

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.

Place emphasis on more serious offences

To the Editor:

Due to several incidents that happened in lone over the last couple of weeks, I feel compelled to write this letter. It seems that our local law enforcement is placing greater emphasis on traffic violators for such things as burned-out tail lights, etc., over what I consider a more serious offense such as theft, drugs and vandalism.

Last Saturday night one of our newly hired deputies chose to sit at an intersection and watch cars leave Beecher's, while the city park was being vandalized. There have been numerous other incidents in the community of vandalism and theft and I feel

this is a higher priority than harassing people when leaving a drinking establishment. The people that frequent our local restaurants and the owners keep pretty close tabs on individuals that may be showing signs of intoxication and do a good job of dealing with the situation before we have a problem. I would like to reemphasize to the patrons of lone that you drive with a valid driver's license, your vehicle is in proper operating condition and, if you have consumed alcohol, choose an alternative other than driving yourself home.

(s) Terry Mewhinney
Ione

Public pressure can remold health district

To the Editor:

Two weeks ago I wrote an open letter presenting some of my thoughts about the organization of the Morrow County Health District. My point was that the board of the health district must have a much larger input from the medical care providers and a correspondingly smaller input from its administrators. I recommended four specific ways the board should do that.

First, the board should have as an ex-officio member the chief of the medical staff. This would ensure that the board receives medical advice on every single issue.

Second, the administrator should be required to consult weekly with the chief of the medical staff. This would ensure that medically important issues remain the focus in day to day operations.

Third, the medical care providers should be appointed department heads of their respective clinics or departments. Thus they would have the authority necessary to fulfill their responsibilities.

Fourth, the administrator

should be required to provide all goals, plans and directives in writing. No more management by word-of-mouth. No more inability to tell what happened.

If you believe these ideas make sense and will promote better operation of the health district, then I would ask you to let the board know. A postcard to each board member now and your attendance at every board meeting would be a powerful force to improve the health district. Public pressure on the board saved the district only a few months ago, public pressure now can help remold the district so that we don't again face the loss of this most vital part of Morrow County.

Your board members are: Mrs. Cara Osmirn, 60549 Balm Fork Road, Heppner, OR 97836; Mrs. Vicki Kent, 75060 W. Oregon Lane, Irrigon, OR 97844; Mrs. Meg Murray, 64132 Rhea Creek Road, Ione, OR 97843; Mrs. Norma Stahl, P.O. Box 326, Irrigon, OR 97844; Mrs. Sharron Meyers, 740 Mt. Adams, Boardman, OR 97818.

(s) Clyde M. Burnham, MD
Heppner

Jurors make courageous decision

To the Editor:

The Multnomah County jurors who recently returned a punitive damage verdict against Phillip Morris reached their decision after carefully weighing the evidence presented during the month-long trial. Critics of the verdict should acquaint themselves with some of the evidence, as described in newspaper reports of the trial. This courageous decision by twelve ordinary citizens, representing the collective wisdom and judgment of our community, demonstrates that our civil justice system is the greatest means ever devised for

bringing about positive social change in the face of corporate refusal to accept responsibility.

As for the amount of punitive damages assessed, 60 percent of which must by law go to the Oregon Crime Victims Assistance Fund, the jury heard evidence that Phillip Morris' domestic tobacco business alone has a net worth of \$17 billion. The amount assessed by the jury is less than 1/2 of one percent of this value, which is equivalent to imposing a fine of about \$80 on someone who has \$17,000.

(s) W. Eugene Hallman
Attorney at Law
Pendleton

Garden Club studies companion planting

"When you arrange your garden according to principles of companion planting, you combine plants that share water, light and nutrients and take advantage of the natural defenses plants use to protect themselves from pests, diseases and other plants," Janel Lacey told Heppner Garden Club members speaking at their April meeting.

Gardeners can use plants that repel (or attract) insects away from crop plants: aliums planted with roses repel aphids. Chives planted between chrysanthemums or tomatoes will also discourage aphids. Black nightshade repels Colorado potato beetles. Nasturtiums planted near broccoli attract aphids away from the broccoli. Radish plants will draw cabbage maggots away from any of the cabbage family.

Some combination of plants boost the health and productivity of each other. For example, basil planted with tomatoes repels both insects and disease and improves both growth and flavor of the tomato. Goldenrod, fennel, dill and yarrow attract insects that aid in pollination or eat harmful insects. Marigolds

grown for a season or more exert nematode control.

"Interplanting" (the practice of growing two or more plants virtually in the same place at the same time) combines plants that have different rooting depths, feeding demands, and growth habits to make maximum use of limited space and can double or triple yields. Heavy feeders such as cabbage, corn and squash combine with light feeders like garlic and beans. Tall crops like corn, pole beans and sunflowers provide desirable light shade for low growers like cucumbers and lettuce which act as living mulch, keeping the soil moist.

Lacey suggested: Deeply rooted squash goes well with shallow rooted onions, bush beans with summer savory, corn with squash, trellised cucumbers with lettuce, cabbage with thyme, or carrots and spinach with trellised peas.

Lacey also recommended mixing crops to increase diversity in the garden, making it harder for pests and diseases

to find and move between the plants. It can also be attractive since many flowers and herbs make good companions

M.C. Sheriff's Report

The Morrow County Sheriff's office (MCSO) reports handling the following business:

Oregon State Police received a report of suspicious circumstances at the Boardman BP station. A man with two small girls came into the BP and bought beer and headed eastbound on I-84.

Heppner Police Dept. received a report of cars driving through a residential area. The caller requested an officer.

March 20: MCSO received a report from a man in Lexington that his neighbor was out of the area receiving medical care and his car was towed away while he was gone.

Oregon State Police received

Wranglers hold first playday

The Wranglers Riding Club held their first playday on Sunday, April 18. Results are as follows:

Stickhorse race: first Jared Gorham, second/third, a tie between Ryan Dougherty and Tate Gentry, fourth Macy Gibbs;

Leadline: barrels-first Jared Gorham, second Ryan Dougherty, third Garrett Gibbs, fourth Garrett Robinson; poles-Garrett Gibbs, Garrett Robinson, Jared Gorham, Kyle Harrison; figure 8-Garrett Gibbs, Garrett Robinson, Kyle Harrison, Ryan Dougherty;

Five and under: barrels-first Mary Rietmann, second Willy Gentry, third Donald Matthews, fourth Colby Green; poles-Mary Rietmann, Donald Matthews, Willy Gentry, Colby Green; figure 8-Mary Rietmann, Donald Matthews, Colby Green, Rebecca Jepsen;

Six and seven year olds: barrels-first Jessica Hughes, second Taighler Dougherty, third Brent Eckman, fourth Quinn Mader; poles-Eric Jepsen, Jessica Hughes, Taighler Dougherty, Jake Gregory; figure 8-Taighler Dougherty, Jessica Hughes, Quinn Mader, Eric Jepsen;

Eight through 10 year olds: barrels-first Lane Bailey, second Emily Rietmann, third Jamie Westburg, fourth Whitney Matthews; poles-Lane Bailey, Regina Seitz, Jamie Westburg, Whitney Matthews; figure 8-Lane Bailey, Emily Rietmann, Jamie Westburg,

a report of a vehicle on the side of the road with the family out of the vehicle waving frantically.

Oregon State Police received a report of an elderly female driving dangerously on I-84. She pulled out in front of a semi and almost ran him off the road.

MCSO received a report of a kid on a 4-wheeler going around the gates at the Umatilla Refuge.

Heppner Police Dept. received a report from a female subject that her mother's landlord had assaulted the mother trying to get them off the property.

Heppner Police Dept. cited Kenneth Andrew Smith, 88, for Failure to Perform Duties of a Driver in an Accident with Property Damage.

MCSO, Boardman ambulance received a report of a man who passed away in Boardman.

Regina Seitz;

11-13 year olds: barrels and figure 8-first Lacey Davis, second Madison Bailey, third Jessica Westburg, fourth Jennifer Griffith; poles-Madison Bailey, Lacey Davis, Jessica Westburg, Nicole Wilson;

14-15 year olds: barrels-first Ann Shear, second Tracy Griffith, third Katie Bacon, fourth Sarah Eckman; poles-Ashley Ward, Tracy Griffith, Meghan Healy, Katie Bacon; figure 8-Ashley Ward, Tracy Griffith, Katie Bacon, Kelsey Greenup;

16-18 year olds: barrels-first Angela Munkers, second Jill Barber, third Bobbie Rankin, fourth Krista Adams; poles-Jill Barber, Krista Adams, Bobbie Adams, Tracy Rankin; figure 8-Jill Barber, Bobbie Rankin, Tracy Rankin, Krista Adams;

19 and over: barrels-first Angie Hughes, second Ruby Shear, third Terri Gentry, fourth Sue Gibbs; poles-Ruby Shear, Terri Gentry, Bill Jepsen, Bill Green; figure 8-Ruby Shear, Terri Gentry, Angie Hughes, Bill Jepsen.

The next playday will be held Sunday, April 25. Potluck will begin at 12 noon, followed by the playday at 1 p.m. New members are welcome.

For more information, contact Judy Eckman, president, 989-8498; Sandy Matthews, vice president, 676-5490; Judy Barber, treasurer, 676-5037; or Samarra Van Doorn, secretary, 676-9687.

Heppner band student in concert

Matt Jepsen, a senior member of the Heppner Band recently had the honor of playing trumpet in the Oregon All-State High School Band.

The Band performed along with the All-State Choir and the All-State Orchestra on Sunday afternoon, April 11, at the Silva Concert Hall in Eugene.

This year's All-State Band was composed of 97 of the top high school band players from around the state. Matt was selected based upon an audition tape, and the recommendation of Heppner band director, Ralph Werner. Some 30 trumpet students auditioned for the state band, and only 11 were chosen.

Jepsen ranked third highest of the 11 based on his audition score.

The All-State Band was directed this year by Ray E. Cramer, a conductor from the Indiana University School of Music. The band performed four songs in the concert. The three different all-state music groups were mailed the music so they could practice it ahead of time. Then they spent two and a half days rehearsing together at the University of Oregon for the performance that was given at the end of the weekend. The All-State Concert is an annual event sponsored by the Oregon Music Educators Association.

Site council approves request; to discuss plan

The Heppner High School Site Council, at their March 10 meeting, was again presented with a conference request from teacher Dave Fowler. Because no one else in the district is going to the computer conference, which Fowler planned to attend, the money approved by the council for the conference was not sufficient, according to Fowler. The council approved the allocation of the necessary funds if three teachers would donate their unused conference money for the computer conference. Teachers and site council members Steve Brownfield, Jason Just and Juan Elguezebal all agreed to donate their money to Fowler.

Principal Ron Anthony discussed the School Improvement Plan with the council. HHS must develop a new plan by December 31, 1999. The site council plans to discuss recommendations for the plan at their May 9 meeting. Anthony distributed samples of teacher, student and parent surveys which will be used to gather

input from the staff and community.

The entire council then watched a video on Oregon's education for the year 2000. It was mentioned that students were being inundated by so many educational requirements that they will reach a point at which many of them will find it impossible to meet all the required benchmarks. An example given by Brownfield dealt with the upcoming science Certificates of Initial Mastery (CIMs). By the time they are sophomores, students will have to pass benchmarks in earth science, physical science, biology and another life science. Anthony mentioned that there will be almost no electives offered in the future; all classes will be geared toward the Ed 2000 requirements. Council members were disturbed by the idea that the state requirements may have an adverse effect on those students they are trying to help.

The next meeting was held on April 14.

Boardman Police Dept. received a report of three juveniles breaking glass near Riverside High School.

Heppner Police Dept. received a report of a vehicle squealing tires up and down Main Street.

March 21: MCSO, Boardman Police Dept. arrested Jose Luis Renteria, 34, Boardman, for DUII, Open Container.

Boardman Police Dept. received a report of two suspicious males near a vehicle on the side of the road by the man camp. The caller didn't believe the vehicle was theirs.

MCSO received a report of a restraining order violation in Irrigon. A woman said her daughter answered the phone and was asked if their mother was home. When the mother got on the line, there was no one there.

Multnomah County Sheriff's office arrested Arthur Lee Isadore, 50, on an Heppner Justice Court warrant for Failure to Pay Fine/Failure to Appear. Isadore was lodged at the Multnomah County Sheriff's office jail.

MCSO, Oregon State Police, Boardman Police Dept. received a report of a one vehicle accident with the car on its top on I-84 eastbound, milepost 155. There were only minor cuts and bruises received.

Oregon State Police received a report of someone cutting cows and calves' ears on Highway 74.

Heppner Police Dept. received a report from a woman that her children may have been sexually abused by her ex-husband.

Heppner Police Dept. cited two people for failure to use a safety belt, and two people for illegal U-turns.

MCSO, Boardman Police Dept. cited Miguel Rosales Ramirez for DUII, Open Container.

Roseburg Police Dept. arrested Jeffrey James Clemens, 24, on an Irrigon Justice Court warrant for Failure to Pay Fine/Driving While License Suspended. Clemens was lodged at the Douglas County jail.

Condon ambulance, AirLife received a report of a single vehicle rollover on Highway 19/51 with one male trapped in the vehicle who had extensive and severe injuries. The patient was airlifted to Bend.

March 22: MCSO received a report of an audible alarm at A.C. Houghton in Irrigon. It was unfounded.

MCSO received a request from a deputy from a man in Irrigon

who said the neighbor's three labs run loose at night and chase his cocker spaniel in his yard.

MCSO received a report from a woman that someone went through her sister's truck that she keeps for a residence in Irrigon.

MCSO received a report from a woman concerned that her ex-husband was back in town in Irrigon.

MCSO deputy arrested Alva Jay Bert, 34, on a UCSO warrant for Menacing.

MCSO deputy arrested Ramiro Madrigal Rodriguez, 32, on an Irrigon Justice Court warrant for Failure to Appear/Driving while under the Influence of Intoxicants.

MCSO received a request for an extra patrol from an Irrigon woman who said her ex-husband threatened to take her daughter.

Heppner Fire Dept. received a report of a weed fire out of control and threatening a structure on Highway 74, three miles north of the mill. It was determined to be under control and the fire dept. could stand down if they chose to.

Heppner Police Dept. received a report from a woman of a dispute with her landlord. The landlord allegedly left a mark on her daughter's arm and hurt her wrist.

MCSO and Irrigon Fire Dept. received a report of a fire alarm in an Irrigon residence.

MCSO received a request for a deputy regarding a possible sex abuse case.

MCSO received a report of a two-car accident on Highway 730 near Division St. in Irrigon. It was a non-injury accident.

MCSO received a report from an Irrigon man that his hot tub was soaped and it was the third time it happened.

Boardman ambulance received a request for an ambulance to Kinkade and Dillbaugh in Boardman for an eight year old who was hit by a car. He was conscious and alert, and a nurse was on the scene.

MCSO, Oregon State Police, Boardman Fire Dept. received a report of a vehicle fire on I-84, milepost 157, with a suburban fully engulfed. A Hermiston ambulance stopped and gave the passengers a ride into Hermiston.

Oregon State Police officer arrested Vincente Muniz, 21, on an Irrigon Justice Court warrant for Failure to Pay Fine/Interfering with a Police Officer. Muniz was lodged at the UCSO jail.

Arlington Rodeo draws top contenders

Many of the top rodeo contestants in the Northwest will compete May 1 and 2 for prize money and custom trophy belt buckles made by Kenny Hansen in nine events at the 52nd annual Arlington Saddle Club Jackpot Rodeo in Arlington.

1999 ASC Rodeo Queen Katie Bacon of Ione will reign over the festivities. Rodeo events include: bronc riding, bull riding, roping, wild cow milking, steer wrestling and women's barrel racing.

Those attending can witness the fastest "Quick-draw Cowboy in the West" and the "Youngest, Meanest Bull Act" by rodeo clowns and barrel men, The Twin Towers: Marc "Shorty" and Kevin "Big Red" Schmoll.

BMCC announces spring honor roll

Forty-five Blue Mountain Community College students received a perfect 4.0 grade point average during winter term 1999. This GPA reflects a straight A report in all courses taken by the student.

Forty-seven students qualified for the president's list by attaining a GPA of 3.85 or higher. One-hundred-thirty students qualified for the dean's list by receiving a GPA of 3.4 to 3.84. One hundred twenty-three students qualified for the winter term honor roll by receiving a GPA of 3.00 to 3.39.

To earn a position of any of the three lists, a student must carry a full-time load of classes, which translates to 12 graded credit hours. Students may not have receive an F in any class to be so honored. Also, a pass grade does not count toward the 12 graded hours necessary to be included on the lists.

Local students on the president's list include: Chung-Wen Liu, 4., Heppner; Dulcie Hays, 4., Irrigon; Marie Tworek, 4., Ione.

Local students on the dean's list include: Jeffrey Pipes, Gail Greer, Joan Ratchford, Jessica Rencken, Mark Tarpenning, all Boardman; Nicole Sweeney, Heppner; Renate Eppenbach, Antonio Mejia, Amanda Miller and Teri Stanger, Irrigon; Joseph Lindsay, Lexington; Danielle Stefani and Lindsay Waterland, Pendleton.

Local students on the honor roll include: Stephanie Clements, Lynsi Garcia, Cindy Johnson, Elizabeth Martinez, Alfred Tison, all Boardman; William DeBoer and Ruth Norton, Heppner; Kenneth Ball, Jessica Moore, Daire O'Brien-Richards, Irrigon; Tiffanie Munkers and Phillip Tellechea, Lexington; Jim Kang, Pendleton.