

Off the Wall By Marilyn Robinson

If the groundhog didn't see his shadow here locally, maybe it's because he too is a bit tired of winter after being holed up under a snow-dapped roof. But it's still a matter of perception as to whether there are six more weeks of winter or only six weeks until spring.

While our most common hibernating animal is the badger, I sometimes wish that he would either forget to wake up or do his good deed by filling up all the holes he leaves behind.

But doing a good turn for others doesn't always enter into the scheme of things. Especially when it comes to affairs of the pocket-book. Some folks holding down good jobs seem to think it's prudent to ask for wage hikes, even though many people are being laid off. For example, the IBM layoffs forecasted cut-backs by Boeing and now the ripple effect hits home from the closure of Sears catalog stores.

Years ago the town lost the J.C. Penny store and now Main street is doomed to lose the Sears business. Though some have grumbled about postage costs, it's cheaper to mail-order rather than make an out-of-town trip for things that can't be purchased locally.

The federal government should never have allowed to touch social security funds built on the backs of the taxpayers. They now want to cut social security cost-of-living increases to help balance the national debt. It could make more sense to place an increased tax on upper income social security recipients who are otherwise financially secure. But how about the impact to many seniors who are just getting by with that monthly check as the number of retirees continues to grow. And tampering with the system is a risk for those who have many years of paying into the program before retirement.

On the local scene, it's obvious that the county taxpayers must eventually support a building bond issue if school rooms are to be provided for the growing north end population. With the uncertainty of funding operating costs, the school board is doing a balancing act to continue the quality of education and provide more teachers as operational expenses climb.

The district is even fine-tuning the lunch program to cut waste and costs that require as much as \$350,000 in support from the general budget.

There's a lot I don't understand about teacher contract negotiations, so I'm not making any judgement calls. Yet it's obvious that a 2.5 percent wage increase plus around a two percent cost-of-living hike with the additional step increase incentives, some teachers could receive as much as a 7.5 percent wage increase for the 1993-94 year. And this does not include the cost of 25 cents on the dollar for salary taxes or insurance costs funded by the district.

If the district has to cut its so-called ending fund balance that is used to meet expenses from July 1 until November taxes are received and the district receives less state school support dollars, this will eventually lead to cutting back the number of teachers and increasing the classroom size. And where will other cuts be taken if it comes down to education versus extra-curricular programs?

New 4-H projects offered

Interested in cake decorating? If you are contact Jan Coe, 676-9851. Coe has volunteered to teach a 4-H cake decorating project.

How about needlework? Betty

Doherty has volunteered to teach a counted cross-stitch project. For more information contact the Morrow County Extension office 676-9642.

Day Care sponsors 20/20 raffle

The Heppner Day Care is sponsoring a donation/raffle called the 20/20 club that will get underway on Monday, Feb. 8.

Those wishing to participate in the program will donate \$1 a week to day care for 20 weeks or they may donate all \$20 at once. At the end of 20 weeks a name will be drawn. The winner

of the drawing will split the money with day care. If 25 people participate in the drawing, for example, the winner would get \$250 and day care would get the remaining \$250. The winner will be drawn June 21.

For more information stop by the day care center or call 676-5429.

Local woman places in national Make It Yourself With Wool contest

Kimberle Trotter, Vancouver, WA., was named first runner-up for the senior division of the National Make It Yourself With Wool contest held Jan. 20-23 at Dallas, Texas.

Trotter is the daughter of Ken and Judy Wright of Heppner.

Michal Shull of Bend was the second runner-up in the senior division and her sister Rachal Shull, was second runner-up in the junior division.

Michal Shull and Trotter received a serger and Rachal received a knitting machine,

among other gifts.

The contest was held in conjunction with the National Sheep Growers conference.

Judy Wright, the Oregon state director of the contest, accompanied the girls to the contest.

While there the contestants attended clinics on make-up, hair styling and modeling and went through two days of practice with the choreographer of the contest. They also attended a barbecue at the Circle K Ranch and enjoyed sunshine and 70 degree weather.

4-H conference set for teens

Would you like to meet government officials or learn more about our state government? "Know Your State Government" is an opportunity for older 4-H members to meet state government officials and learn how state government works. All 4-H members in grades 10, 11 and 12 are eligible to participate in the conference.

The conference will be held April 21-23 in Salem. Housing

for delegates is planned for at the 4-H Conference and Education Center. Most of the sessions will be held in the Capitol Building in Salem.

Oregon "Know Your State Government" 4-H Conference is sponsored by Chevron, USA and Oregon State University Extension Service Department of 4-H and Youth Development.

For more information contact the Morrow County Extension Office, 676-9642.

Cycle Oregon VI meeting Thursday

A meeting concerning Cycle Oregon VI, which will pass through the area on Sept. 14 has been scheduled for this Thursday, Feb. 4 at 7 p.m. at the Lone High School.

Support people for Cycle Oregon VI will be on hand to

answer any questions or concerns.

Anyone interested in serving on a committee or being a committee chairperson should contact Cycle Oregon coordinators Jim Swanson or Nancy Brownfield at Wheatland Insurance in Ione.

Domestic Violence seeks volunteers

Domestic Violence Service is in need of volunteers. The service needs people to help with counseling and babysitting for people who come to the center for assistance.

The service offers a crisis line, counseling and shelters and take referrals from the police, schools and attorneys. They serve Mor-

row County residents. At present, however, they have only two people in their office and need more help.

Volunteer training will begin April 1 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the Hermiston Methodist Church, 191 E. Gladys.

For more information contact Laurie Able, 567-0008.

GEODC sponsors business workshop

Greater Eastern Oregon Development Corporation (GEODC) is sponsoring a workshop for businesses interested in selling their products and services to the federal government and the state of Oregon.

The workshop will be held at 2 p.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 10 at the Good Shepherd Hospital conference room, Hermiston. The workshop is co-sponsored by the Government Contract Acquisition Program.

The federal government is the largest purchaser in the world. Oregon is among the bottom five states in terms of volume of business done with the federal government, said a GEODC news release. The state of Oregon

is another significant market and much simpler to deal with. Selling goods or services to the government is an opportunity few businesses explore.

Specialists from local, regional, state and national economic development organizations will be on hand to discuss how to find out what the state and the federal government are buying, how to qualify to bid (sources of specs, bonding, etc.), how to get help putting together bids, how to find out if contract modifications are possible, how to get paid, and other areas of interest to attendees. The sessions will be concise and focus on questions raised by those in attendance, said the news release.

Antifreeze fatal to pets

Anti-Freeze, although necessary to keep your car running in this freezing weather that we have recently endured is very toxic to your pet's kidneys. As little as one-half teaspoon can kill a cat and one-quarter of a cup can kill an average size dog.

The taste of anti-freeze is so appealing that cats and dogs will readily drink it. Don't leave pans of anti-freeze unattended and

don't allow anti-freeze to drain onto the garage floor or into the street.

If you accidentally spill anti-freeze, wash it down immediately. Cats can even lick enough anti-freeze off their paws for it to be fatal. If you see your pet drinking any amount of anti-freeze, immediately take the pet to your veterinary hospital. Treatment should be started within an hour.

Colleges list honor students

Western Oregon State College
A total of 221 students have been named to the president's list and another 495 students have been named to the honor roll for fall term at Western Oregon State College. To be listed on the president's list students must achieve a perfect 4. grade point average, while honor roll students earned a 3.5 to 3.9.

WOSC, a four-year liberal arts college, has an enrollment of 3,820 students.

Morrow County students named to the honor roll include: Amy Gantenbein and Jana Mounts, Boardman; Scott Johnston, Heppner; and Kristina Medley, Irrigon.

Eastern Oregon State College
Eastern Oregon State College's fall term dean's list includes the names of 276 students who achieved a grade point average of 3.5 or better. Students must have 12 or more graded credit hours to be eligible for the list.

The following students from Morrow and Umatilla counties have been named to the list: Robert Rea, Boardman; Casey Pedro, Echo; Lana Orr, Heppner; Kristen Harrison, Irrigon.

Blue Mountain Community College

Forty-two students received a perfect 4. grade point average during the fall term at Blue Mountain Community College. Seven students qualified for the president's list, 108 students qualified for the dean's list and

138 students qualified for the fall term honor roll. To be included on the president's list a student must attain a GPA of 3.85 or higher; students must have a GPA of 3.4 to 3.84 to be listed on the dean's list and a GPA of 3. to 3.39 to be on the honor roll. Students must also have 12 graded credit hours and not have received an F in any class. A pass grade does not count toward the 12 graded hours necessary to be on the lists.

Local students named to the president's list include: Susan Corson, Boardman; Craig Miles and Chloe Pearson, Heppner; and Marilyn Winters, Irrigon. They all received 4.0.

Students named to the dean's list include: Ryan Evans, Boardman; Norma Ashbeck, Echo; Oliver J. Devin, Kathleen Hire, Tawny Miles, Kay Patterson and Alice Traylor, Heppner; Shannon Zumwalt, Hermiston; Kacie Davison, Brent Sheirbon, Sally Williams, Lexington; Brandi Ball, Chisana Warren, Ione.

Honor roll students include: Bonnie Guthrie, Trevor Edson, Laurel Glenn, Marilee Phillips, Grant Sams, Angela Smythe, Jodi Vandevanter, Boardman; Dawn Garrett, Daniel Michael, Myrna Sieler, Heppner; Jeff Ball, Ione; James Davison, Lorene Papineau, Lexington; Katherine Calvert, Samara Robinson, Brandon Suchy, Irrigon.

Snow, slush hard on carpets

Snow and slush not only cause winter driving problems, but they also can make a mess of rugs and carpets in the home.

According to Ardis Koester, Oregon State University Extension textiles and clothing specialist, excess snow or slush should be removed from carpets immediately and the wet area blotted up with tissues. If water is allowed to soak through to the backing, a brown stain may appear, and once the stain forms, it's almost impossible to remove.

Salt and ashes spread on slippery sidewalks also cause damage to carpeting. Because salt attracts moisture, it may keep the carpeting damp and also cause brown stains. If allowed to remain damp, it may cause mildewing.

Ashes are even more dangerous because they are almost always alkaline and very harmful to dyes.

To prevent permanent damage, rugs and carpets should be given a professional cleaning as soon as possible after winter soiling, Koester advises.

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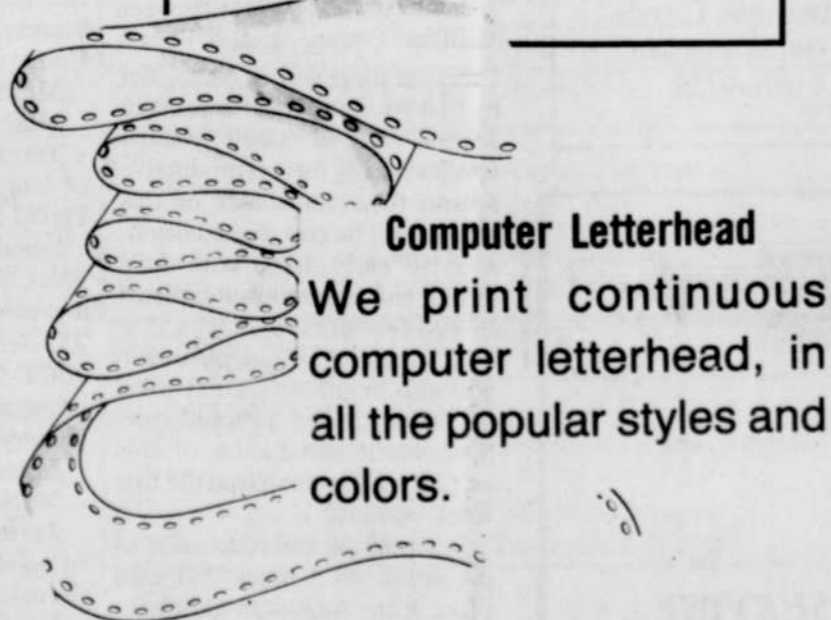
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