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of the City of Heppner and the County of Morrow

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GAZETTE-TIMES**

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Off The Wall

By Merlyn Robinson

Accountants are necessary for businesses' income tax preparation as one must itemize all income, deductions, capitol gains, etc., and then try to subtract X from Z on pages of supposedly simplified, repetitive forms. If that brain twister doesn't promote homelessness, I hope you aren't one of the fortunate ones who received the long version of the census form.

The government wants to know your racial background clear back to the cavemen. Perhaps they'll discover even more Irishmen in this area. This census also asks how much you are worth or how much money you earn, not how much money you spend or pay out in taxes. As if there weren't property tax roles at assessors' offices, one is asked to list the size and valuation of one's holdings. For instance, do you own or rent your present home and what is the current value of said property? Most homeowners know some days a home should be devalued due to a tornado-struck appearance.

When it comes to counting up fingers and toes or dishrags and dustpans, why not list the number of wildlife, including birds and, of course, squirrels, that said property supports. Then environmentalists can tally up numbers in order to protect or introduce an endangered species.

Get this. In the Montana Bitterroot remote wilderness area the Fish and Wildlife Service plans to reintroduce the grizzly bear as an experimental species. If this is so remote, why are they planning on installing bear-proof trash cans and other sanitation equipment? Back-packers into that area should keep a bear-proof outhouse in view in case of cougar or wolf attacks or to avoid becoming a grizzly's lunch item. But fear not because should those bears "act aggressively" towards humans or attack livestock, they will be rounded up and relocated. Which is it--- wildlife or fish? Ironically there is an all-out effort to save salmon, a favorite menu for bears, not to mention venison or elk chops.

Speaking of eating, how come we are living longer and healthier when people are being warned about so many bad foods? At times, apples and cranberries, along with red meat, have been under attack. Perhaps the lowly hen fruit has been the most maligned of all. Now researchers are claiming that these bad eggs aren't loaded with the type of cholesterol that increases the risk of heart disease. Anyway, the poultry industry is now coming up with "designer eggs" that are lower in fat and cholesterol and higher in vitamin E and Omega-3 fatty acids. Like organically grown produce, using only animal or vegetable fertilizers, consumers will shell out more bucks. However I always did think that said barnyard by-products give our homegrown vegetables a distinctive flavor. Then there's the "no pesticide" hype which caters to earwig and aphid survival. Some of us die-hards managed to survive for years on unpasteurized milk and eggs, but I'd prefer not to have any protein in my lettuce, thank you. If randomly-inspected imported meat continues to be mixed with quality U.S. beef, all meats and imported foods should be irradiated.

Fads come and fads stay - - on the body that is - - depending on lifestyles and various publicized agendas. It's said that by eating right one may live past 100, no matter if that person can no longer crawl to the bathroom. The up side is more business for nursing homes. Save a place for me, just in case, as I consume a juicy cheeseburger. Too, don't worry about windblown hair since "bad hair days" with stringy, straying locks are a fashion statement, particularly with women celebrities.

**WCCC Ladies to host
kick-off breakfast**

Willow Creek Country Club ladies will begin their 2000 season on Tuesday, April 4, with a kick-off breakfast at 9 p.m. at the Willow Creek Country Club. The officers will host the annual kick-off breakfast, followed by the opening day scramble at 10 a.m.

During regular weekly play, players must be present 10-20 minutes before tee off time to sign in.

Tuesday play is divided into three flights, each determined by handicap. The April tee off is at 10 a.m., May and June tee offs are at 9 a.m.

Every Tuesday a new hostess will see that coffee is ready and lead the meeting and play of the day. Special committees will handle the tournaments. "Everyone turns out for the love of the game; you don't have to be a great golfer ... or even a good golfer to join us each Tuesday morning," said Luvilla Sonstegard, WCCC secretary/treasurer.

This year's officers are: President Delia Heideman, Vice President Karen Wolff, Secretary/Treasurer Luvilla Sonstegard and board members Joyce Dinkins, Janice Paustian

and Karen Wildman. The officers invite women golfers of this area to join them at Willow Creek Country Club for "another great year of golf." Anyone who is interested and needs more information, may contact one of the officers or the club house at 676-5437.

Wedding Tables

Phyllis Briggs & David Barrett

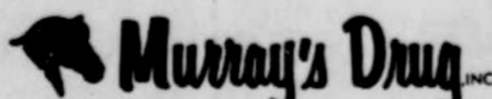
wedding Reception: April 1, 2000

Sheryl Carty & Marc Angell

wedding: April 8, 2000

Angela Currin & Nate Williams

wedding: April 8, 2000



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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. The G-T is not responsible for accuracy of statements made in letters.

Auction supported by Community

To the Editor:

The Saint Patrick's Auction was just one of many successful celebration events supported by large numbers. That event helps to wrap up the weekend and largely determines the funding for the next year's celebration. And that one event is indicative of the fact that "it takes a village" (to paraphrase someone famous) to put on a Wee Bit O' Ireland.

The auction committee numbers nine. Spouses who help with some preparatory tasks and/or on the day of the auction bring that number to 14. Four understanding friends stepped in to help with solicitations this year, and 13 additional kind souls came to work with us at the auction on that Sunday.

Individuals in eight businesses provided incidentals or space for advertising and display, took responsibility for our sidewalk signs, hooked us up with sound.

Of course, the auction would not occur without support of donors. In Heppner, Lexington,

and Ione, 52 businesses donated merchandise and services. And another 58 persons from our communities volunteered donations. This assistance exceeded our hopes.

Of the 131 bidders on Sunday, at least 90 percent were from our communities.

The auction, in other words, would not have occurred if only a committee of nine worked on it and could not succeed without the backing of our business community and support of a large number of our citizens. Surely, the other weekend events needed and received the same kind of help from large contingents of people.

I am amazed by the number of people who have to get involved in order for this yearly celebration to succeed and awed by the number of people willing to give their time and energy to the project. Living in Heppner is great.

(s) Doris Brosnan
Heppner

**St. Patrick's Senior Center
Bulletin Board**

Tuesday, March 21, the beautifully decorated Senior Center dining room was filled with RSVP volunteers from around the area, from Fossil, Condon, Boardman, Irrigon, Hermiston, Echo, Ione, Lexington and Heppner. The delicious luncheon was catered by "Puddin on the Ritz". Entertainment was singing by the Sentimentalists. Scott Jacobson, the new RSVP project director, gave out pins, certificates and door prizes. After the festivities Marian Murchinson gave a tour of the apartments. Christine Burkenbine won the free floral centerpiece and Louis Carlson the free rent.

On Wednesday, March 22, 88 were present for the senior dinner and 12 meals were taken out. Members of the Church of the Nazarene served. Marian Murchinson led another tour of the apartments. Loraine Ream won the center piece and Helen Crawford, the free rent. Blood pressures were taken before the meal. Howard Gilliam announced that the senior breakfast and lunch St. Patrick's Day were the most successful ever.

The menu for Wed. April 5, will be beef ribs with barbecue sauce, oven fries, green salad, pineapple, biscuit and spice bar. The Lutheran Church will serve.

Hearing aid service will be given at 10 a.m. and blood pressures taken at 11 a.m. Lunch will be served from 11 a.m. until 1 p.m. An apartment tour will be held after lunch. Other dates to remember include: Tuesday and Thursday, 10 a.m., exercise; Tuesday, 7-9 p.m., Bingo fund raiser; Tuesday and Friday 1-4 p.m., pinochle; Thursday 2 p.m., movie; Monday, April 3, Red Cross blood drawing; Monday and Tuesday, "55 Alive" driving class.

**Snowmobile
coming to a close**

In compliance with the Walla Walla Ranger District Access and Travel Management Plan, open roads that become snowmobile routes will be open to motorized vehicles and will be closed to snowmobiles on Saturday, April 1.

From December 1 through March 31 some 200 miles of roads on the district are seasonally closed by forest order to allow for snowmobiles and Class I ATV's. The season ends next week even though there is still five feet of snow in the Tollgate area and more in other areas on the district. A sizable number of Class II ATV's will be on these roads for the next couple of months.

Forest Service roads melt out. No plowing will be done except for access to tree planting sites, said a release.

**Daylight savings
time begins**

Sunday

It's time once again to "spring ahead" and turn clocks ahead one hour Saturday night. Daylight Savings Time begins Sunday, April 2.

**Cruel actions deprive
family of a lot of joy**

To the Editor:

This is a letter to whomever is using the strychnine that is poisoning pets.

Because of you--my spring break was anything but uneventful.

Because of you--my grandchildren, age two and four, had their first experience watching a little dog that they love writhe and convulse uncontrollably on the ground by the front gate because that's all the farther he could get before the poison took over. My daughters and these two grandbabies were the unfortunate ones to find my little dog.

Because of you--my grandchildren didn't have my little dog to play with over spring break. I didn't have to spend my spring break time laughing at my grandchildren trying to catch my little dog or laugh at my little dog chasing the grandchildren around the yard.

Because of you--I didn't have to throw toys across the room for my little dog to get and bring back to me so we could do it again.

Because of you--I didn't have to stay home all spring break. I got to go to Hermiston three days in a row. Once to take my convulsing, writhing dog to the veterinarian to see what was wrong with him. I got to do rescue breathing on him three times as his body convulsed so badly that he quit breathing, yet his heart beat on rapidly. I just couldn't sit there and watch and wait for him to die. Instead I prayed that he'd either respond to the breath I was giving him or die so he could be released from the hell he was in.

The second day I got to go and just look at him laying there on a towel, lifeless as the I.V.'s ran and kept him totally sedated while your poison worked it's way through his body. By this time the devoted vets had determined that he was poisoned

and they were watching him so closely that they were taking him to home at night to watch him through the night.

The third day I went to Hermiston late in the day to bring him home. He was still very sick and quite sedated and I was given many instructions as to how to care for him for the next few days while he continued to get well.

Because of you-- my front window is clean because my grandchildren didn't watch out the window while my dog was out and they were in.

Because of you--my neighbors dogs got to go outside without having to roll, tumble and play with my dog.

Because of you--the paper girl, the garbage man and the meter reader all got to come to my house without having to greet or be greeted by my little dog.

Because of you--I got to visit with some of my neighbors that I don't get to visit with often enough.

Because of you--I learned something new. I learned that my dog isn't the only one in our neighborhood that has been poisoned. That just sickens me.

The other dogs died. What a horrible way to die. My heart hurts for the people that belonged to those dogs.

In spite of you--my dog will live to share another peanut butter and honey sandwich, to play tug with and old sock, to ride in the back window of my car, to greet me when I come home, to play with my grandchildren another day.

I have a question for you. Would it pierce your hide if a child had been the one to get into your poison? When it hurts this badly to watch a pet, I can't even imagine how it would feel if it had been a child.

(s) Marti Mitchell
Heppner

CSEPP installs additional sirens

Seven new sirens will be added to the CSEPP off-post siren system beginning Monday, March 27, according to Chris Brown, CSEPP program manager for the State of Oregon.

In addition, six existing sirens will be relocated to provide better overall system configuration.

Brown said the new sirens and the relocation of others was in response to the rapid population growth in the west Umatilla County and north Morrow County in the past few years.

"Community leaders showed us where the growth was occurring in Hermiston, Umatilla, Irrigon and Boardman, and we agreed that the additional sirens and the re-location of others was a

priority," Brown said.

Currently the Oregon system consists of 35 off-post sirens and seven sirens within the borders of the Chemical Depot, for a total of 42 sirens in the system. When the project is completed this spring, 49 sirens will be in place.

Brown said that his staff will continue to work with city and county officials to monitor the continued growth in the region, and will be ready to respond if there is a need for additional sirens.

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Heppner Gazette-Times

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