

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

The Heppner Gazette-Times prints all letters to the editor that are not libelous or in bad taste. Letters must

be signed with author's name and address.

Recalling board will not solve problem

To the Editor:
Would you please place my editorial letter in your newspaper. The recent weeks have brought forth threats of recalling the school board members. Now we have a new threat of various persons bringing suit against certain members because their view point is a different approach. All of this will not bring forth the type of persons who will succeed in this board.
Now just supposing all of the above would win their cases. I am sure of one more idea. The north part of the county could bring another lawsuit into court. This would be in regard to the medical board who oversees the health pro-

blems in Boardman and Irrigon. The 400,000 levy was passed by many who thought they would get something in return. As you will know we have not received anything except a small add in paper saying thank you E.M.T.'s for your giving of your talents. I would ask is this fair?
Also there is some parents in north part of county that is considering a lawsuit against the school district for not educating their children. It is quite bad when a senior graduates that he or she cannot write or read.
(s) Murray J. Findlay
Box 606
Boardman, OR 97818

Help eradicate puncture vine

To the Editor:
Was privileged to watch the Fourth of July Parade in Boardman and enjoyed it except for one little incident. Shortly before the parade started while waiting along Main Street a small boy of about eight and barefoot stepped on a puncture vine in a semi-grassy area and which from his actions he didn't seem to enjoy at all. Having a shovel along I got rid of a number of puncture vine plants in the area as they come out easy with a hoe or shovel if no sprayer is available. The can also be pushed out with a stick or crutch.

We try to get out a lot of them in the area along the county roads but there are too many for one person and I am physically limited in what I can do.
Just hope there are others in the neighborhood who would take a few minutes time or even several hours to help get rid of these pests and perhaps save some child or pet some moments of pain or even a flat tire on a bicycle. True the plants can look pretty but the stickers are awful.
Sincerely,
(s) Arnold Braat
Boardman

Union pays its fair share

To the Editor:
In response to Rev. Stuart Dick's letter last week, I am not going to agree or disagree with most of what he had to say. I would like to inform him that we as a Union do pay property taxes. We are not tax experts at the Union Office, but I do think that if we hadn't paid property taxes in the last 15 years the county would be the owner of building by now.
We have tried not to get involved in community affairs, but I feel we cannot stand by and see Unionism run down by false statements in the press.
There are already quite a number of people in this community who have a real dislike for Unions and to

make a statement that Unions do not pay property taxes will only make matters worse.
In the 15 years we have owned property on Main Street, we have paid our fair share of property taxes and we paid at the same rate as any other business.
We have done our share in community activities and donated to numerous youth activities and have done this without asking for a pat on the back. We also don't care to have Unionism run down in the press. We are Union and darn proud of it.
(s) Rick Johnston
Business Agent
ISA-USA Local 3-312
Heppner, OR

Band to play at Hydro Jam

David Florea, Hermiston and his band, Seduction will be playing lead-in for two bands August 20 in Richland, WA. at the Mercury

Challenge Hydro Boat Races Hydro Jam.
David is a former Heppnerite and the band will play from 12-4 p.m.

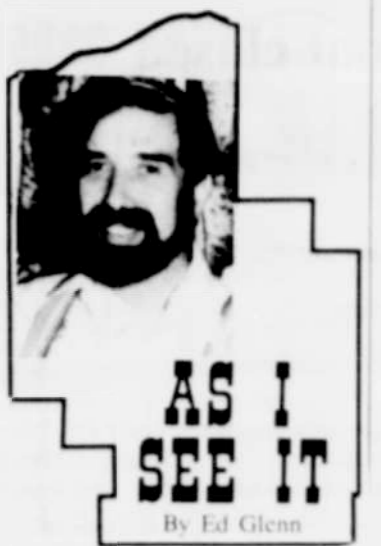
Obituary

Anna Belle Johnson
Anna Belle Johnson, 87, died at Newberg Care Center on Saturday, July 15, 1989.
She was born the daughter of John F. and Martha (Strong) Spurlock in Sweden, Missouri on September 7, 1901.
She came to Oregon as a young girl and lived in Morrow County from 1917 to 1941 and then in Umatilla County until 1983. On December 12, 1922 she was married to Roy Johnson in Vancouver, WA. He preceded her in death in June of 1972. After leaving Pendleton in 1983, she moved to Baker where she made her home until 1989 when she came to Newberg. Anna Belle was a lifelong homemaker and was especially dedicated to her family and was a volunteer for the Community Hospital Auxiliary Thrift Shop.
Survivors include one son, R. D. Johnson and his wife, Leanna, grandson, Brad Johnson all of Newberg; grandson Ronald Johnson of Lake Oswego; two great-grandsons, Ryan and Jeffrey Johnson, both of Beaverton, one brother, Don Spurlock of Jefferson City, Missouri; two sisters, Gladys Hutchison of Seymour, Missouri; and Doris Singleton of Ava, Missouri; and several nieces and nephews.
Graveside services with interment were Wednesday July 19 at Olney Cemetery in Pendleton. Rev. John Wood officiated. Attrell's Newberg Chapel-Brown Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.
Memorial contributions may be made to the charity of your choice.

Births

Timothy Robert Corwin-a son, Timothy, was born July 18, 1989 to Timothy and Jeannie Corwin of Heppner at Walla Walla General Hospital in Walla Walla, Wa. The baby weighed 7 lbs. 7 ozs.
Grandparents are: Robert and Lana Schmaltz, Walla Walla, Wa.; Debra Ledford, Gary Gallaher, Tim and Marie Corwin all of Heppner; and Toney and Shirley Black, McKinnyville, CA.
Great-grandparents are: Robert and Bonnie Schmaltz, Walla Walla, Wa.; Frank and Neoma Bailey, and Robert and Lorena Shuman all of Heppner; Helen DeVore, Riddle and Raymond Johns, Condon.

Farming is a Business



While to some it may be a way of life, to others a place to live, in the final analysis, farming is a business, engaged in to make a profit.

As with many other businesses, farmers are motivated by a number of motives but foremost among them is the profit motive. Without a profit, few farms would remain in operation for long.

Profits from farming are derived, of course, from providing plentiful, wholesome food and fibre for not only our own nation, but for a good part of the world. And providing it at a cost that is less than consumers are willing to pay. It all gets pretty complicated with government subsidies for not planting, price supports for growing lots, processors, middlemen, export taxes and import duties, but the bottom line is farming is a business that requires a profit.

Farmers are constantly searching for a way to produce cheaply and to sell dear. Some farmers work pretty hard to improve their marketing plan and thus the price they sell for. By doing so, they hope to increase the profit.
Other farmers work on the production side. If they can reduce the cost of production, the bottom line improves even with sales at the same price. And that's where chemicals come into play.

For centuries fields were fertilized with manure.
(You've heard the story about President Truman showing some visiting dignitaries around the White House lawn? Several times he extolled the virtue of fertilizing with manure. Margaret was mortified and asked her mother if she couldn't persuade The President to use "fertilizer" rather than "manure." Bess replied, "My dear, it's taken me twenty years to get him to say manure.")
But since Harry's time, chemical fertilizers have been in widespread use since they are easier to apply, cheaper and more effective. In short, chemical fertilizers make the cost of production less and the profit more. And the same thing is true of herbicides and insecticides.

Our national "cheap food" policy has tended to accentuate the emphasis on lower production costs rather than higher sales prices. Remember, either approach will improve the profitability of farming.

There is now some indication that the "cheap food" policy, part of FDR's New Deal, is being rejected by some folks as a raw deal. In a recent survey by the New York Times, 85% of the American people are willing to pay at least 50% more for their food, if that food is free from most of the chemicals now in widespread use.

This means a tremendous new opportunity is opening up for maximizing profits through a better marketing plan. The term "organic grown" now becomes a means to elevate sales prices to a much more profitable level. It is true that some farmers, growing some crops, estimate that organic farming will add much more to the cost of production than the 50% increase in consumer price will pay. But for many farmers with many crops the public demand for chemical free food will be a profitable move.

Oregon has taken the lead in this new consumer trend. The last legislature adopted a certification plan for designating "organic grown" foodstuffs. With the right kind of promotion, production of organic crops can become a valuable business. We don't know for sure, but have long suspected that making Cadillacs was more profitable than making Chevrolets. Now the "Cadillac" wheat and the "Chevrolet" wheat sell for the very same price. With an organic label, there will be a difference.

The challenge will be to produce that new commodity profitably within the bounds of the new market. Much will have to be relearned about farming "the old way" and that will have to be translated to the methods of the modern farm. But, nevertheless, an opportunity now exists that did not exist just a few years ago. The profits will be spread among those farmers who can and will seize upon that opportunity rather than just sit back and continue to farm as grandpa did.

An aspect of this whole scenario deserves comment.
The organic food fad has been around a long time. The opponents of chemical farming have tried to ban chemicals, have boycotted some foodstuffs and have tried the social conscious of us all. Only after they have reached the consumer, touched his pocket book and impacted the real world of profits have they enjoyed much success.

Won't it be the same way with the opponents of nuclear energy, the defenders of the spotted owl and the opponents of whole log exports? Won't their real success come only when the alternative they suggest becomes more profitable than the practice they condemn?

That does suggest a sobering thought. We are all motivated by profits much more than by our social conscience, our morality, or our service to humanity. If that is true - and, as I see it, it is - wouldn't we all be better served by acknowledging the truth rather than playing lip service to the imagined?

Ed Glenn is a Boardman resident who contributes a weekly column to the Gazette-Times.

KEEN! NEAT-O!

Joan Wright Gray is coming to town!
"Class of 55"

Everyone is invited to a potluck and visit on Sunday, August 6, from 1 to 6 p.m. Bring a salad or dessert and the latest news. For more information call Jean Ann 676-9710 or Sharon 676-5233

ATTENTION WOODSTOVE OWNERS
D&R Chimney Sweeps of Milton-Freewater will again be in the Heppner area to service your heating systems. This year we plan to spend Fridays and Sundays starting August 4th through September 29th if needed.
Call: 1-938-3869 for appointment or leave message, and I'll return your call
Thanks,
Roger Lawrence

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