

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

What's going on in Morrow County?

To The Editor:
A few months ago I wrote a rather sarcastic letter to the editor which whimsically expressed my view of the turmoil between the school board and the teachers concerning contract negotiations.

Since that time, altercations between these two parties have greatly decreased, although I understand that the issues have not been resolved completely. This is sad, but not as sad as the recent events that have prompted this letter.

"Holy Bedlam, Batman!!!"
What's going on over there in the county I love so dearly? Recalls, lawsuits... Are you trying to get them to film one of those Perry Mason movies in Morrow County?

My feelings as far as the school board is concerned, is that they didn't do a very good job. That in no way leads to the degradation of the respect I have for them as people, friends and acquaintances. Unless someone was on a real "power trip", I sincerely believe that they were trying to do what was right in their own minds (or someone else's mind). We may not agree with their opinions, but that's the American way.

I understand that a group called "Fresh Start" is trying to recall certain board members. They are certainly within their legal rights to undertake such an activity if they feel that current board members have mishandled their designated roles. If enough people support "Fresh Start", then there will be no recall. If they can't gain enough support, then there will be no recall. This is the American way.

Finally, I address those few individuals that have taken upon themselves the guardianship of all school districts in the nation. Those

few arrogant souls that feel they have the rights to sue board members for their personal possessions. Your reputation and the reputation of Morrow County will suffer greatly if you continue this ludicrous scheme. It's bad enough when a former student sues a school district because they didn't learn to read, or when a pregnant woman sues a distiller because drinking a quart of bourbon a day could lead to birth defects in her baby. But, not to be outdone, these Perry Mason's of Morrow County have decided to sue school board members for personal possessions because they didn't like the job they did. I DON'T consider this the American way.

Expression of personal feelings is O.K.! A recall petition is O.K.! But don't embarrass me or anyone else (that loves Morrow County) by jumping off on your own personal ego trip at the expense of the county's reputation. I've already stated the fact that I didn't care for the board's actions. It's also well-known that I wholeheartedly supported the teachers. That's a personal choice we all have in this country. It doesn't give me or anyone else the right to manipulate the law to prove a point at the expense of others. That's not MORALLY the American way. Do I have to move back to Morrow County to instill a little positive spirit into it's citizens? That possibility has occurred to me more than once.

I've decided that Morrow County could become the laxative capital of the world because it seems that so many people are having those bloated, irregular feelings.

"Holy Bat Scam, Bedpan!!!" Get your... together.

(s) Jim Ackley
14941 S. Union Mills Rd.
Mulino, Or 97042

Fresh Start not allied with unions

To the Editor:
Fresh Start was organized for the singular purpose of replacing School Board members that appear to enjoy a good feud. Fresh Start has no alliance with any of the three unions involved in the current contract dispute. For reference, the three unions are Oregon Education Association, Oregon School Board Association, and Morrow County Education Association. While these three, through their designees, nit-pick each other the local education system suffers.

Hopefully, a different mix of Board members would see fit to hire a Superintendent with a reputation for promoting harmony and successful direct board-teacher negotiations.

This Fresh Start objective has not changed. There has been an accusa-

tion made about Fresh Start being instigated by an individual who is also involved in a recently announced lawsuit against Board members. There is no truth to that charge. However, it was determined that one individual who had volunteered to circulate recall petitions on behalf of Fresh Start also became a party to the lawsuit. Fresh Start retrieved and destroyed these petitions circulated by that individual.

This action may hamper the success of the Fresh Start effort. If enough signatures cannot now be filed, all signatures will be destroyed to keep them confidential.

Sincerely,
(s) Phyllis Gilbertson
Chairman, Fresh Start
Box 278
Boardman

Avon discontinues animal testing

To the Editor:
As a follow-up to the letters a couple months ago regarding Avon Products, Inc. and animal testing laboratories, I have enclosed a letter from the CEO of Avon. Please feel free to share it with your readers.

Sincerely,
(s) Lori Straley
Box 706
Heppner

Dear Avon Representative:
Today we announced a permanent end to all animal testing of our products-including testing done in outside laboratories.

I hope you are as pleased and proud as I am of the fact that Avon has become the first major cosmetics company in the world to eliminate product testing on animals.

We have worked for the past eight years to reduce the use of animals and to find alternative tests, while still maintaining the high quality and safety of our products. Now we mark the successful conclusion of that program.

We stopped animal testing in mid-March. Since then, our new safety evaluation program has been reviewed by a panel of academic experts in toxicology, ophthalmology and dermatology. We also shared our program with the U.S. Food and Drug

Administration, which is responsible for monitoring the safety of cosmetics.

Avon is dedicated to the safety of its consumers. Our safety approval process includes an analysis of an extensive computerized data base of raw ingredient and formula safety information, clinical testing and non-animal alternative tests, such as Eytex which replaced the Draize eye irritancy test.

We will continue to fund biomedical research at universities and to pursue research alternatives. Until a broader range of alternatives is developed, suppliers to the cosmetics industry may have to continue to do some animal testing to substantiate the safety of their new ingredients.

I know that in recent months some of you have been targets-as I have-of animal rights extremists. I personally thank each of you for your support and understanding during this sometimes trying period.

Sincerely,
Jim E. Preston
Chief Executive Officer
Avon Cosmetics
New York

Birkby family returning to roots

To the Editor:
To our friends in Morrow County, it is with mixed emotions we announce that we are leaving Heppner. We will always think of Heppner as our first home. Our children were born in this community and started their education here with wonderful teachers. We had many experiences at which to grow from, and while circumstances lead us to look elsewhere for employment, we do not leave with bitter hearts, but with fond memories of our many friends. We wish you well and hope for

bright futures in you and your children's health and education.

We are returning to our home town Prineville, where we both grew up. Our families continue to reside there and we both have new employment in the community.

We wanted this chance to let you know how wonderful we think this little town can be. We send our love and God bless you.

(s) The Birkby's (Tim, Vicki, Patrick and Jodi)
255 Richland Street
Prineville 97754 (447-5861)

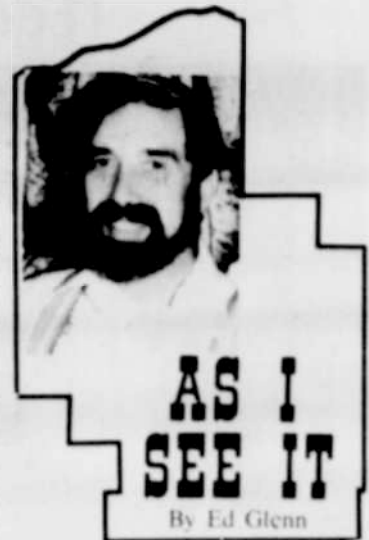
4-H Horse Show is August 5-6

The horse show will be a two day event starting with a judging contest on Saturday evening at 6 p.m. August 5 followed with a potluck dinner for all the 4-H members and their families. Everyone is invited to attend. If you have not been contacted, please bring a main dish, salad or dessert. Hamburgers will be provided.

Sunday the horse show will start at 9 a.m. and run until all contests have been completed.

If you would like to help with the horse show, please call Bill Broderick at the Extension office at 676-9642. Volunteers are always welcome to help lining up classes and various other duties.

It May Be a Favor



The private consultant hired by the Corrections Division to evaluate the various sites for Governor Goldschmidt's Mega-Prison was less than enthusiastic about either of the two Morrow County sites. On the other hand, he was excited about the Pendleton airport.

It seems that when something good comes along, some larger community steals it away. Some local folks worked hard on the Super Collider a few years ago only to see it go away to a more populace area. Ditto the NorPac facility.

And lately, a lot of community effort promoting the location of the Mega-Prison in Northern Morrow County looks to be down the drain. While we support development efforts generally, the loss of the Mega-Prison may be a favor.

The County could sure use a new 175-1,000 employee business. We'd be the first to applaud such a thing. That would be a good way to prompt a mini snowball. (We have no desire at all to see Morrow County rival Multnomah County as the state's most populace, so just a mini growth spurt would be just right.)

But we don't think government infrastructure is the right kind of growth. A prison, or any other kind of government building for that matter, would require sewer and water service, fire and police protection; all the usual locally financed governmental services that any other industrial plant would. But an industrial plant would pay property taxes to support those services while a government building, including a prison would not.

As for the employees, most of them would live in Umatilla County anyway if the experience with PGE and Lamb-Weston holds and we see no reason why it would not. Out of the 175 employees estimated at the outset, no more than 40 or 50 would live in Morrow County. That would just about use up the surplus housing in Boardman and Irrigon and would not spur a building boom as some have predicted.

Those folks who do live in Morrow County would also require sewer, water, police and fire services, road maintenance, and schools. Most experts on local government finance agree that the locally funded services demanded by homeowners cost far more than the taxes paid by that homeowner. Morrow County is a classic example of that. The PGE Coal Plant pays more than half of all property taxes yet consumes a very small part of the services the plant itself requires. That leaves much of their tax payment to pay for the schools, roads and governmental services you and I require.

But the Mega-Prison will pay no property taxes, so what services the prison itself requires and the excess part of the services required by its employees will be a burden on all the rest of us.

If Pendleton steals the Mega-Prison away as it looks like they will, it may be one of the better favors they have delivered up to Morrow County in a long time.

The final site selection has not yet been made and whatever happens in that regard can be turned into a learning experience. A little background is in order. When the Governor found it necessary to build a new prison, he directed the Corrections Division to find a site. Of the 14 or so sites still being considered, most were identified by Corrections Division personnel without any local community promotion. Not so with the Boardman sites. Here a handful of local political figures (some of them appointed officials, not elected) jumped on the bandwagon on behalf of the community, offering up several sites and all the governmental support that must go with them. A single public hearing was held, a straw vote taken and fewer than 20 supporting votes established public sentiment in favor. That same 20 to 1 straw vote swayed a doubting County Commissioner to finally support the proposal.

In the meantime, lying idly by, collecting dust was an Economic Developmental Strategy that had been hammered out over many months, many more meetings, by a group of folks from throughout the County who had benefit of the expertise of an even wider circle of authorities in a number of disciplines. As approved by the County Court, Morrow County's Economic Development Strategy targets those industries that add value to agricultural crops as the most desirable means of local economic development.

And it appears that strategy is a good one. While the Boardman folks were out chasing the Mega-Prison rainbow, one private entrepreneur is quietly compressing baled hay for export, a second such plant is in the works and a third local farmer has announced intent to build a second french fry plant all in the Port of Morrow food processing park. No question about it, each of these projects had the cooperation of local folks, particularly the Port of Morrow and none would have happened without it. We wonder, however, how many other projects have gone by the wayside because there wasn't time, energy or inclination to help them, given the time, energy and inclination spent on the Mega-Prison dream.

So what's the lesson to be learned from the Mega-Prison exercise?

1. Concentration of effort on a well considered plan will bear results directly proportional to the amount of effort.
2. Those results are diminished geometrically, when part of the effort is diverted to spur-of-moment, pie-in-sky, hair-brained schemes of questionable value.
3. Let's keep on track folks and leave the prisons to Pendleton.

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Obituary

Allen Hughes
Allen Hughes, 55, of Heppner, died Saturday, July 29, 1989, at Heppner of cancer.

The funeral was Tuesday at All Saints Episcopal Church in Heppner with concluding service and burial at Heppner Masonic Cemetery.

He was born May 28, 1934, at Heppner to W.E. "Ebb" and Pauyline Ballou Hughes.

He married Gail Coe on June 7, 1953 at Milton-Freewater.

Mr. Hughes farmed on Little Butter Creek.

He was a member of All Saints Episcopal Church and served on the Vestry. He belonged to the Oregon Wheat Growers League, Morrow County Livestock Growers Association, had served on the Morrow County Grain Growers board and the ASCS Council, was a member of the Small Woodland Owners Association, and Heppner BPOE 358. Mr. Hughes was an avid sportsman.

Survivors include his wife, at the home; daughters Patricia Peck of Lone, Carolyn Hughes and Jennifer Hughes, his parents, brother, Merlin all of Heppner and two grandchildren.

Memorial contributions may be made to the All Saints Episcopal Church Memorial Fund, P.O. Box 246, Heppner, OR 97836, or the Oregon Cancer Society, 0330 S.W. Curry, Portland, OR 97201.

Sweeney Mortuary, Heppner was in charge of arrangements.

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