

The Gazebo is not a playground

Written by Wauneta Breeze
Thursday, 21 June 2012 16:03 -

Dear Editor,

Once again our gazebo area is being targeted as a play area and source of entertainment. The main attraction this time is the big beautiful tree in the far west end.

The tree is now taller than the two buildings it sits between. Not only does the tree provide wonderful shade, but when it is in bloom, the fragrance carries throughout the garden area. The tree is now at risk of losing many branches if not the life of the whole tree.

We suspect kids have taken to stripping the bark from the branches and carving "W" into the tree. Several months ago it was noticed that kids were marring up the tree, so some of the lower branches were removed to keep the kids from climbing up in the tree.

Over the past weekend and again today (Tuesday, June 12), kids have stripped a pile of bark from several more branches.

It is not known if one group of kids or several are to blame. Kids from the age of five to 13 years have been told to stay out of the tree as well as not to destroy the flowers by several business owners.

The many peony bushes as well, had all the buds pulled off so the kids could enjoy a game of tag.

Parents would you let your kids do this at home in your own yards as well? Don't you care what your own plants and trees look like? We do care and we do want to keep downtown Wauneta looking nice.

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The gazebo is owned by the city for the enjoyment of the town.

It did not get there by itself. It does not water itself or weed itself. It took a lot of people with a lot of hard work to get it to where it is today and to continue to keep it up.

Trees do not grow overnight. Flowers do not continually bloom. Once you damage a tree or a flower you have to start all over again.

It is not a bike path or playground, but a beautification to our town to be walked through or to sit a while.

Many have used the area as a backdrop for family pictures and senior pictures. We would hate to lose this because parents are unmindful of their children's activities and their lack of respect for other people's property.

Parents be advised—We have now placed a barbed wire fence around the tree to hopefully give the tree a chance to heal. There is yellow fire tape to warn children not to get near the tree.

Thank you,

Concerned citizens

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