

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.

Looking good, Heppner

To the Editor:
Heppner's downtown looks so spiffy these days, and using the street and sidewalks is certainly more pleasurable.
So far, each time I park my car on Main Street, I still feel relieved when the underside of the front bumper does not scrape on the sidewalk. And the surface of the sidewalks makes for smooth walkin'. Several visiting friends and family have been favorably impressed with the new look of our sidewalks and highway-Main Street.
The city workers have been successfully striving to save the

trees and shrubs, to pull weeds, and to add finishing touches in the planting areas. I have seen private citizens stoop to pull a weed or two as they walked by, and I have seen private citizens working diligently to thoroughly spruce up whole sections of planting space.
As soon as the project is completed by the bridge and the bark dust has been added in all the plant areas, Heppner is going to rival Any Town, USA, for looking good. Just another bonus to living here.

(s) Doris Brosnan
Heppner

Harassment problem can be solved

To the Editor:
Neighbors -
I am the newspaper carrier who was threatened and harassed by certain persons a couple weeks ago. No problem, the police took care of it.
Upon hearing of my little incident, many people began talking to me and to each other, and discovered that each of us has a similar story.
Upon finding out how extensive this problem has recently become, each person seems at first to be surprised. Then they become

afraid. And then they get angry and they quit being victims. They begin to have a pressing need to remove the threat.

The good news is that we can solve this problem.

The mayor and the city council have authorized that a committee of concerned citizens is formed which will be under the guidance of the district attorney, the city attorney and the local police.

Please come and meet with us. We are in great need of your help. Watch the newspaper for details.
(s) Floyd White
Heppner

Stand behind your board

To the Editor:
The Waterpark controversy and resignation of the manager and both assistant managers must be a difficult hour for the citizens of Heppner and North Morrow County and I applaud the actions of the board and, after reading the facts, wish they had acted sooner.
When I first managed the Heppner City Pool, I was the only lifeguard and swimming instructor (just like Ron Corey and Tom Hughes before me). I remember limiting swimmers at 225 at a time. I recall teaching three two-week sessions of swimming lessons with enrollments nearing 100 per session.
I was mighty thankful for the job after years of driving combine

and working 12 hours a day with no breaks. The second year, the city built a new pool and added a second lifeguard.

It is not possible for a city Heppner's size to justify six lifeguards plus a full-time manager and assistant manager, plus half assistant manager. I continued in pool management with stints as pool manager at Corvallis and Albany city parks and the country clubs in both cities. Our lifeguards always rotated and took their "breaks" by attending at the front desk.

Stand behind your board. Make the cuts (you have twice the staff you need) and check into an alternate source of heat. The kids deserve a place to swim.
(s) Stuart Dick
Meacham

Destroy puncturevine

To the Editor:
As the self-appointed vigilante against puncturevine, I am requesting the assistance of property owners in south Morrow County. This nasty little weed is in bloom now and must be eliminated. It's easy to kill with chemicals or it can be pulled or cut and put in a bag to burn. If it's allowed to go to seed, it is spread very easily and painfully (for bare feet and pets).

My request to all property owners is to please take a walk around your property, especially where you park and eliminate this pest now. If you aren't sure what it looks like, take a walk behind the mini mart or around Hager Park.

A few minutes of work by everyone will make a nicer neighborhood and community for all of us.
(s) Janet Greenup
Heppner

Quote unnecessary, out of context

To the Editor:
My letter is regarding a front page article appearing in last week's Gazette-Times concerning the Willow Creek Water Park in which I was quoted. The meeting the story covered was controversial, as well as confrontational.
I attended the meeting not because I had a problem with the pool hours, the board or pool staff, but because of all the financial problems I had been hearing about. After several remarks, some heated discussion, and obvious differences of opinion, I made my comment about money being the real issue, stating that if there weren't financial problems plaguing the water park, our kids would just be swimming and enjoying the pool, and we (those present) wouldn't be engaging in controversy at a board meeting.
I made the comment to try to shift the blame for the park's problems to its financial woes and away from personal differences of opinion. The "crap" I was referring to was the controversy.
The fact that my comment was quoted in the newspaper was unnecessary and did not adequately convey my point or all of what I said. Although I know of other public meetings

where colorful comments have been spoken, I don't recall them being quoted in a news article.

I, along with everyone I know, am very grateful for the pool and all the work that was done for us to have it. It's much too valuable a community resource to risk losing it. All of us need to put our best foot forward, focus on the positive and move ahead toward a common goal; to keep our beautiful water park up and running now and for decades to come.
(s) Patti Allstott
Heppner

Obituaries

Gene Warren May

Gene Warren May, 48, died on July 16, 1998 at Good Shepherd Community Hospital in Hermiston. Graveside funeral service was held Tuesday, July 21, 1998 at the Echo Cemetery in Echo.

Mr. May was born on November 1, 1949, in La Grande, to Floyd and Pat May. He was raised in Pendleton, Elgin and Dubois, Wyoming, where he graduated from high school. He then returned to Pendleton where he worked at Kerns Furniture Shop. He later worked at Kinzua in Heppner. Due to his health, he retired in 1993.

He married his wife Revetta on June 2, 1976, in Pilot Rock. They moved to Irrigon in 1988 and lived there since. He enjoyed fishing, painting, playing guitar, woodworking, sports, reading and loved the mountains.

Mr. May is survived by his wife, Revetta May, Irrigon; son, Kevin May and his wife Renee, Hermiston; daughters, Rebecca "Becky" Hayes, Irrigon, and Debra Mooney and her husband Richard, Hermiston; his father, Floyd May, Union; brothers, Lewis, Walla Walla, Washington, and Mike May, Pendleton; sisters, Marilyn May, Idaho, Virginia May, La Grande, Donna Palacios, Houston, Texas, Barbara Mitchell, La Grande; and six grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his mother, Pat May.

Those who wish may make contributions to the American Diabetes Association, 380 SE Spokane St., Suite 110, Portland, OR 97202.

Burns Mortuary of Hermiston was in charge of arrangements.

Jack White

Jack White, 90, of Heppner, died Friday, July 17, 1998, at his home.

Memorial services will be held at a later date.

Jack White was born October 24, 1907, at Asheville, North Carolina, to Simon and Sarah Cudd White. He was raised and attended schools at Weaverville, North Carolina.

On March 3, 1942, he married Lois I. Stewart, at Stevenson, Washington.

He was drafted into the U.S. Army during World War II and remained stateside. He earned recognition for his marksmanship abilities.

In 1973, he retired from logging at DuBois, Wyoming and he and his wife settled at Heppner.

In retirement, he enjoyed fishing and working in his yard.

Survivors include his wife, Lois, of Heppner; son, Chuck, and a daughter, Fay Rank, both of Yakima, Washington; sisters, Katie Holtzlander of Detroit, Michigan and Etta Courney of Asheville, North Carolina; eight grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by a daughter, Janet Kennedy.

Sweeney Mortuary of Heppner is in charge of arrangements.

WCCC plans family barbecue

The Willow Creek Country Club will hold a family barbecue on Sunday, July 26 at 4 p.m.

Each family will bring their own meat. Those whose last names begin with "A" through "K" are asked to bring dessert, and "L" through "Z", salad.

Hosts will be Gary and Barb Watkins, Dave and Patti Allstott, Greg and Erika Grant and Bob and George Nairns.

OTPR Queen and Court enjoy luncheon



Back row (L-R): Diana Hack, Susan Talbot, Mary Ann Low, Doris Doherty, Liz McGuire; front row (L-R): OTPR Queen Maci Childers, OTPR Princess Bobbie Rankin, OTPR Princess Lindsey Ward, Arlington Saddle Club Queen Sybil Krebs, and Ellie McGuire.

Morrow County Fair and Oregon Trail Pro Rodeo (OTPR) queen and court, along with Arlington Saddle Club's queen were treated to a pool party and luncheon on July 13 at the Low's 83 Ranch.

The party was hosted by Diana Hack, Susan Talbot, Mary Ann Low, Doris Doherty and Liz McGuire.

The girls swam in the pool and then enjoyed lunch with their mothers and hosts. Some of the

girls swam after lunch. Before leaving, the hosts gave the girls beautiful hand-tooled leather makeup cases. "This was

a great relaxer for the group and they all enjoyed themselves," said a spokesperson for the Morrow County Fair and OTPR.

McElligotts hold family reunion

Three generations of McElligotts gathered on July 3 for a family reunion near Lone. Held on Dick and Loa McElligott's shady lawn, which is also the site of the original family homestead, approximately 110 people ranging in age from one month to 80-plus years came together for a fine afternoon of visiting and reminiscing.

Descendants of Charles and Cecilia McElligott included Don, Dick and LJ McElligott of Lone and Kathleen McElligott O'Leary of Paisley, plus many of their children and grandchildren.

Reunion participants came from Oregon, Washington, Idaho, California, New York, Montana, Alaska, Colorado, Washington, DC, and Florida.

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