

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. (Any letters expressing thanks will be placed in the classifieds under "Card of Thanks" at a cost of \$7.)

ODA shows opposition for Measure 24

To the Editor:
The Oregon Dental Association's member dentists oppose the Ballot Measure 24 because:

Nothing in the measure protects patients from treatment by untrained individuals. ODA's members are concerned about what the measure doesn't include:

1. No clinical education required on partial dentures.

Currently Oregon law only authorizes denturists to deliver full dentures (dentures that replace all upper or lower teeth). The clinical education for licensing in Oregon is on full dentures. Since only a handful of states have legalized the practice of denturists, non-clinical education requirements are generally met by completing classes for dental laboratory technicians.

The lab tech is the person who makes the denture from the impression taken by a dentist and the prescription written by the dentist for the design and materials of the denture. The dentist fits the denture on the patient and makes adjustments.

The lab tech is not trained to work on the patient's teeth or fit dentures of any kind directly on patients. And while some denturists may have been educated outside of Oregon, the measure does not require any clinical training on partial dentures in order to be licensed in Oregon. Consequently denturists licensed in Oregon have a lot to gain - more practice scope without an education requirement.

Additionally, fitting of satisfactory partial dentures is not simple. The design must take into consideration the patient's overall oral health, preparation of supporting teeth and gums, and the dynamics of how this denture, which is removed frequently for cleaning, interacts with the pressures of the other teeth and

bones.

The dentist's basic training is eight years of college. Specialists such as the prothodontist have more training. But Measure 24 opens the door to denturists with the equivalent of two years of education to do this work.

2. No requirement that the patient see a dentist for diagnosis, preparation of teeth, explanation of other options.

It is understandable that the measure is slanted toward the denturists — the Oregon State Denturists' Association contributed almost all the money used to gather signatures and support the measure committee. Two of the three chief petitioners are a dentist and the State Denturists' Association lobbyist.

We advise voters not to be misled by the language about cooperative business arrangements between dentists and denturists. It appears to authorize fee splitting, among other arrangements, which has never been considered good public policy because it disadvantages the patient.

Considering the claims by proponents that denturists do the work for less, it is more likely savings will be achieved by eliminating the diagnosis, explanation of other options, tooth preparation, and finally dentures made from inexpensive materials that won't last long.

Finally, do denturists really provide more affordable care? The conclusions from a study done in Canada refute that claim. A comparison of fee schedules for denturists and dentists for the same service showed that the claimed savings had not been realized. In fact, certain services actually cost less if they are provided under the dentist fee guide. (Canadian Dental Association Journal, November 1997, Vol. 63, No. 10, page 774.)

Vote no on Measure 24.
(s) Jane Myers
Portland

Smith finds support in hometown friend

To the Editor:
I am writing this letter today in support of Greg Smith. Greg and I have worked together on several community projects and events. Greg has always been a very positive influence and has offered help and support at all times. Greg is very involved in his children's lives and supports them in all their endeavors. Greg has taken local direction and supported local issues. Greg has been a great supporter of the local clinics and our hospital at a time when rural health care has been on the chopping block. We need this type of support to just keep the service levels we now have. Greg has backed the assisted living project, a much needed addition to our community. Greg has taken our local views and supported them when it came to the school system. Greg supported funding the school system at a much

higher level.

How effective is a freshman legislator? Typically, not very, but I believe that Greg has done his very best and was quite effective.

In closing it would seem to me that we have a real friend of Heppner and the Heppner area in Salem and that we need to keep him there. He is respected by fellow legislators and will be a much stronger leader in his second term. For these reasons, I support Greg and his bid for The Oregon House of Representatives.

(s) Darrell Raver
Heppner

Red Cross to hold meeting

The Red Cross will be holding a meeting in Boardman, on Oct. 28, at 6 p.m. in the Port of Morrow building.

Chamber Chatter

By Claudia Hughes
Chamber Executive Director

Sometimes I "jump the gun" so to speak and get enthusiastic too soon! That would be the case with the Starlight Sale mentioned in last week's column. It was a discussion in the works, not a scheduled happening. Rather than have an October Sale, your hometown merchants decided that they preferred that Thanksgiving not be lost between Halloween and Christmas; so they have chosen Thursday, Nov. 7 for a Customer Thanksgiving Sale "to thank customers for shopping at home," with stores open until 8 p.m. Watch for more information in the coming weeks and mark your calendars to enjoy an evening in Heppner.

And speaking of being thankful... that I am for Joy Krein and Gail Burkenbine who have been volunteering for over a year to make sure there is a voice at the chamber office, messages answered and mail picked up at least part of every day. Gail is soon off to Yuma for the winter and Joy will continue on a flexible basis. Ginger Keithley continues to keep the Chamber Ambassadors on target and also volunteers in the office. These wonderful ladies are called "sanity savers"!

A new voice will be heard answering the phone on most Thursdays and Fridays. Monica Coleman will start this week part time at the Heppner Chamber of Commerce. She'll have some quick training before I leave for the annual Oregon Chamber Executive Conference, Oct. 27-30. Stop in and say "hello" between the hours of 10 a.m. and 4 p.m.

Wonderful scarecrows are lurking around town! Goblins are out and about choosing those that fit the categories and winners will be recognized Halloween Week on Channel 3 and in the Heppner Gazette. Enjoy! Vote for People's Choice in the orange scarecrow boxes around town.

Thought for the week: "The poorest of all men is not the man without a cent but the man without a dream" ...from Community Wisdom.

Neighborhood Center food drive

The South Morrow County Neighborhood Center, in cooperation with the Heppner Wildhorse Club, Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts, will be holding a Heppner-Lexington-Ione community service project. Monday, Nov. 4, volunteers will be going door-to-door between 6 and 7 p.m. to pick up food and/or toiletry donations.

If you are going to be away, you can leave your donations on your front porch and volunteers will still pick it up.

If you are missed or have any questions you can contact Janice Skaggs at the Neighborhood Center, at 676-5024.

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Obituaries

Rodney V. Crawford

Rodney V. Crawford, 66, of Athena, died Oct. 17, 2002 at Regency at the Park in College Place, WA.

Funeral services were held on Tuesday, Oct. 22, 11 a.m. at the Helix Baptist Church in Helix with Pastor Dave Miller officiating. Concluding services and interment will be in the Helix Cemetery. Memorial contributions may be made to the Walla Walla Community Hospice or the Blue Mountain Humane Society through the Munselle-Rhodes Funeral Home, 902 S. Main, Milton-Freewater, OR 97862.

Crawford was born to Vernice and Constance "Connie" Bork Crawford on Dec. 29, 1935 in Heppner. The family moved to Helix, Oregon in 1949. After graduating from Helix High School, Crawford worked on a local farm, Winn Ranches. He later moved to West Yellowstone, Montana where he worked in the timber industry. While in Montana, he wed Dorothy "Doty" Lawrence on March 1, 1969.

Crawford played an integral role in the soil conservation industry of Umatilla County by building terraces for local farmers. He most enjoyed his interaction with the school children as a Bus Driver for the Athena School District over the last ten years. Crawford was a member of the Eagles Lodge in Pendleton.

He is survived by: his wife Doty of Pendleton; three

sons: Don and Tom Crawford both of Hermiston, and Jim Crawford of Helix; a daughter Charlotte Persinger of Pendleton; a step-son Lowell Vaughn of Boise, ID; a step-daughter Marcia Micklen of New Mexico; his mother Constance "Connie" Crawford of Helix; two brothers Gerald "Skip" Crawford of Athena, and Art Crawford of Livingston, MT; a sister Jan Nelson of Payette, ID; and 11 grandchildren.

Thomas David Steagall

Thomas David Steagall, 55, of Heppner, died Thursday, Oct. 17, 2002, at Pioneer Memorial Hospital.

A graveside service was held at Heppner Masonic Cemetery, Tuesday, Oct. 22.

Steagall was born June 5, 1947, at Heppner, to George and Annamae Parsons Steagall, and was a lifetime resident of Heppner.

It was said Steagall was outgoing and friendly, and enjoyed people. He especially liked music and was an avid Portland Trailblazer fan. He also enjoyed visiting with family and friends.

Survivors include his parents, George and Annamae Steagall of Heppner; sisters, Brenda Ratcliff of Vale, and Vickie Duvall of Houston, TX; and a brother, George Steagall of Tualatin.

Memorial contributions may be made to Pioneer Memorial Auxiliary, P.O. Box 9, Heppner, OR 97836.

Sweeny Mortuary of Heppner was in charge of arrangements.

Ione High School graduate awarded ERCA Community Service scholarship

ERCA (Educational Research Center of America, Inc.) is proud to announce that Adam McCabe, a 2002 graduate of Ione High School, is one of 25 recipients of its 2001-2002 Community Contribution Scholarships.

ERCA scholarships are awarded to students who have made a difference in their communities. Winners carried out volunteer projects that helped to bring their community together, making their school or neighborhood a more welcoming place. McCabe received a grant of \$1,000 to use for college related expenses.

Competition for the scholarships was stiff. Of the thousands of students, nationwide, who applied, less than one percent were selected. McCabe was the only winner in the state of Oregon.

Parks and Lands Commission to hold meeting

The City of Heppner Parks and Lands Commission will hold a meeting on Monday, Oct. 28 at 11 a.m. at the Heppner High School to solicit input from students and other interested members of the public regarding the proposal that a skate park be constructed at the old swimming pool site on South Main Street. Members of the public are asked to check in at the school office where they will be directed to the meeting.

DA's Report

James Daniel Elliott was convicted of Felony Possession of a Firearm, a Class-C felony. Elliott was sentenced to 36 months of supervised probation, 90 days in jail, 80 hours of community service and \$914 in fines. Elliott was also convicted of Attempting to Elude Police/Vehicle, a Class-C felony. He was sentenced to 18 months supervised probation, 30 days in jail, and \$164 in fines. Elliott received a third conviction for Interference with Making a Report, a Class-A misdemeanor. He was sentenced to 150 days suspended jail sentence, two years bench probation, 30 days in jail, and \$124 in fines. For the crime of Burglary-2, a Class-C felony, Elliott was convicted and sentenced to 18 months supervised probation, 30 days in jail and \$164 in fines.

Thomas Raymond Carroll was convicted of two counts of Possession of a Controlled Substance-2, a Class-C felony, both with the same sentencing. Carroll's driver's license was suspended for 90 days and he was sentenced to 18 months supervised probation, 30 days in jail, 80 hours community service, and \$914 in fines.

Kenneth James Sicard was convicted of Attempting to Elude Police/Vehicle. Sicard was sentenced to 18 months supervised probation with 20 days in jail as a condition of probation, with consideration of an alternative form of incarceration such as electronic surveillance, 30 days in jail, and \$664 in fines. Sicard was also convicted of Driving while Suspended, a Class-A misdemeanor. He was sentenced to 90 suspended days in jail and 18 months supervised probation.

David Jerome Doles pled guilty to Harassment, a Class-B misdemeanor. Doles was sentenced to 90 suspended days, 18 months bench probation and \$374 in fines.

Mitchell E. Meyers was convicted of Failure to Register as a Sex Offender, a Class-A misdemeanor. Meyers was sentenced to 150 suspended days in jail, 24 months bench probation with 30 days in jail with option of serving sentence through electronic surveillance, and \$874 in fines.

Jesus Martinez Cervantes was convicted of Possible Forged Instrument-1, a Class-C felony. Cervantes was sentenced to 90 suspended days in jail, 24 months bench probation, and \$659 in fines.

Douglas Neil Stevens Jr. pled guilty to Driving Under the Influence of Intoxicants, a Class-A misdemeanor, Resisting Arrest, a Class-A misdemeanor, and Driving while Suspended, a Class-A misdemeanor. Stevens was sentenced to 180 days in jail to be served concurrently with current prison sentence, 24 months bench probation, completion of alcohol and DUII treatment packages with Morrow County Behavioral Health, one year suspension of driving privileges, and \$2754 in fines.



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