

~ Letters to the Editor ~

The Heppner Gazette Times will print all letters to the Editor with the following criteria met: letters submitted to the newspaper will need to have the name of the sender along with a legible signature. We are also requesting that you provide your address and a phone number where you can be reached. The address and phone number will only be used for verification and will not be printed in the newspaper. Letters may not be libelous. The GT reserves the right to edit. The GT is not responsible for accuracy of statements made in letters. All letters expressing thanks will be placed in the classifieds under "Card of Thanks" at a cost of \$10.

HB 2020 is destructive

To the editor:
Oregon's proposed "cap and trade" (H.B. 2020) is more than a sales tax on all products, especially food and fuel. According to Carl Wilson, Republican from Grants Pass, "This is the most destructive bill to ever come out of the House of Representatives. Workers will tremendously suffer under Cap and Trade. Thousands of jobs will be lost. Wages will decline. Gas prices will increase and family budgets will be strained. Climate change is a global problem not an Oregon problem. Oregon workers should not be punished for reckless environmental policies of China and India."

The fact is H.B. 2020 is a cap and trade tax; i.e. a sales tax on all Oregonians, especially the poor and middle class, that will have zero impact on global warming or climate change. The socialist Democrat politicians that control Oregon have no regard for Oregonians east of the Cascades or south of Eugene. Their socialist policies foster homelessness making Oregon the second highest homeless state in America per capita. These Democrats prefer illegal

immigrants to Oregonians, protecting predator wolves instead of protecting cattle ranchers and abolishing the second amendment instead of protecting legal gun owner rights.

Stand behind our Oregon Republican senators that have made a stand against these Democrat socialist politicians that are usurping our constitutional heritage and our way of life. Abraham Lincoln called our Declaration of Independence a "rebuke and stumbling-block to tyranny and oppression." Our present Oregon government does not represent most of Oregon nor does it consider our grievances. Our Republican senators have made a stand against the tyranny and oppression of a government that no longer represents most of the state of Oregon. This may be our last opportunity to thwart the socialist takeover of our beloved state. Do not return to the Oregon senate senators until this oppression and bullying stops. Let these patriot senators of Oregon and America know we stand with them and will help bear the price of liberty with our lives if need be.

Stuart Dick, Irrigon

Be encouraged Lexington City Council, the citizens are counting on you.

To the editor,
I write this letter to the Lexington City Council. I appreciate your willingness to volunteer your time to serve the city of Lexington. My family and I have lived and ministered in Lexington and from my experience this city's people are the salt of the earth. I understand there are difficult issues causing division and I appreciate both sides of the conflict. I exhort the council to rise above the division separating you

and take encouragement that your willingness to represent and govern the city of Lexington during a most challenging and potentially prosperous time is greatly appreciated. My father, L.E. Dick Jr., served on community councils all his adult life. He lost a lot of business for the positions he took. Serving the public is not for sissies. Be encouraged Lexington City Council. The citizens of Lexington are counting on you.

Stuart Dick Irrigon

Personal vendetta and public shaming: the new norm?

To the Editor:
It used to be that a person interested in a job, position, office, seat, etc., was judged on their experience, qualifications, and assets they would bring to the table. That's the way it should be.

Sadly, that doesn't seem to be the way of it in Lexington, not if you want a seat on the town council.

To say that June's meeting was "hostile" is to say the very least.

As motions were made by two councilmembers, and the public demanded that Mayor Kemp honor the motions made in two previous monthly meetings to vote on Curtis

Thompson's letter of interest for the vacant council seat, Kemp's temper flared and screaming matches ensued between her and the public she allegedly represents.

But I get ahead of myself.

The contentions and hostilities first arose after motions were made by Councilwoman Gordon and Councilman Beard (based on advice from a lawyer and the Oregon League of Cities, respectively) to clarify the interpretation of the town's charter's terminology as to whether or not the may is permitted a vote on council positions.

Both Kemp and Councilwoman Marcia

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Sticka cited a letter which says the interpretation is that the mayor can vote. Noteworthy is that the letter is dated 2008 and precedes both May Kemp's election to office and the current town charter, approved by the votes and dated 2012.

Kemp even went on to say that most of the people in that room agreed with her interpretation. Naturally a suggestion (made by yours truly) to poll the gallery to test the validity of her assertion went unacknowledged save for her fiery glare.

During the pandemonium and more or less pointless bickering, one very intelligent and highly relevant point was made by Will Lemmon. He stated to Mrs. Kemp that even if she were permitted to vote, which she's not, she doesn't have to vote. . . that in the interest of democracy and progress for the Lexington Community he would think she'd want to abstain as opposed to continuing deadlocks on filling a seat left vacant for several months.

This succinct observation was met with further temper tantrums, feet stamping, and threats to walk out by the Marcias.

In a brief revisit to the denial of the seat to Sheila Miller, Kemp repeatedly cited conflict of interest as her husband is a fireman. This brings two points to mind:

1) I personally know of a past Lexington mayor who was also a fireman without conflict.

2) How much of a conflict is it that someone who once sued the town of Lexington now sits as mayor.

Which brings me back to Mr. Thompson and the purpose of this communication.

Listen up folks, this applies to you as well.

During the rather loud discussion of the vote on Mr. Thompson's interest in the council seat he's been waiting on for two months, defamation, slander and shaming appeared to be the means the Marcias chose. You know that low road I spoke of in my last letter?

If you recall my first letter, "Allegation without Validation," in April, it mentioned that Kemp had refused to answer a fellow council member's question pertaining to Mr. Thompson's alleged harassment of a city employee which resulted in her refusal to consider him for the council seat (a position she has since acknowledged she did not have the authority to take and apologized for. She stated, as reason for not answering the question, that doing so in an open meeting could open the city up for liability. Well, it seems she has not only abandoned that concern, but jumped head first into the deep, dark, treacherous hole of liability, while again refusing to allow a vote on Mr. Thompson and issuing threats if the vote went forward. People asked the obvious, "Why?" She stated simply, "I don't like him." Of course the begged the natural out-

bursts and outrage from the gallery, mostly from Mr. Thompson, Himself who stated, "Like me? You don't even know me." To validate his point he asked several questions in rapid-fire succession, such as, "How long have I lived here?", "How many kids do I have?" and so on. At one point, Ms. Dorothy Edwards thought it courteous and respectful to tell Mr. Thompson, "Oh why don't you shut up!" Yes, this is the nature of the town council meetings in Lexington, folks. Grab your popcorn and join the fun. Bowing to public pressure, not comes the time for Ms. Kemp to explain just why she doesn't like Mr. Thompson. (That is, after her "I don't have to explain," wasn't well received.

1) He failed to pay his water bill once about a year ago.

This was followed by Ms. Sticka's, "Why do we want someone who won't pay his bills?"

Did you get that folks? If you ever fall on hard times, overlook your bill, etc., you will be talked about by name in your town council's public meeting. This happens regularly under the "delinquent accounts" portion of the agenda at every meeting.

2) The rest of her "reasons" were based on hearsay. . . something about a dog," etc. and whether or not he pays property taxes (as a renter). All of the above led her to conclude, "He's not a good neighbor."

Of course, the relevance of any of that to a seat on the town council remains unclear to me.

Now, after Mr. Sykes's once again excellent coverage of the meeting, we all know the vote eventually did take place and Mr. Thompson was sworn in as a member of the council, bringing with him the benefit of eight years of valuable experience as a city water man. But to what end? Kemp had already stated prior to the vote that she would actively seek to overturn his appointment and punish the two council members who pushed it, with the help of the Ethics Board. We wish Mr. Thompson, Mr. Beard and Ms. Gordon luck and courage as they strive to make progress for Lexington in the face of such adversity.

Yes, Lexington, this is your mayor in action. Caveat emptor. . . let the buyer beware.

In closing, I would like to address Ms. Kemp directly. You stated that you had "been called all sorts of horrible things in the paper recently." This is completely untrue, as Mr. Sykes will not print anything with any name calling. It is your actions that are being called out.

That being said, if you can't handle the hear, I suggest you get out of the kitchen because I, for one, have not yet begun to cook. . . merely been warming the pan.

(s) Cheyenne M. Rogers Heppner, OR

~ Letters to the Editor ~

EPA regulations costly, bring little benefit

To the Editor:

The Senate just confirmed Andrew Wheeler to lead the Environmental Protection Agency.

Since joining the Trump administration early last year, Wheeler has eagerly pared back environmental regulations. He's sure to continue these rollbacks now that he's the EPA's official head. Radical environmentalists were dismayed by his confirmation. But everyday Americans should be thrilled. Wheeler is merely targeting unnecessary rules that raise the cost of living for middle-class families. By cutting pointless red tape, Wheeler and other Trump administration officials can grow the economy and create jobs while simultaneously protecting the environment.

Under the Obama administration, overzealous regulators buried energy companies under a mountain of new rules and restrictions. In 2015 alone, new rules from the Environmental Protection Agency created over \$11 billion in regulatory costs for businesses.

If left unchecked, those rules would have dampened economic growth, causing the government to lose out on \$33 billion in tax revenue by 2025. The ensuing drop in energy production would have caused fuel and electricity prices to rise, costing the average family an additional \$255 each year. Regulatory overreach would have also destroyed an estimated 830,000 jobs by 2035.

Excessive regulations also jeopardize national security. The Obama administration's rules could have reduced U.S. oil production by 3 million barrels a day by 2035 -- about a quarter of current U.S. production. The United States would have had to import that fuel from hostile nations like Venezuela.

By trimming needless regulations, Wheeler

and his colleagues at the EPA can empower businesses to realize their full potential. Oil and gas production already adds \$1.3 trillion to the American economy each year. By one estimate, a light-touch regulatory approach could enlarge the economy by \$1.9 trillion 2035.

Somewhat counterintuitively, this light-touch approach actually helps the environment by spurring higher natural gas production. Many power plants have recently switched from burning coal to burning natural gas. Since natural gas produces only half as much carbon as coal, this transition has done wonders for the environment. Over the last decade, as U.S. natural-gas production has skyrocketed, U.S. carbon emissions have plummeted by nearly one-quarter.

Energy companies like Exxon Mobil, Shell, and British Petroleum are also proactively fighting climate change. These firms have pledged to upgrade their equipment and drilling techniques to decrease emissions of methane, a greenhouse gas.

In short, individual companies and the invisible hand of the market are already helping slash emissions. There's simply no need for red tape from Washington.

The dangers of excessive energy-sector regulations are no secret to most Americans. Seven out of 10 voters in the 2016 elections opposed any taxes or laws that would harm domestic energy development. A light-touch approach to regulations will promote energy production, thereby creating jobs, bolstering the economy, and combatting climate change. Americans should cheer Andrew Wheeler's confirmation as EPA administrator.

Drew Johnson

Senior Fellow at the National Center for Public Policy Research. Washington DC

Give your family an international flair: host an exchange student

ASSE invites families to "bring the world together by hosting a foreign exchange student." ASSE International Student Exchange Programs, a public benefit organization, is seeking local host families for high school students from over 30 countries: Spain, Germany, Thailand, Denmark, Portugal, South Korea, Italy, France, the former Soviet Union Countries, Norway and more.

Couples, single parents, and families with & without children in the home are all encouraged to host. You can choose to host a student for a semester or for the school year.

Each ASSE student is fully insured, brings his/her own personal spending money and expects to contribute to his/her share of household responsibilities, as well as being included in normal family activities and lifestyles.

Imagine the world of peace and greater understanding. Imagine yourself as part of the solution. Today's teens are tomorrow's parents, international businesspeople, and possibly even future political leaders. Share your corner of America by helping a foreign exchange student experience life in your area," said an ASSE spokesperson.

If you are interested in opening your home and sharing your family life with a young person from abroad, please contact us today for more information, call (800) 733-2773, go online at www.ASSEhosts.com or email asseusawest@asse.com

Lexington Burn Ban

The Fire Chief of the Town of Lexington is imposing a closed season for open burning effective Friday June 27, 2019 until further notice.

The burning ban is for the Town of Lexington and includes all burn barrels and open burning.



Community lunch menu

Willow Creek Baptist volunteers will serve lunch on Wednesday, July 3 at St. Patrick's Senior Center. Lunch will be beef and cheese enchiladas, Mexican black beans, mixed vegies, tossed salad and strawberry sunshine Jell-O salad for dessert.

Milk, coffee and tea is served at each meal. Suggested donation is \$3.50 per meal. Menu is subject to change.

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