



Off The Wall

By Merlyn Robinson

Meg Murray has the courage to speak out for needed reforms or community improvements. We certainly do need new leadership in this country. However I would like to elaborate on topics that she recently touched on in the Heppner Gazette-Times.

Meg is right about the need for farm policy reform. When people castigate farm subsidies they don't realize that all Americans are subsidized in some manner. With more disposable income on hand, consumers are now spending more on entertainment than on food. Inflation has been held in check due to our cheap food policy.

All taxpaying Americans subsidize our social programs, education, roads and the military, for example. Many farm and ranch families are subsidizing agriculture and the public, by working at off-farm jobs to try and maintain farms and ranches. But it's true that many people are unaware of the many programs, including welfare, that are lumped under the Department of Agriculture.

As to ethanol production, which the Midwest has embraced, nationwide government assistance might be a more prudent course. Presently ethanol production is subsidized by a 5.4 cent-a-gallon federal tax break. Although powerful petroleum corporations lobby to oppose this competition, this country could become more energy self-sufficient with cleaner burning fuel from a renewable resource. California, which enforced the use of MTBE (methyl tertiary butyl ether) in gasoline for cleaner emissions, is now revoking this stance. MTBE, believed to cause cancer, is said to have contaminated underground water sources. Imagine the costs involved in this clean-up.

Currently oil prices are skyrocketing. Yet experts claim that ethanol production would result in higher fuel prices. Agriculture, one the biggest fuel consumers, is impacted by production costs and government restrictions. Therefore the use of surplus ag crops, including the nine million bushels of corn now grown annually for ethanol, would help floor agriculture, stimulate agri-businesses and bolster the agriculture economy.

Our leaders have shown a blatant disregard for protecting our industries, thus creating a trade deficit and leaving producers at the mercy of world markets. If we could become more energy self-reliant, create more industries and jobs and utilize our abundant surplus crops, producers wouldn't be facing financial ruin. There might not be a future need for farm subsidies. The European community is already opposing USA gene-altered crops that increase efficiency and production.

However the field corn and some other crops, including by-products, used in ethanol production are not grown, nor are suitable, for human consumption. This country could still produce enough food for ourselves and many other countries. For certain Meg is right that food, not weapons, should be our contribution to foreign aid, but food cannot be raised at below production costs.

With all the talk about our great economy, the plight of agriculture is ignored. Consider the livestock industry, which has never been subsidized but has been reeling from market control by major packers and the influx of imported beef. Around 22 percent of the meat consumed in the United States is imported. It is often co-mingled with domestic meat, yet all beef sold in supermarkets is stamped USDA approved. Consumers have no way of knowing quality or the country of origin, unlike many other products.

Many industries have moved outside U.S. borders to take advantage of cheaper labor and production costs; those products are then sold to American consumers. Agriculture has always been considered the basis of our economy. However if the United States doesn't alter its present policies this country could become a service nation, selling services to one another, while depending more on other countries for food, fiber and fuel—no matter the cost. If millions more productive acres of farm round or rangeland are idled, environmentalists will have accomplished their goal to set aside more land for wildlife habitat and recreational uses. Like the forest industry, agriculture would no longer be a major tax contributor to support public services. The future of this country is in the hands of the voters.

St. Patrick's Senior Center Bulletin Board

Ninety-five people were present for the senior dinner Wednesday, February 9, and 23 meals were home delivered.

Members of the Lutheran Church served. The Senior Center Board met after the meal. Blood pressures were taken before dinner. Marian Murchinson, co-manager of the senior apartments, conducted a tour of the vacant apartments for between 25 and 30 people in the afternoon. Edith Mathews won the drawing for a floral arrangement, and Marian Brosnan won a place on the list for one month's free rent. Tours will be given each Wednesday at 1 p.m.

The menu for the birthday dinner Feb. 23 will be chicken and noodles, mixed vegetables, fruit salad, biscuits and pumpkin pie. Catholic ladies will serve.

Seniors needing help with their income tax reports may call Susie Cooper at 676-5007. Susie is a certified tax consultant with AARP.

Exercises were done Tuesday and Thursday at 10 a.m. There were two tables of pinochle, with three persons each playing Tuesday and three tables on Friday. Bingo was played Tuesday from 7 to 9 p.m.

The office will be closed for the President's Day holiday Monday, February 23. The message machine will be checked for van appointments however.

The time is now to volunteer to help with the senior's St. Patrick's celebration activities. Please set aside a few hours to help with the Saturday senior fund raisers.

Free Puppies



Lab mix
Call Sykes
676-9939

Justice Court Report

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

John Sargent, 22, Heppner-Harassment, \$1131 fine, 90 days in jail, \$500 and jail sentence suspended with three years probation, contact Umatilla County Mental Health for sexual abuse counseling.

Births

Ruby Barrera—a daughter Ruby was born to Graciela and Santos Barrera of Boardman on January 18, 2000 at Good Shepherd Community Hospital in Hermiston. The baby weighed 6 lbs. 13 oz.

Kylee Lynn Nolen—a daughter Kylee Lynn was born to Christel Young and Russell Nolen of Irrigon on January 19, 2000 at Good Shepherd Community Hospital in Hermiston. The baby weighed 7 lbs. 10 oz.

Yulisa Blanco Cardenas—a daughter Yulisa was born to Maria Blanco and Arsenio Rodelo of Irrigon on January 21, 2000 at Good Shepherd Community Hospital in Hermiston. The baby weighed 6 lbs. 15 oz.

Adriann Markus Stahl—a son Adriann Markus was born to Karina and Anthony Stahl of Irrigon on January 22, 2000 at Good Shepherd Community Hospital in Hermiston. The baby weighed 9 lbs. 2 oz.

Andrew Baylee Barker—a son Andrew Baylee was born to Billie and Robert Barker of Boardman on January 23, 2000 at Good Shepherd Community Hospital in Hermiston. The baby weighed 7 lbs. 10 oz.

Lynzie Mae Collier—a daughter Lynzie Mae was born to Sarah and Jamie Collier of Baker City on January 24, 2000. The baby weighed 6 lbs. 11 oz. Her grandparents are Wayne and Theresa Bourrie and Leo and Dot Collier, all of Baker City; Myron and Brenda Sherburn of Bridgeport and Bruce and Christy Virgil of Lexington.

Obituaries

Kenneth Marshall

Kenneth K. Marshall, 96, of Zillah, Washington, formerly of Lexington, died Sunday, February 6, 2000, at his home.

Graveside service was held Friday, February 11, 2000 at the Lexington Cemetery.

Mr. Marshall was born January 9, 1904, at Kelliher, Minnesota, the son of Harry and Mary Harris Marshall. He was raised and attended school in Minnesota.

On October 3, 1923, he married Myrtle Duncan at Bend. He worked in Idaho and Washington before moving to Lexington in 1939. He worked for Kinzua Pine Mills from 1939 to 1973. Following his retirement, he worked for both of his sons-in-law on their ranches near Lexington.

His wife, Myrtle, died in 1987. He married Buelah Duncan on April 2, 1988, at Lexington. The couple moved to Zillah in 1989.

He enjoyed hunting, fishing, gardening and spending time with his family.

He is survived by his wife, Buelah, at the home; a son, Bernard "Bud" of Vancouver, Washington; a brother, Argalus of Albany; 12 grandchildren; 21 great-grandchildren and 13 great-great-grandchildren.

He was also preceded in death by his daughters, Alice Majeski and Leila Palmer, three brothers and three sisters.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Pioneer Memorial Hospital Fund, P.O. Box 9, Heppner, Oregon 97836.

Sweeney Mortuary of Heppner was in charge of arrangements.

Correction

An obituary for Clifford E. Yarnell in the February 9 Gazette-Times was incorrect. Mr. Yarnell's daughter is Robyn Ferguson of Cheshire, Oregon, not Robbin Ferguson of Ione. Mr. Yarnell was a former Ione resident. The Gazette-Times apologizes for the error.

Beverly A. Gunderson

Beverly A. Gunderson, 69, of Heppner, died Saturday, February 12, 2000, at Pioneer Memorial Hospital in Heppner.

A graveside memorial service will be held at the Heppner Masonic Cemetery at 1 p.m. on Thursday, February 17, 2000.

Mrs. Gunderson was born August 8, 1930, at The Dalles, to Richard and Mae Brock Yocom. She was raised at Rufus and at the age of seven came to Heppner where she attended school. She graduated from Heppner High School in 1948, then attended Oregon State University at Corvallis.

On July 21, 1950, she married Eddie Gunderson, Jr., at Heppner. She worked for the Morrow County School District for many years, then owned and operated Bev's Bookkeeping Service in Heppner, retiring in 1998.

She was a member of the Episcopal Church, the Elks Ladies Auxiliary and the Willow Creek Country Club. She had served on the Morrow County School Board and the Heppner Cemetery District Board.

She enjoyed golfing, fishing, knitting and watching sports.

Survivors include her husband, Eddie Gunderson, Jr., at the home; sons, David Gunderson and Doug Gunderson, both of Heppner, and Jim Doherty of Wilsonville; brother, Joe Yocom of Lexington; sister, Shirley Otto of Springfield and four grandchildren.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Heppner Booster Club, P.O. Box 917, Heppner, Oregon 97836.

Sweeney Mortuary of Heppner is in charge of arrangements.

Mabel I. O'Hara

Mabel Isabel O'Hara, 96, of Condon, died Sunday, February 13, 2000, at Summit Springs Retirement Village in Condon.

A memorial service was held at Summit Springs on Wednesday, February 16, 2000.

Mrs. O'Hara was born January 6, 1904, at Sisters, to Robert and Lydia Taylor Smith. The family moved to Morrow County in 1916 and lived near Morgan and Ione. She attended school for one year at the Fourmile Schoolhouse and at Arlington for one year, before returning to Ione where she attended school, graduating from Ione High School in 1922. She then attended and graduated from Oregon Normal School, now Western State College at Monmouth, in 1925.

Over the years, she taught in a number of Oregon school districts. On September 23, 1933, she married Daniel I. O'Hara, in Wheeler County. The couple lived at Kinzua for 10 years, then moved to Portland during World War II. They returned to Eastern Oregon, living at The Dalles, then moved to Condon in 1961.

Survivors include nieces, Barbara Smith of La Habra, California, and Virginia Elledge of Pendleton; and nephews, Philip Smith of Merrott, British Columbia, Canada, and Bruce Smith of Riverside, California; and 10 grand-nieces and nephews.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Gilliam County Library, 310 S. Main, Condon, Oregon 97823.

Sweeney Mortuary of Condon was in charge of arrangements.

BUSINESS CARDS

Heppner Gazette-Times
PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the Final Draft copy of the Unified 5 Year Plan for workforce development activities in Morrow and Umatilla Counties under the federal Workforce Investment Act is now available for review at the Work-Links office (located with the Oregon Employment Department office) at 408 SE 7th St., Pendleton from 8:00am-5:00pm. Comments of the Draft need to be submitted in writing to Mary Nixon, RWIB/Work-Links Coordinator, at the above address, by 5:00pm March 16, 2000. Following that date, the final document will be presented to the Executive Committee of the Morrow Umatilla Workforce Investment Board. If you have questions, call Ms. Nixon at 541-276-9050 Ext. 230. Published: February 16, 2000

COPY PAPER

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Heppner Gazette-Times
676-9228

PUBLIC NOTICE

MORROW COUNTY LAND USE HEARING THE MORROW COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION will hold the following hearings of public interest on Monday, February 28, 2000, at 7:30 p.m. at the North Morrow Annex Building on Third and North Main Streets in Irrigon, Oregon:

Second of three hearings to amend the Morrow County Subdivision Ordinance to include requirement to submit a partition plat for parcels under eighty acres.

Conditional Use Permit, CUP-N-144: Hood River Cellular Telephone Co., Inc., dba AT&T Wireless Services, applicant; Port of Morrow, owner. Property is described as tax lot 4700 of Assessor's Map 4N 26, a 76.33 acre parcel located on the southeast corner of Bombing Range Road and Interstate 84, approximately four miles east of the City of Boardman. Proposal is to construct a 150' monopole with associated antennas and placement of a prefabricated 12'x28' electronic equipment shelter. Criteria for approval include Morrow County Zoning Ordinance Section 3.070(2)(Q) and ARTICLE 6, Section 6.020 and 6.030.

Subdivision Application, SDN-205: Gregorio Lopez, et al, applicant and owner. Property is described as tax lot 235 of Assessor's Map 5N 26 36, a 6.85 acre parcel located on the northwest corner of Depot Lane and Daisy Road, approximately two miles southwest of the City of Irrigon. Proposal is to replat Parcel #3 of Partition Plat 1998-6.

Applicant proposes to subdivide the parcel into three parcels larger than the one acre minimum lot size of the Rural Residential One Acre (RR-1) Zone. Criteria for approval includes Morrow County Subdivision Ordinance 3.020 and 3.100.

Subdivision Application, SDN-206: Cecil W. and Ora DeElva Rock, applicants and owners. Property is described as tax lots 200, 300 and 400 of Assessor's Map 5N 26 25B, a total of 20.70 acres. The parcels are located between Idaho Lane and State Highway 730 on the north and south and Second and Third Streets on the east and west, approximately one-eighth mile west of the City of Irrigon. Proposal is to subdivide the 20.70 acres into fourteen parcels larger than the one acre minimum lot size of the Suburban Residential One Acre (SR-1A) Zone. Criteria for approval includes Morrow County Subdivision Ordinance 3.020 and 3.100.

Land Partition Application, LP-S-257: Jerry & Terri Gentry, applicants and owners. Property is described as tax lot 600 of Assessor's Map 2S 26 34, a 19.43 acre parcel located on the west side of Spray/Heppner State Highway 207, approximately 1000' from the Heppner City limits. Proposal is to partition the 19.43 acres into two parcels larger than the one acre minimum lot size of the Suburban Residential One Acre (SR-1) Zone. Criteria for approval includes Morrow County Subdivision Ordinance ARTICLE 5, Section 5.020 and 5.030.

Opportunity to voice support or opposition to the above proposals or to ask questions will be provided. Failure to raise an issue in person or by letter or failure to provide sufficient specificity to afford the decision maker an opportunity to respond to the issues precludes appeal to the Land Use Board of Appeals based on those issues.

Copies of the staff report and all relevant documents will be available after February 18, 2000. For more information, please contact Tamra Mabbott at the Morrow County Planning Department at 922-4624 or 676-5650. DATED this 16th day of February 2000. MORROW COUNTY PLANNING DEPARTMENT Published: February 16, 2000 Affid

Copies 10¢

Gazette-Times 676-9228

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Utilities Commission meeting date for the City of Heppner has been changed for the month of February 15, at 8:00 AM to February 17, 2000 at the Heppner City Hall, 188 W. Willow Street. The Utilities Commission regularly meets the third Tuesday of every month.

Gerald W. Breazeale
City Manager
Published: February 16, 2000
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PUBLIC NOTICE

A special orientation meeting for the board-appointed Budget Committee will be held Thursday, February 17th, at Riverside High School Library at 12:00 noon. The district's financial status and new member orientation will be the topics discussed.

Published: February 16, 2000

PLEASE check your ad on the first date of publication. While we are happy to make any necessary corrections, we cannot be responsible for errors appearing on multiple days. When canceling an ad, PLEASE check to be sure your ad was not inadvertently published.
THANK YOU!

HELP WANTED

Farm help wanted: general farm help wanted, experience needed driving tractor. I have modern tractors and offer good pay and working conditions. Contact Steve Anderson, (541) 454-2513 evenings.

2-9-3c

Part-time help wanted. All positions. Must be able to work nights. Apply at **Bucknum's**, Heppner.

2-9-tfc

Receptionist/AR Bookkeeper

Morrow County Grain Growers is accepting applications for a receptionist/AR bookkeeper until Feb. 22.

Must have excellent people skills, computer knowledge and be able to stay focused in a busy environment. Full time, w/benefits, wages depends on experience. Contact MCGG in person or call (541) 989-8221.

2-16-1c

Full-time **loan processor** position in the Heppner Branch Loan Department for **Bank of Eastern Oregon**. Hours 8:30-5:00 Monday through Friday. Duties will include preparing loan documents, disbursing funds, compiling files, typing, filing and answering the phone. Qualifications: knowledge of Windows-based programs with understanding of Word and Excel, good typing skills and 10-key. Benefit package and salary DOE/DOQ. EOE. Applications available at the Heppner Branch.

2-16-2c

Libraries of Eastern Oregon Request for Qualifications Program Coordinator, approx. 20 hrs/wk., \$25,000/yr.

Libraries of Eastern Oregon is seeking a Program Coordinator for a 3 yr governance simulation program involving the 34 public libraries in the 10 county region. This RFQ is to establish a list of applicants from which candidates will be selected for interview. The successful candidate will serve under a one year contract, renewable each year of the program. Compensation for the first year will be \$25,000. This offering provides an exciting opportunity for a skilled project coordinator to assist in the development of a new system of library service in Eastern Oregon. Responsibilities will include administration of grants for the simulation program and demonstration projects, design of the organization and governance structure of a permanent regional library system, development of legislation permitting a vote for a new taxing system (if appropriate) and management of communication between citizen and governmental agencies involved in this program. Responses should include evidence of substantial experience with projects of comparable size and scope. If application is submitted by a team, include a biography that indicates team's history, organizational structure and key staff. Include at least 3 current references that have relevant knowledge of applicants ability to manage such a project. Include references name, affiliation, address, current phone and relationship with applicant. Submittals are due on or before March 10, 2000 at the LaGrande Public Library, 1006 Penn Ave. LaGrande OR 97850. Copies of the job description are available by calling Jo Cowling, director, LaGrande Public Library, (541) 962-1339.