

~ 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.

**Tyranny by the minority**

Letter to the editor:

If you are on a fixed or limited income you should really take some time to let environmental extremists know what you think about their role in stopping logging and new energy productions efforts. For most of us the cost of gas, food, housing, fuel, roads and law enforcement are getting out of hand and the environmental extremists are primarily responsible. You should take the time to recognize these people and give them your "special" blessing because they have allowed you to give up so much on behalf of their extremist beliefs.

Environmental extremists have discounted the guiding principles of conservationist Gifford Pinchot when he helped to create the US Forest Service. Gifford Pinchot understood values of nature and how to protect the forests with a balance of economics and management of our resources. Integrated forest management strategies look at the health of the forest within an adaptive management context. Plans call for the development of a variety of stand structures across the landscape. This will, in turn, benefit local and regional economies while providing ample opportunities for forest recreation such as hunting, berry picking, wildlife viewing and hiking. Healthy forest ecosystems with varied stand structures also have an added benefit as a deterrent against forest fires. Plans also have strategies for properly functioning aquatic and riparian habitats which will benefit the recreational and commercial fisheries.

Because environmental extremists have successfully blocked almost all federal timber sales through our legal system, we now have densely stocked, unhealthy forests resulting in catastrophic annual forest fires.

Don't blame Nancy Pelosi (US Speaker of the House) for not renewing the legislation to obligate money for federal timber payments. Activists have been pressuring and suing governments and agencies for decades now. Activists are excluding science and proven safe practices to scare people into paying more for fuel that is not safer for the environment. The result is a system of government that is bowing to special interests. It's called tyranny by the minority and the rest of us are paying the price.

Charles J. Hurliman  
Tillamook County Commissioner

**Kennedy promoted at Bank of Eastern Oregon**

Cindy Kennedy, new accounts representative in Heppner, was promoted to branch operations supervisor. Kennedy joined the bank most recently in 2006. She had previously worked at the bank from 1996 to 2000 and took some time off to raise her family. Cindy and her husband, Sid, live in Lexington and have two grown children.



Cindy Kennedy

"Cindy brings a positive, customer-oriented, can-do attitude to her work. Customers and employees alike get great respect and service from her," said Koffler.

**DA's Report**

Morrow County District Attorney Elizabeth Ballard has released the following report:

-Kyle Don McBride, 45, was convicted of driving under the influence of intoxicants, a class C felony, and was sentenced to three years supervised probations, 160 sanction units with 90 jail units, complete 160 hours of community service, other numerous conditions, and pay \$5,296 in fines, fees and assessments.

**Buy-in waiver for supplemental agricultural disaster assistance programs underway in new farm bill**

Darcy Vial, County Executive Director for USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) in Morrow County announced that the agency will allow producers who would otherwise be ineligible for the new disaster assistance programs to become eligible by paying a fee as required by the 2008 Farm Bill.

The 2008 Farm Bill requires producers who wish to participate in the new disaster programs to have crop insurance or non-insured crop disaster assistance (NAP) coverage for all of the land for which assistance is being requested, and for all farms in all counties in which they have an interest. Since the 2008 Farm Bill was enacted after the application periods had closed for those programs, producers who did not have such coverage could not comply with this requirement in order to be eligible for the new disaster programs. However, the Farm Bill authorizes a waiver that allows producers to pay a fee, called a "buy-in" fee, to be eligible for this new disaster assistance.

"I urge every producer whose crops, including grazing lands, are not fully covered by crop insurance or NAP to take advantage of this one-time opportunity," Vial said. "The buy-in fee is due no later than September 16, 2008, 90 days after the date of enactment, as required by the Farm Bill. If you miss this opportunity you will not be eligible for disaster assistance for 2008 crops. I also want to remind producers that the payment of the applicable buy-in fee does not afford the producer crop insurance or NAP coverage; it only affords eligibility for the 2008 disaster programs."

The crop insurance and NAP coverage requirements will be waived in 2008 for producers who did not obtain crop insurance or NAP coverage by the applicable sales closing date, if the producer files an application for waiver and pays a buy-in fee in an amount equal to the 2008 applicable NAP coverage or catastrophic risk protection plan fee for the crop or grazing lands.

Producers who meet the definition of "Socially Disadvantaged, Limited Resource," or

"Beginning Farmer or Rancher," do not have to meet the Risk Management Purchase Requirement, and, therefore, are not required to pay the buy-in fee, but must

come in to the county office to apply.

The buy-in fee for 2008 eligibility is \$100 per crop, but not more than \$300 per producer per administrative county, or \$900 total per producer for all counties less any previously paid fees for CAT and/or NAP. Producers can contact their local FSA County Office to file the application for waiver and pay the applicable fees for both the uninsured crops and NAP crops.

The applicable buy-in form must be completed and applicable fees paid by September 16, 2008. Payment of the applicable fees will allow the producer to be eligible for benefits for losses under Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments (SURE) Program, Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP), Tree Assistance Program (TAP), and Emergency Assistance Livestock, Honeybees and Farm-Raised Fish Program (ELAP).

The Farm Bill authorizes funds to be used to make payments to farmers and ranchers incurring eligible crop production/quality losses under the SURE Program, grazing losses under LFP, livestock death losses under LIP, and losses suffered by producers of livestock, honeybees, and farm-raised fish under ELAP. The 2008 Act also authorizes payments for tree, bush or vine losses under TAP.

To be eligible for SURE, TAP, and ELAP, producers must meet the Risk Management Purchase Requirement by purchasing at least the CAT level of crop insurance for all insurable crops and/or NAP coverage for non-insurable crops. To be eligible for LFP, producers must meet the Risk Management Purchase Requirement by purchasing or obtaining for the grazing land incurring the losses where assistance is being requested, a policy or plan of insurance under the Federal Crop Insurance Act, including pilot programs such as the Pasture, Rangeland, Forage Program (PRF) or NAP coverage by filing the required paperwork and paying the administrative fee by the applicable state filing deadline. The Risk Management Purchase Requirement does not apply to LIP.

The SURE program will be available to eligible producers on farms in disaster counties, designated by the secretary, including

contiguous counties that have incurred crop production losses and/or crop quality losses during the crop year. It also will be available to any farm where, during the calendar year, the total loss of production on the farm, because of weather, is greater than 50 percent of the normal production of the farm.

The LFP program will be available to eligible livestock producers who suffered grazing losses for eligible livestock, because of drought on land that is either native or improved pastureland with permanent vegetative cover or planted to a crop specifically for providing grazing. The LFP program will also be available to eligible livestock producers who suffered grazing losses for eligible livestock, because of fire on rangeland managed by a federal agency, if the eligible livestock producer is prohibited from grazing the normal permitted livestock on the managed rangeland.

The LIP program will be available to eligible livestock producers on farms that have incurred livestock death losses in excess of normal mortality, because of adverse weather, as determined by the secretary during the calendar year, including losses because of hurricanes, floods, blizzards, disease, wildfires, extreme heat and extreme cold.

The TAP program provides assistance to orchardists and eligible nursery tree growers who produce nursery, ornamental, fruit, nut or Christmas trees for commercial sale that lost trees, bushes, or vines, because of a natural disaster, as determined by the secretary.

The ELAP program will provide emergency relief to producers of livestock, honey bees and farm-raised fish, because of losses from adverse weather or other conditions, such as blizzards and wildfires, as determined by the secretary. Because congress did not provide a rulemaking exception for these programs, FSA must first publish a proposed rule seeking public comment, followed by a final rule. FSA is working to develop detailed regulations and software for these programs. Sign up for the 2008 Crop Disaster programs is not expected to be held until this winter.

FSA's news releases are available on the Web at FSA's home page: <http://www.fsa.usda.gov>.

**One month left in Go Click! photo contest**

The Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD) reminds state park adventurers to pack their cameras along with their camping supplies and picnic items. That's because amateur photographers have one month left to go play in Oregon's extensive system of state parks and to enter photos of their experiences. The deadline to submit photos for OPRD's 2008 Go Click! photo contest is August 1. The OPRD is looking for more pictures to be sent in from Eastern Oregon locations.

"We've already received hundreds of great photos taken in our beautiful state parks, and we want to see more," said contest organizer Jennifer Deeder, OPRD. "We continue to be amazed and delighted at the quality of the photos we've been receiving and, like last year, choosing 12 winning photos is going to be very difficult."

Images submitted may be from previous years, but must be taken in an Oregon State Park. The winning photos will be announced and displayed at this year's Oregon State Fair in Salem August 22 - September 1. The 12 winning photos will be featured in a 2010 OPRD photo calendar available for sale in spring 2009. The calendar will include important dates and special events in the Oregon State Parks.

For complete contest rules and information about the Oregon Parks and Recreation 2008 Go Click! photo contest, visit [www.oregonstateparks.org](http://www.oregonstateparks.org), or call 800-551-6949.

**Ladies Play Day results**

Ladies Play Day was held on Tuesday, July 8, at the Willow Creek Country Club. Results are as follows:

**July 8**

Low gross of the field was Lorrene Montgomery. Low net of the field was Jean Strange. Least putts of the field was Luvilla Sonstegard.

Flight A winners were: low gross, Pat Edmundson; low net, Betty Christman; and least putts, Carol Mitchell.

Flight B winners were: low gross, Pat Dougherty; low net, Lynnea Sargent.

Flight C winners were: low gross, Suzanne Jepsen; low net, Joanne Barbee.

KP: flight A was Betty Christman; flight B was Lynnea Sargent; and flight C was Joanne Barbee.

Long Drive: flight A was Pat Edmundson; flight B was Luvilla Sonstegard; and flight C was Joanne Barbee.

Chip-ins: Luvilla Sonstegard on #11.

Best Ball: first place, Carol Mitchell and Pat Edmundson; Second place, Pat Dougherty and Jean Strange; and third place, Suzanne Jepsen and Lorrene Montgomery.

**Senior Center Menu**

Heppner Christian Church members will be serving lunch on Wednesday, July 23. The menu will include baked tilapia parmesan, rice pilaf, mixed vegetables, fruit cocktail, peaches, and bread pudding.

**Corps reopens John Day Dam park facilities**

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has reopened LePage and Albert Phillippi Parks at the mouth of the John Day Lock and Dam, and Corps property in Bigelow Canyon.

Wildland fires in the area forced the Corps and local fire and law enforcement personnel to evacuate LePage Park and close Albert Phillippi Park and the Bigelow Canyon property on Thursday morning. The Corps reopened the areas late Saturday morning.

Although the threat to Corps facilities near John Day Lock and Dam has been minimized, significant wildland fire activity continues in the region.

**Real Estate**  
By DAVID SYKES  
REALTOR

**FIRST-TIME BUYER**

Most first-time buyers are renters. As such, the best time to close on a house is when your current lease ends. Don't sign another year-long lease if you expect to buy a home before the lease period expires. Doing so will end up with a dent in your pocketbook from writing rent and mortgage checks. If you can't time your closing correctly, approach your landlord about a shorter lease - say, three to six months in length. One alternative is a month-to-month lease.

You may be able to ask your landlord to include an escape clause in your new lease that will allow you to get out of your lease with 30 or 60 days' notice.

Coming from a cramped rental, almost any home will look good. Try to avoid jumping at the first house you see. Look at many to see what's on the market. Inspect different types of homes including condos, duplexes, townhouses and single-family homes. Some objectivity should have returned. Now make your choice.

**SYKES REAL ESTATE** Property listings are available at [www.sykesrealestate.net](http://www.sykesrealestate.net)

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