

The Heppner
GAZETTE-TIMES
VIEWPOINT Editorials • Columns
Letters From Readers

Gazette-Times urges more local opinions expressed

In recent weeks the Gazette-Times Viewpoint page has had the look we like, and with that in mind we take this opportunity to comment about the contents of this page.

Leading out the left side of the page is our editorial column—our view of situations and topics of interest to Morrow Countians. We try to approach any topic with a positive outlook whether it be to applaud or recommend a course of action.

We don't consider ourselves the last word on any topic but merely a sounding board of public opinion. Never do we pretend to have the final solution or direction, simply a position by someone who has had some experience in observing the public condition as a part of our chosen profession.

Equally important to the Viewpoint page are the letters from our readers. They are one of the few

ways the public has to express their feelings about issues of the day. We encourage your letters on any topic of general interest; our opinion is only one and yours are the many others.

Also included on the Viewpoint page is the weekly feature picture (suggestions and contributions are also welcomed here) and Sifting Through the Times, a look at happenings reported in the Gazette-Times over the years. Overviews of happenings in state government and the legislature are provided on the Viewpoint page by Sean Griffin, Eagle Newspapers correspondent based in Salem.

All in all, we try to make the Viewpoint page one that reflects your town, your county and the issues that surround those parts of the whole.

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LETTERS FROM OUR READERS

Home Health Care issues clarified

The Board of Directors and myself would like to thank the Gazette for the article on home health care in your last edition. There are a few things, however, we would like to clarify:

1. Home health care is for anyone meeting the need for skilled nursing or physical therapy that has been referred by their physician. Post-surgical are definitely not the only type patient we see. In fact, the largest majority of patients cared for are of the medical type (People with diabetes, hypertension, stroke and types of heart disease.)

The Agency has not applied to Health Systems Agency for a grant. H.S.A. is working with our Agency on applying for an appropriate grant which will meet our needs.

Our nurses do not belong to the Visiting Nurses Association. Visiting Nurses Association is an organization similar to our Agency but is more commonly utilized in the metropolitan area.

Acceptance of the program by patients and their families has been well received. Patients and families seemed to be pleased and reassured by the nursing and physical therapy intervention.

If there are any questions by the people of Morrow, Gilliam and Wheeler counties please feel free to call the Agency office and we will be glad to answer them, 676-5133.

Sheridan Tarnasky
Administrator
Tri-County Home Health Agency

May best team win says swim team coach

In last week's article of Monday Morning Quarterback, there was this statement from Milton-Freewater Swim Team Coach Randy Grant: "The Heppner team was using different rules than Milton-Freewater."

"They had some of their best people swimming in all five events," he said. "The rules call for a maximum of three." Grant said his team was entering individuals in a maximum of three events and by the time he noticed it, it was too late. Final score at Heppner was 215, Heppner to 214, Milton-Freewater.

Mr. Grant was correct to an extent of the AAU ruling of each individual could only be in three events but it also says in the AAU rules that a meet doesn't have to follow the standard as long as all team coaches receive in writing before the

meet how the meet will be run. If none of the coaches contest the information before the meet starts then the meet will be run as they were informed. In other words if a coach objects to any of the rules, the meet will have to be run by the AAU standards. The Milton-Freewater coach was sent a letter informing him of Heppner's rules. He either did not understand them or chose to ignore them or simply did not read the letter.

It's too bad that hard feelings have developed in both Heppner and Milton-Freewater communities over an unfortunate incident. Heppner goes to Milton-Freewater Thursday, July 12. We have not received any information from them as to how they will conduct the meet but—May The Best Team Win!!!

Heppner Swim Team Coach
Diane Holland

Pioneer Memorial reader poll

The Gazette-Times wants to know why you, our readers, voted either yes or no on the May 22 and June 26 hospital levy elections and what your future vote will be on August 2.

After encountering two failures at the polls, the issue will again be on the ballot county-wide on Thursday, August 2. County officials submitted the levy request which they believe represents the minimum monies necessary to operate Pioneer Memorial Hospital and North Morrow Clinic.

In the official balloting of voters, voters are not asked why they voted a certain way; they are simply asked to cast a yes or no vote. We think more information of that type is needed to inform public

officials about public opinion. Hopefully, our reader poll will answer some of those questions or at least be a start in that direction.

The results will be tabulated and turned over to county officials as well as reported in the July 26 issue of the Gazette.

Please take the time and fill out your questionnaire both husband and wife or single person. Without your assistance, the poll would reflect nothing. Turn in your questionnaires at the Gazette-Times office, or mail to Box 337, Heppner, Oregon 97836. The deadline is Friday, July 20 and results will be published in the July 26 issue.

Pioneer Memorial Reader Poll

Are you a registered Voter? Man: Yes ___ No ___ Woman: Yes ___ No ___

Did you vote the same way in both elections?
Man: Yes ___ No ___ Woman: Yes ___ No ___

Why did you vote yes? _____

Why did you vote no? _____

Will you vote in favor or against the August 2 levy?
Man: Yes ___ No ___ Woman: Yes ___ No ___

Why? _____

Do you have other comments about the upcoming levy election? _____



Legislative Report from the State Capital EXCLUSIVE to Oregon's Weekly Newspapers from Associated Oregon Industries.

Salem Scene

By Jack Zimmerman

Among hundreds of new laws enacted by the 60th Legislative Assembly in Salem this year is one widely acclaimed as a positive deterrent to crime.

It was Senate Bill 893, which provides civil procedures to combat a growing criminal activity that is costing Oregon consumers more than \$70 million a year.

The crime is shoplifting and SB 893 attacks that problem by providing victims with a method of achieving restitution, monetary damages and penalties against perpetrators—in addition to present criminal prosecution.

The bill was introduced by the Senate Committee on State & Federal Affairs-Rules at the request of the Oregon Retail Council and guided through the legislative process to a great degree by Sen. Kenneth Jernstedt (R-Hood River)—a prime proponent of anti-shoplifting legislation throughout most of this decade.

As with most measures enacted during this regular biennial session, SB 893 will not become effective until 90 days after adjournment. That means provisions of the new statute cannot be executed until some time near the first of October. Between now and its effective date, the Oregon Retail Council will conduct an extensive public information

campaign and indoctrination program for retail merchants.

"If experience in Oregon is anything like that in the eight other states with similar laws, merchants and their customers likely will be realizing relief from shoplifting activity by the time we enter the Christmas shopping season this year," according to Otto J. Wilson, Director of the retail division of Associated Oregon Industries.

"The holiday season always reflects an increase in shoplifting," he said, "and the new law can make this Christmas merrier for everyone involved."

Wilson explained application of the new procedure against shoplifters likely won't be expressed in lower prices for goods this year but over time it could help in the overall effort to reduce inflation.

"Our research indicates a grocer operating on a one percent profit margin must sell 100 units of a stolen item to make up for its loss," he said. "A general merchandiser with a five percent profit margin must sell twenty to make up for the loss of one."

"Any notable reduction in shoplifting activity is bound to reduce a retailer's cost of doing business and that will ultimately show up in the prices we pay for goods," he went on.

Testimony before committees of both House and Senate revealed shoplifting is largely a middle class crime involving a disproportionate number of young people.

"One of the best things about this new law," Wilson said, "is that it tends to both deter youngsters from experimenting with crime at an early age and help avoid their involvement in the criminal justice system."

In practice, merchant victims still have to apprehend shoplifters, obtain the assistance of police to record an arrest and actually prefer charges of theft.

From that point on the civil procedure in the new law is different. It is actually the responsibility of each jurisdiction's district attorney to prosecute shoplifters under criminal statute. But under terms of SB 893, victimized storeowners can begin seeking civil recourse immediately following the arrest. And they don't even have to go to court first.

A simple demand letter can be sent to the offender, asking return of stolen merchandise, a sum of money equal to the retail price of the stolen goods and an additional sum to help cover costs of the procedure.

In the case of adult offenders, merchants can request actual damages up to \$500, depending on the cost of the merchandise, and up to \$250 for minors. In both cases, merchants can seek an additional penalty of not less than \$100 or more than \$250. Penalties are adjustable to fit circumstances of individual offenses.

One of the new law's most effective provisions makes parents of unemancipated minors liable to merchants for the shoplifting activities of their children.

Experience in other states indicates most cases are disposed of through this demand letter procedure. But SB 893 also permits action for recovery through any court of competent jurisdiction, including small claims departments of district courts.

Recovery of merchandise and payment of damages does not absolve shoplifters from possible prosecution under criminal statutes as well. But in the case of most youthful offenders, practice indicates criminal prosecution does not follow successful civil action. And civil penalties prove to be an effective deterrent to continuing shoplifting activity.

Sifting through the TIMES

Fifty years ago, the Gazette-Times published a news article from the Park County News of Livingston, Montana, regarding a nephew of Dr. A.D. McMurdo.

"Charles E. McMurdo, son of Mr. and Mrs. A.K. McMurdo of Wilsall received his B.S. degree in electrical engineering at the University of Virginia on June 11 and was president of the senior class."

No irrigation was scheduled on Sunday evenings in a ban by the Heppner City Council to provide water for the American Legion pool. Members of the Legion Post were assigned the authority to make arrests of any violators.

Bert Mason and W.W. Head, representing the Ione city government were present at the meeting in the interest of securing uniform prohibition and traffic ordinances for Ione, Heppner and neighboring towns.

The Scenograph Soundies Company planned to conduct a series of motion picture screen tests in search of talent for short stories, comedies, scenic and travelogue pictures of the Northwest and gave the people of Heppner a chance to try out.

A welcoming committee composed of prominent members of the Elks Lodge in Heppner drove to Pendleton Saturday to greet one of the four cars of the Elks Purple and White fleet en route from New York to Los Angeles. Earl W. Gordon, exalted ruler, accompanied the pilot Mr. Alpers to Heppner where a luncheon was held in his honor. The four pilots, each driving a smart new Studebaker President. Alper's vehicle is following the route of the Lincoln Highway.

The tour is the most ambitious demonstration of the regularity and certainty to be attained in cross country motoring ever.

Ralph Marlatt underwent a minor operation Tuesday for removal of a rock which hit his eye while he was at work at the rock crusher.

With the arrival of Gordon Ridings, U of O athlete and Red Cross swimming instructor, the Legion pool was opened yesterday in his charge and many folks took advantage of the occasion for a cool dip.

Heppner and Ione started their two day ball series yesterday and the dance at the pavilion was a big hit.

The Gazette-Times' editorial column reported that the City Councilmen would be organizing a fire fighting company in Heppner and it was its recollection that in 1918, a fire destroyed several blocks of the city.

"A volunteer company is the only kind possible for a place of this size."

Twenty-five years ago, the voters of School District No. 1 decisively turned thumbs down on a proposal to issue \$225,000 in bonds to finance purchase of a new grade school site and build a new elementary school. The vote was 267 no 191 yes.

Lawrence Brent, formerly of Monroe, Oregon, has moved to Lexington and taken over as new superintendent of schools. He replaces James Vanover.

The weekend's hot weather, the first of the summer, has caused the Heppner water department considerable worry and numerous residents an equal amount of inconvenience.

Tuesday evening many residents of cemetery hill and those along the higher section of Gilmore Street were without water for several hours when water use in town exceeded the quantity available, according to Vic Groshens, water superintendent.

The county court this week received word from the Army Corps of Engineers that the secretary of the Air Force has signed an easement which will give the county right-of-way for its planned road along the east end of the Boardman Bombing Range.

Harvest officially got underway Tuesday in Morrow County when D.O. Nelson, Sand Hollow area rancher, hauled the first load of wheat to the North Lexington elevator, according to Al Lamb of the Morrow County Grain Growers.

Five years ago, the Heppner Common Council gave the city's parking meters a vote of confidence and approval Monday night. Mayor Jerry Sweeney said he had received several complaints about the parking meters.

Three Heppner High School juniors, Shannon Kelly, Deana Struthers and James Marquardt, representatives of Morrow County at Boy's and Girl's State were guest speakers at the Chamber of Commerce luncheon Monday.

Michele Evans won the first and second go-rounds in the breakaway calf roping event at the Oregon High School Rodeo Championship Finals, in Burns, Oregon June 28-30.

Youth Conservation Corps members took a floating trip on the John Day River and are working and staying at Tipper

Public Officials

U.S. Sen. Mark O. Hatfield

Dwight Senate Office Bldg., Washington, D.C. 20540. Member of Appropriations Committee, Interior Committee, Rules Committee, and Indian Policy Review Committee. Portland office: 300 S.E. Holladay, Rm. 500-110, Box 3621, Postland, Ore. 97208, phone 233-7300.

U.S. Sen. Bob Packwood

Dwight Senate Office Bldg., Washington, D.C. 20540. Member of Finance Committee and Commerce Committee. Portland office: 300 S.E. Holladay, Rm. 500-110, Box 3621, Postland, Ore. 97208, phone 233-4471.

U.S. Rep. Al Ullman, Of The Second District

House Office Bldg., Washington, D.C. 20515. Member of Ways and Means Committee, Subcommittee on Tax. Portland office: 300 S.E. Holladay, Rm. 500-110, Box 3621, Postland, Ore. 97208, phone 399-5724.

Gov. Vic Atiyeh

State Capitol, Salem, Ore. 97310, phone 328-1100.

State Sen. Ken Jernstedt

Morrow, Gilliam and other counties, State Capitol Rm. 8107, Salem, Ore. 97310, phone 328-2500.

State Sen. Robert Smith

Wheeler, Grant and other counties, State Capitol Rm. 8123, Salem, Ore. 97310, phone 328-0170.

State Rep. Bill Bellamy

Morrow, Gilliam and other counties, State Capitol Rm. H964, Salem, Ore. 97310, phone 328-8153.

State Rep. Max Simpson

Wheeler, Grant and other counties, State Capitol Rm. H481, Salem, Ore. 97310, phone 328-0789.

Persons wanting information on bills, hearings, and other doings of the Oregon Legislature may call, toll-free, 1-800-452-0290

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