

## The truth about Daylight Saving Time and agriculture

Spring forward, fall back. The simple phrase reminds everyone that twice a year the clocks are moved up one hour the first Sunday in April and back one hour the last Sunday in October. That extra hour of daylight at the end of each day starting this weekend seems to be welcome as the weather warms and people emerge from a winter hibernation. But contrary to popular belief, Daylight Saving Time (DST) was not created for the benefit of agriculture nor does it necessarily work in favor of farmers and ranchers.

"Whether Daylight Saving Time helps or hinders agricultural operations depends on who you talk to and what they produce," says Brent Searle, special assistant to the director of the Oregon Department of Agriculture. "For some producers, having more light at the end of the day is beneficial. For others, it may create some inconvenience. For the rest, it really doesn't make that much difference."

By some accounts, Benjamin Franklin reportedly first considered Daylight Saving Time in his 1784 essay, "An Economical Project." But it wasn't until 1918 that Congress passed a law to "preserve daylight and provide standard time for the United States." Repealed in 1919, President Roosevelt instituted year-round Daylight Saving Time during World War II, when it was referred to as War Time. After the war ended in 1945, DST was no longer a law. However some states still used it, which led to a number of scheduling difficulties. The Uniform Time Act of 1966 was signed by President Johnson. States that wanted an exemption had to pass a state law to do so. (Currently, Hawaii and Arizona are the only states that do not participate in Daylight Saving Time.)

Since then, there have been various modifications to DST, but the biggest change is slated for 2007 when it will be increased from the second Sunday in March to the first Sunday in November. President Bush signed the Energy Policy Act of 2005, which has a provision to basically add two months to the existing Daylight Saving Time.

Reasons cited for

creating Daylight Saving Time include energy conservation, travel safety, and crime prevention. Just how much having daylight extended one hour in the evening is actually leading to safer travel and less crime is debatable. However, studies have shown that energy use and the demand for electricity for lighting homes is directly connected to bedtime. When people go to bed, they turn off lights, televisions, and other appliances, which account for about one-fourth of the daily total use of electricity in the U.S. If bedtime remains the same but there is an extra hour of daylight, the need for artificial light is reduced. A report by the U.S. Department of Transportation in the 1970s estimated that America's electricity usage is reduced by about one-percent while DST is in effect.

Benefits of DST to agriculture are less clear. Most agricultural activities are based on daylight hours as opposed to clock hours. Crops and livestock maintain their schedules regardless of the time reflected on the clock. There always seems to be a job to do light or dark, rain or shine. "I don't see how there are any savings of energy with Daylight Saving Time," says Ken Bailey, cherry grower from The Dalles and vice-chair of the State Board of Agriculture. "The same amount of work needs to be done and gets done no matter what time it is. I can't think of any advantages of DST. The only disadvantage is that each time the clock is changed, we need to adjust our work hours. Our workers prefer to start as early in the morning as possible. Beginning this weekend, we will need to adjust the start times to match up with available daylight. Mother Nature already provides a gradual progression from winter to summer and the amount of light available. All DST does is break up an otherwise smooth transition to summer or winter."

Another Board of Agriculture member, Baker County farmer and rancher Jan Kerns, sees mostly benefits from Daylight Saving Time.

"We see a big advantage during potato harvest," says Kerns. "Because the nights are

becoming cold by late September or early October, our morning 'dig starting time' is set more by the soil and tuber temperatures rather than the clock. The extra hour at the end of the day allows us to dig and pre-load trucks for the beginning run on the next day while having beneficial soil and tuber temperatures. It also makes for a more safe crew working environment to be able to work with natural light rather than artificial light."

Kerns also sees advantages of DST with her cattle operation.

"We try to avoid moving cattle during the heat of the day to avoid stressing them," she says. "Longer evenings with cooler temperatures makes this job easier on the cattle, and safer for visibility by oncoming traffic of the people on horseback and four-wheelers."

Beef cattle is one thing, but how about the impact of changing the clock on dairy cattle? Once again, the industry -both people and animals- is used to it.

"Dairy cattle seem to respond a little bit differently because they might be milked an hour earlier or an hour later once the clock is changed," says Board of Agriculture Chair Bernie Faber, who operates Calgon Dairy in West Salem. "The cows must be milked twice a day regardless. The clock itself doesn't make any difference to the animal. It's just the 12-hour interval they are used to."

Faber will move up the early morning milking a half an hour this weekend, from 1:30 a.m. to 1 a.m., to begin the gradual one-hour change due to Daylight Saving Time.

In the end, farmers and their families are not much different than urban folks. A little extra daylight extending into the evening is usually welcome for a variety of reasons. After dark, wet and often dreary winter conditions, waiting until 8 p.m. or later for the sun to go down just seems to put people in a better mood. For more information, contact Bruce Pokarney at (503) 986-4559.

### MS Walk to be held in Heppner

The annual MS Walk will be held in Heppner on Saturday, April 8. Registration begins at 8 a.m. at All Saint's Episcopal Church. The walk begins at 9 a.m. from City Park. Call 1-800-FIGHT MS for more information.

## Sheriff's Report

The Morrow County Sheriff's Office reports handling the following business:

**April 2:** BPD issued a citation to Jason Darrell Beatty, 20, for driving while suspended.

-BPD issued a citation to Maria Guadalupe Martinez, 29, for no operating license, failing to yield to an emergency vehicle and failing to use a seatbelt.

**April 3:** MCSO received a report that Gary Dwaine Beeler Jr., 19, was arrested by Washington CO Jail on an HJC warrant for failing to pay fine for driving while suspended.

-MCSO arrested a juvenile male for violation of Conditional Release and Violation of Court Order. He was lodged at Norcor.

-BPD issued a citation to Mario Herlino Chojolan Garcia, 42, for no insurance and for driving while suspended.

-BPD issued a citation to Maria Elena Andrade, 29, for driving while suspended, driving uninsured and for illegal window tinting.

-BPD issued a citation to Jackie Kristine Roberts, 27, for failing to obey traffic control device.

### HYSA to hold softball clinic

The Heppner Youth Sports Academy will be putting on a softball clinic Sunday, April 30. The Eastern Oregon University coaching staff and players will be instructing. Registration forms will be available at Heppner High School and Heppner Elementary School. The cost is \$10 per player.

Girls participating in little league, minors, majors and juniors are welcome to the morning session and high school players are welcome to attend the afternoon session. This is a great opportunity for our softball players to receive high quality collegiate instruction. For more information please contact Petra Payne at 676-9138, ext. 2518.

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## Obituaries

### James Bernard Miller

James Bernard "Jim" Miller, 73, died Sunday, March 26, 2006, at Sunrise Life Style Adult Family Home in Bellevue, WA.

A memorial mass was held April 3 at St. Patrick's Catholic Church in Heppner. Inurnment of cremains will follow at the Heppner Masonic Cemetery in Heppner.

He was born March 16, 1933 at Heppner to E. Harvey and Anne (Doherty) Miller.

He attended grade school in Heppner and after the family moved to Portland he graduated from Central Catholic High School. Miller then attended Oregon State University before serving in the U.S. Army.

While stationed at Ft. Bliss, Texas, he met his future wife on a blind date set up by his best man. On July 6, 1956 he married Earlene Wilson at El Paso, Texas.

After the service, he returned to Oregon State University and earned his bachelor's degree. They moved to Lexington and farmed with Miller's brother for several years. A move to Pendleton was next and they farmed on Birch Creek for time before moving to Hermiston in 1972.

He enjoyed golfing and bowling.

Survivors include son, Terry Miller of Rogers, AR; daughter, Kristi Brown of Seattle, WA; brother, Tad Miller of Heppner; and nine grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Earlene Miller in 2005; son, James Kip Miller; daughter, Tana Clarice Thomas; parents, Harvey and Anne Miller; and two sisters, Marian Miller and Colleen Pointer.

Memorial contributions may be made to a charity of your choice.

Burns Mortuary of Hermiston is in care of arrangements.

### WE PRINT LETTERHEAD & ENVELOPES

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### Easter Portraits

at the Neighborhood Center in Heppner  
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Portraits and Slide Shows ready for pickup on April 10

John's Place Easter Buffet  
Easter Sunday, from noon to 6 p.m.  
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### ABOUT THE HEPPNER GAZETTE-TIMES NEWSPAPER

#### News articles

The Heppner Gazette welcomes news articles that are of interest to the communities of Ione, Lexington, Heppner and the surrounding area.

You can submit your article through mail, fax, email or bring it to our office (see below under how to contact us).

There is no charge for news articles, but if the article is a moneymaking activity for a person or business other than a non-profit or community service organization, it must run as a paid advertisement.

#### Advertisements

There are several different types of advertisements in the Heppner Gazette.

Display ads are the boxed ads that run throughout the newspaper and are charged for by the amount of space. The larger the ad the more it cost. Photos and graphics may be used in display ads.

Classified, or want ads, run in the section near the back of the newspaper and are charged by the number of words in the ad.

Business directory ads are boxed ads at a discounted rate. You must agree to run the ad unchanged (except for minor corrections) for a minimum of three months.

Legal notices. The Gazette is the legal newspaper for various public entities and is able to satisfy publishing requirements for Morrow County.

#### Letters to the Editor

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. 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 \$10)

Letters in poor taste or libelous will not be published.

#### Photos

The Gazette welcomes photos to run with news articles. We accept either black and white or color photos and they can be returned. We also accept digital photos. E-mail or bring the digitals to the office on a disk. We also accept digital camera "chips" to download the photos from your camera. Please contact us if you are unsure how to submit your photo.


#### Who we are

Publisher David Sykes  
News Editor Katie Foster  
Bookkeeper April Sykes

#### How to contact us

Email: david@heppner.net  
Phone: 541-676-9228  
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Web site: www.heppner.net. (Articles and advertisements can be submitted from there.)

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