

# Letters to the Editor

- Idaho Statesman  
**SMOKE-FREE EAGLE**

## **Smoking ban shows we care about health**

I am proud to call Eagle my home. We are a community that has been progressive in creating a healthy, attractive and livable city, and this includes its view of smoke-free policies. We continue to grow, and it's exciting to see us growing in a positive way.

Let's continue this positive growth by showing all of our employees that we care about them and their long-term health. Second-hand smoke can cause or aggravate cancer, respiratory infections, heart disease and asthma (among other things). Implementing the proposed smoke-free ordinance in Eagle will make me proud once again, demonstrating that our community is unafraid to take the lead in doing the right thing by our citizens.

MACKENZIE RODGERS, Eagle

## **Hoffman's reasoning against ban is a joke**

Wayne Hoffman recently explained his opposition to a proposed Eagle smoking ordinance (March 29). He believes public-health concerns are irrelevant, since customers and workers have a free-market choice to simply avoid businesses that allow smoking. Because smoking is a legal activity, Wayne argues that there should be no smoking restrictions whatsoever on private property.

A similar argument could be easily devised to suggest that there should be no DUI laws. Drinking is a legal activity, and a car is private property. Although a drunk driver may affect the safety of other drivers and himself, the other drivers aren't being forced to drive. While it may seem inconvenient or even unfair to the sober drivers, Wayne might point out that sober drivers can avoid the danger by simply choosing to walk, skate, fly, swim, etc. Therefore, like Wayne's smoker who wants to pollute the air we all breathe, Wayne's drunk who wants to drive his vehicle on a public road should not be restricted.

Like the "Saturday Night Live" skit, it's obvious that Wayne's World is a joke. Eagle's City Council has a duty to protect public health by enacting modern smoking ordinances.

JOHN RYAN, Boise

## **Air crosses boundaries**

I was raised to be independent but to also respect others' rights and property. My rights end where another's begin. This boundary is fairly easy to define in small populations with enough room. It is much harder to allocate in concentrated populations. Governments, laws and the interpretations of laws that are judicial opinions exist to help define those boundary lines.

Unfortunately, Mr. Hoffman, air will not stay behind lines. It is difficult to restrict to one person's property or to keep it from carrying toxic materials to another's property or personal space. You would feel it a violation of your rights if, as you walked down a street or visited a friend in his house, you were attacked by a third party. Tobacco smoke is like that attacker. Banning tobacco smoking is like putting that miscreant in jail.

CHERYL D. HALVERSON, Tensed

## **A proactive, healthy step**

It's about time! I was thrilled to see the news about Eagle City Council considering going smokefree. I have travelled around quite a bit and am always disappointed when I come home and have to be subjected to secondhand smoke when I choose to visit with my friends at a bar. I can't express how happy I am, and proud of my own community,

Eagle, that we are considering taking the final step in creating a smoke-free city. We are a proactive community that takes pride in our healthy lifestyle. It makes sense for us to be the first in Idaho to take this all-important step in protecting our citizens from the dangers of secondhand smoke. City Council and Mayor Bandy, you've got my support!

SCOTT GRAIME, Eagle

### **Ordinance would help attract new merchants**

I have been proud to call Eagle my home for over 30 years. When I heard that the Eagle City Council was considering making Eagle a smoke-free community, I was thrilled.

A few years ago, my husband and I found ourselves only going to restaurants in Eagle because we knew they were smoke-free. These businesses decided to go smoke-free before a state law was enacted. Business owners may say that this is another restriction put on the backs of our local businesses, but this is not the case. If you talk with any business owner that has gone smoke-free, they will tell you that they would never go back to allowing smoking in their establishment.

Eagle has always attracted positive and progressive industries to our community and I think this ordinance will only continue to attract exceptional merchants. The new campaign in Eagle is "Stay, Shop and Dine in Eagle with a goal - to enhance the economic and social vitality, character and spirit of our community." OK Eagle City Council, let's be first to go completely smoke-free in the Treasure Valley, this is your chance.

NEVA SANTOS, Eagle

### **THOMAS FRIEDMAN**

#### **Learn the Ten Cannots**

In response to Thomas Friedman's column (March 15) and his false hope of ever reading that Obama has decided to consult learned and knowledgeable leaders to solve our economic problems:

First, Obama would have to humble himself and admit he is not all knowing. Second, Obama and his followers need to learn the principles stated in 1916 by Rev. William Boetcher called The Ten Cannots:

You cannot bring about prosperity by discontinuing thrift.

You cannot help the small by bearing down on the great.

You cannot strengthen the weak by weakening the strong.

You cannot lift up the wage earner by pulling down the wage payer.

You cannot help the poor man by destroying the rich man.

You cannot keep out of trouble by spending more than your income.

You cannot further brotherhood of man by inciting class hatred.

You cannot establish security on borrowed money.

You cannot build character and courage by taking away a man's initiative and independence.

You cannot help people permanently by doing for them what they could and should be doing for themselves.

I see little hope of this ever taking place. Not for one who envision himself as a world savior.

BETTY A. BARRETT, Boise

## **FAMILY PETS**

### **Give your pets a chance; take them to the shelter**

Animals are getting tossed out on the streets, especially in a time like this. We all know that people are strapped for cash, but you do not have the right to just get rid of them. Try, at least try, to bring them to a shelter. They will be fed and groomed and taken care of there. But give your pet a chance. Shelters are getting packed and animals have to be put down. It's not painful, but why should a helpless creature have to die because its owner won't take care of it?

Our pets are like our family, don't you think? Just like a family member they have to be fed, groomed/bathed, sheltered, and taken to the vet/doctor when they are sick.

If you can't afford at least try to donate to the shelters and maybe save one of those animals about to die. Don't toss your pet out because you don't love it. No living creature deserves to go about unloved.

Think about it.

ABBY CHILES, Eagle