

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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Free Enterprise

The possibility that Lamb Weston will close the Boardman french fry plant looms ever more ominous. At the very same time, the lack of a contract at Kinzua gives rise to talk of strike or worse, closure.

Worse case scenario: the non-farm economy of Morrow County is in shambles, at best: depressed.

Private business, free enterprise, owes its very existence to the pursuit of profits. Business owners invest their money in land, buildings, machinery, labor and all the rest of the costs of owning and operating the business. They then sell a product or service for as much as they can.

If the income exceeds the outgo, that's profit. But that's not the whole story. If one could invest \$100 and make \$100 in profit, he would probably think about expanding. But if he had to invest \$1,000,000 to make that same \$100 profit, he'd sure think about doing something else.

Every business has its minimum acceptable profit level. And those levels vary a great deal from business to business and from owner to owner.

As we negotiate with business, labor unions, government, suppliers, we should remember that business is already maximizing revenues and few if any additional costs can be passed on. Thus every additional cost cuts into profits. When those profits drop below minimum acceptable profit levels, the business will close and the owners will do something else.

We all make decisions as to whether to buy at the demanded price or go without. Business does the same thing even if going without means closure. And sometimes it's very easy to decide to go without when we're talking about closing one of seven plants, the most expensive one, especially when we can't even sell all the production from that seventh plant. That's the way it is with Lambs.

It might even be easy to do for Kinzua. The bottom line is that free enterprise runs on profits. No profits, no business. For those of us who work for, supply services to, or otherwise rely for our own livelihood on private business, profits are not a dirty word, they are essential.



Letters to the Editor

Setting the record straight

To the Editor:
Last week an article that was ran in the Gazette-Times generated quite a number of phone calls from friends, family and from a few people I didn't even know.

The article was that of the Stroeber-King wedding. The Gazette-Times reported that the ring bearer was Brian Zeller. Because of these inquiries as to the status of my children, I decided to set the record straight.

No! Norman Zeller did not adopt my children, nor will I ever give my consent for such an adoption to ever

take place. The correct and legal names of my children are still Brian Michael Gutierrez and Amanda Christine Gutierrez.

The divorce of myself and Barbara Zeller should not imply that I also divorced my children. I didn't. I love my children more than you could possibly imagine. Even though my children are not growing up in my household, I am proud of the people that they are becoming, and I hope that they are proud to call me their dad.

(s) Kevin Gutierrez
Box 717
Heppner

Wells Spring develops snags

To the Editor:
Development of the Wells springs area on the Old Oregon Trail has been going on for over a year now. We began by establishing a good communication system with the Navy at Boardman. They have been very helpful, and have written our proposals through military channels faithfully. We have both reached a snag from West Div (the Navy Public Works Dept.) in San Bruno, Calif. West Div's environmentalists feel: "that to establish restroom facilities on the Boardman Segment would encourage tourism to Morrow County and be a detriment to the natural state of the desert."

Do we give up? No way. Our response will be to continue going through channels, and convince the people in San Bruno that the Old Oregon Trail is, and has been open to hikers as a National Historic hiking trail, and toilets are a sanitary necessity for preservation of the desert area. (We can't have people squeezing the Charmin behind the sagebrush.)

It's an ongoing battle with bureaucracy in moving these projects forward for the sake of our country's future. We know that legally we have the right to develop the site.

Chief Rathbun's Tips

Don't forget this is Fair and Rodeo week. There will be more kids and horses on the street. Be extra careful.

Working closely with the Oregon Trail Council, Morrow County Tourism, North Central Tourism, Oregon Economic Development Department and other state committee's gives us tools we need to pursue tourism for Morrow County. West Div needs to approve the construction of the chemical toilet enclosure. In the meantime, they have chosen to order the local Navy personnel to remove the toilets from the site. The Port of Morrow has approved the construction of a small interpretive center (Kiosk) at the site. Without the Navy's approval we will not be allowed to place the structure on the range. Our only option would be to obtain private land for the construction of these facilities. The range cannot be closed to hikers because of its National Historic Trail status. Morrow County must not tolerate being dictated to about their economic future by environmentalists who have no concept of the Boardman Desert, or the history and natural wealth that has, and will continue to be preserved and protected by those of us who call Morrow County home.

Sincerely,
(s) Robin Baker

Heppner Police Report

The Heppner Police Department reports handling the following business during the past week:

August 8: 12:49 a.m.-Report of Civil Matter; 8 a.m.-Dog Complaint; 9 a.m.-Report of Criminal Mischief; 8:10 p.m.-Report of Suspicious Person; 8:58 p.m.-assist Morrow County Sheriff's Department; 10:40 p.m.-assist Oregon State Police.

August 9: 12:40 a.m.-request officer for Security Check; 11 p.m.-citation issued for Minor in Possession less than one ounce marijuana.

August 10: 4:13 p.m.-false alarm; 7:12 p.m.-report of Theft.

August 11: 1:05 a.m.-false alarm; 11 a.m.-report of Traffic Accident.

August 12: 12:10 a.m.-request officer for Security Check; 9:40 a.m.-report of Criminal Mischief.

August 13: 1:04 a.m.-assist ambulance; 1:25 a.m.-request officer for Security Check; 8:26 a.m.-Request officer for Security Check; 9:19 a.m.-citation issued for Minor in Possession; 11:07 p.m.-assist Morrow County Sheriff's Department.

August 14: 2:41 a.m.-assist ambulance; 6:14 p.m.-assist Morrow County Sheriff's Department.

City garbage service is uncertain

To the Editor:
The people of Heppner need to know what is happening to their garbage service. For the last two and a half years, Heppner Garbage Disposal Service has been kept in a state of uncertainty by the indecision and inaction of the Heppner City Council. The Council has known for several months that Parcel "A" would be filled and it would become necessary to expand into Parcel "B". Yet, the Council took no action towards obtaining DEQ approval of Parcel "B".

The citizens of Heppner found it necessary to force the decision by letters to the council and by an overwhelming vote to keep the landfill open. However, at the August 1, 1988 council meeting, the Council decided to close the landfill until DEQ approval for Parcel "B" was received. We agreed to haul Heppner garbage to Hermiston for a short period, in spite of substantial increase of costs to us to do so. A special council meeting was held August 15 to take action on the landfill. At that meeting, one individual offered to furnish equipment and do the earth moving work at a price substantially lower than it would cost the city to do the work. At that meeting however, the council made it clear, it does not want to operate the landfill.

Because we cannot afford the in-

crease in costs of hauling to Hermiston for more than one or two months, it will be necessary to terminate the garbage pick-up service to the City of Heppner unless the council decides immediately to take action to open Parcel "B". Therefore, if no action has been taken by the Heppner City Council to open Parcel "B" by September 1, 1988, Heppner Garbage Disposal will stop pick-up and garbage service as of that date.

If you have concerns about this, contact the City Council.

Signed
(s) Cliff and Cindy Green
Heppner Garbage Disposal

PUBLIC NOTICE

There will be a Port of Morrow Commission meeting August 17 at 3:00 p.m. at the Port of Morrow office No. 1 Marine Drive, Boardman. Published: August 17, 1988

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