

## Off the Wall By Merlyn Robinson

Food, fiber and shelter--the essential elements needed to sustain livability. But we need to cut down on the expense of those basic needs in order to support the different levels of government.

For I've finally caught on as to how governing bodies make up budgets. Revenues from taxes must match a want list of "can't do without" expenses.

By comparison, most personal operating loan budgets are based on probable income minus some calculated loss factor. For instance stores may have to sell at cost overstocked inventories or ranchers may lose income if too many calves kick the bucket.

But tax money is needed to cover government employee cost of living salary increases even if commodity-growing taxpayers who help pay those salaries, are selling \$2 wheat for less than production costs.

Government employee salaries must be equitable, they say. Equitable with what--a professional politician without a master's degree? So even if the increased costs don't pencil out, small businesses should raise wages to a comparable rate, just as a status symbol.

Natural resources that have to be harvested or extracted are the source of every new dollar added to our economy. So to help support our local government we should better utilize the resources at hand.

Locally, there could be a community volunteer garden enterprise targeted to supply local grocers. Proceeds could support government and create new dollars in the community by reducing the amount of outside produce that is purchased.

All nine-to-fivers could donate an hour or so of garden work during weekdays. This would not interfere with weekend pleasure pursuits. And farmers could set aside one day per week of like volunteer work, maybe. Or if gardening isn't the preferred bag, then people could donate volunteer time for all those paid extra-duty jobs at schools. Cheerleading activities could be as healthy as aerobics classes.

And let's standardize everyone's mode of dress. We have talented seamstresses that could mass produce the same type of jeans, skirts and tops. And everyone would be in style.

Now that should economize on food and fiber to help lower the local cost of living stats, so let's attack the shelter part. A law could be passed that allows only so many feet of indoor living space per person, thereby cutting utility and housing costs. That way we could accommodate more people without building new homes.

If the police force is reduced under the restrictions of property tax limitation spending, let's think about really punishing minor law offenders with a little hard labor. Without sustaining too many callouses, minor law offenders could save maintenance workers from over exertion. And our roadsides streets and eyesores could be considerably improved.

I'm still working on how to lower health care and insurance costs. Routine free physicals might encourage better health care. However clients would pay more in the long run since doctors are sure to find lots of physical ailments that need to be treated.

So let's get back to a meat and potatoes economy that is presently the leading food products produced in our county. And let the wood chips fall as they should. Realistically the local cost of living doesn't compare with metropolitan areas and our governments should lead the way in economization, productivity and common sense. Rural as well as city residents do need relief from overtaxation.

## Pregnancy crisis center to make presentation at Baptist Church

The Pregnancy Crisis Center will make a presentation at the Lexington Baptist Church on Monday, February 4, at 7 p.m. The presentation is for women only. All ladies high school age and above are welcome to attend. There will be a

question and answer session following the presentation. "Those wishing to support Pregnancy Crisis Center will have opportunity to do so," said a spokesperson. Following the meeting there will be an informal time for refreshments.

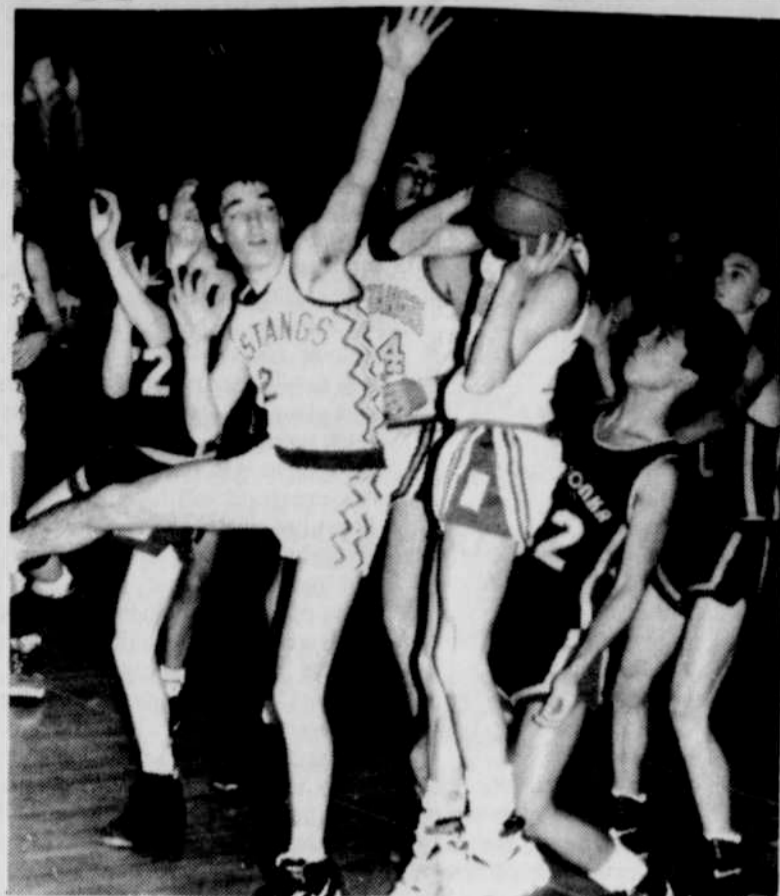
## News today not much different from news in 1918



Tom LaRusso and Dolores Cooper, new owners of the Northwestern Motel in Heppner, examine 1918 "Oregonian" newspapers discovered under the flooring of their ome during a remodeling project.

With many of the stories and photos concerning World War I, LaRusso commented that the news in 1918 is not much changed from news today, with war between the U.S. and Iraq.

## Heppner JV boys up record



Jeremy Clark (2) wrestles for rebound against Wahtonka. Photo by Lisa Willman

By Pete Pearson  
The Heppner JV boys' team improved their record to 9-2 with wins over Weston-McEwen and Wahtonka.

Heppner ran its way to a relatively easy victory over Weston-McEwen in a rematch of the championship game of the Pilot Rock JV boys' basketball tournament. In Friday night's game Scott Coe led Heppner with 20 points as the Mustangs won 58-36.

Against Wahtonka Saturday night, Heppner started off slow, but then got their running game going as they once again breezed to an easy victory over the Eagles 71-43. Len Britner led the Mustangs with 14 points.

The JV boys next games are Friday, February 1, against Pilot Rock in Heppner at 4:30 p.m. and on Saturday at Umatilla against

Umatilla's JV boys' team at 2:30 p.m.

## Chief Rathbun's Tips

How to protect you and your car from last week: 3. Travel well-lit busy streets; 4-keep your purse and other valuables out of sight, even when you are driving in your locked car; 5-park in safe-well lit area; 6-always lock your car.

## Bergstrom on honor roll

Michael Bergstrom, Heppner, has been named to the dean's list for the fall term at Oregon Institute of Technology. Bergstrom is majoring in Bach diesel power technology.

## Extension program helps children learn about money



Jaclynn Hughes and Carol Bennett practice money management.

Parents are powerful teachers. Children learn from what their parents do as well as from what they say.

"As an adult, much of what you know about money, and how to manage it, you learned from your parents. Now your children are learning from you," points out Carol Bennett, Oregon State University Extension agent in Morrow County.

"Money Sense for Your Children" is a new learn-at-home program offered by the OSU Extension Service to help parents teach children money management. Each of the six lessons include suggestions to help children from preschool through their teens learn about money and how to manage it.

Each of the six publications, based on materials used by Clemson and Washington State Universities, includes ideas that parents can use to teach children about saving and sharing, where money comes from and

how to evaluate advertising. "Because it's designed to be used within the home, each family can go through the series of six topics at their own speed," explains Alice Mills Morrow, OSU Extension family economics specialist. Actually, Morrow adds, the lessons will help the entire family evaluate its money management practices.

Each lesson includes an outline of the main ideas to be covered, listing of key words and background information for parents to use when discussing money with their children. The lessons will be mailed out in March.

Families can obtain "Money Sense for Your Children" through the Morrow County Extension office at a cost of \$2.25. Persons wishing to obtain the series, or who wish additional information, should write or call Carol Bennett at the Extension office, Pettyjohn Office Building, P.O. Box 397, Heppner, Oregon 97836, telephone 676-9642.

## Ione JV girls lose to Hermiston, defeat Sherman

Sunday, February 3, the Hope-Valby Choir will sing three anthems at Sunday worship services--"Christmas" with words and music by Loonis McGlohan; "Sleep Little Sweet Jesus," arranged by Winagene Hatch; and "Come and Sing," with words by Nancy Price and music by Don Besig. The choir is under the direction of Kathy Hoskins.

The Valby congregation will have Sunday School at 8:15 a.m. with the service of Holy Communion at 9 a.m. Pastor Hoobing will preach on the theme of "The Secret of Life,"

based on the reading from St. Mark 1:21-28.

Sunday School at Hope Lutheran Church in Heppner will begin at 9:30 a.m. A service of Holy Communion will be at 11 a.m. After worship service there will be a congregational potluck soup-sandwich dinner. At 1 p.m. there will be an annual meeting of the congregation. Among the many matters to be discussed and voted on will be the church budget, new constitution (members are urged to bring their personal copy), election of church council and other matters of congregational concern.

## Ione JV girls split games

By Anne Morter

The Ione girls JV team played to a split in their games held last week, losing to the Hermiston Freshmen last Tuesday and defeating the Sherman County JV team on Saturday.

The Lady Cards led for three full quarters of their game against Hermiston, but in the fourth quarter the Bulldogs came to life, hitting nine of 10 shots from the field and all of their free throws, to outscore the Cards, 26-13. The final score was 41-46.

Amy Pointer, Kristine Bedortha and Crystal Minster each had eight points in the game. Crystal Minster pulled down 10 rebounds to lead the Cards to a 42-23 rebounding edge. She also had seven steals to pace her team. The Lady Cards shot 15 of 52 from the floor for 29 percent and 11 of 27 from the line for 41 percent. Hermiston was 17 of 45 for 38 percent from the field and 12 of 18 for 67 percent from the floor.

On Saturday, the Cardinals put on

a press that the Sherman County girls couldn't handle and came away with a 42-25 win. Ione outscored the Huskies 18-4 in the second quarter to hold a 23-9 halftime advantage. They added to that lead in the second half, outscoring Sherman 19-16 for the final margin.

Crystal Minster led the scoring attack with 11 points. The Cards were outrebounded 29-45 by the taller Huskies. Kristine Bedortha led that effort with eight. Crystal Minster paced the Cards with four steals. In the shooting department, the Cards were 12 of 37 for 32 percent and 17 of 30 for 57 percent from the line. The Huskies shot 10 of 59 for 17 percent from the floor and five of 14 for 36 percent from the line.

Coach Tom Bedortha was pleased with the effort, praising Crystal Minster for a good effort all over the court and Heidi Nelson for a good defensive game.



by Mark Baggett

Research data tells us that there are as many elk in eastern Oregon right now as there have ever been. Given this, one would expect public hunting opportunities to also be as promising as ever. But that just ain't so, say the many researchers who are claiming that elk usage of our high-elevation, public timberlands in northeast Oregon and southeast Washington is dwindling, due largely to dramatic changes in habitat conditions.

According to Forest Service wildlife biologist Mike Wisdom of the Forestry and Range Sciences Lab in LaGrande, officials from the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife and Washington Department of Wildlife have for some time expressed deep concerns that degenerating forest habitat conditions have influenced the apparent change in the distribution of elk away from traditional summer ranges at higher elevations on national forest lands, citing evidence that more elk are remaining year round on what has historically been winter range habitat on private lands. Much of this evidence, he said, has come in the form of increased damage complaints from private landowners.

"If that is true--if that is happening," Wisdom said, "then of course there's a lot of problems that relate to how ranchers can manage their private lands and the vegetation there for primarily livestock and minimize damage from elk, and how the Forest Service might bring that (elk) distribution back to what its more historical distribution would be--primarily, having those animals spend the spring, summer and fall at higher elevations on the national forest lands."

In order to achieve these goals, a special, one-of-a-kind coalition of state, federal, private, corporate and associate interests was recently formed to enhance and improve elk habitat on public lands on or near the Malheur, Umatilla and Wallowa Whitman National Forests. The "Blue Mountains Elk Initiative," as it is called, claims to be coordinating a variety of projects ranging from road closures and access management on summer and fall elk range to water development and forage enhancement on both summer and winter ranges--whatever it takes to redistribute elk back onto their appropriate ranges.

"To date," Wisdom offered, "we've got about 25 projects that have been approved and are being implemented across the forests, totaling over \$300,000. These are cost-share projects that are being funded by a variety of sources, not just the forest."

Most of the funding, Wisdom said, has been pledged by ODFW, Washington Department of Wildlife, the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, Oregon Hunters Association, the Confederated Tribes of Umatilla Indians, the Bureau of Indian Affairs, at least one rancher and the three national forests involved.

"All those entities and any others that develop cost-share projects have an absolute say and power as to how their money is used," Wisdom affirmed. "Nobody controls other peoples' monies; it's simply a way to mix and match funds and other resources--land, equipment, labor, staffing--in ways that the sum of all those things equals something more than individuals working alone could produce. And we're really trying to do it in a way that we can generate the monies we think are needed to resolve some of the problems of how to manage elk resources--from a lot of different viewpoints."

"It's a really bright note," Wisdom concluded. "No one has ever done this for elk before--to our knowledge, this is the largest partnership for elk management in the United States--and it's certainly got the largest number of potential cooperators and the most diversity of mixed interests. We realize we're not going to solve all the problems right away, but we think that through this process, we'll probably learn how to really improve our relationships and do a more cost efficient and more effective way of managing elk resources together."

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