

# Goons gone wild

**Marty Trillhaase/Lewiston Tribune**

JEERS ... to state Rep. Heather Scott, R-Blanchard. Is there anybody who delights more in shooting off her mouth? In a brief two-year term, she has stoked the fires of the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge standoff, tried to dismantle Idaho's child support enforcement system, and hysterically alleged a cover-up in a Twin Falls County child sexual abuse case.

But when someone else speaks up - and has the temerity to suggest Scott ought to sit out the next legislative session or five - this provocateur would rather not hear it.

Last summer, one of Scott's gun-toting goons threatened Democratic challenger Kate McAllister's 90-year-old mother-in-law while she was shopping at the Sandpoint Safeway store.

Then this month, Scott's thugs stalked, harassed and accosted a 21-year-old Brigham Young University-Idaho student who had signed up as a Democratic Party field organizer in Bonner and Boundary counties. It got so intense - Democrats say someone tracked him down to a rural home where he was staying and at 2 a.m. began photographing the house and his car's license plate - that the young man has been yanked out of northern Idaho for his own protection.

And what does Scott say about this?

Has she publicly urged restraint among her supporters?

Has she reminded them of the First Amendment and respect for the electoral process?

Has this member of the "people's house" expressed embarrassment if not contrition?

Not the czarina of the Confederate wing of the Idaho GOP.

When the Spokesman-Review's Betsy Russell asked about the episodes, Scott dodged her questions.

So feel free to assume the worst.

Idaho's prominent business lobby - the Idaho Association of Commerce and Industry - apparently has.

IACI just endorsed McAllister.

JEERS ... to Idaho County Sheriff Doug Giddings. The sheriff has a problem. He's apparently alienated the largest police department in his jurisdiction. Rather than try to fix it, Giddings has resorted to political arm-twisting.

On Sept. 28, readers of the Idaho County Free Press opened their newspaper to see an advertisement featuring Grangeville Police Chief Morgan Drew and four of his officers. They endorsed Giddings' Nov. 8 election opponent, Carlos Martinez.

The ad was subtle. The officers were not in uniform and their affiliation with the city was obscured. But its message was unmistakably clear.

A sheriff concerned with promoting good law enforcement might acknowledge the obvious and promise to rebuild lines of cooperation between city and county agencies.

Instead, Giddings charged into the Grangeville City Council chambers and had a public tantrum.

"My main concern is politics has moved into the city police and they've taken a political stand as a unit," Giddings told the cops' employers. "They have decided to take up the politics of this because we want this other person. Who they want is fine ... but how they go about it is unacceptable, in my opinion."

Makes you wonder how Giddings would react had the officers endorsed his re-election instead, doesn't it?

CHEERS ... to Marvin Dugger of Lewiston. He's joined a select club established by former Lewiston School Board member Dale Yochum by swallowing hard and announcing his support for a new high school.

Yochum, the face of Taxpayers Against Unfair Taxation that helped defeat the 2011 bond issue, reversed his stance as the school district met his conditions for a new architect and a thorough review. It became clear building a new school would cost about \$59.8 million; renovating the 1928 campus would cost \$94.6 million.

So in May, Yochum delivered the fifth school board vote to build a new school, making the decision unanimous.

Dugger has been on a similar journey. Five years ago, he also urged defeat of the school bond and continued to challenge the premise. But the retired mill worker and journeyman carpenter urged the community to do more for the students who were not on a college-bound trajectory.

By collaborating with Lewis-Clark State College on a professional-technical program, the school district addressed Dugger's concerns.

"I think it could work," Dugger said Monday. "Yeah, I think I support this process, and I support the school now."

Credit Yochum for acting with courage.

And Dugger has demonstrated himself to be something you can't find all that frequently - a reasonable person.

CHEERS ... to Washington State University President Kirk Schulz. His football coach, Mike Leach, threw him a curve ball this week.

After Whitman County Prosecutor Denis Tracy brought robbery and assault charges against sophomore linebacker Logan Tago, Leach developed a feverish case of situational ethics. Out went WSU's policy of barring team members charged with felonies from playing; in came the new standard of reasonable doubt.

"If I have anything to do with it, he'll play until he's found guilty," said Leach, who has challenged the impartiality of the Pullman Police Department.

So much for the rules.

Until Schulz stepped in.

Interviewed by Spokane television stations SWX and KHQ, Schulz announced Tago has been suspended until the Whitman County court case is resolved.

"He's the boss," Leach told the Tribune's Dale Grummert. "So I defer to him on that."

Like Leach had any other choice?

JEERS ... to Idaho Republican Party Chairman Steve Yates of Idaho Falls. On Saturday, Republicans such as Idaho Sen. Mike Crapo and Congressman Mike Simpson pulled their support

from GOP presidential nominee Donald Trump over his tape-recorded remarks about making unwanted sexual advances toward a married woman and groping others.

Even Trump's running mate, Indiana Gov. Mike Pence, said he could not "condone his remarks and cannot defend them."

But way out there in the land of the sycophants, Idaho's tone-deaf GOP chairman took all this in and then tweeted: "Politicos stop taking bait. This isn't about what someone said 5, 10, 20 yrs ago. It's about breaking country free from the DC/media elites."

So rather than condemn misogynistic, boorish and predatory behavior, Yates would rather rail against the "DC media elites"?

Eventually, Yates jerked the wax out of his ears, rubbed his eyes open and figured out that Trump's comments were "appalling" and that women "should never be talked about in such terms."

It took him only four days to figure that out. - M.T.