

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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Letters to the Editor

Says constitutional rewrite unnecessary

To the Editor:

It has come to my attention that Rep. Carl Hostica, D-Eugene, and Oregon Attorney General Dave Frohnmayer are planning to rewrite our Oregon Constitution. Rep. Hostica says "There's just a lot of detail and junk in there," and that "In my view, the Constitution should establish the powers of government and leave the democratic process to work out the details."

Wrong, Mr. Hostica. That "detail and junk" that you refer to was put there by the voters because we wanted it there, where bureaucrats and politicians such as yourself can't mess with it. We value the initiative, referendum and recall provisions of our current constitution. We have used them many times in the past and intend to continue using them in the future. We voters realize that we don't always agree with one another on the issues, but we at least have our own best interests at heart. Legislators cannot make that claim as long as lobbyists for special interest groups prowl the halls of the Capital, trying to influence legislators to grant them legislative favors at the expense of the rest of us. If that "junk" were removed from the Constitution, its status would fall from constitutional law to mere legislation, and the politicians could then do whatever they wanted to with it, without any vote by the people. If Rep. Hostica does not think that the right to buy liquor by the drink belongs in the constitution, then let that issue be put before the voters by our current initiative or referendum processes. A total rewrite of the Constitution is uncalled for. I can think of better uses of a legislator's efforts than the removal of some so called junk, or non-junk, from our constitution. Does he have

other motives that he is not telling us?

Rep. Hostica is also wrong if he thinks that "the Constitution should establish the powers of government..." The Constitution is the sole document that limits the powers of government. Totalitarian governments either ignore their constitution or don't have one at all. They are totalitarian because their powers are not limited by a constitution.

Politicians generally act to increase, not decrease their power. Such is the nature of human beings and the governments that they are a part of. A recall (thanks to our current Constitution) of Rep. Hostica by his constituents might send the right message to the other politicians that our Constitution is precious, and we do not want it interfered with by those whose power over us would be increased if it were to be weakened.

(s) Steve Tanner
550 NE Sherwood Way
Corvallis, OR 97330

Correction

A portion of a letter to the editor from former port commissioner Dewey West was left out of last week's newspaper.

The complete paragraph with the omitted portion appears below:

"A new member running for Port Commissioner is Bruce Nicholes. His candidacy offers a resource of energy, knowledge and experience in the fields of Agriculture, business and management. Because he is an experienced pilot who owns his own plane, he will be a great help on the Ports airport project. Since he is semiretired, he will have the time necessary to devote to the many hours needed for Port business and problems."

To citizens of Heppner & Morrow County

To the Editor:

It is with great sadness and reluctance that Deirdre and I leave Heppner in the next couple of weeks. From the first view we had of this quiet little city, nestled in the rolling hills at the base of the Blues, we have been in love with Heppner. You, as a community, opened your hearts and your homes to us with love and acceptance from our first days here. You immediately made us feel at home, and for that we are deeply grateful. We made a three year minimum commitment to the Heppner community when we came, 20 short months ago, and we find it unfortunate that we have been prevented from fulfilling that promise.

The legal and ethical considerations behind my request for resignation are so complex, that a detailed explanation in the newspaper is impossible. But we believe, however, that the community is entitled to some sort of explanation.

Two members of the Board, Marcia Anderson and Frank Pearson, felt it was time for a separation between the hospital and myself. How they want to run the hospital and how I administrated the hospital have, in their view, become incompatible. They, along with the other members of the Board, have been appointed to serve as the community voice in the hospital's operation. I respect their right to exercise that voice, though I regret that any compromise or discussion, in an attempt to achieve a mutually beneficial understanding, was not considered.

At the time of my employment here, I was told that I was the sixth administrator hired in the previous two or three years. Now Mr. Dearr, my temporary replacement, makes the seventh and the new "permanent" administrator, once hired, will be the eighth in nearly four years. This unfortunate high turn around in administration creates insecurity, distrust and instability within the hospital specifically and the community in general.

Throughout my tenure as Administrator, St. Anthony has made and as yet partially unfulfilled promise to provide training to the Board to teach them their appropriate role as board members. I hope for the sake of the county that this promise is fulfilled in the near future. Perhaps that will provide a more stable fate for the next, new administrator.

I leave the future welfare of the employees, the hospital, nursing home and county health care in your hands, Marcia and Frank. You will be facing some complex and difficult problems in the months ahead. I wish you well in your efforts to bring to fruition your individual visions and desires. I thank you, and the other board members who originally hired me, for the privilege of working with the fine staff at PMH. I thank the newest board members for their support and guidance during the recent months as well.

There are so many people to whom Deirdre and I wish to say "thank you" and "good bye" that we can include herein but a partial list. My first thanks must go to my staff and the physicians at the hospital. Your dedication, trust and

loyalty will never be surpassed by others with whom I will work in the future. You worked long, hard hours to provide that extra touch needed to make our patients feel at home and well cared for. While not all among you have agreed with my methods and techniques, you graciously consented to follow my lead. No administrator can ask for more than that. I will miss each of you as professionals and as friends.

I would like to thank each nursing home resident individually. The courage and grace with which you meet each day, has taught me much about the strength and beauty of the human spirit. Your example will lead me all my life.

I would like also, to thank the members of the Chamber of Commerce, the Heppner B.P.O.E., the Pioneer Memorial Nursing Home Committee, the Morrow County United Way, and the Heppner Day Care, Inc. for the opportunity to serve as either a board member or in the general membership. I wish particularly to thank all those who voted for me during the City Council election last November. I was overwhelmed at the numbers of people in the community who turned out to show their support for my candidacy. I regret deeply that I must resign my position. I have enjoyed the opportunity to serve this wonderful community in the past few months.

Deirdre would like to thank those with whom she has been involved here in Heppner as well. First and foremost, I would like to thank my 4-H teens for their friendship and their dedication. Our trip to EXPO last summer will stay in my memory always. I will miss each of you. I would like also to thank former Judge Don McElligott for my appointment to the Morrow County Juvenile Services Commission, and Judge Louis Carlson for maintaining my appointment. As many community residents know, my commitment to our young people is a strong one. I value the opportunity I have had to participate in the Commission's work and to help fashion a better future for many Morrow County youth.

I owe special thanks to the Hospital Auxiliary and Heppner Block Parents for the opportunity to work with you as well. My school demands have made me less available the past few months, but my heart has been with your endeavors despite my absence. And finally, I would like to thank the Dance to Fitness Women who opened their arms and encircled me with friendship from my first day here. My heart will never be the same; neither emotionally nor aerobically!

In closing, both of us wish to express our gratitude to each of you as Heppner citizens. We have so enjoyed our life here that we feel our hearts tearing as we close the door behind us and set out to find a new place to call home. We do not know where we will find a new position for John and a new place to live, but we do know that the standard set in Heppner will be a difficult one for any new city to match. We wish you all a life of health, happiness and joy.

Sincerely,
(s) John Hempel and Deirdre Condit

Topic Club hears about Ft. Henrietta

Diane Berry of Echo spoke to Lone Topic Club members about Fort Henrietta and its importance to the area at their meeting on Wednesday, March 25 at the Catholic Church social rooms. Rose Baker and Eunice McElligott were the hostesses. This fort was established in 1851 and acted as a supply relay point between The Dalles and Walla Walla Forts until 1856. A local archeology dig was made in 1985 and more will be done in the future.

Two more books were reviewed: "Red Storm Rising" by Tom Clancy and "War" by Gwynne Dyer. These may be found in the Lone Public Library.

Two new books "A Small World

of Our Own" and "We'll All Go Home in the Spring" were presented as a memorial to Paul Pettyjohn by the Ronald Bishop family.

Christy Crowell, club librarian, is making plans for the summer reading program which will be on a pirate theme. A circulating fan is being installed to improve the heating situation.



The average lifespan of a pigeon is about ten years. A record exception is a pigeon who lived for thirty nine years.

Sheriff's Report

The Morrow County Sheriff's Office reports handling or dispatching the following business during the past week:

During the week of March 10 - 24, the sheriff's office assisted five motorists in Morrow County.

March 25: the sheriff's office dispatched a Boardman ambulance to Western Empire Farms, south Patterson-Ferry road, for a male injured in a construction accident. He was taken to Good Shepherd Hospital in Hermiston.

March 25: a deputy responded to the Wagon Wheel Addition in Irrigon to investigate a complaint of hot rodders in the area.

March 25: a deputy cited David K. Hudson, 29, Ione, for Driving Uninsured.

March 26: the sheriff's office backed up Oregon State Police in investigating an alleged domestic assault at an Irrigon residence.

March 26: the sheriff's office dispatched a deputy to highway 74 near the mill where there had been a report of a vehicle hitting a deer. The vehicle had already left the scene when a deputy arrived. Two deer had been hit upon his arrival.

March 27: a deputy arrested Gary A. Root, 24, and Michael S. Root, 18, both of Irrigon on Assault IV charges. Gary was lodged at Benton county jail and Michael was released on his own recognizance. Oregon State Police assisted with the arrest.

March 27: a deputy responded to investigate a theft reported in the Irrigon area. Personal items including a saddle and blanket were stolen from a residence.

March 27: the sheriff's office dispatched the Heppner Fire Dept. to a report of a smoke alarm going off at a residence on Gale St. in Heppner. All appeared okay.

March 27: the sheriff's office dispatched a Boardman ambulance to the rodeo arena near Dodge City. One male subject was transported to Good Shepherd Hospital in Hermiston.

March 27: a deputy arrested Lynn Jacques, 33, Umatilla, for alleged Theft I and Criminal Mischief II following a report of a stolen TV from an Irrigon residence. Subject was lodged at Umatilla County jail.

March 28: a deputy responded to a residence on W. Wilson Road, Boardman, after receiving a complaint of threatening phone calls. Investigation is continuing.

March 28: the sheriff's office dispatched the Boardman Fire Dept. and a deputy to a vehicle on fire on Hwy. 730, milepost 168.

March 28: a deputy handled an animal complaint from outside the Boardman city limits.

March 28: a sheriff's deputy and the Irrigon Police Dept. responded to investigate a report of persons on private property outside the Irrigon City limits. Persons were asked to leave the area.

March 29: the sheriff's office arrested Timothy W. Shasteen, 21, Boardman, for allegedly Driving Under the Influence of Intoxicants.

March 29: a deputy investigated suspicious circumstances reported on Hinton Creek which turned out to be a vehicle with mechanical problems which was broke down.

March 29: the sheriff's office dispatched a Boardman ambulance to the Church of Latter-day Saints in Boardman for a female with an injury. She was taken to Good Shepherd Hospital.

March 29: a deputy responded to a business in Lexington after receiving complaint of an assault. Eddie Lee Russell, 21, and Victor Allen Klinger, 34, both of Lexington, were issued Citations to Appear on charges of Assault IV.

The sheriff's office assisted three disabled motorists between March 24 and March 30.

Correction

Crime in Morrow County increased 22% between 1985 and 1986, not between 1980 and 1986 as reported in a story about town hall meetings in last week's G-T.

TROT ON DOWN !!!

Have some family FUN for the whole family! Join the Heppner Wranglers for fun and games Sunday, April 5th at 1:00. \$20.00 for a family membership. For information, call Jan Coe, 676-9851-FOTLUCK-GAMES-AWARDS-FUN-FRIENDSHIP.

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All friends are cordially invited to attend an **Open House Farewell** for John and Dierdre Hempel on Sunday, April 5, 1987 from 2:00 until ??? at Heppner Elks Lodge

LOOK

TRY OUR LUNCHEON SPECIALS! -During the Month of April at-

Charlie's Pizza & Video World

- Mon-½ French Dip & Salad Bar
- Tues-Cheesburger Basket
- Wed-Mini Pizza & Salad Bar
- Thurs-Baked Potato & Salad Bar
- Fri-Soup of the Day & Salad Bar

All lunches above include a medium drink for the low price of \$3.25

So stop by one day a week, or every week day & enjoy fine food & a friendly atmosphere at Charlie's Pizza and Video World

P.S. don't forget Wed. is pizza & Video night! With any large pizza receive one movie rental free through the month of April.

Downtown Heppner 676-5210

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