

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

### Ripped off by dual status

To the Editor:

The state of Washington has just liened our vacation cabin in that state for \$17,304.18, and we feel we have been "ripped off," here's why.

We retired and sold our Portland home in 1982, and since then we have been living in our RV and "following the sun," except for short periods each summer spent at our cabin near Cathlamet, Washington. We still call Oregon our "home base" and our vehicles are licensed in Oregon. Between us, we have lived in the state of Oregon for 91 years, and thought we were residents of one state.

However, the state of Washington

assigned us a "dual residency" status and assessed use and excise taxes on our RV and other vehicles. Until now, we had never heard of a "dual residency" status, and certainly would not have bought property in the state if known.

The lien placed on our cabin by the state of Washington, will be satisfied from escrow, when the sale is closed. We feel this money should be used to post "dual residency" signs at the state line, or better yet, return it.

(s) Howard Adkins  
Lillian G. Adkins  
11015 SW 62nd  
Portland, OR 97219

## Let's get bureaucrats out of agriculture

To the Editor:

Many of you have enjoyed the Big Boy tomato and other products, which Marielise Eager bred for the Burpee Seed Company. Marielise, an accomplished horticulturist, was recently denied the right to develop her 5.4 acre parcel in a general agriculture zone to produce high value nursery stock. Why? Because the bureaucrats in the State Land Conservation and Development Commission believe that they know better than Marielise and other family farmers what is best for Oregon agriculture.

Why is the LCDC so powerful? Because of the small, richly funded lobbying group called the 1000 Friends of Oregon. The real benefactors of its efforts are the large corporations which can acquire small parcels at dirt cheap prices because small farmers cannot afford to fight in the courts for their rights.

The ultimate losers will be you, the consumer, when food and fiber prices skyrocket as the competitive family farmer is driven out. Is it any surprise that the name of Rockefeller appears among the directors of the American Farmland Trust, the national equivalent of 1000 Friends?

As a state employee I just had the opportunity to make a contribution to 1000 Friends and other political lobbies in Neil Goldschmidt's Combined Charitable Contribution Program. I wrote across my pledge card that I will not contribute until all political lobbies are purged from this program. I recommend that all state employees do the same or withdraw your pledge if you have already submitted it. Let's get bureaucrats out of agriculture and politicians out of charitable contribution campaigns.

(s) Walt Eager  
3500 NW Glenridge  
Corvallis, OR 97330

## Heppner Police Report

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

Nov. 20: 8:27 a.m.-Motorist Assist; 12:47 p.m.-report of Attempted Burglary.

Nov. 21: 6 p.m.-Motorist Assist.  
Nov. 22: 12:39 a.m.-request of officer for Security Check; 11:30 a.m.-report of Hit and Run.

Nov. 25: 2:07 p.m.-citation issued Open Container.

Nov. 26: 2:20 a.m.-report of Theft; 2:50 a.m.-assist Morrow County Sheriff's department; 5:53 p.m.-citation issued for Driving While Suspended; 10:14 p.m.-report of Suspicious Person.

Nov. 27: 7:23 p.m.-Motorist Assist; 8:37 p.m.-assist Morrow County Sheriff's department.

Nov. 28: 8:36 a.m.-Courteous Driver Award to Jennifer Currin; 11:59 a.m.-Funeral Escort.

Nov. 29: 1:19 a.m.-assist Wheeler County Sheriff's department.

Nov. 30: 11:15 a.m.-assist Court; 10:55 p.m.-request officer for Security Check.

Dec. 1: 1:37 a.m.-false alarm; 9:59 p.m.-report of Suspicious Person; 4:32 p.m.-assist Morrow County Sheriff's dept.; 10:27 - citation issued for Illegal 'U' Turn.

Dec. 2: 1:14 a.m.-Motorist Assist; 3:13 a.m.-Dog Citation Issued; 7:53 a.m.-Motorist Assist; 10:59 a.m.-Accident; 12:20 p.m.-citation issued for Driving Under the Influence of Intoxicants and Hit and Run issued; 7:50 p.m.-request officer for Security Check; 10:47 p.m.-citation issued for Illegal Backing.

Dec. 3: 2:26 a.m.-report of Fight; 8:56 p.m.-assist Morrow County Sheriff's department.

## In the Service

Pvt. James D. Putman has graduated from the U.S. Air Force cable and antenna system installation and maintenance specialist course at Sheppard Air Force Base, Texas.

During the course, students were taught pole climbing, fundamentals of electrical current, outside power plant construction, and to install, test and maintain antenna and cable systems. They also earned credits toward an associate degree through the Community College of the Air Force.

Putman is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Douglas J. Putman, Irrigon. His wife, Sandi is the daughter of Pat Wright of Lexington.

The private is a 1986 graduate of Riverside High School, Boardman.

## Sheriff's Report

The Sheriff's department at the courthouse in Heppner reports dispatching the following business during the past week:

Nov. 27: Morrow County Sheriff's office investigated an animal problem in Lexington. Call was unfounded.

Morrow County Sheriff's office requested an ambulance to a residence in Fossil for a female with unknown injuries.

Nov. 28: Morrow County Sheriff's office dispatched the Boardman ambulance for a female with unknown injuries. Subject was transported to Good Shepherd Hospital.

Morrow County Sheriff's office dispatched the Boardman ambulance to an accident on Hwy 730. There were no injuries.

Morrow County deputy investigated a one vehicle accident on Bombing Range Road.

Morrow County Sheriff's office responded to the Boardman area for a report of some shooting in the area. Investigations are pending.

Nov. 29: Morrow County Sheriff's office dispatched the Arlington ambulance for a 72 year old female with unknown injuries. Subject was transported to Good Shepherd Hospital.

Nov. 30: Morrow County deputy responded to the Ash Ranch on Rippee Road in Boardman, to investigate the report of theft of hay. No further action was taken.

Morrow County Sheriff's office responded to investigate a possible theft at Rod's Market.

Dec. 1: Morrow County Sheriff's office dispatched the Fossil ambulance for a transport to The Dalles.

Dec. 2: Morrow County deputy responded to the westbound rest area in Boardman for a disturbance but were unable to locate disturbance.

Dec. 4: Morrow County Sheriff's office dispatched deputy to a disabled motorist on Hwy 730. Motorist had a flat tire.

During the week of Nov. 26 through December 4, Morrow County deputies assisted three disabled motorists.

## Justice Court Report

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

Rusty Jake Rodriguez, 22, Heppner-Violation of Road Closure, \$90 fine.

## Water, Water Nowhere



The recent Oregon Supreme Court decision on the critical ground water case in only a precursor of things to come. In our lifetime, water will be available only by government edict.

The old rule, dating back to territorial time, was simple and straightforward: He who makes first beneficial use has priority. That "first in time, first in right" rule does some injustice to that segment of our society who believes "there ought to be a law..." Folks who believe that government should make the decisions are winning control over our water.

The idea that the first farmer to irrigate out of a stream would be able to continue to do so, even as to some Johnny-come-lately, was comforting to our pioneer ancestors. Water, in the arid West, and in the desert of Oregon, is truly a scarce commodity. There must be some scheme to allocate it among the larger demand. "First in time, first in right" is just that scheme.

Recent years have seen increasing pressure on the legislature to change the rules. This pressure does not come from the Johnny-come-lately who are not served by the old rule. Rather it comes from preservationists in the water-abundant western part of the state.

The persuasive argument is that in the water-scarce desert, water is gobbled up by those use make private, free-enterprise use of it and none is left for the "public" uses such as minimum stream flows, fishing and other recreational uses. To assure water for those uses, the argument goes, it is necessary to junk the old rule entirely and put government in control of allocating all the water. The argument presumes (and we think correctly so) that government bureaucrats will be responsive to the preservationist demands for allocation and will not favor free-enterprise beneficial use.

The old rule has not disappeared entirely, only going away bit by bit. The scenic and wild river programs (both state and federal) put significant limits on existing water rights. Minimum stream flow and "critical ground water" designations chip away at the right of land owners to put water to beneficial use.

The bottom line of the recent Supreme Court decision is that the government may now limit a farmer's right to pump water from a well on his own land without regard to any other use, any benefit or any other factor which might justify the limit. The government's power over ground water is now absolute.

As I see it, it is truly ironic that nightly we see millions of Eastern Europeans clamoring for freedom, demanding to be free from governmental oppression. And we applaud that revolt, cheering on their desire to be more like us. But at the same time we allow our own legislators and bureaucrats to march us down that same path to maximum governmental control, even to oppression.

Will it come full circle? Will we allow our Oregon legislature to pass more and more laws, and our agencies to adopt more and more administrative rules so that our children or grandchildren will march in the streets some day, demanding the freedom we have let slip away? Will Eastern Europeans some day watch us demand the total overthrow of our oppression and cheer us on?

(Editor's note: the Oregon Supreme Court recently upheld a state order to limit irrigation across 274 square miles of Morrow and Umatilla counties.

Butter Creek has been approved as Oregon's fifth "critical ground water area." This declaration gives the state power to set a maximum limit for pumping from irrigation wells.

In its decision, the Supreme Court said state law doesn't support irrigators' claims that they be allowed to deplete underground water as long as profitable crops can be grown. According to the Court, the law is meant to ensure "a reasonably stable adequate water supply which may be beneficially used only within the capacity of the available resource.")

## MERRY CHRISTMAS

Perm Winners- Mrs. Nash  
Janet Taylor

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<b>Pepsi Products</b>	<b>35¢ + dep</b>	<b>Roast</b>	<b>\$2.09 lb</b>
2 liter Assorted Flavors		Heinz Keg O' 32oz Reg 1 <sup>st</sup>	
<b>Pepsi Products</b>	<b>99¢ + dep</b>	<b>Ketchup</b>	1st 1 <sup>st</sup> <b>\$1.29 ea</b>
Fresh 1lb Bag		Miracle Whip 32oz Reg 2 <sup>nd</sup>	
<b>Carrots</b>	<b>19¢ ea</b>	<b>Salad Dressing</b>	<b>\$2.29 ea</b>
<b>Green Cabbage</b>	<b>18¢ lb</b>	Western Family 39oz Reg 6 <sup>th</sup>	
Fresh		<b>Coffee</b>	<b>\$4.99 ea</b>
<b>Cauliflower</b>	<b>59¢ lb</b>	Bird's Eye Box	
New York		<b>Cool Whip</b>	<b>99¢ ea</b>
<b>Steak</b>	<b>\$3.89 lb</b>	Ivory Liquid 22oz Reg 2 <sup>nd</sup>	
<b>Rib Steak</b>	<b>\$2.59 lb</b>	<b>Detergent</b>	<b>\$1.69 ea</b>
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		<b>Cucumbers</b>	3 for <b>99¢</b>

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**Court Street Market**

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