

The Heppner GAZETTE-TIMES VIEWPOINT

HUNTING SEASON OPENS



*Respect Private
Property...
..Hunt Safety*



Gazette-Times Photo

An lone crowd at Long Creek watches as a Dennis Stefani fieldgoal moves towards the center of the uprights. The field goal last Friday was the first in 15 years for the Cardinals.

Sifting through the TIMES



Patriotism was mandatory in Morrow County 60 years ago this week.

Many of the area's young men were engaged in military duties in Europe, helping to bring to a close World War I. On the home front, many food and material items were not available to civilians, due to the war effort, many had lost friends or relatives during the ill-named "War to End All Wars." As a result, tensions mounted.

In late September of 1918, a Lexington man was arrested by military police for making "seditious" remarks. During the same week, Tum-a-Lum Lumber in Lexington placed an advertisement in the Gazette-Times stating that anyone "hearing a man utter a single word against Our Flag or the American Red Cross" should "knock the hell out of him." Tum-A-Lum promised to pay any fine incurred for thrashing persons of "questionable" patriotism.

Green thistle shoots, which sprouted out of fallow and stubble fields during a late September rain, presented a threat to area horse owners fifty years ago this week. Twelve horses in the Cold Springs area died from eating the Russian thistle sprouts.

Tobacco fanciers 50 years ago in Heppner faced the same health hazards of the nicotine addicts of today, but at least it cost a lot less to support their habit. Pound cans of Old Horseshoe and Climax chewing tobacco sold for 75 cents, and two packs of cigarettes sold for a quarter at Stone's Grocery in the Heppner Hotel building. A quarter at Stone's would also buy a five-pound basket of grapes or three boxes of corn flakes.

But income, as well as prices, was proportionately lower in 1928 Morrow County. For instance, during this week 50 years ago, soft white winter wheat was bringing area farmers a top price of \$1.53 per bushel.

In keeping with proper rodeo week spirit, Heppner's Star Theater featured Tom Mix in "Horseman of the Plains" during this week in 1928.

Property taxes were also in the news 10 years ago this week, when county appraiser Bill Johnson announced that 1969 tax rates would increase 18 percent over 1968 figures. The hike meant that the Heppner homeowner could expect to pay \$23.27 per thousand dollars of property—well above the current rate of about \$18.50 per thousand. Of course, homes were not then subject to full, 100 per cent valuation.

Lexington area rancher D.O. Nelson was elected a director of the Morrow County Grain Growers late in September of 1968. Nelson filled a vacancy created when former director Walter Jacobs moved to Moses Lake, Wash.

Nelson was also in the news one year ago this week, when he blasted plans to relocate the state welfare offices from Heppner to Boardman. The Gazette-Times also opposed the move in an editorial one year ago. Eventually, plans to relocate were dropped.

During this week in 1973, Gazette-Times columnist Justine Weatherford was named Heppner city librarian.

The Heppner Mustangs faced the Pirates of Riverside this week in 1973, as they did last Friday. During the contest five years ago, Heppner thoroughly trounced the Boardman team by a 54-0 margin. Heppner head coach Chuck Starr, now principal of Ione High, used the lopsided scoring edge to allow his entire roster to make appearances in the gridiron. John Boyer led the Mustangs in scoring during the 1973 game, with three touchdowns, including a long-yardage interception and a 40-yard punt return.

It was a different story during a Riverside-Heppner grid meeting one year ago this week, when the Pirates overpowered the Mustangs 12 to 7.

Mistakes noted in 'Sifting' column

Editor:

Twice, in recent "Sifting Through the Times" columns, I have run across an item about "Ferguson Garage in Ione."

My dad, Gene Ferguson, was a principal owner and operator of Ferguson Chevrolet in Heppner for many years.

The garage and Chevrolet dealership was located on the corner of Main Street for as long as I can remember. When Fullerton Chevrolet took over, it remained at the same location in Heppner.

Are the 1928 Gazette-Times records incorrect?

Nancy Rounsefell
Boring, Ore.

Editors note:

The Gazette-Times records are correct—we just made mistakes in sifting through the newspaper's back issues. Our confusion over the dealership's location stemmed from the fact that on the closing line of 1928 Pontiac and Chevrolet advertisements, the names of sales agents "E.R. Lundell, Ione" or "I.R. Robison, Ione" were listed along with Ferguson's. Not having lived in 1928 Heppner, we were mistakenly assumed the store was located in Ione. We regret the error.

Rare II brings writer request for wilderness

Editor:

I am responding to the public invitation for opinions concerning the (continuing) of opening Texas Butte, Kelly Prairie, Skookum, Potamus, Baloney Basin and Hells Half Acre of the Umatilla forest district to roads and multiple use.

More roads mean more people, more mobile homes, more off-road vehicles, more noise, more of man's technology, more industry, more pollution. More roads mean less elk, less forests, less of nature's untamed animals, less watershed area for irrigation, recreation or drinking water.

As so many Heppnerites, I grew up in these Blue Mountains outside Heppner, and have grown to love them dearly. I love them not only for hunting and fishing and recreation, but for a place of serenity and stillness to be in fellowship with our creator.

My spirit is burdened with the thought of more roads, for already we can't find the mountains for the roads.

These forests are our birthright—our gift from God. Esau sold his birthright for red pottage—one supper. The timber in these areas is just that—one supper for our logging industry. Please check the amount of timber being harvested in the Heppner mill alone. I do not begrudge the lumber industry, but it is a matter of conscience, the extent of the lumber industry's harvest of all our birthright. In the final analysis, we are all accountable to God for the dominion we have exercised over his creation. "If therefore ye have not been faithful in the unrighteous manner, who will commit to your trust true riches."

For me it is time to take a stand. I pray others will be inspired to make a stand for the responsible use of these forest lands. You may write USFS Pacific Northwest, Region R-6, P.O. Box 3623, Portland, Ore.

Stuart Dick
Sweet Home, Ore.

LETTERS

Writer supports Many Against Drugs, claims 'no problem' in Ione schools

Editor:

I would like to begin this letter by saying that I fully support the concern expressed by the group called Many Against Drugs (M.A.D.) and their efforts to help control drug problems in Morrow County. Recent articles in both the Gazette-Times and East Oregonian describing their visit to the September School Board Meeting, however, have led many to believe that "most" of Morrow County Schools have large percentages of their student bodies coming to classes and school activities under the influence of drugs.

While I agree that there are drug problems in Morrow County, I want everyone to know that we are not experiencing these problems in our schools at Ione. I recognize that there are drugs available in the community and some of our students may be experimenting with them outside of school, but we have not had any drug problems at school in the 2 1/2 years that I have been the Principal here.

Why is this true? That's a difficult question to answer, but I believe that I have identified at least two logical reasons for this very desirable situation. The first reason is the smallness of our school. As a result of this smallness, a very high percentage of our students participate in school activities. For example, we have 70 per cent of our high school student body participating in our fall sports program right now.

The second reason, and probably the most important one, is pride. Our students, their parents, and the community at large are very proud of their school and look upon drugs in school as a negative practice which detracts from the many good things we have going for us. This feeling of pride in our school is based upon participation, communication, and knowledge of the quality of education available at Ione which has resulted in a very high percentage of our graduated not only "surviving", but excelling in large four year universities around the country.

As one of these proud parents who couldn't be happier having his sons attend and graduate from Ione High School, I think it's time to emphasize and publicize the positive in all

our Morrow County Schools. We know we've got problems to work on, but we've got a lot to be proud of. Let's support each other and be proud of our students and our schools.

Chuch Starr
Ione

Apologies a part of 'vandalism' sentence

Editors note:

As part of sentencing imposed on three Heppner residents for criminal mischief charges in connection with the Sept. 1 spray paint spree through Heppner, Justice Court Judge Dee Gribble required that open letters of apology be written by those found guilty of the vandalism. The letters follow.

To Heppner citizens:

I do hereby apologize for writing all over Heppner, and apologize to anyone that was offended by any of my statements.

Randall C. Jydstrup

Citizens of Heppner and Trooper Dixon:

I am truly sorry for painting obscenities on the streets, on City Hall and everywhere else.

Mike Buschke

To the citizens of Heppner, Mr. Dixon and the people at CityHall:

I, Sheri Rogers, apologize for painting the town.

Sheri Rogers

Thanks for help in fund-raiser

Editor:

On September 4, 1978, the residents of the Helix community sponsored a Roger Smith Day, a fund raising event for this local man who was seriously injured.

The support that was given to this benefit was overwhelming and we want to say thank you to all who worked so diligently and gave of your time; to all who supported and participated in the jog-a-thon; to all of you who donated to the baked food booth, craft booth and to the lunches that were served; to the swimming pool committee and staff; to those of you who gave articles to the auction and participated in it; to those who gave monetary gifts; to those of you who will be donating bushels of wheat and to the local rancher for his helicopter rides.

Our goal of \$20,000 has not been met, but we are grateful for the \$14,000 that has been realized.

The Roger Smith Day was a heartwarming and rewarding experience for us. We are glad to have been a part of it. Without the time and help of all the people and businesses, our day would not have been complete. The love and caring shown was most gratifying.

Our humble and sincere thanks for your concern.

Larry Winn
Royal Raymond
Co-chairmen
Roger Smith Day



SUBSCRIPTION RATE

\$8.00 in Morrow, Umatilla, Wheeler & Gilliam County; \$10.00 elsewhere



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...have something
to say?

The Gazette-Times welcomes
letters from readers on any subject
of general interest...letters should
be not more than 250 words