

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. The G-T is not responsible for accuracy of statements made in letters. (Any letters expressing thanks will be placed in the classifieds under "Card of Thanks" at a cost of \$10.)

Resident says senior apartments are a great place to live

To the Editor:
I'm Barbara Struthers, the first resident of the St. Patrick's Senior Apartments. I have been happy and very comfortable here. This place is so convenient- within walking distance of the post office, bank, drug and grocery stores, dentist, optometrist, cafes and to churches. The clinics and hospital are also near by.
We have a great bunch of tenants here and there are plenty of things to do- exercise class on Tuesday and Thursday mornings, cards or dominoes on Tuesday and Friday afternoons, bingo on

Tuesday evenings, the senior dinner on Wednesday afternoon, jigsaw puzzles every day and a well stocked library.
The rent is very reasonable when you consider that it covers everything except TV and telephone. When we have a problem we call Doug and he fixes it or sees that it gets fixed. Things like a leaky roof may take awhile, but it gets done.
There are several apartments available now. Come take a tour and find a great place to live.
(s) Barbara Struthers
Heppner

Asbestos bill unfair to US citizens

To the Editor:
RR unfair Bailout Bill for Asbestos Manufactures S-852
I grew up in a family of carpenters, and handy fix-it men. I learned how to repair and build things to make ends meet. It was just a common place event. We were all around asbestos and didn't think a thing of it and definitely didn't know about the hazards involved. I remember going to school as a young child and seeing ceiling tiles fall out of the ceiling at school, in a haze of dust, we'd watch our favorite janitor sweep it up and get a ladder and replace it. Then he'd throw the mess in the dumpster. We had no clue. This was in the 60's
As I got older, I helped my dad and grandfather tear down old houses and saved as much of the old lumber, and ceiling tiles, bricks, fixtures and floor tiles that were halfway decent to recycle and reuse in additions on other houses that we were remodeling. Then we would scrap the rest, which is worse, because we would not only be covered with the dust and powder of all the materials that we were dumping in landfills, but exposed the environment to the asbestos particles and disposed of it improperly, but at that time that was the way it was done. The hazards, unknown to us were common place to disposes of this material.
As I got older, I worked for numerous businesses and contractors as an electrician, heating and air conditioning repair technician, one of the tasks was to redo all the boiler lines and knock off all the old asbestos material on to the floor and sweep it up put it

in a bucket and add water and make a paste out of it and use our bare hands to repack the new pipe fittings, because otherwise, using gloves the paste would just stick to the gloves and not the pipe fittings. This was in the early eighties. We still did not know the hazards of asbestos, I was just trying to do the job and make a living. We grew up with asbestos all around us, in our homes and schools as well as the work place. With no knowledge as to what the future held.
Now our legislation is trying to pass this bill, and saying, "Oops, sorry no harm done and nothing personal," lets just back the manufactures of asbestos and stop all claims and future settlements and we will keep on manufacturing it and killing people and the past deaths are forgotten. Oh, we'll take it out of some of the products to make it look like they are complying with the rules, but they are just common men, women and children that this has destroyed and damage and we the legislature know what is good for the people. Call your U.S. Senators and tell them No. This bill is arbitrary in so many ways to so many people.
(s) Rick Earley
Eugene

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Councilwoman speaks out against recall

To the Editor:
To Charles Sumner, chief petitioner, and the People of Lexington:

This week, Mr. Sumner and two others have been circulating recall petitions against Mayor Edwards and myself.
I have consulted my lawyer and been advised that these allegations are libelous and subject to potential repercussions.
The charges are untrue and the ravings of individuals who have nothing to do except spread gossip and lies, with the intent to influence votes and take over the town. Soon Lexington will be just another Antelope, if they are allowed to do so. Some of us still remember what happened there.
I have never harassed any councilor. I have spoken out in my defense as a private citizen and I definitely did not try or threaten to run over one with my car. I have said that no councilor has the right to sit in the office all day, disrupting the recorder and spreading her gossip around the town, as one other has done. I have never threatened employee termination, but I have said they needed to stand up for themselves and not bellyache their complaints to others and then do nothing about it.
I have worked within the council, made no unauthorized contacts or agreements outside of the council, unlike another councilor. I do not attend the meetings intoxicated or stoned and I have never cost the town money by my individual actions. I do speak

my opinion regarding issues (i.e. I am not in favor of creating a liability for the town by taking out a loan for the water project when a grant application has never even been considered.) At no time have I ever been unprofessional. I have stated my opinions and why I disagree with an issue. I have not violated the Ethics of the State of Oregon or the town bylaws or used my office for financial gain, nor have my actions as a councilor resulted in a monetary liability to the town.
I have actively promoted the town as a member of the Willow Creek Valley Economic Development Group, the Morrow County Needs and Issues Committee, the Willow Creek Service Club and Assisted Living Facility, as well as on various committees.

I have devoted my time, efforts, money and even my health to the town. In return, I have had my property vandalized, trashed and egged. I have received hang up phone calls, threats, false allegations and even been physically assaulted. Last November, I was reelected for another four years and have done nothing to warrant these actions. These actions have all been reported to the authorities and are kept on file for future use.

In conclusion, there is no basis for these allegations, as they are false, malicious and libelous. I will not resign nor will any of my votes be controlled by individuals or by the local Lexington cult.
(s) Luella Taylor
Lexington

St. Patrick's Senior Center news

St. Patrick's Catholic Parish volunteers will host the noon senior meal on Wednesday, Aug. 31. The menu is ham, mashed potatoes with gravy, corn, green salad, fruity jello and birthday cake.

About 30 persons remained to hear Eva Mabbott, executive director of CAPECO, explain and answer questions about the relationship and agreement between CAPECO and the Heppner Senior Center. Some of the discussion included other options that might be pursued to operate the meal site. As a result of the discussion, there will be no change in the mode of operation, staff remains the same and communication lines have been clarified.

Ed Baker announced that the senior bus would be taking people to the "Westward Ho" Parade in

Heppner team raises \$2000 for cancer walk

In its fifth year, the Relay for Life Cancer Walk, held in Hermiston, raised \$47,000, with \$44,000 as net intake.
Many people from Heppner participated, with the team raising \$2000 and the Heppner campsite being

Pendleton. The exact time will be announced later. Baker also announced that he was in need of volunteer drivers- several have moved and others have had a change of status.

Three persons took advantage of the open house of the senior apartments during the fair. Judy Buschke announced that there will be an open house each Wednesday during the time of the meal. This is for the convenience of people who may be interested and may have missed other scheduled times.

Presiding at the senior board meeting was Sheila Piper, newly elected vice president. A certificate, in appreciation of service, was presented to Tom Wilson. The next meeting will be held Sept. 21 at 12:30 p.m.

named "Best Decorated." The campsite had a survivors theme, with a lagoon, thatch hutch and tiki torches.

The support from the community of Heppner was greatly appreciated. Plans for next year are already in progress.

Obituaries

Van Edward Rietmann

Van Edward Rietmann, 81, died in a farm accident Sunday, Aug. 7, 2005 at the family ranch near Condon.

A memorial service was held Monday, Aug. 15, at the United Church of Christ in Condon.

Rietmann was born May 17, 1924 at Ione, the son of Edward and Ruth Van Vactor Rietmann. He graduated from Arlington High School, served in the Army during World War II and graduated from Oregon State College in 1948 with a bachelor's degree in animal husbandry.

The Rietmann heritage begin in Gilliam County in 1895 when Rietmann's grandfather, Sam Ellis Van Vactor came to the Condon area from Goldendale to practice law. His mother, Ruth Van Vactor, was born at Condon and his father, Edward, was born and raised north of Ione on a family homestead.
The family left the farm at Ione when Rietmann was 12 years old and leased a place on Dry Fork in Morrow County, later purchasing a farm at Ajax from A.K. York for \$500 down. Rietmann farmed at the Ajax ranch west of Condon since 1948, and has since expanded the ranch to include land once owned by Gilliam Country pioneers J.S. Burres, R.W. Potter and others.

To supplement income from wheat production, Rietmann also raised chickens and hogs and eventually turned to cattle, now an integral part of the operation.

While serving as chairman of the Oregon Wheat Growers League's Wheat Disposal and Transportation Committee, he became acquainted with Rose Ellen Schmid, a home economist, for the Wheat Growers League. They were married in 1955 in Fruitland, ID.

The Rietmanns have worked over the years to improve their wheat, grains and cattle-fattening operation, to improve the availability of water and at ways to prevent topsoil erosion. Rietmann was devoutly committed to agriculture sustainability and saving soil and water.

The United Church of Christ has been an important part of Rietmann's life and he has been active in the UCC's Pacific Northwest Conference. He was a founding board member of Summit Springs Village Corporation and also served for many years as a director of Columbia Basin Electric Cooperative, served on the Condon School District 25J board and as a Gilliam County commissioner.

He has been a major contributor to a variety of community projects and causes over the years. His interests, generosity and humanitarianism also extended beyond the confines of the local community and he and his wife traveled frequently on study tours and humanitarian

missions to Cuba, Central America and the Soviet Union. He also promoted the work of the United Nations.

Rietmann is survived by his wife, Rose E. of Condon; son, Tom and daughter-in-law Katie Cook of Condon; daughter, Marie Rietmann of Washington, D.C.; and grandchildren, Jacob, Benjamin and Annika of Condon. He was preceded in death by his parents and his brother, David, who died in 1999.

Memorial contributions may be made to the United Church of Christ Endowment and Memorial Fund, P.O. Box 223, Condon, OR 97823; Laura Barnett Arts, P.O. Box 165, Condon, OR 97823; or to a charity of choice.

Sweeney Mortuary of Condon is in charge of arrangements.

Abraham Murillo

Abraham Murillo, 20, of Boardman, died Saturday, Aug. 13, 2005 at Kadlec Medical Center in Richland, WA.

The funeral service was held Aug. 17 at Burns Mortuary of Hermiston. Burial followed at Riverview Cemetery in Boardman.

He was born Dec. 21, 1984, at Hermiston, to Gloria and Efrain Murillo, Sr. He was raised in Stanfield until 1999 when his family moved to Boardman. He was going to be a senior at Riverside High School this fall.

He enjoyed school, singing, church, swimming, drawing and wanted to be a paper boy.

He was a member of the First Baptist Church in Umatilla.

Survivors include his parents, Gloria and Efrain Murillo, Sr.; grandparents, Irene Arellano of Hermiston and Valentin and Narcisca Lomas of Boardman; sister, Ninfa Murillo of Beaverton; brothers, Cain Murillo and Omar Murillo, both of Boardman; a niece, a nephew and many aunts, uncles and cousins. He was preceded in death by his brother, Efrain Murillo, Jr., in 2000.

Burns Mortuary of Hermiston is in charge of arrangements.

Dallas Shockley

Dallas Shockley, 77, of Shoreline, WA, died Aug. 3 at his home.

Funeral services were held Aug. 6 in Seattle.

Shockley was a superintendent at Ione Schools from 1955 until the 1960 consolidation with Morrow County. He was also active in managing transient labor camps during the summer. Before coming to Ione, he worked as a teacher at Athena School. After leaving Ione, he worked as an official for the Washington Education Association in Seattle.

Survivors include his wife of 50-plus years, Dee Shockley; children, Kathy, Patrick, Rebecca and Mike; and 10 grandchildren.

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