

VIEWPOINT

ver News

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River trade area. \$68 outside trade area.



OREGON NEWSPAPER
PUBLISHERS ASSOCIATION



recycled paper.

Hood River and Hood River County
& Saturday by Hood River News,
97031 • (541) 386-1234 • FAX 386-6796

Wishes

and postage stamps

reading this on New Year's
early as Monday, thanks to the
line in light of the postal holi-

postal workers, a day free of
dense year of budget cuts,
o Saturday mail.

is secure, for now. A further
rkers: people buying stamps

Year's wish list, far from ex-
y worthy recipients. Many
f the Slice of Life features (see
inds us of the many people

arners, and a continued field
ood River Community Educa-
as seen some setbacks and
thanks to Director John Dunt

Our readers write

Words are fictitious

I am sick and tired of letters, like that of David Schneeberg in a Dec. 21 letter to the editor, who now (after President Obama did it) just love to say "there are better ways to satisfy the health care needs of the needy."

Words now are not just cheap, they're fictitious.

Dave Dockham
Hood River

Mercantile hoggishness

It is certainly true that FedEx and UPS operate in a manner that tends to generate a considerable degree of resentment, but a far greater share of the blame for holiday gift delivery disasters ought to be placed squarely on the shoulders of none other than "John (and Jill) Q. Public."

The transport system buckled under the strain of Americans' consumerist frenzy, and it simply could not keep up with their voluminous greed. Advertising-driven retail gluttony finally managed to surpass what our carriers of freight could properly handle.

No "Grinch" truly "stole Christmas" as a result of these unhappy parcel-toting failures. What's really wrong is a mentality that seeks a stratospherically high mountain of purchases over the Yule season.

Just when one can realistically expect useful outcomes from increased merchandizing, so also is it possible to expect unsatisfactory developments in the wake of our hysterically excessive accumulation of retail items. "More and more" simply is not a sustainable

attitude in a world of finite resources.

Bothersome though the recent FedEx and UPS experiences proved to be, it must be admitted that the fundamental problem is our gargantuan mercantile hoggishness.

If the public elects to send a nearly infinite amount of "stuff" hundreds or thousands of miles away, then it ought to simply accept the fact that the imperfect and mortal human beings doing the transporting will make mistakes.

Frank Goheen
Camas, Wash.

Give young men WINGS

After being overwhelmed with projects around our horse boarding stable and property, I decided to call WINGS for help. And a darned good decision it turned out to be!

WINGS (Give Them Wings Inc.) is a nonprofit that provides housing, work, education and other services

to homeless young men who need a "hand up" on their way to independence.

Some of the jobs weren't very appealing, like pruning years of blackberries from an old, 2-acre-long stone wall and stacking them in huge piles for burning; or hand-digging a trench through rocky ground inside the barn to extend a water line. But the young men of WINGS were willing to tackle anything.

They arrived with all the necessary tools, and every job was finished to perfection. They were all very amiable, hardworking and respectful, and it was my pleasure to work with them. No doubt more projects will crop up next year, as they always seem to. I've got WINGS' phone number programmed in my phone!

I'd like to encourage others to visit the Give Them Wings website (getwings.net) and invite these young men to come and give you a hand. We're grateful to them and wish them well on their journey.

Kurt Osborne
Hood River

