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September 29, 2009

To: The Eagle

Please place the following in your October 1st edition of your paper.

To the Editor:

Our 2009 Washington State Legislature passed Engrossed House Bill 1824 Youth Sports-Head Injury Policies. The law was passed for good reason: to help all of us do what we can to avoid serious head injuries to student athletes. Our coaches, parents and athletes are all being educated regarding the management of concussions and head injuries in youth sports.

The law has one component that refers to non-school affiliated youth sports groups that is causing some concern, however. In addition to needing to comply with the same requirements as do schools, the non-school youth sports groups are also being required to provide their own liability insurance. For some of our local youth sports groups, this is a huge hardship.

As the superintendent of Wahkiakum School District, I have inquired as to whether or not our insurance company would allow a "rider" to our policy for our local non-school youth sports groups. The answer was, "No." I am continuing to pursue other available options as the District has a true desire to allow our local non-school youth sports groups to be able to use our facilities. I am confident that a mutually agreeable solution will be found soon. In the meantime, everyone's understanding and cooperation are appreciated.

Bob Garrett
Superintendent
Wahkiakum School District

