

The Official Newspaper of the
City of Heppner and the
County of Morrow

Heppner
GAZETTE-TIMES

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Stop smoking classes offered

Morrow County Behavioral Health Services (MCBHS) will offer a smoking cessation class starting in August during the noon hour. The program will consist of seven sessions to be on Wednesdays. Class size is limited to 10.

The fee is \$20 for adults and \$10 for youth. Payment plans can be worked out if necessary, said Marilyn Bader-Nesse, MCBHS. "This is an intense, self-motivational type program," said Bader-Nesse. "This program offers education, resources with a variety of natural-based techniques and healthy support systems. This is a gift that you not only give to yourself, but to all the significant others in your life, as well as those who have yet to come

into your life."

To sign up, for more information, call 676-9161.

This program was developed by the following agencies: American Cancer Society; American Lung Association of Oregon; Centennial School District; Kaiser-Permanente Adolescent Chemical Health Program; Kaiser-Permanente

Center for Health Research; Multnomah County Employee Health Promotion Program; Multnomah County Primary Prevention Program; and Pacific University, Graduate School of Professional Psychology.

4-H fair registration due July 26

County 4-H members planning to participate in the 1996 Morrow County Fair must have their registrations into the Mor-

row County Extension office, Heppner, or the North Morrow Annex, Irrigon, before 5 p.m., Friday, July 26.

All 4-H members must pre-register their exhibits and contests by this date. No exceptions will be made. For more information call the 4-H office, Morrow County Extension, P.O. Box 397, Heppner OR. 97836, 1-800-342-3664 or (541) 676-9642.

Morrow County Health Dept. will be available at Pioneer Memorial Clinic for immunizations (MMR, Hepatitis B, and Tetanus booster) both days of sports physicals, on Tuesday and Wednesday, July 30 and 31, 4:30-6:30 p.m.

JULY CLEARANCE!

FINAL DAYS!

Short Sleeve Western Shirts \$10⁰⁰ off
by Wrangler and Panhandle Slim

Polo Shirts \$10⁰⁰ off
by Grand Slam

Wrangler Tee Shirts \$5⁰⁰ off
Boys Reg 11⁹⁵ to 14⁹⁵

Wrangler Jeans \$19⁹⁵
Cowboy Cut Denim 38 length 21⁹⁵

Levi Dockers \$16²⁵ to \$26⁹⁵
Classic Fit Reg 32⁹⁵ to 36⁹⁵

Tee Shirts \$5⁰⁰ off
by Nike, Union Bay and Quicksilver

Ladies Jeans \$16⁹⁵ to \$29⁹⁵
By Blaze and Wrangler Reg 33⁹⁵ to 51⁹⁵

Gardner's MEN'S WEAR
193 N. Main St. 676-9218 Heppner

Letters to the Editor

Editor's note: Letters to the editor must be signed. The Gazette-Times will not publish unsigned letters. Please include your address

and phone number on all letters for use by the G-T office. The G-T reserves the right to edit.

Initiative damaging, scary

To the Editor:

An initiative has received enough signatures to be placed on the ballot to be voted on this coming November, 1996. This is one of the most damaging and scary proposals to the owners of livestock and property bordering certain rivers and ponds designated as water quality limited. It is called the "Clean Stream Initiative".

What this means is it could create a lawyer's bonanza. The so-called "Clean Stream Initiative" will promote lawsuits and legal harassment for the farmers, ranchers and landowners of Oregon while destroying cooperation and management solutions that protect and enhance the water quality of Oregon. Lawyers and environmental extremists will be the true financial beneficiaries of this law, at the expense of our environment, recreational opportunities, family farms and ranches and our economy.

Farmers and ranchers are the best "stewards of the land". They manage the lands and waterways to enhance production. They raise the vegetables, meat, dairy products, crops that supply the markets and grocery stores for the consumer to purchase to fulfill their nutritional needs. If these dedicated people are forced to sell or go broke and lose their property because of a needless initiative proposed by uninformed people, where do they plan to get the food needed to sustain life? Import it from other countries - is that the answer? Think of the cost.

You (collectively) say the price of meat, fish, dairy products and groceries are too expensive; just wait until these environmentalists get their way and the "Clean Stream Initiative" does pass. It could give everyone with property bordering rivers, creeks and ponds the opportunity to go broke and deprive them of the right to earn a living that would benefit each and every one of you.

The cost of fencing the rivers, streams, etc. would be so costly that the average rancher-farmer could not afford it. The cost would be \$5,000 per mile for one side of the river, etc. If the landowner owned property on both sides of the river, stream, etc., the cost would be \$10,000 per mile and would cost ranchers and farmers \$1 million for every 100 miles.

The sponsors of the initiative claim a "tax credit" will help ranchers, etc. pay for fencing. In reality, a rancher, farmer or private property owner can only receive a tax credit for 25 percent of the cost. But the truth is the tax credit is only good if the farmer-rancher, etc. earns a profit and owes state income tax.

Who is liable to provide the cost of upkeep and repair of these fences that will take 100 feet of property on both sides of the water? Are the environmentalists going to maintain the fences? Are the organizations going to maintain the

fences? What about fences in an area that floods, will they maintain and replace them every year as needed? Of course not. It will be up to the landowner to provide that service at his own expense.

By fencing the water away from domestic animals, it makes me wonder how wildlife will profit from all of this. How are they going to get to the water that is life sustaining for survival with fences blocking their access?

Let's define animals considered to be "livestock". It includes horses, mules, sheep, ostrich and emu, poultry, pigs, goats, llamas as well as cattle. The part of this initiative that is completely unjust and unfair is if any livestock is found inside the fenced-off riparian area, it permits any person to commence a civil action in state court against any landowner alleged to be in violation.

It doesn't have to be the landowner's livestock either. If the livestock belongs to a neighbor, and someone, like a fisherman, sees the animal and files suit against the landowner, the landowner is liable for his own legal defense to prove the animal did not belong to him.

For our own protection, out of fear of lawsuits and legal liability, landowners would likely be forced to restrict access to their private property if this initiative were to pass.

Carefully written into the law is the provision that the court may award the cost of bringing the lawsuit to the plaintiff whenever the court feels it is appropriate. This means the livestock owner has to pay the property bringing about the lawsuit for their attorney fees, court fees, and expert witness fees on top of any monetary or injunctive relief already given to the plaintiff. Should the rancher win, there are no attorney fees, court fees, and expert witness fees if they can prove the lawsuit was "frivolous". In almost every case, even if the farmer, rancher or private property owner is successful in defending the lawsuit brought against them, they will not be allowed to get their cost of litigation back. Is this fair to the farmer, rancher or private property owner?

Your help is needed to help prevent a law that would restrict the management of the rancher, farmer and private property and also take the food off your plates and out of your mouths. Help us to encourage cooperation and consider supporting efforts to oppose the livestock exclusion initiative. Contact the Oregon Agriculture Education PAC 3415 Commercial Street SE in Salem, Oregon 97302, for more information and with donations, and vote no at election time in November. Let's not make Oregon the first state to outlaw livestock grazing.

(s) Arlene Guerin, president
Coos County Livestock Association
Mrytle Point, Oregon

We will be revising
our Hallmark department
on Thursday and Friday,
August 1st and 2nd.

We apologize for any
inconvenience this may cause.

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First Heppner rodeo a crowd pleaser

By Merlyn Robinson

Headlines from the October 3, 1922, Heppner Herald weekly newspaper proclaim "Heppner's First Rodeo Won the Applause of Thousands". This year's 1996 Oregon Trail Rodeo, August 16-18, will again be a crowd pleaser, living up to a colorful 71-year history. Rodeos were not held for four years during World War II.

This event is a legacy from the days when hardy pioneers in this area used four-legged horsepower for transportation, pulling power and to herd cattle and sheep. Today's rodeo events emulate that rugged cowboy life when bucking broncs were fanned and riders pitted their horses against others over rugged terrain.

This year's Grand Marshal Gerald Swaggert rode race horses in that era. He remembers when bucking horse events were held before there were any sanctioned rodeos. Buttercreek ranchers would gather loose horses so that cowpokes could test their rough rider skills.

Such bucking horse events, once held at the lower edge of Main Street, inspired local businessmen to promote a scheduled rodeo. L.V. Gentry donated a field at the edge of town that continues to be the rodeo site. Poles and posts were cut and hauled from the mountains to build fences and bleachers were built along the oval race track bordering this large arena.

It was reported that the bleachers were filled during that first show with the arena surrounded by parked vehicles and an estimated crowd attendance of 4,000 people. A band from The Dalles provided musical atmosphere during the performances. After the dusty arena competition and the hotly contested races were held, there was no shortage of night life. Dances were held each evening at the large round pavilion that once stood at the lower edge of town. A crowded bar and gambling games were provided by the local American Legion Post.

Winner of that first rodeo's bucking horse contest was J.D. Bellingbrock who bested Jack French. Yet French proved to be the top hand when it came to riding bucking mules. Winners of horse races were Vic Eads, George Cason, M.N. Kirk, Frank Swaggert, Antone Cunha and Barney Ward. Eddie Sheriden placed over French in the calf roping. And

Ralph Reid beat French and Howard Lane in the steer roping event. Then there were the boys' pony races with successful winners including Don Boyer, Billy Hill, Harold Gentry and Rolan Snyder.

According to newspaper accounts "the track and arena were in splendid condition," thanks to the work of that rodeo committee plus a well-timed rain that fell prior to the first performance. In those days of no bucking chutes and lap and tap starts, there were no serious accidents to mark this show. However "the bucking bulls and some of the bucking horses gave riders all they wanted in rough treatment."

The stock of that first show mostly came from local ranchers who brought their "meanest critters" to town. One dozen outlaw horses, including Whistling Anne, Lightfoot and John Day, were borrowed from the Pendleton Round-Up stock for this event.

One of the town fathers and a promoter of this first rodeo was Charles Latourell, an enterprising local car dealer. He arranged to bring a touring Ford Exposition to town for four days during that first rodeo. That caravan consisted of 26 trucks and tractors carrying or towing additional farm and construction equipment. There were also Delco light plants, an innovative way to provide electricity for ranches. Plus there were pumping systems, hoists and other small tools and accessories that were considered modern conveniences. This entourage featured a five-piece jazz orchestra, nightly movie shows and a modern marvel of a radio broadcasting set.

The written details of this rodeo are sketchy, but there are some people still around that remember those times. Heppner's Eva Padberg Griffith, queen of the 1923 show, can add many colorful details. This year's Grand Marshal Gerald Swaggert was 12 years old at that time. He is being honored

for his years of serving on both the fair and rodeo boards and his family's involvement in past years. Like his father, Frank Swaggert, he rode race horses in flat, relay and pony express heats. He also demonstrated his riding skill by standing on the back of two horses. It's that kind of heritage that is being handed down to succeeding generations that keeps rodeo a leading sport.

4-H fair cleanup day set for Aug. 3

Cleanup day at the Morrow County Fairgrounds has been set for Saturday Aug. 3, the day 4-H members get the livestock areas ready for fair.

Parents and members are all

invited to help. Work will start at 8 a.m. at the fairgrounds in Heppner. For more information, call Bill Broderick at the Morrow County Extension office, 1-800-342-3664 or (541) 676-9642.

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