

~ Letters to the Editor ~

The Heppner Gazette Times will print all letters to the Editor with the following criteria met: letters submitted to the newspaper will need to have the name of the sender along with a legible signature. We are also requesting that you provide your address and a phone number where you can be reached. The address and phone number will only be used for verification and will not be printed in the newspaper. Letters may not be libelous. The GT reserves the right to edit. The GT 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.

**Quick responses help avoid a terrible collision**

Letter to the Editor:  
On Friday, October 5, 2007, I was following one of your buses, No. 295, between Ontario and Vale. We were about six miles from Vale when the bus' brake lights came on the bus pulled to the shoulder of the highway. The shoulder was wide and I at first thought the bus was pulling over to let me pass. I put on my brakes and was about to pass when a large semi truck approached in the opposite lane along with a car which was attempting to pass the truck. Since the bus had moved over enough so that I could see the situation, I had time to react and pull onto the shoulder. At that time there were three other vehicles abreast on the two lane highway, the truck, the car and the bus. The bus driver narrowly avoided a head-on collision with the car and, with her warning, had allowed me to avoid a similar fate. The truck driver apparently was not aware of the car until it was along side of him, so he did not pull over. The car cut in front of the truck thereby avoiding me and nearly hitting the truck. The bus driver's quick responses were responsible for avoiding what could have been a terrible collision. I followed the bus to its destination in Vale and congratulated the driver, Melanie Smith, from Heppner for her quick reactions and for saving me from having a collision with the car.

I am a retired high school teacher and coach and have ridden many miles on school busses and know what a thankless job bus drivers often have. I also know that the letter received about bus drivers are often negative and question the driver's skills. I want you to know that Melanie is an outstanding driver who keeps the safety of her passengers as her top priority. I would also like the parents to know that their children are in safe hands when riding on Melanie Smith's bus. If you have an award for best driver of the year I would like to submit Melanie Smith's name as a candidate for that award.

The driving skills of bus drivers also reflects on the supervisor and trainer of the bus company and, so, I would like to commend you and your driver trainer for the job that you have obviously done very well.

Dan Gardner

**Vote No on Measure 49**

To the Editor:

Measure 49 does not "fix" Measure 37. It repeals it and the sponsors know this.

Measure 37 corrected the missing (and promised) part of the 1970 land-use legislation by paying eligible landowners for the loss in property value caused by a land-use regulation.

Measure 37 was passed by over 61% of Oregon voters who understood this and was immediately challenged in court. That failed. So the Governor, special interest activists and the Democrats in the last session of the legislature crafted Bill 3540 now on the ballot in an expensive special election as Measure 49.

This is an insult to the thousands of Oregon citizens who worked hard to pass Measure 37 and to the millions of individuals who own property.

The intent of Measure 49 (destroying property rights for everyone) is disguised with clever buzz words about being "fair" and "saving farmland." Measure 49 will put property decisions back in the hands of central committees and special interest groups with their own selfish political agendas with no intention of compensation for the loss of the value of your property.

Vote NO on Measure 49.

Deanna Dyksterhuis, Retired Corvallis farmer Newport

**A view from the hill**

By Doris Brosnan

What a spectacular view from the hill Mother Nature is providing right now! The fall colors are outstanding this year, and the Willow Creek Terrace offers a great view of the changing foliage east and north. As of October 4, the Terrace has been offering this view for five years.

A visitor's view of the Terrace this month includes a spook-tacular greeters' group at the front door. The residents and staff have dressed the place up for Halloween and have entered the Heppner Chamber's Scarecrow Contest with entry #8, "Max" and "Maxine." This humorous creation is worth a visit, and on Halloween, staff members will be dressing like Maxine for a contest of their own. Residents will judge who looks most like the sharp-witted and sharp-tongued character featured on greeting cards.

The Heppner Pre-School children will visit the Terrace on October 30 to search the pumpkin patch for just the right pumpkins for their jack-o-lanterns and to party with their hosts. Many of the pumpkins in the Terrace patch are almost as big as some of the children who will be trying to carry them away!

Residents look forward to seeing many ghosts, goblins, and assorted other characters on Halloween evening. They invite trick-or-treaters to come between 5:30 and 8 p.m.

Residents view these October activities as far more enjoyable than another not-routine event: flue shots this week or next. But just as a sense of humor and laughter play important roles on the Hill, so, too, do these immunizations as the flue season arrives.

The Senior Transportation Bus has been arriving on Tuesdays and Wednesday

for several weeks. On Tuesdays, some residents are attending the Bingo games at the St. Patrick's Senior Center. On Wednesday s, some residents travel to the Center for the weekly meal-site feast. Both outings are opportunities to socialize with other Valley residents.

Tom Wilson often-times drives the busload of Bingo players, and the residents appreciate him and the other volunteer drivers very much. They also appreciate the donors who continue to share their fall garden harvests: Tom and Arlynda Gates, Lyle and Virginia Peck, Wendy Appleton, Kathy Meyer, Jack and Jo Meligan, Pam Wunderlich, and Dallas Craber. A variety of other recent donations have come from Terry Hughes, Tim Davidson, and Gary Watkins.

The residents also appreciate their dedicated, talented staff members, and one staff member has been present for all five of the Terrace's anniversaries. Sue Baker proves time and again that she is dedicated to the care of the residents, always giving herself to all of them. Wherever there is a need, Sue is willing to help. She is a lead aide, works swing shift, carries the extra duties of ordering and auditing medications, and covers administrative call when Manager George Nairns is out of town. Residents' favorite thing about Sue? "She always has a smile on her face." Fellow staff members appreciate Sue's organization skills and her creative way of thinking.

One can see that on the hill, many people are special. Those who live here, those who come every week for activities, those who work here, those who drop by periodically. This is surely a place filled with positive energy and views.

**Mustang Musings**



Heppner High Students this Thursday are taking initiative and getting involved with breast cancer awareness. The students have taken it upon themselves to wear pink to show their support for all the victims and their families of this disease.

It is estimated that in the year 2007 178,480 female cases of the disease were diagnosed, as well as 2,030 male cases. Breast cancer can be cured though, and if caught early enough with screenings and check ups, the death toll of this killer could be dropped dramatically.

Heppner High Students, as well as the entire nation, have the opportunity to take advantage of Breast Cancer Awareness Month and try to spread the word in order to save lives.

The Mustangs would like to extend the invitation of wearing pink not only through the school, but out to the community as well. So please, join the fight and wear pink on Thursday, October 18, with the Mustangs.

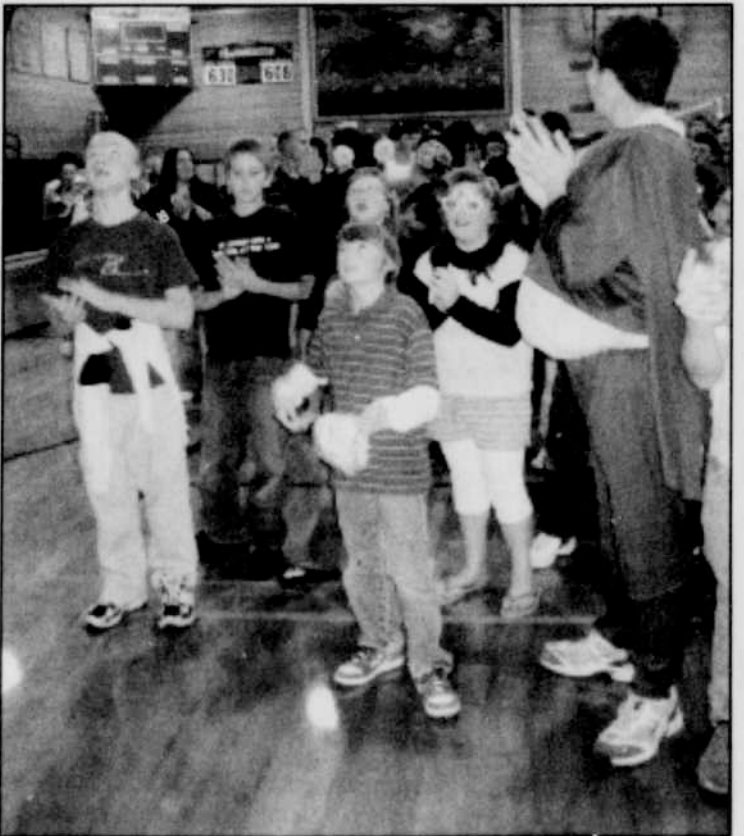
**Senior Center Menu**

St. Patrick's Parish members will be serving lunch on Wednesday, October 24. The menu will include beef stew, peaches with cottage cheese, bread sticks, and apple crisp.

United Methodist Church members will be serving lunch on Wednesday, October 31. The menu will include seafood chowder, orange jello with carrots and oranges, bread bowl, and devil's food cake.



**HHS Homecoming!**



Left Photo: Samantha Waddell tries her luck at the Tricycle Race at HHS during Homecoming week. The team of Maggie Armato and Matt Holland won the race.

Center Photo: The seventh grade was the candy toss winners. Pictured are Aidan Wright and Alaina Wilson.

Right Photo: HHS students sang the school song at end of an assembly during Homecoming week activities.

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