

## From Our Readers...

*Editor's Note: Letters are from our readers and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of Huckleberry Press or staff. To submit a letter visit [www.huckleberrypress.com](http://www.huckleberrypress.com) or write an e-mail to us at: [ads@huckleberrypress.net](mailto:ads@huckleberrypress.net)*

### Hunters Town Hall Meeting

Hear ye Hear Ye! has been the historic cry throughout these United States for hundreds of years; calling local citizens to gather and participate in community gatherings called Town Hall Meetings. History books tell of huge turnouts of empowered citizens who gathered to listen and speak their piece.

Andrew Engell from Summitt Valley and I, Ron Buchanan, from Hunters acting as PCO's (Precinct Committee Officers) in the Stevens County Republican Party, spread the word of hear ye,hear ye! Come listen to your duly elected officials on October 20, 2015. We invited our community to find out what has been done and what is coming up in future legislation.

Our clarion call was to come have a voice, to let us know your concerns. The legislatures gratefully accepted our invitation and came from great distances. They included Representative Shelly Short (Colville), Representative Joel Kretz (Omak) and Senator Brian Dansel (Republic). The meeting was informative and comfort was found in what our elected officials had done in the last sessions. Their reports being much different than what we had heard through our news outlets.

Many that came said the attendance was great, but from Andrew's and my perspective it could and should have been better. The vast majority who attended were impressed with the great job that Rep. Short, Rep. Kretz and Senator Dansel are doing. They have my vote and support in future elections.

Despite the many signs and notices that were displayed and posted, and the numerous phone calls made, so many chose to

stay in their homes and continue to complain about the horrible job that our elected officials are doing. I found a statement made 138 years ago that pertains to our time and our involvement.

"Now more than ever before, the people are responsible for the character of their Congress. If that body be ignorant, reckless and corrupt, it is because the people tolerate ignorance, recklessness and corruption. If it be intelligent, brave and pure, it is because the people demand these high qualities to represent them in the national legislature.... If the next centennial does not find us a great nation ... it will be because those who represent the enterprise, the culture, and the morality of the nation do not aid in controlling the political forces."

James Garfield, the twentieth president of the United States, 1877 Our communities need to stay in touch with our elected officials.

Ron Buchanan,  
Hunters PCO  
Stevens County  
Republican Party

### Whatever Happened to Restitution?

In America today, we have around 4.4 percent of the world's population, yet we have the world's largest prison population, and the highest incarceration rate at 2.3 Million prisoners! Consuming over 60 Billion dollars of taxpayer money annually!

This is a crazy statistic but hardly something we have the influence to change ourselves. What I would like to see happen is a change in how our own crime is handled here in Stevens County. Those people that have been victimized rarely receive compensation for the damage done to them, seeing the criminal go behind bars may be some satisfaction but in the end it doesn't pay for the damage nor does it rehabilitate the offender.

I think we need to return to a system of restitution where a convicted thief pays back not only what they stole but double the value of what was stolen as described in Exodus 22. If the thief cannot pay what is owed then perhaps there

could be low paying jobs like litter pick up they could offered, with jail time being a last resort and still expecting restitution to be made before they are free from that crime. When criminals truly pay for their crimes, crime doesn't pay. This is a basic principle of human nature. People always respond to incentives. I know actual application of this is difficult to work out but isn't the effort worth it? Let's be truly "tough on crime."

Luke Engell  
Chewelah, WA

### Global Entrepreneurship

Don't miss the chance to visit the Global Entrepreneur Week (GEW) event and see the entrepreneurial business ideas generated by the Chewelah & Colville High School students. Global Entrepreneurship Week is the world's largest celebration of the innovators and job creators, who launch startups that bring ideas to life, drive economic growth and expand human welfare.

The Stevens County

GEW event is November 12th from 9 AM – 1 PM at the Community College facility in Colville. Once again High School students are participating in the 2015 event, designing businesses that will make money and improve their community, state, country.

Come vote for the best business ideas, everyone is encouraged to stop by and see firsthand entrepreneurial ideas the students have developed. There will be the opportunity for everyone to review and rate the ideas and displays.

GEW is being sponsored and coordinated by Tri County Economic Development District (TEDD) and Colville Horizons for organizing and supporting GEW. We are also want to thank Sue Poe and Hewes Marine for their generous donations in support of the Stevens Co. GEW event.



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