

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.

Choice only dying can make

To the Editor:

The right to die by terminally ill people with their doctor's assistance is a choice only the dying person should have the right to make. If measure 51 is passed or not the choice to live or die, when it comes right down to it, still remains with the individual person.

If 51 passes, doctor assisted suicide will be against the law, but it won't change the fact that it has and will continue to happen. Death many times can be delayed, but it can never be prevented- if you're born you die. In life everyone has choices. It's a learning experience. One of the things that makes life worth living isn't mere existence, but quality a person discovers while

living it. Forcing a person to exist isn't moral nor humane, especially when medical science today can prolong one's agony long past the time a person would have died naturally. If it's wrong to assist a dying person to pass on from this life to the next, how is it right to force someone to live past the time they would normally have died?

When it comes right down to it, this choice can only be made between each individual and God. If 51 doesn't pass it doesn't mean anyone will be forced to kill themselves, with or without the aid of a doctor, it just means the choice will be where it should be. That is a personal decision- not a public one.

(s) Laurie Reichardt Heppner

Twice Upon a Time... for sale

To the Editor:

Yes, the rumors are true. Twice upon a time... is for sale. I began to consider looking for a buyer last spring. Since then, Dan and I have debated the question and gradually come to the conclusion that I do choose to seriously seek a buyer.

The decision is difficult. The store has proven, I think, to be a useful addition to our community. Nearly 200 citizens regularly trade paperback books with us, and many individuals and businesses use our word-processing and photocopying services. The business is certainly a source of pleasure for me. I look forward to going back to the store on Mondays and greatly enjoy the customers and the projects I work on.

However, without a crystal ball, we did not foresee three years ago the changes in our life and the need and desire to have room in my schedule for other activities. And instead of

working on a plan for that, I find that I keep visualizing additions to the business. We started with an inventory of about 3000 used paperbacks. We now have an inventory of more than 8000 titles. We have added the digital color copier and the word processing services, and I now would like to see the addition of three more related services. Obviously, the time has come to sell.

I would like to find a local person to continue the business. It is presently not big enough to provide a livelihood, but it has shown constant growth since we opened and would be growing even faster if we were actively soliciting business around the area. I have every reason to believe that it will continue to grow in volume, even without the additions I am thinking about, but especially with them. If anyone is interested in the business, I am always looking for a good visit at the store.

(s) Doris Brosnan Heppner

Promote life, don't destroy it

To the Editor:

As pharmacists we are compelled to speak out in support of Measure 51 to repeal physician assisted suicide. Measure 16, which has been held up by a court battle narrowly passed to allow doctors and pharmacists to help kill patients. The law allowed for oral medications to provide a drug overdose. However, in up to 25 percent of barbiturate overdoses, death is not immediate, but rather a lingering one involving convulsions, vomiting, aspiration pneumonia and brain damage. Should we go one step further to I.V. medications and give a lethal injection or perhaps suffocation to kill faster? The proponents of 16 now reveal such methods may be necessary. It would only be a matter of time until we could move to this level.

According to a report in the "New England Journal of Medicine", in The Netherlands (where assisted suicide and euthanasia are wide-spread) 22-30 percent of Dutch patients who die at the hands of their doctors have not given consent. Twenty-seven percent of doctors in Holland admitted killing patients without their consent. Measure 16 would be exempt from scrutiny because doctors are prohibited from putting the true cause of death on the death certificate. Too many abuses could occur.

We are fearful that the sick or elderly would, in time, after "mercy-killing" is accepted in our society; feel they have a "duty to die" to get out of the way for the rest of society. Do you want to trust that insurance companies would not "exclude coverage" for those after a certain age or illness?

Remember, managed health care makes more money when less care is given. This is not far-fetched. Once we allow our society to judge "quality of life" will the mentally or physically handicapped be encouraged to obtain lethal prescriptions? Measure 16 does not require family notification of the patient's suicidal intent, so the family may not be able to respond. Nor does it require evaluation for depression, which many suicidal patients suffer from. If depression and pain are managed, the inclination to commit suicide is drastically reduced.

We have medications and means of administration to allow for a pain-free death. Perhaps we need to look at the current laws on narcotics, which may be inhibiting doctors from prescribing medications to keep their patients pain-free. We have the right to refuse extraordinary means of treatment or life support, but to go one step further and induce death is deadly wrong. Don't let Oregon lead our country down this deadly path.

Please vote yes on Measure 51. Let the gift of medicine promote life, not destroy it.

(s) Ann Lindsay Murray Pharmacist
(s) John P. Murray Pharmacist
Murray Drugs Inc.
Heppner, Condon

**We Print
Business Cards
Gazette-Times
676-9228**

"Dracula" comes to BMCC

Either mark your calendars or hide in your closet...Dracula is coming to Blue Mountain community College.

Gary Ferguson directs this new adaptation of the Bram Stoker's spine-tingling, classic horror story. It will be performed by the cast from College Community Theater on October 30, November 1, 7, and 8 at 8 p.m., October 31 at 11 p.m., and November 2 at 3 p.m. The show will be held in the Pioneer Hall

Theater on BMCC's main campus in Pendleton.

Single show ticket prices are \$8 for adults and \$5 for students and seniors. Season tickets are \$20 for adults, \$12 for senior citizens and students. For ticket information and/or reservations call 541-278-5952.

**FAX
Paper
Gazette-Times**

**WHAT COULD
BE SPOOKIER
THAN A BIG
SALE
FOR
HALLOWEEN?**



**UNION BAY
FASHION JEANS** **\$5⁰⁰ OFF**
Relaxed Fit, Big Fit & Board Jeans
Regular \$33⁹⁵ - 39⁹⁵

**FLANNEL
SHIRTS** **\$5⁰⁰ OFF**
Button and Snap, Heavyweight,
Made in the USA Regular \$22⁹⁵ - 36⁹⁵

**TEMPCO
JACKETS** **\$59⁹⁵ - 79⁹⁵**
Goose down Regular \$119⁹⁵ - 159⁹⁵

Gardner's Men's Wear
(541) 676-9218 103 N. Main St. Heppner

It's Spooky! **ALL DAY SALE ON
SELECTED
HALLOWEEN ITEMS!** *Halloween!*

FRIDAY, OCT. 31st

~Grab Bags!~
~Kids-Enter the Scavenger Creative Story Contest!~
~Pumpkin Cookies all this week! (Hurry, they're going fast!)~

Murray's Drug
217 North Main Heppner, Oregon 97641
Phone: 676-9228

The Country Rose
233 N. Main Heppner, Oregon 97641
Phone: 676-9228

**Friday, Oct. 31st
SALE**

**HALLOWEEN
A Bewitching Time to Save**

MEN'S CASUALS by "OUTWOODS" Regular \$46.95 TODAY \$20.00	Assorted Sports Shoes UP TO 50% OFF Regular Price!
Women's ROPER STYLE Western Boots - 40% off regular price	
Men's "Kickers" leather hikers REGULAR \$100, TODAY \$59.99	Men's "SOBELS-MANITOU" Snow Boot Regular \$97.95 TODAY \$60.00
Rubber & Leather mid-hi SNOW BOOTS w/ Thermolite insulation Men's-regular \$39.95, TODAY \$25.00 Women's-regular \$37.95, TODAY \$23.00	
WOMEN'S "KHOMBU" SNOW SHOES 3 styles, 25% off discounted price	"Danex" Dressy Snow Shoes Girls-regular \$32.95-TODAY \$20.00 Women's-regular \$36.95-TODAY \$25.00
HOODED SWEATSHIRTS Regular \$31.99 TODAY \$20.00	
Assorted SHIRTS up to 50% OFF	Men's FLANNEL Shirts "NURSEMATE" Today \$22.00 Panty Hose & Tights 1/2 price TODAY ONLY
ALL FABRIC 1/3 OFF (Flannels, Polar Fleece, Corduroy, Calico, Christmas Prints, Broadcloth, Challis, Sweatshirt Fleece, etc.)	
YANKEE CANDLES 15% OFF	MORE UNADVERTISED SPECIALS WILL BE AVAILABLE!

SHOE BOX FABRIC'S ETC. TALK-N-TOPS
676-5241
Heppner, Oregon



Enter the Heppner Businesses' SPOOKY STORY CONTEST

Five Age Categories

\$25 gift certificate in each category

Grand prize story will be published in the Gazette-Times

VISIT THESE STORES FRIDAY, OCT. 31 ONLY AND FIND YOUR "ITEMS"

Stores	Items
Murray's Drug-Country Rose	_____
Central Red Apple Market	_____
Shoe Box	_____
Bank of Eastern Oregon	_____
Gardner's Men's Wear	_____
Les Schwab Tires	_____
Lott's Electric	_____
Yaw's Restaurant	_____
Miller's Mini-Mart	_____
R&W Drive-In	_____
Willow Lanes Cafe	_____
Klamath First Federal	_____
N.W. Motel	_____
Coast to Coast	_____
Peterson's Jewelers	_____
Gazette-Times	_____

RULES

Heppner merchants will be sponsoring a creative writing contest for youth on Halloween, Friday, Oct. 31.

Youth (grades K-2nd, 3rd-4th, 5th-6th, 7th-8th, high school) will enter participating businesses and locate the "scavenger items" designated in the store (items may be Halloween or non-Halloween). They will write down all the items, then write a story in 250 words or less that includes all the items. The story should be a Halloween story and will be judged 50% on creativity and interest, and 50% on correct grammar (depending on age).

Each age group will have a winner receiving a \$25 gift certificate redeemable in any participating business. The grand prize winner will have their story published in the Gazette-Times. All stories will be displayed by the businesses.

Entries must be turned in by the following Friday, Nov. 7 by 6 p.m. at the following merchants: Gazette-Times, Shoe Box, Gardner's Men's Wear, Coast to Coast, N.W. Motel and Murray's Drug. Winners will be posted in the paper the following week.