

~ 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. Any letters expressing thanks will be placed in the classifieds under "Card of Thanks" at a cost of \$10. Email to editor@rapidsolve.net or upload to Heppner.net.

Managers or leaders?

To the editor,
I am writing in response to the article, Health District problems aired in front of packed board meeting, dated Wednesday, May 26, 2021. After reading the article, I have to wonder, as I am sure many have already, if the MCHD is guided more by managers rather than leaders.

So let me start by distinguishing between the two. Managers are primarily concerned with controlling a group to accomplish goals. In an article from Forbes Magazine entitled, Management vs Leadership: Five Ways They Are Different, writer Liz Ryan correctly asserts, "...Management is task-based and mechanical... Management veterans were taught how to assign work to subordinates, how to evaluate their teammates' work... and how to hire and fire staff members..."

The writers of The Leadership Challenge, Jim Kouzes and Barry Posner say this about leadership. "[It is] the art of mobilizing others to want to struggle for shared aspirations." Leaders influence, motivate and enable others to contribute toward organizational success.

-First, transformative and servant leaders model the way people are treated and the way goals are accomplished.

-Second, leaders inspire a shared vision of the future and create an ideal and unique image of what the organization can become.

-Third, leaders challenge the process and seek innovative ways to not only improve the organizations but set goals so that people can achieve small wins as they work toward larger objectives.

-Fourth, leaders enable and involve others with the goal of making each person feel capable and powerful.

-Finally, leaders recognize the contributions of others, celebrate accomplishments and keep hope and determination alive. There is an enormous difference between managers and leaders.

The community needs to decide what future they desire from the Health District. There are many good people employed there but based on the article and the history of fear that prevails over the organization, and the heavy hand of discipline, the people of the community need to decide, first, do we have managers or leaders. Both are clearly needed. Second, if change is needed, then you as a resident and stakeholder in this community need to speak up. Finally, if change is needed, then demand change. The MCHD can hire a consultant to help with leadership issues so that there is accountability from them to you. Demand it.

Overall, you want to trust those who are in 'leadership' positions. There is a great deal at stake and if change is needed, perhaps trust from the community can be won back.

Dr. Carmelo A. Di Salvo

LEXINGTON RESOLUTION

-Continued from PAGE ONE of the new flooring planned for the town hall. The town received a Willow Creek Valley Economic Development grant to carpet and paint the town hall. Lamb also suggested that maybe the town should look at purchasing a second well pump to have on hand in case the pump goes out and would get the town in water. He also asked for volunteers to check on the well when he is gone on vacation. He said the town has about two days of water in the tank. Councilmembers Bill Beard and Will Lemmon said they would be willing to volunteer to check on the well.

Resolution declaring an economic, mental health, crisis due to the current COVID-related state emergency declaration and relating OSHA mandates and guidance.

WHEREAS, the Oregon Governor's Executive Order 20-03: Declaration of Emergency due to COVID-19, and all subsequent and related OSHA guidance, and present and future executive order extensions of such are arbitrary, ineffective, and draconian; and

WHEREAS, we as a municipality have no legal ability to summarily flout these mandates, guidelines and enforcement by OSHA, and therefore cannot protect any local business from State-directed targeting, repercussions and penalties if such local business personally chooses to; and

WHEREAS, we also recognize that neither city, county nor state government has the legal right to flout the Oregon State Constitution or the United States Constitution; and

WHEREAS, we do believe our citizens are fully capable of making their private, individual health-care and lifestyle decisions themselves; and

WHEREAS, we recognize that COVID-19 is indeed a contagious virus and contagious viruses do exist in the world; and

WHEREAS, science has shown over the last year that COVID-19 is overwhelmingly survivable, and lockdowns do not stop its spread; and

WHEREAS, all models and projections used to justify initial state emergency mandates have been proven inaccurate over the past year; and

WHEREAS, our local hospital and health care system are not overwhelmed with COVID cases, and never have been; and

WHEREAS, Town of Lexington is obligated to adopt regulations designed to promote the public safety and general welfare of its citizenry; and

WHEREAS, a majority of our local businesses directly attribute state lockdowns and OSHA guidelines as solely responsible for their inability to earn a living or pursue other rights as outlined in our State and U.S. Constitutions, and therefore we believe their property is being unconstitutionally seized by government without due compensation under the auspices of inappropriately weaponized State agencies; and

WHEREAS, too many businesses in the Town of Lexington have already closed their doors permanently as a result of the Governor's emergency dec-

laration; and

WHEREAS, the Governor's lockdown and masking mandates are actively creating division and unrest with the increased potential of physical violence within our community as those of one opinion are encouraged by it to impose their opinions over the free will of those of another in a physical way, and we are obligated to address and prevent crime; and

WHEREAS, the Governor's mandates result in pitting local law enforcement against law-abiding citizens rather than criminals, which damages our community's strong relationship with our valued local law enforcement, and which is a dynamic no community should tolerate; and

WHEREAS, deliberate isolation of the ill in hospitals or the elderly left to die alone of that isolation is the cruelest of abuses and is not to be accepted in any civilized society; and

WHEREAS, it is a violation of the First Amendment of the United States Constitution for a government to limit how our churches and citizens choose to practice their religious freedoms, which are crucial to mental health; and

WHEREAS, social distancing and prolonged isolation are proven to create a number of mental health issues such as anxiety and depression, sometimes pushing individuals over the edge toward suicide as a last resort; and

WHEREAS, that same social distancing and prolonged isolation, combined with unemployment and other stressors, are increasing cases of domestic abuse and violence; and

WHEREAS, we believe in the kindness, compassion, and common sense of our citizens and businesses to help protect the most fragile and susceptible in our community; and

WHEREAS, fear is a tool of untruth, manipulation, and control - characteristics all of which do not reflect the values of our citizenry; and finally

WHEREAS, we are mindful of the sentiments of our founding fathers such as Patrick Henry who said, "Give me liberty or give me death;" and Samuel Adams who said, "Our unalterable resolution should be to be free;" and Thomas Jefferson who said, "The spirit of resistance to government is so valuable on certain occasions, that I wish it to be always kept alive," and, "What country can preserve its liberties if its rulers are not warned from time to time that their

people preserve the spirit of resistance?"; and finally, John Adams, "But a constitution of government once changed from freedom can never be restored. Liberty, once lost, is lost forever."

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that we declare an economic, mental health, and crime crisis due to the current COVID-related State Emergency Declaration and related OSHA mandates and guidance, as a means of loudly and symbolically supporting our citizenry; and

BE IT RESOLVED, the Town will communicate in writing with the Governor's Office to encourage the full opening of our Town and county, recategorization to low-population status, or suggesting other means necessary to give our citizens relief from these mandates; and

BE IT RESOLVED, the Town will support upcoming legislation, dependent upon its straightforward and unambiguous wording, which provides reparations to business owners who have had their businesses and income taken without compensation; and

BE IT RESOLVED, the Town will support future statewide ballot initiatives that limit the duration and extent of Governor's emergency powers, which may create similar lockdown scenarios during future emergencies, natural disasters, and pandemics; and

BE IT RESOLVED, the Town will share this resolution with other Oregon cities, counties, and media outlets in the hope those entities will also speak more loudly; and

BE IT RESOLVED, the Town recognizes the citizenry of the Town of Lexington are free, sovereign individuals within a Constitutional, Representative Republic, not subjects or slaves, and will be recognized as such as we firmly stand to represent them.

BE IT RESOLVED, the Town recognizes the citizenry of the Town of Lexington are free, sovereign individuals within a Constitutional, Representative Republic, not subjects or slaves, and will be recognized as such as we firmly stand to represent them.

Signed by four councilmembers and the mayor of Lexington.

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