



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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## Letters to the Editor

### Defend the unborn

To the Editor:

January 22, 1990, marks the 17th anniversary of the infamous Roe v. Wade decision. We would like to take this time to share on behalf of the unborn, with the hope that more Americans will stand with us for the pro-life cause.

We need to consider the victims. Untold millions have been killed. Two years ago we heard it said a monument for aborted babies, styled after the Viet Nam Memorial would have to be taller than the Washington Monument and would extend more than one-half mile toward the Lincoln Memorial.

The world-wide annual death rate by abortion is 54 million. In America about 4,400 die daily. To bury those who die in the U.S. a cemetery roughly the dimensions of a football field would be needed. Imagine this: If those who attend the Super Bowl

were exterminated at the rate we currently kill the pre-born in America, every man, woman and child who attended the game would be dead in only two weeks. If every child killed by abortion in America since 1973 were buried in cemeteries the size of a football field, their remains would fill the playing fields in more than 4,000 football stadiums.

We are convinced that a democratic form of government cannot endure prolonged disregard for the sanctity and value of human life. This year as the opportunities arise to vote, we encourage you to select individuals who will defend the unborn.

What happens tomorrow will depend upon what we do today.

For Life,  
(s) John and Mary Ella Moyer  
Heppner

### Vision therapy best left to specialist

To the Editor:

Attention has been given in the media to the treatment of dyslexia, reading problems, and even juvenile delinquency with various forms of "vision therapy," including eye exercises, colored lenses, etc. Although occasional individual improvements are claimed, in our opinion, most of these treatments have not been scientifically proven to be of benefit to most patients. Although these treatments are probably not harmful, time and money may be wasted; most reading disabilities still need to be evaluated and treated by specialists in this field.

We recommend the following for anyone with reading problems for whom vision therapy has been recommended: First of all, reading problems in a child should be discussed with the school education teacher who can often make an appropriate evaluation or further referral. Several of our colleges and universities also have special education

departments which offer evaluation services to adults as well as children. In addition, if there is concern about vision problems or eye health, you may wish to get a second opinion from an ophthalmologist (a medical eye doctor trained in all aspects of eye and vision care) or ask the advice of your pediatrician or family physician.

For more information, contact the University of Oregon Department of Special Education (686-5521), or the Oregon Academy of Ophthalmology 370-8416.

Sincerely,  
(s) U.J. Berzins, M.D.,  
President Oregon Academy of Ophthalmology  
(s) Barbara Bateman, Ph.D., J.D.,  
Professor of Special Education  
University of Oregon  
Earl Palmer, M.D.,  
Associate Professor of Ophthalmology and Pediatrics  
Oregon Health Sciences University  
James Lace, M.D.,  
President Oregon Pediatric Society

### Retain health care choice

To the Editor:

Today I was asked for my views concerning the economy of the '90's for our rural area in Morrow County, Oregon. It appears to me there is good news and bad news ahead.

The good news is that agriculture is in better shape. Once agriculture is in better shape, then agricuture wheat is needed worldwide, enabling our farmers to begin to catch up after years of below-the-cost-of-producing prices. Overseas markets for beef have also opened up. It is hoped we can fill this market without undue restrictions. But the frosting on the cake for Morrow County will be the development of diversified high-value crops in North Morrow County. This type of crop with attendant value-added processing plants in the Boardman-Irrigon area holds out the best promise for future additional development on any large scale in Morrow Co. The foresight of the people of Morrow Co. to promote and fund the Port of Morrow's facilities which prominently figure in this development should be applauded.

South Morrow Co. will continue to have the stabilizing influence of Kinzua Corp, with a planned expansion providing possibly 20 additional jobs. We place a high value on this company in our area and appreciate their planning for the future with tree farms and needed maintenance of existing forests. There would be small hope for retaining young people here without Kinzua's commitment to the future.

Additionally, South Morrow should actively promote our communities as desirable locations for retirement. We have low housing costs, a great outdoors, a good business community, excellent physicians and hospital, and a safe environment. People from California could easily sell their homes there and live off the proceeds in retirement here. There is a real need, and market for what we have to offer in South Morrow County. But this won't happen unless we promote tourism through parks, roads, advertising and hospitality. To those who wonder "why bother?" I can only say that time and inflation do not stand still and we will lose what we take for granted now if we don't advance also. With the government services that are located here, if we develop tourism and a retirement community, South Morrow should be able to carry its share of the county tax load. As we look forward to the coming decade, can we be sure that the tax advantage Morrow County has enjoyed since Portland General Electric arrived, will continue? Does the state have different plans? Best that north and south get their act together; divided we fall is an ancient truism.

Which brings me to what the future holds for our company, Murray Drugs, Inc. Our state is heading into an uncharted course of health care rationing. Sen. Kitzhaber's Senate Bill 27 mandates this. A group called Health Services Commission consisting of 11 members appointed by the governor and confirmed by the senate has been working on this plan and targeting an implementation date of July 1, 1990. This commission is composed of five physicians, a public health nurse, a social services worker and four consumers of health care who serve a term of four years at the pleasure of our governor. There is no pharmacy representation on this commission. The commission, through the work of three subcommittees, has been pursuing a plan to prioritize and ration health care.

Gov. Goldschmidt, Sen. Kitzhaber (an emergency room physician who is president of the Oregon Senate) and Oregon Medicaid intend to be pioneers in this health rationing plan. They must, however, receive approval of their plan from the federal government for its 62 percent matching dollars. If they fail in securing this approval through legislation, they are simultaneously working to receive an administrative waiver from the Federal Health Care Financing Administration. This is another method of slipping through by administrative ruling that which they can't accomplish publicly by legislation.

The plan is intended to maximize the use of a managed health care system, a polite phrase for a preferred provider, which is another polite phrase for moneyed special interests. The losers in this system would be rural health care consumers and providers who are not preferred.

### NEW MOVIES!

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Recently the State of Oregon endorsed mail order prescriptions. The American Medical Association currently changed their stance to embrace a mail order drug distribution system. Would such a system suffice for a rural patient suffering from pneumonia? Would it deter the leakage of legal drugs into the illegal drug distribution system?

Adding complications to the picture are the insurance companies who are making more and more decisions for both physicians and pharmacists. They are telling physicians how to treat diseases, what drugs they can prescribe, and when to do surgery. They also tell pharmacists what drugs to dispense. As the insurance company needs to reduce costs they allow the use of the lowest cost drugs. These drugs are often satisfactory but if the pharmacist is aware of a particular problem for a particular consumer, he should be able to use his professional judgment. Most pharmacies now have computers to tell us of adverse reactions and allergies, or when a patient is taking two drugs that interact or duplicate each other. The pharmacist provides a needed safety check, as well as providing answers to any questions concerning medications that the patient may have.

In any event, irregardless of governmental or insurance company interference, you should be able to choose your own health care professionals. Only you, the consumer, can make the point forcefully to your legislators, both state and federal, that you insist on retaining your freedom of choice of your own health care providers in whom you place trust. If the consumer fails to do this, health care as we know it today will be increasingly limited. The bad news is that you probably won't miss the non-preferred providers till we're gone.

Sincerely,  
(s) Margaret G. Murray  
Murray Drugs, Inc.

### Sheriff's Report

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

January 17: Morrow County Sheriff's office investigated a break-in at Boardman. Two telephones were reported missing.

Morrow County Sheriff's office investigated vandalism at the Bonneville Power Office.

January 20: Morrow County deputy responded to a possible family disturbance near Boardman. Call was unfounded.

January 22: Morrow County deputy responded to a one vehicle rollover on I-84 milepost 150 eastbound. Subject was given a ride into Boardman by a private vehicle.

Morrow County deputy responded to a one vehicle rollover. The Boardman ambulance was paged for one female.

Morrow County deputy responded to Boardman for a one vehicle accident. Two females were involved and no injuries were reported.

Morrow County deputy responded to Rt. 2 in Boardman for a complaint of property damage.

Morrow County deputy responded to Boardman for a juvenile problem.

Morrow County Sheriff's Office dispatched the Boardman fire department for a structural fire on Canal Road.

During the week of January 15-22 Morrow County Sheriff's office assisted one disabled motorist.

### Tax Wind

The spring wind has started to blow in Boardman. That must mean that budget committees are meeting around the county. Spring wind and budget meetings seem to go together like ham and eggs.

This year there's a special ingredient, a groundswell of tax reform talk. There are lots of ways to measure the tax load and lots of ways to shift the burden around, but there's always talk of reform when any tax gets too high. Whether it's income tax, property tax or a sales tax, when it goes beyond the average taxpayer's sensibility about justness, it's too much and talk of reform can be heard.

There isn't an absolute level that makes a tax too high. It's more like a balance of how much ya get for what ya pay. Buying governmental service is sort of like buying a lot of other things. The buyer does a little price/quality analysis. The retired folks, living on a meager income, whose own children are raised and gone, may have a little trouble finding enough benefit in the local schools to pay the tax necessary to operate them. The urban dweller, living close to and working in town, may have a little trouble paying a county property tax to support miles of market roads he never drives.

The one thing in all forms of local government that taxpayers see and hear about to help make the benefit analysis is the hired help. A recent survey by the school district shows that it's the teachers that most folks give for either liking or disliking the schools. Not the buildings, not the curriculum, not the board, but the teachers. The whole school district was personified by the teachers.

We'd guess the same would be true of every form of local government. After all government is a service industry where its quality is equated with its personnel.

Yet knowing that, we're amazed at some folks who work for government. They have forgotten we call them public servants. For them, their unit of government has taken on the status of an independent entity. They see themselves working for some department or unit of government not working for the public. Not working for you and me, but for some invisible entity.

We know teachers and clerks and laborers who have that attitude. When we show up we're treated like the enemy rather than the boss. We measure their productivity and when we find it is lacking, we're frustrated in our efforts to replace them. It is true, you very nearly cannot fire a public employee. That fact being true is even greater reason public employees should remain truly public servants.

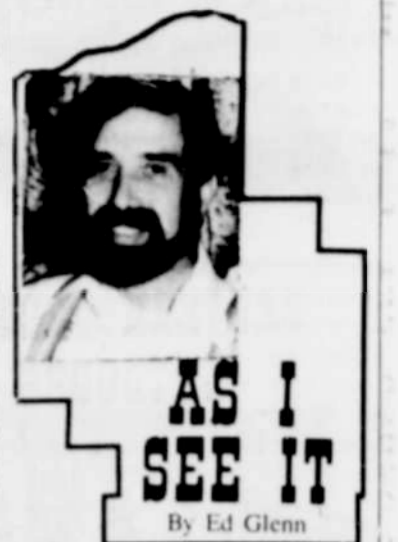
At tax paying time, when we do the benefit/cost analysis, we cannot help but measure the quality of a particular governmental unit by the way we have been treated by its employees. If they have been surly, indifferent, or rude to us, we think the benefit is not too high. If they have been polite, helpful and diligent, we think the benefit is great.

All public servants should get the picture. Ultimately the taxpayers are, in fact, boss. They do have the authority to pull back the purse strings when their employees get too independent. On the other hand they have the power and the inclination to open up the purse when they are served well.

The tax wind blows fair across Morrow County this spring. I have had occasion to work with a number of public servants and report from first hand knowledge that there are many, many, many true public servants on the job here. The ones I refer to above are few indeed.

The problem, if there is one, is one of perception. The reaction to an article I wrote recently was "How did you get that information?" Simple. I asked for it. The perception and the reality were not the same.

All public servants should work on that.



### 4-H News

#### Seven Super Sewers

By Steve Allen, Reporter  
The Seven Super Sewers have been busy the past couple of weeks. On January 18 the club met at St. Williams Catholic Church to learn how to tie-dye. Jannie Allen taught the group and some of the members younger sisters and moms how to tie-dye T-shirts. "It was a blast and all of the shirts turned out really great," said a club member.

Then, on January 22, the Seven Super Sewers had an evening meeting to discuss 4-H record keeping. Nancy Miller taught the group how to keep 4-H records, and how to organize all of the materials. Linda and Nancy Morter, who have

both been in 4-H for many years, gave pointers on how important records are and how to keep them the way the judges like them. Parents came to this meeting so they can help with the records.

Next week members are starting their next project, a small blanket.

#### Martingals

By Dawn Boor, Reporter  
On January 14, the Martingals held a 4-H meeting at Ann Bedortha's house.

Dr. Temple came to speak about worms. He told a fairytale and then showed members how horses were wormed a long time ago and how they are wormed today.

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Steak		\$1.10 lb.	Western Family Bathroom 4 roll pk	
Pork Roast		\$1.10 lb.	Tissue	99¢
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			Pudding	\$1.00 pkg
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