

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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**Update noted on final forest plan**

To the Editor:  
It has been several weeks since the public comment period has closed regarding the Umatilla National Forest's Proposed Land and Resource Management Plan (also known as the Forest Plan). I want to bring readers up to date on our current status as well as the direction we are headed to develop a Final Forest Plan.

A personal observation I have made concludes that most respondents want similar outcomes from the Forest Plan, i.e., everyone wants community stability, timber, and recreation opportunities. The differences center around how we achieve these various outcomes.

Over 5000 responses were received forest-wide with approximately 500 coming from the Heppner area. Of the local responses, the most common comments dealt with timber harvest levels, harvesting practices, recreation opportunities, effects on watershed and big game populations from ground disturbing activities, and several special area requests.

In addition, if enough interest is shown, I would like to put together a committee consisting of individuals interested in helping us work on the Forest Plan. This group will be responsible for "rolling up their sleeves" and "digging" into the proposed alternative. The committee will be responsible for recommending proposed land designations as well as suggesting changes to management strategies. The task will be difficult and will require a concerted effort. After the group completes this task, I am proposing a public meeting to present the findings of the group to the community as a whole. Modifications may take place at this time as well. If anyone is interested in participating on this committee or would like more information, please let me know.

More specifically, many respondents want to see less emphasis placed on clearcutting, particularly in more sensitive areas such as critical big game areas, visual corridors, and riparian areas.

I will keep the residents of the community informed of our progress. Without your help, this process will result in a less than satisfactory outcome. I look forward to the next couple of months.

There were concerns expressed quite often regarding the protection of watersheds from both water quantity and quality standpoints.

(s) Roger W. Williams  
District Ranger

There were also numerous comments regarding community stability as it relates to timber harvest levels. Conversely, several comments were received favoring a shift in the emphasis from timber to more amenity related outputs such as recreation and tourism.

**Women's purse returned to her**

To the Editor:  
I have added another reason to my list for loving the state of Oregon. A couple of weeks ago, as I was traveling through Heppner, I mistakenly laid my black purse on top of my car (instead of in it,) and drove onto an exit to Heppner. A loving person picked it up and turned it into the sheriff's office. Subsequently, they mailed it back to me with all my cash, credit cards, and even my rosary intact.  
I wish I knew whom I could thank.

I will thank the Heppner police force—especially Deputy Parklyn Maine, Deputy Glen Diehl, and everyone in the Morrow County Sheriff's office. As I was grieving over the loss of my purse, my daughter reminded me that most people in the world are honest, kind and good. I want to reiterate that and put a "special" in front of you people.

Sincerely,  
(s) Catherine M. Feldman

**Letters to the Editor**

**WCLL does it's best for all concerned**

To the Editor:  
I would like to respond to the letters in last weeks paper concerning the Willow Creek Little League Board.

I'm not a board member, but I attended the meeting in question, because I'm interested in the program and these meetings are open to anyone.

This league combines kids from three counties. It provides baseball for nearly 300 boys and girls and involves dozens of volunteers. It's a massive job for the president and board members to organize and run as smoothly as they do. The coaches all donate many hours and do a heck of a job. Dana Heideman works as hard as anyone and his teams always seem well prepared.

Apparently some folks had complained about Dana's language and actions at a game. I have no idea of whether these accusations were true. The board questioned Dana about

them and gave him a chance to respond. It involved some heated discussion but in the end the board dropped this issue and took no action. Dana probably didn't realize this because he stormed out of the meeting.

The board did however send Dana a letter of reprimand for being ejected from a game. It's a policy of Willow Creek Little League to take action on any coach that is ejected from a game. They chose the lightest form of action.

This was a difficult situation and I think the board tried their darndest to be fair.

Last week's letters were pretty nasty and pretty inaccurate. Let's not destroy a terrific kids program. If you've got gripes, come to the meetings and donate some time. There are always openings for board members, president's, umpires, concessions, field maintenance, fund raising, coaches, etc.  
(s) Bob Ployhar

**I'm Off the Hook**



Two recent events have relieved me of a worry I've been carrying around for a long time. Now I'm off the hook.

First, I just read that some jury awarded damages to a fellow because his wife died from smoking cigarettes for forty years. Seems they agreed that the tobacco companies were at fault for her untimely death.

And then I heard a neo-prohibitionist blame the makers of alcoholic beverages for the inclination of some folks to over indulge. This kind of thinking is consistent with our attack on drugs: we call the Columbian dealer a criminal but the poor little doper just has a disease.

Well, you see, I smoke a few cigarettes and have a little glass of wine now and again. My drug of choice is a cup or two of caffeinated coffee. But my doctor doesn't worry much about those things. He's worried that I'm a little over weight and that I don't get much exercise. He's been telling me if I don't get my weight down and start getting some physical activity, I'm at high risk to die young from a heart attack.

I've been feeling guilty that I haven't been doing that. Now you see I'm off the hook. My fat belly and flabby body are not really my fault.

When I keel over before my time, my widow will have a whale of a law-suit against all the wheat farmers, cattle and sheep ranchers, potato farmers (especially potato farmers), food processors and even the corner grocery store. Without all those folks unfairly tempting me with all that food, I could have lived to be a hundred. The least they could have done was warn me. Have you ever seen a big red panel on a bag of munchies: "Warning: Consumption of this foodstuff could lead to an untimely death."

My widow would also sue the folks that make the rototiller I use in the garden, the automatic dishwasher she makes me load once in a while, and will even go international and get the Honda people for making the car I drive. You see, they are responsible for me not getting the exercise I require to live to be old.

All these years that I believed that I was responsible for my own acts were for naught. I'm off the hook.

**Spectator enjoys Little League**

To the Editor:  
I enjoyed watching several of the games played by the Little League. All the coaches and referees should have a lot of credit for the time and work they put in making it possible.

It is the nature of the game that some times sharp differences of opinion on calls come up. I'd like to see the dispute at one game settled so that all coaches and referees can go back next year. The games I watch-

ed were for the Braves because my son-in-law was their manager and my grandson played on that team. Charlie Sumner and Tom Wickland had a very successful year and won every game they played. I think they deserve credit for doing well. The boys on that team deserve credit for doing well.  
(s) Charles McConnell  
Heppner, Oregon

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