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of the City of Heppner and the County of Morrow

**Heppner
GAZETTE-TIMES**

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David Sykes Publisher
April Hilton-Sykes Editor

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Off The Wall...
By Merlyn Robinson

The cloning of animals is a way of producing certain species with superior genetics. Despite the disagreement about stem cell research, scientists should be cloning those people with common sense attributes, even if they physically resemble Frankenstein.

Common sense doesn't seem to be a major factor when it comes to decisions made by governmental bodies or agencies with the power to affect changes. Take for example recent legislation that resulted in 17 different statutes affecting the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Department. Various committees probably spent several years studying the different issues before authorizing the right to increase licenses and fees. So perhaps they couldn't streamline these changes into one measure. The creation of a task force to study fish recovery was one measure, as if fishy issues haven't already taken priority over people.

Since Governor Kitzhaber has declared drought conditions in 12 of Oregon's 36 counties, people are being asked to voluntarily conserve on water use. No problem for common sense folks. For instance, it's said that for every glass of water served to a restaurant customer, it takes two glasses of water to wash and rinse the glass. A simple solution is to take your own bottle of water to the restaurant and save the equivalent of two glasses of water for the sucker fish that were once considered trash fish. However there might have to a study to determine if that water is fish friendly.

It didn't require any deliberations for our governor and top officials to give themselves an 15 percent salary increase without prolonged studies. Meanwhile it's a fact that there's a growing disparity between those who are receiving adequate incomes and the majority of workers whose earnings are below the poverty level.

The Oregon legislature has unfairly decided to equally distribute to all counties the federal funding that was supposed to help roads and schools in areas impacted by the loss of timber receipts. As lower-income people and those in agriculture struggle for survival, at the national level there's a proposal to give citizenship to millions of illegal immigrants already living in the U.S. Most of those workers are people without insurance or major assets, so as citizens they too would become eligible for free schooling and free health care at the taxpayers' expense.

Politicians quibbled over tax cuts for American citizens, which is a drop in the bucket compared to what is spent on outer space exploration or aid to undeveloped countries. Instead of attending to the needs of our deserving citizens, there seems to be no limit to financial aid given even to countries with corrupt governments.

Eccentric dress and behavior seems to be the most popular sport of this decade. Don't these protesters, such as recently seen outside summit meetings, have to work for a living -- or do these protesters with unfocused interests have deep pockets? Citizens from other countries protest again American policies while still holding out hands for financial aid.

The flawed global warming treaty is not a solution when one of the most populated countries such as China, with huge pollution problems, has few environmental concerns. Protecting our own environment and our national security should be our first consideration. Yet China has been chosen as the 2008 Olympics site although they also have a deplorable record when it comes to human rights. Not only have they detained citizens from the U.S. and other countries and condone sweat shops for children, but they have imprisoned or executed many of their own people for petty crimes.

Since my soapbox hasn't crashed, I will continue to harp on other eccentric policies. Aside from the importance of a strong military, there are two commodities that play a major role in the security of this nation. Repeatedly we have seen the results of our dependence on OPEC oil and the impact to our economy. Yet oil companies' influences and lack of political concerns have prevented increasing the production of fuel, such as ethanol. Made from renewable resources, it utilizes the surplus crops and by-products besides providing agri-business jobs.

With the North American Free Trade Agreement, our food increasingly originates outside this country and it is often grown under less restrictive laws that protect consumers. Historically, most countries know that dependency upon other nations for food can be crippling if that source is cut off; therefore they recognize that food security and protecting vital agricultural support systems is the basis for the standard of living. Yet we fail to protect agriculture commodities that are selling below production costs due to competition with commodities that can be produced more cheaply elsewhere. Customs data reveals only one to two percent of shipments of food arriving in the U.S. are inspected. The trade deficit has reached a negative \$450 billion with our open door policy for food and manufactured goods resulting in displaced industries and a growing dependency upon other countries to supply our needs.

Busy volunteers with common sense please set forward to be cloned. We need your counterpart as leaders, movers and shakers. Locally, we seem to have a lack of common sense when it comes to school board policies.

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Obituaries

Ross Belle Gillette

Ross Belle Gillette, 83, a former resident of Ione, Portland, and Bellaire, Texas, died July 12, 2001, at an assisted living facility in Myrtle Creek.

Graveside services were held Saturday, July 28, 2001, at Forest Park Cemetery at Westheimer Road in Houston, Texas.

Ross Belle was born June 13, 1918, at Seattle, Washington, to Rossiter and Mignonette Areil Young Perry. She grew up in Ione and attended schools there.

She attended the University of Oregon where she received a degree in architecture. She had worked as an architect designing hospitals.

She married Reagan Gillette in 1942 at Coeur d'Alene, Idaho. After their marriage they moved to Bellaire, Texas, which is a suburb of Houston.

She moved to Myrtle Creek in 1997 from Bellaire to be with family.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Reagan, on February 15, 1991. Survivors include her brother, Robert Perry, Ione; a sister, Mignonette Barkhurst of Myrtle Creek; one niece; five nephews; and cousins.

Mountain View Memorial Chapel at Myrtle Creek was in charge of arrangements.

Donald H. Baker

Donald H. Baker, 84, of Boardman, died on Saturday, July 28, 2001, at his home in Boardman.

Graveside funeral service was held on Wednesday August 1, 2001, at the Riverview Cemetery in Boardman. A memorial service will be held on Sunday, August 12, 2001, at 2 p.m. at the Boardman Community Church.

Mr. Baker was born at Sterling, North Dakota, on April 13, 1917 to Lee and Cornee Davis Baker.

He married his wife, Martha, on December 27, 1952, in Hillsboro. He worked as an operating engineer in construction for many years.

He was a veteran of World War II, serving in the U. S. Army.

He was a resident of Boardman the past 38 years.

He was a member of the Greenfield Grange and attended Boardman Community Church.

He was preceded in death by his parents, one brother and one sister. He is survived by his wife, Martha Baker of Boardman; sons, Donald Page of Sand Point, Idaho, Dale Baler of Boardman and stepson Jim Jones of San Jose, California; daughter, Lenore Yager of Coeur d'Alene, Idaho; step-daughters, Mary Lou Mulholland of Boardman, Candy Highley of Juneau, Alaska, and Eddie Coalman of Lake Havasu City, Arizona; brother, Rex Baker of Elma, Washington; sister, Dorothy King of Springfield; 22 grandchildren and 22 great grandchildren.

Memorials may be made to the charity of the donor's choice.

Burns Mortuary of Hermiston is in care of arrangements.

Behavioral health seeks board members

Morrow/Wheeler Behavioral Health is looking for members to serve on its Mental Health Advisory Board. The local board is appointed by the County Court and advises the Court and the community Mental Health and Developmental Disability Program Director on community

George H. "Butch" Ramsey III

George H. "Butch" Ramsey III, 41, of Boardman, died Sunday, July 22, 2001, at his home.

A private family service will be held.

Mr. Ramsey was born May 27, 1960, at Puyallup, Washington, to George and Billie Jo Kelley Ramsey. He was raised at Puyallup and attended schools there.

He worked as a welder on the railroad and later moved to the Portland area where he worked in the shipyards and for a contractor. He moved to Boardman in 1999.

He enjoyed working on cars.

Survivors include his daughters, Billie Barker, Jennifer Simmons and Tawna Lee Ramsey, all of Boardman; brothers, Curtis and Brian; sisters, Heidi and Veronica; and four grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his parents.

Memorial contributions may be made to a fund set up through Burns Mortuary of Hermiston, P.O. Box 289, Hermiston, Oregon 97838.

Margaret Mary Carmichael

Margaret Mary Carmichael, 69, of Irrigon, died Tuesday, July 24, 2001, at Good Shepherd Medical Center in Hermiston.

Graveside funeral was Friday, July 27, 2001, at the Yelm, Washington cemetery.

She was born November 29, 1931, at Bend, to Clarence and Blanche Hentges Hulmes.

In 1955, she married Danny Carmichael at Pasco, Washington.

Mrs. Carmichael was a homemaker. She had been a police officer for the Yelm-Thurston County Police Department in her early years.

She attended the Catholic church.

Survivors include daughters, Dolores Hussey of Irrigon, Debbie Serkin of Tacoma, Washington, Diana Browne of Tukwila, Washington, Donna Turner of Lacey, Washington; Dannette Carmichael of Spokane, Washington, Marlinda Canfield of Renton, Washington, and Marcinda Foas of Vail, Washington; 14 grandchildren, 13 great-grandchildren; brother, Robert Hulmes; sister, Shirley Young of Woodland, Washington; and several other relatives. She was preceded in death by her parents, and her husband, Danny Carmichael in 1986.

Burns Mortuary of Hermiston is in charge of arrangements.

Demilitarization meeting scheduled

A meeting of the Oregon Chemical Demilitarization Citizens Advisory Commission will be held Thursday, August 16, from 7-9 p.m. at the Good Shepherd Community Health Center in Hermiston. A social time will precede the meeting from 6:30-7 p.m.

Septic system advice available

On-site septic system advice will be available on Tuesday, August 14, at the Morrow County Planning Department in Irrigon, 205 N.E. Third St., from 9-11 a.m.

Bernie Duffy, the DEQ on-site septic system inspector will be on hand to offer advice and technical assistance about on-site septic system regulations, site evaluations, permits and construction for Morrow County residents.

New title company opens in Boardman



Pam Neal, right, of Columbia River Title Company completes the company's first filing at the Morrow County clerk's office at the courthouse in Heppner. The new business opened recently in Boardman and will be doing title insurance, closings and long term escrow collections in the area.

Neal, who is president and escrow officer for the company, has five years experience in closings and 10 years lending experience. Also in the business is Title Officer Dori Drago and Office Manager Scott Neal. Columbia River Title is located at 101 SW Kinkade Rd Suite B in Boardman.

Karen's Korner By Karen Masshoff
Items of Health - Tobacco Prevention

Transitions... Many of us find ourselves peering toward such possibilities, this time of the year especially. That our children have graduated from high school and perhaps will be moving on to more independent lives away from home readily comes to mind. This transitioning does, however, cut both ways and not just with parents but with teachers, employers, friends committed to staying in the community, plus a myriad of others whose lives our children have touched.

What keeps nagging at me is a sense of these young people's vulnerability. Yes, I believe they are bright, I know they have goals, and in most cases they have demonstrated good judgement. Our community can rightfully take pride in them. That's the rub; they are just the folks the promotional whizzes for the tobacco companies are targeting with slick offers of merchandise, coupons for entry into social clubs and much, much more.

These ads and promotions trade on that sense of independence that is a natural part of the process when our kids leave home. As concerned adults, we can not help but wonder how they will meet these challenges, how they will respond to others they meet whose lifestyles are so different. Will they hold on to their basic values?

Now that our legislators and the tobacco industry have done their deed on preemption, how our children will be protected from secondhand smoke in the workplace will be a mixed bag. If they work in restaurants, bowling alleys, or bingo halls, the chances are they probably won't be because such places, as of now, are exempted from the newly passed bill that is now lying on the Governor's desk.

I have had a number of occasions this year to be at Heppner High School to meet students, including several of the seniors. They have been uppermost in my mind as I've worked through this column-my prayers as they and all the graduates venture forth.

FREE CONCERT

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