

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

Heppner
GAZETTE-TIMES
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April Hilton-Sykes News Editor
Stephanie Jensen Typesetting
Monique Devin Advertising Layout & Graphics
Bonnie Bennett Distribution
Penni Keersmaker Printer

David Sykes, Publisher

Letter home from Bosnia

(Editor's note: The following letter from Bosnia was written by Morrow County District Attorney Earl R. Woods, who is serving in Bosnia with his National Guard unit.)

Every once in awhile I get to feeling sorry for myself for being thrown into a situation at age 53 where I'm living in a tent in a foreign country without the benefits of civilization. I was feeling that way the other day when I met Lena.

I was out with members of the Hungarian Army inspecting work that their engineers had done on the bridge between Bosnia and Croatia at Slavovski Brod. The bridge, which was blown up during the war, is in less than perfect condition (as is everything else in this area) and has to be inspected every time we want to put our tanks and equipment across it. During the process of the inspection we went under the bridge to inspect the footings and while we were under there we met Lena.

Lena is an older widowed Serb who lives in a house that was 90 percent destroyed during the war. The house is situated on the east bank of the Sava River and prior to the war was probably not a bad place. Now, there is only one room intact and it doesn't have a roof. What it does have is sheets of corrugated metal which she put up between the first and second floor which sort of serves as a roof for the one room. Two things became evident once Lena approached us and began to speak. One is that she was very angry and the second is that she was pretty drunk.

The thing that had Lena so mad was the conduct of the Serbian Police. It seems that Lena was caring for a prune orchard and a garden just below her house until last week and was intending to use the prunes and produce she expected to raise as a means of providing income for herself. Sometime during last week the Serbian Police came and planted a mine field in her orchard and her garden, replete with trip wires. She wanted us to remove the mines. I had to tell her that not only could we not remove the mines, but there was only one agency, under the rules of engagement, that can remove the mines. You guessed it--the Serbian Police.

Lena invited all of us in to have a drink with her in spite of the bad news. Unfortunately under the rules of General Order #1, no American soldier can consume alcohol in the "box". I had to give her that as bad news also, as I got the impression that she was awfully lonely. However, the good news is that I'm not feeling sorry for myself anymore and later that night I had the strangest dream that a grey-haired soldier and two engineers removed a bunch of mines from a garden and orchard. It must be something I ate.

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.

Idea suggested to cope with land closures

To the Editor:

Wildlife Commission and hunters of the North Fossil Unit - As most people know, Kinzua Resources has sold the hunting rights on approximately 70,000 acres in the North Fossil Unit. This leaves 35,000 acres open to the public.

Kinzua Resources threatened to do this if Measure 38 passed. Measure 38 was voted down and they went ahead and closed it anyway. Also, they offered the hunting rights to the Wildlife Commission for 50 cents an acre. The Wildlife Commission wanted no part of this. They were afraid other landowners would follow suit.

Believe me, if the Wildlife Commission doesn't think this \$2,500 to \$6,000 bull elk isn't catching on, they don't know anything about the South Fossil Unit.

There are some steps that could be taken to prevent this:

Step 1 -- Limited entry drawing for all tags.

Step 2 -- Land that has paid hunting will be taxed as recreation land.

Step 3 -- Drawing for tags based on the amount of land open to the general public.

Step 4 -- Limited entry. Spikes only every other year.

Step 5 -- Limited entry drawing for all tags with compensation to the landowner. For example, if there were 4,100 tags issued to the archery and rifle seasons and everybody paid \$20 extra with their tag fee, there would be a pool of \$82,000, of which 90 percent (\$73,800) would revert back to the landowners.

How would this work? Every landowner who opened his land to the general public would receive 50 cents an acre.

The landowner who had limited entry would receive \$18 per tag and 55 cents, an acre for the portion of his property open to the general public. The hunter would give his hunting license number to just one landowner. The landowner would send this in and be reimbursed by the Wildlife Commission. This would work with some minor changes and might also give other landowners the incentive to open some of their property. This would have to go before the legislature, but if enough hunters agree, I see no problem.

On March 11 and 12, the Wildlife Commission held meetings at Fossil and Heppner. The people at these meetings voted on next year's proposal. Out of these two meetings, 61 people voted for unlimited entry for bull and cows. No mention was made of deer. Where there are approximately 1,820 buck hunters, unlimited bull and bow hunters, I feel that 61 people is a poor representation.

Due to this, myself and several friends are getting up a petition to have strictly limited entry tags, with consideration to land that has paid hunting and the open public ground. If this is not done, there are several landowners who will close their property due to the fact that there will be too many hunters forced upon them.

Anyone interested in this petition can call me, 468-2855, or sign the petition at local businesses.

It seems the Wildlife Commission has no interest in addressing this problem. So the hunters will have to do this themselves.

(s) Robert Ordway
Spray, Oregon 97874

Heppner Veterans Office closed

Rita Hedman, Morrow County Veterans Service office, will be attending the semi-annual Veterans' Conference in Cottage Grove April 15-18, and will not be in the Heppner office on Thursday, April 17.

Births

Ruben Javier Gonzales-a son Ruben Javier was born to Quirina and Ruben Gonzales of Irrigon on March 26, 1997 at Good Shepherd Community Hospital in Hermiston. The baby weighed 6 lbs. 13 oz.

Heppner High School holds prom Saturday



1997 Heppner High School Prom Court (L-R): Prince Eric Schonbachler, Princess Brandi Marshall, Prince Jim Schlaich, Princess Mandi Gutierrez, Queen Lindsey Waterland, King Rick Worden, Princess Lori Moeller, and Prince Brian Koffler

Heppner High School held its prom Saturday, April 5, at the high school. Seniors Rick Worden and Lindsey Waterland were crowned King and Queen. Princesses were Lori Moeller, Mandi Gutierrez and Brandi Marshall. Princes were Brian Koffler, Jim Schlaich and Eric Schonbachler.

April 14th
SHRINERS' DINNER.
April 17th
FISHERMEN'S NIGHT. Lounge open at 4 p.m. Dining at 6 p.m.: oysters and baked ham. A great time to replenish your fishing supplies for free. Starts at 8 p.m.

Bingo every Wednesday night at 7:30 p.m.
Sunday brunch at 9 a.m.-1 p.m. 12 item buffet menu.
Dining every Friday and Saturday at 6-9 p.m.

Heppner Elks 358
676-9181 "Where Friends Meet" 142 N. Main

Come Join Us for the

BMCC Open House

April 17, 1997, from 4 to 7 p.m.
in McCrae Activity Center

- Campus Tours
- Financial Aid Presentation
- Free Hot Dog Meal!
- Staff from All Departments Will Be on Hand to Answer Questions
- Sign Up For A Drawing for One Term Free Tuition

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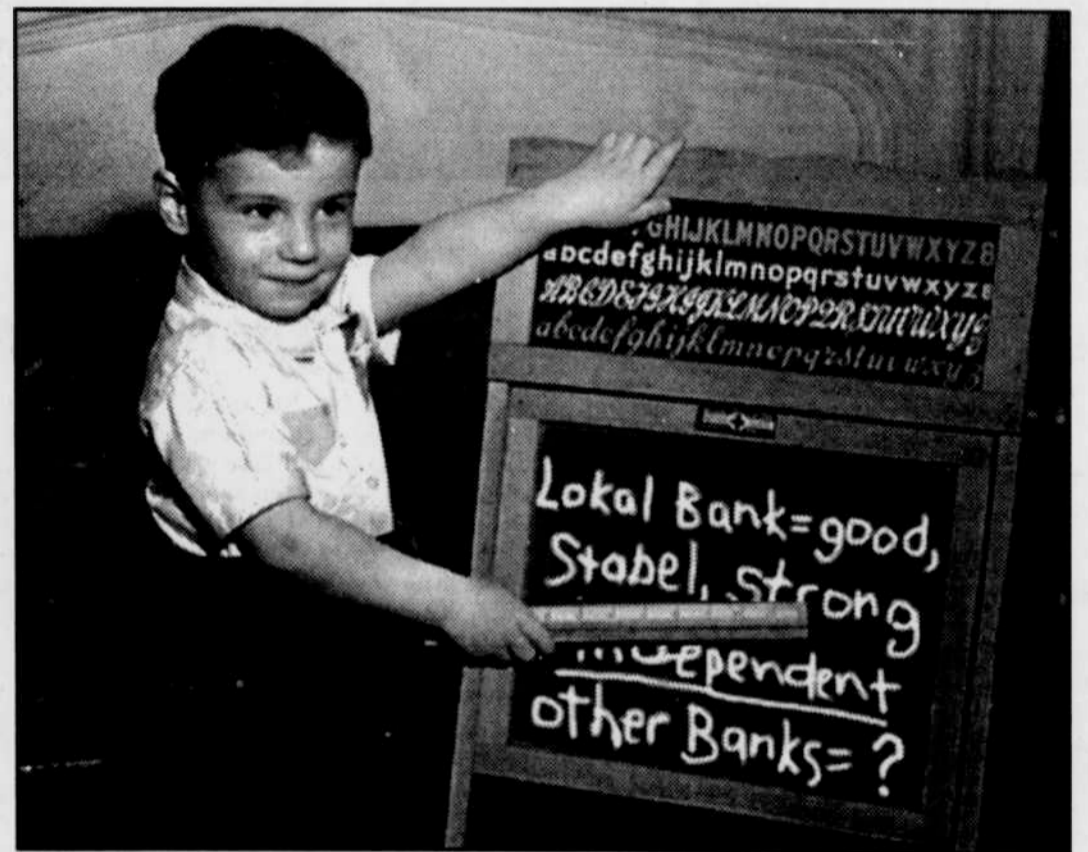
Call now for more information:
541/278-5933

WHO: Pioneer Memorial Hospital
WHAT: "Living With Grief: When Illness Is Prolonged," Ed-Net teleconference
WHEN: Wednesday, April 16, 10:30 a.m.-1 p.m.
WHERE: Pioneer Memorial Hospital conference room
Call Molly Rhea, 676-9133,
for more information

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"OK, Class.
Any Queschuns?"

Me neither, so let's go to recess!"

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