

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

Heppner
GAZETTE-TIMES
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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.

Suicide's statement: life is worthless

To the Editor:

In a recent issue of a local paper, doctors Glenn Gordon and Robert Loomis wrote an article expressing their approval of Measure 16. This measure (subject to repeal if Measure 51 passes this November) concerns assisted suicide: the belief that man, like a dog, should be put out of his misery.

I respectfully disagree with them.

Margaret Mead, a respected anthropologist, once said, "We should beware giving those with the power to heal the right to kill." This is a true statement because there is no evidence that these opposite ends of the life spectrum could coexist in the institution of health care. In fact, in the 1996 update of the Rummelink Report on assisted suicide in The Netherlands, it was shown that by far the majority of patients asking for the practice were clinically depressed. Since when has medicine found it necessary to gratify a disorder it is prescribed to correct?

Proponents of assisted suicide believe very strongly that the practice is purely compassionate. Not true. Assisted suicide is the product of a society that has taken one aspect of compassion (kindness) and isolated it. The deification of kindness is dangerous because, as C.S. Lewis once put it, "Kindness consents very readily to the removal of its object—we've all met people whose kindness to animals is constantly leading them to kill animals lest they suffer." True compassion involves much more than kindness. It involves care, understanding, love, support, reassurance and guidance. The patient receives none of these from a handful of pills.

The other major force behind assisted suicide is fear: the fear of losing control amid a sea of pain. Through these fears, assisted suicide came to be called "Death with Dignity." The flaw in equating dignity and suicide is this: Our dignity is not completely internal. Without something outside ourselves (be it physical or otherwise), dignity remains an intangible thing. An external variable to complete the equation is what we require to make dignity

a tangible attribute we recognize in ourselves. Dignity is impartially observed; we can't observe ourselves in this way. Therefore, having ourselves killed cannot be dignified; because suicide (in any form) doesn't communicate dignity to other people, it communicates despair, selfishness and contempt for our own lives, things that we all agree are not dignified.

These misplaced notions about death and dying come from our flawed concept of suffering. We fail to realize that suffering is mental, social, emotional, spiritual and physical. We seem to have forgotten the importance of the individual's impact on their environment. We're turned so inward that we ignore those around us who see and learn from our actions. A flower wilts, but not before the wind has scattered its seeds for miles around; that is, unless it's been sprayed with Round Up before the wind comes.

But, the proponents for pestilent compassion insist, the option needs to be available. The "option" has been available long before the word "terminal" was even defined. And it will continue to be available, hopefully not through medicine. Medicine exists to soothe and to heal, jobs that it still does very effectively. Dr. Kathleen Foley (pain specialist at Memorial-Sloan Kettering Cancer Center) points out, "It is a well-documented fact that those asking for assisted suicide almost always change their mind once we have their pain under control."

Suffering is only eased when the victim comes to terms with it. By endorsing self-murder, medicine would be allowing the terminally ill to die in the same hopeless, unloved and unwanted emotional and spiritual state that led them to seek suicide in the first place. Suicide can make no other statement but that life is worthless.

And if that's true, we should all just kill ourselves now.

(s) Jeff Eldridge
Hermiston

(Editor's note: Jeff Eldridge is a senior at Hermiston High School and is editor-in-chief of the high school newspaper, "The Bulldog.")

Not to blame

To the Editor:

To the students and faculty of Ione High School—the management and staff of Yaw's Restaurant were quite proud that one of our employees had been honored by being selected "Queen of Homecoming" for Ione High.

We not only encouraged this individual to participate... we made it clear that we would do anything to arrange her work schedule to help her make it an "event to remember." We had several conversations with her that it was a once-in-a-lifetime event, and that she could never go back and relive the honor and experience that goes with being picked by your peers as queen of

homecoming if she didn't participate. But, in the end, the decision whether to participate or not was hers.

We at Yaw's have already been ridiculed, cursed and belittled over this and want to set the record straight. We had no control over this person's decision not to participate. We wish she would have, and in later years, reflecting back, we are sure she will have some regrets for not participating.

We are still very, very proud of this person and everyone at Yaw's thinks she's a wonderful, friendly and caring individual.

(s) Steve and Linda Yaw
Yaw's Restaurant and Lounge,
Heppner

HHS FFA delegates attend camp

The Heppner Future Farmers of America (FFA) Club sent two delegates to the Blue Mountain Leadership Camp, held at the Elkanah Camp near Ukiah, Oct. 18-19.

Josie Proctor and Kristi

Worden attended from Heppner. The six state FFA officers gave presentations and ritual and knowledge competitions were held. Heppner placed fourth in the knowledge contest.

Arts Council impact positive

To the Editor:

I and many other citizens missed the comedy show sponsored by the Arts Council on Oct. 11. For various reasons we did not attend, and we apparently missed an exhaustingly funny evening that every participant I have talked to has praised highly. They talk about the nonstop humor and surprises that literally left them with muscles sore from laughing.

I regret having missed out on such a good time and a chance to share the laughter. I regret that the evening, the Arts Council's fund raiser for the year, did not work out as intended. I hear that it lost some money because of the low attendance.

The Arts Council, during this past year, has sponsored so many

opportunities for our county, almost all of them free. I for one, think its impact has been strong and positive and I would not want us to lose it. It has brought entertainment and education for young and old. It has offered a wide variety of artistic mediums.

Present members and individuals who want to become members of the Arts Council of Morrow County can help to ensure that these events continue to come to the county by sending the very important \$20 membership fee to Box 274, lone.

(s) Doris Brosnan
Heppner

Vote yes on 51

To the Editor:

We urge all voters to vote "yes" on Measure 51 which repeals (cancels out) physician assisted suicide in the upcoming vote-by-mail election in October.

Killing someone else or oneself is wrong, immoral, and unconstitutional. It is a sin. It goes against God's word, the Holy Bible. Both the Declaration of Independence and the U.S. Constitution are pro-life. Children learn in Sunday school the Fifth Commandment: "Thou shalt not kill."

Statistics show teenage suicide is on the increase today. What kind of message do we send the youth of Oregon and America if terminally ill people are allowed to kill themselves? Physician-assisted suicide would do great harm to Oregon and our country. It must be banned. Most doctors are against it.

Human life is sacred, a gift of God. When people become terminally ill, they have a chance to set their affairs in order and

make their peace (become reconciled to people they have wronged, and thus become forgiven).

America is a Christian nation, founded upon the principles of Jesus Christ. Jesus says that He has come that we might have life in abundance. We have the comfort from God's word that God will take care of us in our old age. We live by faith. God gives faith. If we don't have faith, we are to ask God for it. That is Scriptural. Matthew 7: 7 and 8, Jesus' words: "Ask, and it shall be given you; seek and ye shall find; knock and it shall be opened unto you: For everyone that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened."

The Bible says that God has appointed our days from our birth onward, and He is the Creator of life. God stops the heart when it is His will. Man cannot do that. Vote "Yes" on Measure 51.

(s) Philip and Jean Johnson
Astoria

Shopping spree planned



Liz Green of the Morrow County fair committee finds out how many groceries she can gather in a two minute period.

The fair committee is planning to begin selling tickets soon for a two minute Christmas shopping spree at Central Market in Heppner.

Money raised will be used toward construction of a new multipurpose building at the fairgrounds.

A lucky winner of the contest will have two minutes to gather as many groceries as possible (with a maximum of \$500) at Central. The contest will be held in mid-December and tickets will go on sale soon.

Halloween Costume Party
Heppner Elks Club
Oct. 31st ~ 9 p.m.-2 a.m.
Music: Buffalo Boys Karaoke
Come Join the Party!
Prizes ~ Dress-up
Dance ~ Sing ~ Have Fun!

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676-9228

Obituaries

Donald Earl Burkenbine

Donald Earl Burkenbine, 72, of Wilsonville, died Thursday, October 9, 1997 at Wilsonville.

Memorial service was held for Mr. Burkenbine on Saturday, October 11, 1997 at the family residence in Wilsonville with a eulogy by Kenneth Garrison. Mr. Burkenbine was interred at Willamette National Cemetery.

He was born December 8, 1924 in Arlington, and grew up in Arlington, Umatilla, Hermiston, and Stites and Kooskia, ID. He joined the U.S. Navy during World War II. In later years, he was the head recruiter for the U.S. Coast Guard for Portland and Boise, ID.

Mr. Burkenbine is survived by wife, Evelyn; daughters, Janell Renold and Nancy Duncan; sons, Don Burkenbine and Del Burkenbine; and eight grandchildren and 13 great-grandchildren. Local relatives include: Loyd Burkenbine, Forrie Burkenbine and Arthur Burkenbine.

Margaret C. Donovan

Mrs. Margaret Donovan, 89, of Boardman, died Monday, October 13, 1997, at her home.

Memorial services for Mrs. Donovan were held Saturday, October 18, 1997 at the Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Boardman.

Margaret C. Dunn was born December 19, 1907, at Bloomington, Nebraska, to Harry H. and Mary A. Waring Dunn. She grew up in Bloomington and graduated from Bloomington High School and attended Marymount College at Salina, Kansas. She left school during the early Depression years to work at the local Post Office and in her Uncle Dan's mercantile store.

On January 4, 1933, she married Bernard Duane "Ben" Donovan at Smith Center, Kansas. They farmed in Kansas until the Dust Bowl hit. After several years of no crops, they moved south working on the El Paso Gas Line in Texas and followed seasonal crops north during warmer weather. They lived near Dale for several years and worked for the Forest Service near Ukiah. During this time, Mrs. Donovan prepared three meals a day for a crew of 40 men.

In 1943, they bought a home in Pendleton and she became a full-time homemaker and taught Sunday School at the First Presbyterian Church. They moved to Boardman in 1960. Mrs. Donovan was a rural mail carrier and a member of the Tillicum Club. She enjoyed Tuesday pinocle with friends.

She was a charter member of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church and a member of Greenfield Grange.

Mrs. Donovan was preceded in death by her husband of 59 years, Ben Donovan. Survivors include daughters, Sharon Barrick of Boardman and Beverly White of La Grande; two grandsons, a granddaughter; brothers, Dan Dunn and Max Dunn; and sisters, Clare Moran and Joan Dineley. Besides her husband, she was preceded in death by her parents, two sisters and two brothers.

Memorial contributions may be made to Good Shepherd Lutheran Church Memorial Fund, P.O. Box 49, Boardman, OR 97818.

Burns Mortuary of Hermiston was in charge of arrangements.

Justice Court Report

The Justice Court office at the courthouse annex in building in Heppner reports handling the following business during the past week:

Dewayne Claire Snell, 57, Heppner-Truck Speeding, 69 mph in a 55 mph zone, \$113 fine; Charles D. Kepford, 64, Sheridan-Alleged Length Over-sized, 87', limit 75', \$57 fine; Bobby M. Ephrem, 27, Portland-Illegal Possession of a Deer, \$301 fine;

Janet N. Beamer, 63, Heppner-Failure to Obey Traffic Control Device (stop sign), \$112 fine; Giselle Lee Schoonover, 23, Heppner-Violation of the Basic Speed Rule, 75 mph in a 55 mph zone, \$77 fine;

David Wray Jacobs, 31, Gresham-Possession of Protected Bird Parts, \$167 fine;

Hally Asa Arbogast, 61, Long Creek-Violation of the Basic Speed Rule, 70 mph in a 55 mph zone, \$67 fine;

Sheila D. Piper, 27, Heppner-Failure to Register Motor Vehicle, \$49 fine;

Sheri Lynn Arbogast, 27, Heppner-Exceeding Maximum Speed, 74 mph in a 55 mph zone, \$77 fine;

Louis B. Williams, 41, Portland-Insufficient Number of Personal Floating Devices, \$101 fine;

Jacob Wilson, Jr., 21, Albany-Criminal Mischief II, 180 days in jail, \$826 fine and restitution, \$200 and jail sentence suspended with one year probation with no further violation of the law;

Thomas Gonty, 53, Heppner-Permitting a Dog to Run at Large, \$43 fine.

Bowling League

Koffee Kup Keglers
week of Sept. 18

	W	L
The Dregs	9	3
MCGG	7½	4½
No Pin Hitters	5½	6½
The BJs	2	10

High game: Joan Smith 201.
High series: Susan Atkins 543.
Joan Smith 509, Iris Campbell 500.
Splits: Betty Brown 5-8-10, Karen Wildman 4-5, Susan Atkins 3-10.

week of Sept. 25

	W	L
MCGG	9½	6½
The Dregs	9½	6½
No Pin Hitters	9½	6½
Team #5	3½	½
The BJs	2	14

High game: Susan Atkins 209.
High series: Susan Atkins 565.
Splits: Betty McDonald 4-7-10, Susan Atkins 4-5-7.

week of Oct. 2

	W	L
The Dregs	13½	6½
No Pin Hitters	11½	8½
MCGG	11½	8½
Team #5	7½	½
The BJs	2	18

High game: Karen Wildman 185.
High series: Susan Atkins and Joan Smith, 477.
Splits converted: Luvilla Sonstegard 3-10, Susan Atkins 2-7.

Legion, Auxiliary plan potluck

The Heppner American Legion and Auxiliary will meet for a potluck supper at 6:30 p.m. at the Methodist Church Basement on Monday, October 27.

The auxiliary will have a food sale October 28 at Central Market. Proceeds will go to The Dalles veteran's home.

Each Auxiliary member is asked to bring a gift to the meeting for the veteran's Christmas gift shop.

Members and veterans are invited to attend the potluck October 27.

The Morrow County Arts Council is proud to sponsor The Sabella Consort concert at Heppner Middle School Gymnasium on Thursday, Oct. 30 at 8 p.m. They will be performing "Renaissance Jazz," combining original jazz compositions, lively Irish reels and haunting melodies from centuries past.

This concert is free to the public. This event is being funded by the Morrow County Unified Recreation District.