

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

GAZETTE-TIMES
Morrow County's Home-Owned Weekly Newspaper

U.S.P.S. 240-420

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Letters to the Editor

Appreciation expressed for Concerned Parents group

To the Editor:

Have you read the letter from our school board to the Concerned Parents group who achieved a settlement of the recent strike? I did and I can't believe it. I just want to say thank you from the heart to that Concerned Parents group. (I think thousands would join me.) You cared. Sometimes it seems that both sides had forgotten our children and young people and the importance of quality schools in their lives.

The ungrateful, insensitive, self-righteous, smug tone of that letter truly disturbs me. Not everyone shares the board's self-image. We can grant that during their "reign" many firsts in Morrow County School Board history have occurred. This is the first board to fail to move one bit during 16 months of negotiations, the first to hire a professional negotiator from OSBA (despite the precedent of successful negotiation without one), the first to support a district superintendent who has low rapport with almost all teachers (that's a first, too, for superintendents in Morrow County), the first to preside over a teacher strike, costing taxpayers over \$300,000 and spreading the county's name over the state media to reveal us as niggardly with teachers, the first to have ten levy failures in less than five years, and we could go on.

In the future, will this board continue to hire a professional negotiator? Will they continue to support a superintendent who has lost the confidence of many, many people here, one who recently stated in a public meeting that Morrow County has a history of negative attitudes toward schools? (Note that two former superintendents who promoted and developed good schools here returned to assist the Concerned Parents achieve the settlement.)

If the board continues with the attitude expressed in that letter, it doesn't require much vision to predict that in a year or a half we'll be repeating the nightmare we've just experienced.

We all want healing in this situation, but wounds don't heal where infection persists. I still believe that Morrow County people care about quality schools for our children and young people, and if I had my "d rathers", we will have the vision and courage to replace this board with some of the leaders of the Concerned Parents group who served us so well.

It could give us a new start.

Sincerely,
(s) Jane Rawlins
Heppner

P.S. Thanks again to the Concerned Parents.

Support asked for HB 3173

To the Editor:

This is a letter of request for written support regarding the urgent need for additional youth beds at the Baker alcohol and drug treatment center, Baker House. This issue will be addressed very shortly at the House of Representatives and will only be acted upon if direct community support is involved. Otherwise, it will fail to pass from a lack of community support. We are genuinely asking for your support on House Bill 3173. There are presently twenty-eight beds for adolescents, who have alcohol and drug problems, for the entire state of Oregon. House Bill 3173 would add ten additional beds. This would make a total of thirteen beds for Western

Oregon, instead of the existing ten, twelve beds for Southern Oregon, instead of the existing eight, and thirteen beds for Central and Eastern Oregon, instead of the ten now available. We turn away many adolescents now who need help because there are no beds available for them. Please help by writing your representative and your senator now to let them know that we need, and that you also see the need for more beds in Baker to treat our alcohol and drug addicted youth. Thank you very much for your support in this matter.

Sincerely yours,
(s) Bart Murray
Box 1005
Baker, OR 97814

Concerned resident fears for economy

To the Editor:

Doesn't anybody read the weekly paper? Are you concerned about the future of Oregonians and its economy? Last weeks Gazette-Times, page 3, I.W.A. hosts speaker to talk about the ban on Oregon's log exports, what a disappointment in the turnout at our local union hall. This issue affects every lumber producing community in the state of Oregon. It's not just a union issue, it's a public and community issue. Your job may depend on it.

Everyone is concerned about the needed timber supply for the future,

yet Oregon exports roughly 100 million board feet of timber a year to countries overseas. How many Oregon jobs are lost? Concerned about your tax base? What's going to happen to property taxes when thousands of Oregonians lose their job and move out of state, reducing needed tax revenues? Yet in a recent survey, three out of four Oregonians support the ban on Oregon's log exports. Have you signed the petition? Do you plan to vote? The job you save may be your own.

(s) Citizen to save Oregon jobs
Greg Sweeney
Heppner

Former lone resident breaks leg

Former lone resident, Cheryl Snouse broke her leg while gardening, Tuesday, April 18. She fell

from an incline. She is a patient at St. Vincent's Hospital in Portland.

Births

Laura Angel Aguilera-a daughter Laura, was born April 15, 1989 to Roberto and Barbara Aguilera of Ir-rigon at Good Shepherd Hospital in Hermiston. The baby weighed 7 lbs. 11 ozs.

Jannette Esperanza Zuniga Diaz-a daughter, Jannette, was born April 14, 1989 to Jesus and Carmen Diaz of Boardman at Good Shepherd Hospital in Hermiston. The baby weighed 6 lbs. 9 1/4 ozs.

Sarah Nichole Wilson-a daughter Sarah, was born April 12, 1989 to Michael and Mary Wilson of Boardman at Good Shepherd Hospital in Hermiston. The baby weighed 7 lbs. 7 ozs.

Hospital Notes

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

Herb Ekstrom, lone-discharged April 20;

Erma Keithley, Heppner-discharged April 20.

Margaret Murray was still receiving care as of press time Monday.

'Hooked on Fishing' competition May 7

On Sunday, May 7, Heppner Elementary will be sponsoring a special activity. "Hooked on Fishing--Not on Drugs" will be a fishing competition for pre-school children through the eighth grade.

This activity will take place at Willow Creek Reservoir near the boat launch area from 1-4 p.m.

All children must be accompanied by an adult to participate. Registration will take place from 12:30-1 p.m. and various prizes will be awarded.

For further information call Phyllis Payne at 676-9128.

In the Service

Marine Cpl. John A. Martin, son of Carl D. and Geri Martin, Heppner, has been promoted to his present rank while serving with 1st Force Service Support Group, Camp Pendleton, Calif.

A 1984 graduate of Heppner High School, he joined the Marine Corps in April 1986.

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WCCC Golf

Sunday Men
April 23, 1989

Low gross: John Edmondson, 66; second low gross-Ed Struthers 70; third low gross-Jim Wishart 71; fourth low gross-Earl Fishburn 73.

Low net: a tie between Randy Lott and Roy Martin, 52; third-Delbert Binschus, 54; fourth-Earl Norris 54. K.P.: Earl Norris.

Long drive: Delbert Binschus. Other awards: Speak Harold Rietmann.

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Free Passage?



The current plan to transport Portland garbage to the Arlington landfill has hit a snag. And the snag looks like the biggest log jam in the history of the Pacific Northwest.

Long before the White Man, the Columbia Gorge was used for travel, commerce, communication from the interior to the sea. The success of the Oregon Trail depended on the Gorge. Today, an Interstate Highway, two major railroad mainlines, a secondary highway and major barge lines connect the Inland Empire with the West side population centers, the Pacific and the rest of the world. Free passage through the Gorge is the life blood of that vast interior from Canada to California, and from the Rockies to the Cascades.

But the plan to truck garbage from Portland to Arlington has sparked a threat of major significance. The sheer volume of garbage is to blame. One hundred trucks, one way, every day is a lot of garbage. But it will increase the truck traffic by only four percent and the total traffic by only one percent.

Perhaps it is that volume, perhaps it is the nature of the commodity, perhaps it is the spectre of 25 tons of garbage spilled on the highway in a wreck. Whatever the fear, the Columbia Gorge Commission is hell bent on stopping the plan to truck garbage through the Gorge.

Created a few years ago to preserve the pristine beauty of the Gorge, the Columbia Gorge Commission has broad powers to limit further construction and development in the Gorge itself. Folks who raised the question of the Commission's authority to limit free passage were assured that no such thing would happen. But, as we know about things politic, power corrupts, and absolute power corrupts absolutely.

The Commission is organized as an arm of the U.S. Forest Service and it has become apparent that that agency believes the National Forests belong to them and they are past masters at curtailing the right of free passage. Closed roads, roadless areas, limited access are all frequently used tools of the preservations that have permeated the Forest Service in recent years, no wonder they too support their Columbia Gorge Commission's intent to limit traffic on Interstate 84.

Additional support comes from a citizens' group called Friends of the Gorge. We all have had had experience with another group that claims to be "Friends." We should not trust any other group with that word in their name to do anything that is friendly.

The problem with the intent to limit garbage truck traffic through the Gorge is that it will have no end. If Portland cannot truck its garbage to Arlington, it will switch to barges. The Commission will then discover that a 3,000 ton barge of garbage presents a much greater hazard to the Gorge than a 25 ton truck. A shift to rail will have the same fate.

Soon, the Friends of the Gorge, encouraged by their success in shutting down the garbage trucks, will discover other commodities passing through "their" Gorge that are far more offensive. Gasoline, farm chemicals, livestock, wheat, hay and automobiles, mobile homes and school busses will all be targets of the shut down movement.

Rail and barge traffic will not be immune since both move larger volumes, creating a much larger environmental hazard in the event of a mishap.

Even passenger car traffic is "offensive" to the gorgeous Gorge and a limit to the number cars per hour could be imposed. I worried about that on my trip to Portland and back yesterday. Suppose I had gotten to The Dalles and checked in at the Columbia Gorge Commission "Limited Passage Permit Office."

"I'd like to go through the Gorge to Portland."

"The Limited Passage permit fee is \$50."

"That's a little steep," but I paid.

"Here's your permit. You'll be allowed through the gate at 2:30 a.m. next Thursday. Report in a half-hour before that time or your name will go to the bottom of the list."

It is time you and I let our voices be heard on the side of the right to free passage.

Stafford Hansell is Chairman of the Columbia Gorge Commission and his phone number is (503) 481-6040.

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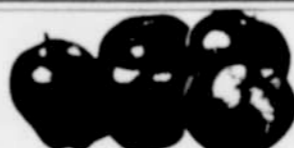
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