

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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Editorial

We need second opinion

Stories in newspapers and on television are causing quite a stir this week in Heppner. And very well they should, when people are told the dam above their town may break.

We are, of course, talking about reports of the deteriorating condition of the Willow Creek Dam.

A reporter for The Eugene Register-Guard newspaper investigated the dam, looked over US Army Corps of Engineers documents, visited the dam, and came to the conclusion in a copyrighted article in Sunday's paper that the dam "is dissolving at the city limits of Heppner, threatening to wipe out the community with a catastrophic flood it was designed to prevent." Pretty heavy stuff.

Corps officials have denied the dam is threatening to break, and have called a press conference today (Wednesday, Sept. 21) to discuss the "problem".

Press conferences are fine, but at this point, Heppner most definitely needs much more. We need more than a Corps official telling us everything is okay. We need more than a dose of the Corps publicity machine. We need some action, to tell the truth, and it should come from our elected representatives.

Major negative publicity has been unleashed about our town, and stories that we are living under a massive dam ready to collapse, do not rate high on anybody's livability list.

The problem of the safeness of the dam needs to be addressed now, and it needs to be addressed with credibility.

Many times our politicians say "we want to hear your problems." Well, we have a problem, and we need leadership.

To start with, a serious independent high-level inspection, investigation and report should be done on the Willow Creek Dam. Why not a major independent engineering firm coming in to inspect the dam? Why not the OMB, the famous Office of Management and Budget at the federal level, which is always conducting investigations on other government projects, checking it out?

Word is out that the Willow Creek Dam is sick. The Corps of Engineers says everything is fine, but we, the people of Heppner, need a second opinion.

David Sykes

KING ROYAL



Circus

Thursday, September 29 at 7 p.m.
at Morrow County Fairgrounds

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Letters to the Editor

Results are in on Walleye contests

To the Editor:

Mayor Alan Lambert
City of Umatilla
City Hall - 910 Sixth
Umatilla, OR 97882

Dear Mayor Lambert:

Your recent attempt to claim the "Walleye Capital of the World" title and your continual badgering of Beaudette; Minnesota and the fact that you continue to avoid our previous challenge comes as no surprise to us. We have watched with interest your obvious reluctance to accept a situation you apparently know you can't win. Both the Boardman and Umatilla tournaments are now over. The results are in and quite conclusive.

Umatilla's winning weight would have placed a poor third in Boardman's tournament and those on the inside have already confirmed the location of the catches including your 10 pound large fish as over 17 miles downstream from Umatilla. It happens there is a town adjacent to these waters known as Boardman. Even your "professional fisherman" was found in these waters the first day of your tournament fishing in a boat different from his regular craft, hoping not to be recognized and chagrined when greeted with a

"good morning". The maps of the State indicate it is 19 miles from Boardman to Umatilla, that's a fair run on the river by boat. There must be something pretty special in the Boardman waters (walleye) to get those Umatilla tournament fishermen to run all that way to catch enough fish to win your tournament.

It took 55 pounds to win Boardman's tournament and the large fish, 13 1/4 pounds is the largest walleye caught to date on the Mariner Tournament circuit this year. Our tournament champions, Bruce Nicholes and Frank Bates (a couple of Boardman boys) are on their way to the National Mariner Finals this spring to fish for \$45,000 in cash and prizes with a first place prize of \$15,000. If this should ever entice you, we would welcome your participation in our tournament providing your gear can take the strain. You will recall we have previously appeared in your Council Chambers with pictures of championship fish (17.25 pounds--tying the State record)

Considering all this information, Boardman proudly proclaims the title "Walleye Capital of the World" and would appreciate your recognition of same.

Sincerely,
(s) Arthur T. Kegler
Mayor,
City of Boardman

Response noted for letter on amalgam fillings

To The Editor:

I would like to respond to a letter in the G-T questioning the safety of amalgam fillings in dentistry.

It is true that the use of amalgam fillings (which do contain some mercury) has been somewhat controversial. The position that the American Dental Association takes is that amalgam has never been conclusively proven to cause the multitude of exotic diseases and mental disorders that the anti-amalgamists claim. This position is backed by years of research and hard statistical data. My personal inclination is to rely on scientific experiments.

Amalgam has many desirable properties. It is a very good restorative material for dental disease. There is no conspiracy to

"push" amalgam. Consumer Reports wrote a very good piece on "The Amalgam Controversy" a year or two ago. Any one wishing a copy of it can contact my office.

There are alternatives to amalgam fillings. They have strong and weak points. If anybody has concerns over the use of amalgam we will gladly discuss alternatives and would never force amalgam down anybody's throat (please excuse the levity!). If I thought that the amalgam would harm any of my patients I would never use it. If anybody is really concerned about it we would remove amalgam and replace it with alternative filling materials without embarrassing the patients for this wish. We are here to serve the community.

Sincerely,
(s) Thomas F. Alexander, D.D.S.

Sheriff's Report

The Morrow County Sheriff's Department office at the courthouse in Heppner reports dispatching the following business during the past week:

September 13: Morrow County Sheriff's office dispatched the Boardman fire department to a grass fire on East Marine Drive.

Morrow County Sheriff's office responded to a report of shots being fired in the Irrigon area around Nevada Street. Call was unfounded.

September 14: Morrow County Sheriff's office dispatched the Heppner Fire Department to a grass fire on Riverside Drive.

Morrow County Sheriff's office responded to a domestic disturbance in the Boardman area. Call unfounded.

September 15: Morrow County Sheriff's office assisted Oregon State Police with a motor vehicle accident on I-84, Mile Post 167, westbound, where one victim was taken to Good Shepherd for injuries by Boardman Ambulance.

Morrow County Sheriff's office began investigation of a reported theft in the lone area.

September 16: Morrow County Sheriff's office began investigation of a report of pigs doing property damage.

Morrow County Sheriff's office dispatched Irrigon Police Department to a report of barking dogs.

Morrow County Sheriff's office dispatched the Heppner Fire Department to report of a flue fire on South Court Street.

Morrow County Sheriff's office delivered an emergency message in the Upper Willow Creek area.

September 17: Morrow County Sheriff's office dispatched Boardman ambulance to report of an injury accident on I-84. Three patients transported to Good Shepherd Hospital.

Morrow County Sheriff's office began investigation of a reported theft of a VCR in the Irrigon area.

Morrow County Sheriff's office responded to report and requested rider and horse leave prohibited area.

Morrow County Sheriff's office began investigation of a restraining order violation.

September 18: Morrow County Sheriff's office dispatched the Boardman Ambulance to the Boardman Fire Station, one male subject transported to Good Shepherd Hospital.

Morrow County Sheriff's office delivered an emergency message to campers in the Bull Prairie area.

Morrow County Sheriff's office attempted to locate reported cattle on Wilson Road.

September 19: During the week of September 12-19, the Sheriff's office assisted three disabled motorists.

Morrow County Sheriff's office located cattle roaming on Wilson Road and secured them in fenced pasture.

Hob-Nobbing with the Governor



I went to Portland the other day to hob-nob with the Governor. The occasion was the Showcase Oregon Wines 1988 put on by the Wine Advisory Board. Thirty or so wineries had a chance to show off their fall line to 300 retailers and restaurateurs. It was a gala affair.

The Governor was there to present some awards and to generally support the wine industry. He does that a lot and that suits me fine.

That's what's wrong with politics. Just the minute you decide you don't like someone, they go and do something that is just right. I'd decided I didn't like the Governor because he wants to lift the state spending limit. Some years past, the legislature imposed a limit on the amount of money the state could spend.

It's not an absolute limit, it varies with individual income and population and such. As we are better able to afford more government spending, the limit goes up and visa-versa.

Well, the Governor wants to lift the limit so the state can spend it faster than we can afford to pay it. I don't like that so I guess it was only natural to not like the Governor.

And then he puts the big push on the wine industry and now I don't know what to think.

It's the same way with Senator Mike Thorne only in reverse. I used to really like his conservative, Eastern Oregon ways. Now I see he's in favor of lifting the spending limit too.

As I see it, even the bad guys can do some good things, and the good guys do some bad things. Like I say, that's what's wrong with politics. It would be so much easier if the bad guys were all bad and the good guys were all good.

But no, we have to sort out the good and bad in each of them, weigh each side and invariably cast a ballot for somebody who has done something bad and not vote for someone who has done something good.

That's kind of hard to do. Some folks make it easier by remaining ignorant about their political friends, others just don't vote at all.

Births

Joshua Massing Beemer; a son, Joshua, was born September 6, 1988 to Ronald and Julie Beemer of Boardman at Good Shepherd Hospital in Hermiston. The baby weighed 7 lbs. 8 1/2 ozs.

Rebekah Leah Littlefield; a daughter, Rebekah, was born September 14, 1988 to Diana and Edmond Littlefield of Heppner at St. Anthony Hospital in Pendleton. The baby weighed 6 lbs. 12 ozs.

Grandmothers are: Delores Gray, Fort Worth, Texas and Dora Littlefield, Cory, Oklahoma.

The baby joins one brother, Samuel - 8 and two sisters, Lydia - 8 and Sarah - 20 months at home.

Evangelistic Week

Oct. 2-8

The First Christian Church Evangelistic Week will be October 2 thru 8, from 7-8 p.m. Ted Hurlburt will speak. The topic is "A Mountain Top Experience with Jesus. Everybody is welcome to attend.

Justice Court Report

The Justice Court office at the courthouse annex in Heppner reports handling the following business during the past week:

Dan Henry Palmer, College Place, WA - Failure to Drive Right Side of Highway. Bail forfeited, \$31.

Claudia Jo Huston, Heppner - Disobeyed Stop Sign. Bail forfeited, \$31.

Michael George Wall, Dawson Creek, B.C. - No Helmet, \$13 fine.

Gwendolyn Johnson, Dawson Creek, B.C. - No Helmet, \$13 fine.

John Melvin Healy, Heppner - Driving Uninsured, No Operators License - \$77 fine.

Virgil Edward Paulin, Hayden Lake, ID - Improper Passing, \$17 fine.

Daniel Richard Wheatley, The Dalles - Exceeding Maximum Speed (75 mph in 65 mph zone), \$30 fine.

Hospital Notes

Pioneer Memorial Hospital in Heppner reports admitting and discharging the following patients during the past week:

Beverly Jergens admitted September 12, 1988; discharged September 13, 1988.

Armand Wynn admitted September 12.

William Driscoll admitted September 14; discharged September 15.

SWAP MEET

Anything Pertaining to Snowmobiling or ATVs During Our Polaris Snowmobile and ATV OPEN HOUSE

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SEPT. 23 & 24



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\$250 IN FREE CLOTHING OR ACCESSORIES. If you're fast enough, buying a new Polaris snowmobile can get you a great deal more. As in \$250 in free clothing or accessories. Buy any new Polaris snowmobile before October 31, and we'll give you \$250 in free Polaris clothing or accessories. It's the biggest and best pre-season buying incentive we've ever offered.

THE HOTTEST DEAL GOING THIS FALL. Hot sleds, hot deals. But that's not the end of it. Announcing our new extended service contract.

It extends your coverage for one full year beyond the standard one season factory warranty. And for a limited time, we're selling this extended service contract at a discount. It's a \$199 value, but if you buy your new Polaris before November 30 you can get it for only \$99.

THINK FAST. Your Polaris dealer has it all, from arm-straightening performance machines to user-friendly family sleds. But they won't be there for very long. And with the \$250 incentive, they'll disappear even faster.

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25th Wedding Anniversary

for
Billy Joe & Pat McMinn

Saturday the 24th
4-6 p.m.
Live Entertainment
Heppner Elks Lodge

All friends and relatives invited.

No Gifts Please

