

The Official Newspaper
of the City of Heppner and the County of Morrow

**Heppner
GAZETTE-TIMES**

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Morrow County's Home-Owned Weekly Newspaper

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David Sykes Publisher
Katie Wall Editor

News and Advertising Deadline is Monday at 5 p.m.

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

Clean-up at City Corporation Yard appreciated

To the Editor:

What the city crew under the leadership of our new Public Works director, Bruce Nelson, has accomplished, thus far, in the clean up of the City Corporation Yard is noteworthy. As far as I'm concerned this has done more to improve the appearance of our city, than anything else I've witnessed in the past 13 years. In my opinion, it surpasses the annual painting of the shamrock, or the hanging flower baskets in the downtown area, or even Heritage Plaza. These city employees should be commended on a job well done. (Randy Rayburn initiated a clean up in mid-August 2003, but this was never completed.) If the City Corporation Yard is maintained in a neat, organized, orderly manner, after clean up is complete, you will hear no more from me on this subject.

About the proposed purchase of the bank building for use as a City Hall: If Jerry and JoyceKay Hollomon's description of the building is

accurate, and I have no reason to believe it's not, why would the people want to pay a third of a million dollars for a run down building when they already own one? What would the price tag be for the needed repairs and additions to the bank building? We could be looking at a total cost of half a million dollars or more for the proposed city hall alone. Wouldn't this be a waste of our tax dollars? What would be a realistic, uninflated estimate for upgrading the present City Hall? This could be obtained from a local contractor, with no need to pay a couple hundred thousand dollars to some Portland consulting firm for the same information.

As to Heritage Plaza: Neither the large amount of water that will be needed to irrigate this area, nor the manpower required to maintain it is going to be free. If you believe those who proclaim "no new taxes, and no rate increases," there is a bridge in Brooklyn I'd love to sell you.

(s) Gene Sonstegard
Heppner

Wyden and our forests' priorities

To the Editor:

It was with great surprise that I read of our U.S. Senator Ron Wyden's proposal to lock up even more of our National Forests for the good of insuring a few votes from the environmental community. His move to lock up a further 160,000 acres of the Mount Hood National Forest would be rather amusing if it wasn't a serious effort at a time when we all know and Mr. Wyden himself has been pontificating on how badly we need to create jobs in Oregon.

During his recent "town hall" in Burns, he spoke one minute of the need to develop Oregon's economy and jobs while in the next he dodged the direct question, "Do you think we need more commercial logging in our forests?" This question was prefaced by the recognition that all during Congressman Greg Walden's Healthy Forest Initiative (HFI) hearings, we heard time after time by forest experts from across the country, that the tax dollars accompanying the HFI could not possibly keep up by themselves with the need to thin our forests without the help of private sector involvement. In addition, when asked if he would be supporting post-fire programs to expedite getting

back into the burned areas to utilize remaining valuable lumber, stabilize slopes and streams and restore vegetation he stated that the pre-fire efforts created through his efforts in the HFI and subsequent act were all he felt could be taken on at this time and that post-fire efforts were not a priority.

I guess he now has found some time. Time to work on locking up more of our forests while our rural and timber producing areas wither away for lack of a stable economy. Its time to hold Mr. Wyden's feet to a forest fire and let him smell the despair created by his lack of effort to create or even allow private sector jobs in our state's forests. Mr. Wyden, it is time for movement not politics, and action not rhetoric.

(s) Tim Smith
Harney County, Oregon

HLL to hold meeting

Heppner Little League will be holding its monthly meeting on April 6 at 7 p.m. at the Heppner Neighborhood Center. All managers and coaches need to attend this meeting.

Forest health important to forest management

To the Editor:

Forest health is a principle behind Oregon's State Forests Management Plan (January 2001).

Forest health will always be important in the management of our forest. Swiss needle cast is a recent disturbance to the Tillamook Forest. Fire, windstorms, people, insects and diseases constantly disrupt forests. These disturbances are natural and necessary processes of the forest ecosystem, creating the biodiversity needed for a healthy forest.

The Rainforest Coalition says that the Oregon State Forest Management plan is too extreme. Yet the Coalition fails to talk about the science, years of planning and peer reviews that went into the Oregon State Forest Management Plan. Every segment of Oregon's population from industrial to

environmental had input into the plan. Also, the plan helps create the biodiversity needed by the creatures and people of the Tillamook Forest. This plan includes all activities that people now rely on, such as harvest, habitats and recreation.

The Coalition raises money in Portland to kill the economy of Tillamook with the 50/50 plan. Examples of money raisers: at the Avalon Hotel, Portland, Dinner with Yvon Chouard, Co-Founder of Patagonia Sportswear \$125 per ticket; another example \$50 a person dinner and auction at the Refectory in Portland. Now I must wonder why does the Rainforest Coalition oppose a plan that creates Habitat out of the Tillamook Burn?

Charles J. Hurliman
Tillamook County
Commissioner

ODOT begins hiring for summer Youth Litter Patrols

The Oregon Department of Transportation has jobs for youth wishing to work outdoors and help keep Oregon clean.

This summer, ODOT expects to hire about 245 youth statewide to clean up litter along state highways as part of the Youth Litter Patrol program. While the crews primarily pick up litter other duties may also include graffiti removal and general landscape maintenance. A typical crew includes a crew leader and two or more members.

To be considered for a job as a Litter Patrol Worker, register with your local Employment Department office. A list of these offices is available at www.workinginoregon.org. Depending on the area, interviews for selected applicants may begin as early as May 2004. Youth Litter Patrols may work up to 12 weeks this summer.

Litter Patrol Workers are temporary employees paid on an hourly basis starting at \$7.49 for crew members and \$8.08 for crew leaders. Crew leaders must be at least 18

years old with a valid driver license and good driving record. There is no maximum age for a crew leader. Crew members must be 16 to 20 years old.

The Youth Litter Patrol program was founded in 1971 to help in cleaning up highway rights-of-way and is funded through the sale of custom license plates available through Driver and Motor Vehicle Services (DMV).

Remember to Spring forward on Sunday

That time of year has once again come upon us; it's time to Spring forward and turn our clocks ahead one hour. Sunday, April 4 marks the beginning of Daylight Savings Times.

Justice Court

Melinda Joylynn Smith, 21, Lexington, VBR 75/55, fine \$108.

Harold George Little, 79, Walla Walla, VBR 78/55, fine \$239.

Deanna K. Kasten, 39, Heppner, VBR 76/55, fine \$180.

Chamber Chatter

By Claudia Hughes, Exec. Dir.

"Oregon for Dreamers" is the theme for Oregon tourism promotion. Now, your reaction to this likely depends on your personality. If you are a very practical focused individual, you may find it rather disturbing that your state wants to dream; however, if you are a person with a run-away imagination that continually drives people nuts with new ideas, then you will probably love the theme.

Recently family members were having a discussion about daydreaming, which results in music, stories, theater, change, creativity, success and sometimes failure. Our 7-year-old Pendleton granddaughter, after listening to her grandfather extol on the virtues of working hard and seeing results, rather than sitting and daydreaming, finally put her hands on her hips and said, "But Granddad, if God hadn't imagined, we wouldn't have birds, and flowers, and trees, and rainbows and you and me."

Some of us flit about like birds of the air, landing here and there, while others are firmly rooted providing sturdy trees to light in. The thing is it takes the doers and the dreamers to create balance, be it in families, marriages, jobs or communities. Different strokes for different folks. That's what keeps life interesting; we ground each other when necessary and we remind each other of the rainbows of life.

"Oregon for Dreamers" could be workable theme. When you go on vacation, you have a dream or plan that it will be enjoyable and offer new experiences. You're dreaming, right. That dream can become reality with all the opportunities Oregon offers, especially eastern Oregon. It's harder to dream driving in bumper-to-bumper traffic than along a country road where one can see forever and only has to dodge deer and antelope. It's hard to dream where you can't even see the stars above. Many successful businesses have results because someone had a dream and then because they applied themselves and worked hard. Henry Heppner had a dream and here we are. The Morrow County Courthouse was once a dream, as were the museums and the murals. Composers and artists have dreams that take more time than building a house or barn, but all are needed to make life whole.

"Oregon for Dreams." Aren't we lucky to live here? Let's work together and dream together to bring people to visit and share our dreams.

In the meantime, I'm headed south for a reunion with five female classmates who will also turn 60 this year. Sometimes "girls (not matter what age) just gotta have fun." The office will be in the capable hands of Tonia Adams who will cheerfully assist you or find someone who can. I'll return just prior to Easter. May you have a Happy Easter.

Engagement

Johnston-Wright



Todd Wright and Kimberly Johnston

Kimberly Johnston and Todd Wright, both of Walla Walla, wish to announce their engagement to each other.

The bride-elect is the daughter of Paul and Debby Sumner and Greg Johnston of Heppner. She is a 1992 Heppner High School graduate. She graduated from Blue Mountain Community College in 1994 and Eastern Oregon State College in 1996. She is currently employed at OneEighty Networks in Walla Walla.

The groom-elect is the son of George and Barbara Wright of Walla Walla. He is a 1990 graduate of Parkview Adventist Academy. He graduated from Walla Walla Community College in 1996. He is currently employed at Windermere Real Estate in Walla Walla.

The couple plans a May 1, 2004 wedding at Cottage Flowers in Hermiston.

Spring a Surprise!

Help loved ones celebrate Easter and the coming of Spring with a glorious Teleflora floral gift. Whichever gift you choose, it is sure to touch their hearts in a very special way. For delivery anywhere in the U.S. or Canada, just call or visit our shop.



Easter is Sunday, April 11th

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JUSTICE OF THE PEACE
MORROW COUNTY
MAY 18th ELECTION

**"A VOTE FOR
PROFESSIONALISM
AND EFFICIENCY"**

PAID AND AUTHORIZED BY BETTY A. BURNS