and administrative purposes only and there was no public access.

BLM then began sending people up to push the issue of public access. We know this be-

cause we would meet the people at the gate and tell them our situation and they would tell us BLM sent them up. BLM then arrived at our place in flack jackets with guns and proceeded to serve Stan with a criminal citation for locking the gate and preventing access through the "logging and administrative only" easement. BLM was free to use the access anytime. So we were forced to sue BLM for quiet title to resolve this issue.

Someone from the ranch greeted everyone who arrived at the gate and explained the situation to them. Not many people came, but when they did we told them what was going on, like I just did to you.

Now, this was a while ago, probably three or four years ago. Enter Mr. Wanous; there must be two of them. The guy I encountered was rude, belligerent and threatening. I was videoing horses when I saw their rig at the gate, which, incidentally, belongs to me, not BLM. I remember that I told him exactly as I told you and he left. So, I don't believe there is any conflict here. The Tan Hermens that stood up for private property rights for herself will stick up for them for you too. Tan Hermens, standing up.

(s) Tan Hermens
Kimberly

Walden knows how to PAC it in

To the Editor:

Congressional candidate Greg Walden sure does seem to know how to "PAC" in the money. According to a Baker City Herald article, he has collected over \$173,000, much of it from Washington D.C.-based PACs.

Apparently Bob Smith arranged a fund raising session in D.C. where he collected most of the money. Greg would not have had access to these high powered PACs by himself since he has never held a national office and has rather limited experience as even a state legislator.

Greg has never lacked talent for acquiring money, though. He was in the state senate in 1996 when the legislature referred a ballot measure to the people for a vote. The "Walden Consulting Services" billed and received \$36,070 for "media placement services" to promote the bill. Some of the "media" placed went to Walden's own radio station. The measure was defeated, by

the way. I wonder if it is completely legal for an active legislator to collect money to promote legislation in which he had a part.

Walden Consulting services also collected approximately \$40,000 to manage the campaign of a congressional candidate in 1994. That candidate was required to employ Walden's service as a condition of receiving a campaign donation. Bob Smith had a hand in that deal, too.

Let's call it what it is. Walden is a profiteer. He has sold out to big city and big money interests and is not the man to represent us. There are three other Republican candidates to choose from, all more conservative than Walden and none have any suspicion of profiteering or wrong-doing in office. Let's look over the field and elect some one else.

(s) Chuck Chase
Baker City

Changed mind on youth camp

To the Editor:

Thank heaven for those who can give others the "benefit of the doubt." At the present time, there seems to be a lot of doubt about siting the Youth Accountability Camp in our midst.

There clearly seems to be doubt about the intentions of our local public officials in the matter as well. I am hearing that some people believe that we were deliberately misled, "hoodwinked" or "sold a bill of goods" by those we put into office who, if we gave them the benefit of the doubt, perhaps really thought they were acting in our best interests, given the information they had to work with at the time. Perhaps they were a bit like me. When I first heard about the YAC, I thought it sounded good too. Now, that is no longer the case.

I have, since that time, spoken with people who have asked me to look at the situation more

closely, and after attending the meeting hosted by "Friends of Heppner" on May 7, I decided I needed to let it be known that I changed my thinking on the matter, and I know I'm not the only one. I'm not against helping youthful offenders, I'm against having such a facility here, when there are so many unanswered questions, or unpalatable answers to some questions.

Certainly if there are over 500 people who have signed petitions opposing siting the camp in Heppner, then we need to know how many more people there are who may also be opposed.

In light of some of the new information available on the subject, I feel it is incumbent upon each of us to better inform ourselves. Information is the only tool we have for determining the best political and social policies. If the people we elected to office remember that they are in office to truly serve and represent us, then let us hope that it is their intention to listen to what we want as a whole. As a community, we do our best actions together, so let's try and keep some perspective.

Let's not pit ourselves against our good friends and become divided over the very freedom of speech that we as Americans paid so dearly for when we set ourselves up as a Democracy. Your friend should remain your friend even if he or she expresses a different viewpoint than yours, no matter what the issue.

And, our friends in office should give (along with the benefit of the doubt) a graceful way out, in the event that they should happen to change their position(s) on this matter.

(s) Pamela Wunderlich
Heppner

Economic development urgent

To the Editor:

There has been much written and said about the proposed boot camp in Heppner. I believe that the most possible economic development is of utmost urgency in our area.

How will this proposal affect our community? We can and should trust our local elected officials' judgment, in what they offer us, and that they believe the proposal deserves a careful com-

munity assessment. From the information they have offered us, I believe the camp is needed and that our community can be a powerful and good influence on those that will be a part of this camp.

Why should rural residents of south Morrow County be concerned? We also need medical and local services. Anything that helps us maintain a viable community deserves our support.

(s) Don Peterson
Ione

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Heppner-Gazette

Everett and Elma Harshman
are celebrating their
65th Wedding Anniversary!
Share in the fun on May 30th, 3 p.m.,
at Anson Wright Park.
Potluck, Swiss Steak, punch and table service provided.
Bring stories, memories, lawn chairs and beverage of choice.
If the weather is bad, we will meet at Hardman Community Hall
See you there!

ELECT ROD OSGOOD for JUSTICE OF THE PEACE



- ❖ Everyone is innocent until proven guilty.
- ❖ The guilty should be sentenced in a way that will persuade them to change their behavior.
- ❖ That restitution should be paid to as many victims as possible.
- ❖ My Primary Job is not to raise money for the county, but to help protect and make life more pleasant for the people who live here.

FOR COMMON SENSE JUSTICE VOTE ROD OSGOOD

Paid for by the Committee to Elect Rod Osgood Justice of the Peace