

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The Official Newspaper of the City of Heppner and the County of Morrow

The Heppner GAZETTE-TIMES
Morrow County's Home-Owned Weekly Newspaper
U.S.P.S. 240-420

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David and April Hilton Sykes, Publishers

Hardly felt

To the editor:
The president's trade sanctions against Russia for its part in the establishment of martial law in Poland was, according to President Reagan, an attempt by the United States "to speak for those who have been silenced and to help those who have been rendered helpless."

But the bottom line is that the sanctions will hardly be felt by the Russians. That is apparent when the effect of the sanction against further negotiations on grain sales is analyzed.

Once again our grain has been used as a sanction against Russia's crackdown on freedom, and once again it has been more detrimental to our farmers than to Russia. Russia will continue to get our grain at prices less than our farmer's cost of production. And Russia will continue to blatantly snuff out freedom whenever it appears within its sphere of influence.

Under previously signed agreements, Russia still has U.S. permission, even encouragement, to buy up to 23 million tons of our grain during 1982. They will do so at below the cost of production. The suspension of negotiations on further agreements only means that Russia will become just another customer, like any other nation, on September 30, 1982. That means they can buy grain at rock bottom prices, just like the other countries do.

The president's grain sanctions aren't the first time grain sales have been used in such a manner. When Russia invaded Afghanistan, President Carter imposed an embargo on grain sales to Russia. However, Russia simply went to the nations that had originally purchased our grain at giveaway prices and bought it from them for millions more than they would have paid the U.S. had the embargo not been in effect! The foreign nations and international grain companies were making whopping big profits by reselling grain we should have sold at higher prices ourselves.

Wouldn't it make more sense to charge Russia more for our grain so farmers could make a profit? Since Russia can still buy the grain anyway, wouldn't higher prices be a better sanction, making them spend their

holding the kittens, bantams, bunnies, pygmy goats, etc. My little pickup has had innumerable loads to and from the center. Among these are (1) taking CETA trainees to the center and youth offenders from Juvenile Court under the supervision of the neighborhood center to homes of senior citizens where they did yard and house cleaning while learning to be of service to oldsters and handicapped persons; (2) loads of food and supplies for the senior picnic at Cutsforth Park (many nursing home residents joined in the fun at these picnics); (3) many trips across town to get an elderly lady who had to use a walker, and bring her to the center for a blood pressure check, meals and other activities, and to bring some residents from the nursing home to the Elks lodge and to the Center for meals and activities (at no cost); (4) calls received at the center to provide trips to the lone mealsite with their food and to provide pictures; (6) a trip to a corn field in Hermiston with Pat Brindle and some CETA girls to pick

limited money supply on food instead of more weapons and more oppression? I have always felt it would be better. Better for our farmers. Better for our foreign policy. That's why I offered, with bi-partisan support, legislation last year to create an Export Grain Bank that would set prices for grain which reflected our OPEC-like dominance of the international grain trade. It would be a fair price for our farmers. It would bring \$20 million more dollars for our grain products. And it would be a more effective way of combating Soviet aggression than sanctions that express indignation but do little else.

The lobbying efforts of the international grain companies, who benefit from our generosity, killed the bill. But I believe the Polish crisis and our lack of options to respond provide further examples of why the bill is needed, so I will continue to push for it.

Why should we spend billions of dollars to defend ourselves against Russia and then turn around and sell them grain at giveaway prices? It's a monumental food stamp program for Soviet aggression. In fact, if American farmers exported all of Russia's import needs for wheat during this marketing year, that subsidy would pay for every man in its Afghanistan invasion force! Or enough for the Soviets to buy more than 1,500 new tanks.

I agree with the president that the United States should step forward in the international community to hold the Soviet Union accountable for what is happening in Poland. But why do we continue to feed our enemy and not even charge them a fair price for our food?

Sincerely,
Jim Weaver
Member of Congress

Who is going to supply south Morrow County residents with the services requested from the Heppner Neighborhood Center, which are many and varied? A great many of the requests are not known because of B.M.E.D.C.'s strict confidential policy.

A very concerned person,
Elmo C. Bloom

and bring back two huge loads of corn for low income seniors and the mealsite; (7) a big load of foods given by high school students to help make possible Christmas baskets made at the center for nearly 50 families in both ends of the county; (8) loads to the center from yard sales.

Many of my hours as a volunteer were spent at the Elks Lodge and the center mealsites—cleaning gleaned foods, serving and cleanup of meals, delivery of meals to shut-ins, making decorations and favors, and providing Thursday crafts. One day I got to help Pat haul a load of her wood to Hardman for a low

income senior.

My wish

To the editor:
I wish to make my feeling known about our Heppner Neighborhood Center. I feel the \$10,000 spent from Morrow County Revenue Sharing moneys was well spent and worthwhile.

I know how much it has helped many older people, young people and those in between. Without the Neighborhood Center there will be no more help with weatherization of homes, fuel, and emergency food and clothing. Who will take time to dress

Keep center open and operating

To the editor:
Funding for the Revenue Sharing Committee is zero for the coming fiscal year, according to the report released Wednesday night by Judge McElligott and commissioners Krebs and McCoy. Due to federal cuts these funds are necessary to carry on all the listed programs now provided by the Heppner Neighborhood Center:

Gleaning vegetables and fruits, free fuel wood for low income families, weatherization information and assistance, fuel assistance, emergency clothing, food and household goods, high school classes, adult education classes, English as a second language class, emergency referral service for special cases, transportation to medical facilities for low income families, relief for flood victims, handy helpers for seniors who are unable to do yard work, meeting place for area non-profit organizations, blood pressure clinic, a drop-in area where seniors who are isolated can drop in for a few words of encouragement and a cup of coffee.

Shocked

To the editor:
I was shocked to read in last night's paper that Morrow County is not willing to carry their share of the cost of support for the Heppner Neighborhood Center.

Services are definitely being provided county wide, as Blue Mountain Economic Development Council is a two county community action program and even covers five counties with some programs.

The Heppner Neighborhood Center and the Hermiston Neighborhood Center have always worked closely together to handle the emergency needs of North Morrow County residents. The Heppner Neighborhood Center has provided meat, emergency food, clothing, wood and shared gleaned produce for north Morrow County residents since there is a travel distance of 15 to 50 miles round trip to Hermiston, while a round trip to Heppner could be 100 miles or more, and low income households cannot afford to drive to Heppner.

Last year's Fuel Assistance Program for north Morrow County was handled at Boardman through the Hermiston Center because it was more economical and weatherization is handled by the Hermiston crew for the same reason.

Who is going to supply south Morrow County residents with the services requested from the Heppner Neighborhood Center, which are many and varied? A great many of the requests are not known because of B.M.E.D.C.'s strict confidential policy.

A very concerned person,
Elmo C. Bloom

the dolls and prepare the wonderful Christmas baskets? I know the Neighborhood Center does all this and more.

Without it the Social Security person from Pendleton will not be coming to Heppner. I wonder what duplications of services there were. What other agency was doing all these things? I haven't heard of them.

I know the north end of the county got Christmas baskets and many other services, same as Heppner.

Services are allocated for all of Morrow County and in case of emergency, due to distance and economics, Hermiston will provide emergency services for north Morrow County. Part of the funds for the Heppner Neighborhood Center are currently being given to the Hermiston Neighborhood Center for such emergencies.

In light of all the services provided to Morrow County citizens by the Heppner Neighborhood Center, we believe that Morrow County should provide sufficient funds to keep it open and operating.

Verlin and Naomi Matthews
Tom and Helen Riehl
Della McCurdy
Ralf and Susan Schuboth
Betty McDonald
Charleen Isom
Harriet H. Evans
Ida Farra
Bethal and Paul Heinrichs
Doug and Sonia Smith
Gladys Connor
Frank Connor
Snoda Blake
Ramona Marshall
Merlin L. Cantin
Infia M. Cantin

Oregon in trouble

To the editor:
Oregon is in trouble. We rank third highest in the nation in unemployment and our mills continue to close. Budget deficits threaten our quality of life.

I am running for governor to propose a practical economic recovery program. I will stress self-reliance and our abilities to prosper in spite of federal policies.

I propose the establishment of a State Bank to make funds available, at low interest, to small business, and to keep Oregon money in Oregon. We must use our resources wisely. Conservation and weatherization programs in home and industry will save energy and make jobs.

We must enact plant closure legislation. We must end raw log exports and sell finished lumber products, thus bringing money and employment back to Oregon.

There are many ways in which the traditional resourcefulness of Oregonians can be focused. Fresh revenue can come from the development of renewable energy sources. I pledge to explore and study all sane alternatives to our current nuclear energy problems. Reforms must be made. Federal and state policies have exploited the people and resources of our beautiful state. We need a change in leadership and a change in economic policy. I will work for these changes to gain prosperity for the people of Oregon.

Sincerely,
Jerry Rust
Candidate for Governor
2410 Madison
Eugene, Oregon

Of course I got to join and enjoy trips provided by the Soroptimist Club through the center for seniors to Shaniko, the Whitman Memorial and John Day.

I know that many volunteers from the center may continue their service to our community, even though the center may be closed.

Without the Neighborhood Center we will be doing a great disservice to many low income people and depriving them of the funds that come from the Blue Mountain Economic Development Council. Moneys that helped them to exist in poverty level incomes and less.

I hope people will let their feelings be known to the County Court and have them vote to save our Heppner Neighborhood Center.

Verna Brinda

Shocked and dismayed

To the editor:
We were shocked and dismayed to learn that the Heppner Neighborhood Center may be shut down due to lack of support and funding for the coming fiscal year from Morrow County Court.

As an agency that aids the low income families, the center has provided us with services that cannot be replaced.

When our grandson, Billy, was into special shoes through the Crippled Childrens Division, it was Pat Brindle who got the funding for them (she also paid for the build-up on the shoe out of her own pocket.) She provided transportation, free of charge, to and from Pendleton for Billy and myself for medical atten-

Not right

To the editor:
I do not think it is right to close down the Heppner Neighborhood Center. It really helped me, for when I first went to work there I was on a training program. I did not feel comfortable going anywhere or doing anything on my own. I depended upon my family for help around people and talking to them. I was not sure of myself and even when I started to work, I still was not sure of myself, but thanks to the Neighborhood Center staff, I am an independent person.

When I started to work at the Neighborhood Center, I would help with the preparing of the Senior Citizens' meals. On days we did not have meals, I would help those who needed help such as cleaning house, yard work, or anything else for them. On Thursdays, they would have crafts. I did not feel it was my place to work with them, I felt that I was taking something away from the ones who came. It took a lot of doing, but thanks to everyone there, they brought me out of my shell.

I am now living on my own and am independent. I will now visit with people and I feel very comfortable.

I would also feel sorry for all of the people like me that would need the help that Pat gave me, which they will not get if the Neighborhood Center is shut down due to lack of county funding and support.

A concerned citizen,
Helen Graham

Must not know

To the editor:
It is obvious that Dorothy Krebs and Warren McCoy, county commissioners, are not aware of all the functions of the Neighborhood Center.

They must not know that the center is vitally important to BMCC's Adult Education classes; they must not know that Adult Education classes have been held weekly at the Neighborhood Center for the past ten years; they must not know that I spend more than seven hours per week using

Save the center

To the editor:
As a volunteer to the center and seeing the benefits received by the handicapped, poor and low income and elderly people of Morrow County, I strongly urge the people of the county to make known to the Revenue Sharing Committee to pass the request of \$10,000 Revenue Sharing moneys for the continuation of the Neighborhood Center.

A concerned citizen,
Irene Swanson

Assistance, Christmas Baskets, the gleaning program and the help in putting us in touch with agencies such as the juvenile counseling, children Services Division, Welfare, Social Security to help us in many other ways.

Morrow County citizens will be the losers if the center is shut down. All Morrow County will suffer without Pat Brindle. As members of this community we believe we too

have a right in the say of what agencies should be servicing our area. Keep the Neighborhood Center open. Let the low-income, handicapped, poor and elderly keep their dignity. Please provide continued funding and support for the Neighborhood Center through the coming fiscal year.

Thank You
Chas Mackey
Neola Mackey

the facility to instruct my students; they must not know that all of BMCC's Adult Education supplies and materials are housed at the center; they must not know that as many as 20 residents of this county have used the facility this year to help themselves improve their education; they must not know that I have a handicapped student as well as three English-as-a-second language (ESL) students.

Mrs. Krebs' and Mr. Mc-

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