

Local woman participates in Washington, D.C. health bill protest

By Kerry Rietmann
As the debate over the current healthcare reform bill continued to build and grow last week I found myself in a tide of 20,000 to 40,000 other concerned

citizens pulled to Washington, D.C., with two or three days notice. The rush to the Capitol was generated by a bill that has, in the view of many, been poorly conceived, poorly written, and has been given no time for consideration or process. In an effort to be heard, citizens gathered at a rally on the capitol steps with the entire Republican caucus, speakers such as actor Jon Voight, Representative Michele Bachmann, talk show host Mark Levine, and Minority Leader John Boehner.

Representative Michele Bachman of Minnesota put out a plea on Friday, October 29, for everyone who cared to let their faces be seen in Washington before the vote on healthcare in the House. By November 5, 20,000 to 40,000 people were together on the steps of the Capitol Building.

For many months I have been emailing and faxing as many representatives as I feel could be swayed to vote against this massive takeover of our healthcare system. While I believe there are areas that need to be improved in the cost and delivery of healthcare in this nation, I am deeply concerned about this particular bill. It has extreme flaws and does not accomplish what it professes to. It is extraordinarily expensive, it demolishes the freedoms of choice that we enjoy, it rations care, and attempts to tax us into submission. It takes away our freedom of choice regarding our most important possession - our own body. It eliminates our ability to choose our level of care and to let our doctors



Top Photo: Tens of thousands of concerned citizens rallied in protest of the proposed healthcare reform bill. Bottom Photo: Minnesota Representative Michele Bachmann spoke at the recent healthcare reform rally in Washington, D.C. She is pictured at the podium with the approximate 2,000 page healthcare reform bill. -Photos by Kerry Rietmann

decide what is best for our personal health. It continues the legislative branch's systematic destruction of our economic prosperity. It is a bill that is not about healthcare - but power and control. It is a government takeover of some of our most basic liberties.

It was empowering and impressive to be a part of a crowd of such warmth, energy, and common purpose. Most were middle-aged moms, dads, grandmas, and grandpas whose passion for the free-

doms and liberty they have enjoyed in this nation and desire to protect its vision was amazing. Representative Greg Walden welcomed everyone from Oregon and helped us find a place to gather at the very front of the crowd. Oregonians numbered about seven. It was a group of strangers from around the state - from Portland, Eastern Oregon, Stayton, Medford, and Eugene - who returned with new friendships.

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Census seeks workers for South Morrow County

By David Sykes
South Morrow County is exceptionally hard to count, census worker Maureen Anderson told the Heppner City Council Monday. Anderson was at the council meeting to begin recruiting workers for the upcoming census, and also tell the council how the process would be completed.



Maureen Anderson

"South Morrow County is large and spread out and we need 12-18 temporary workers to do the job," Anderson said.

MCGG shows profit despite drop in revenue

By David Sykes
Despite a 7.4 percent dip in sales the Morrow County Grain Growers showed over a three percent increase in profit for 2009, it was announced at the co-op's annual meeting last Thursday.



John Ripple MCGG Manager

"We had a pretty good year," Manager John Ripple said. "There were lower commodity prices but bushels were up." Total income for the co-op was down \$6,783,208 for 2009, but the co-op still managed to increase profits

by \$42,426.

The grain department accounted for a large part of the profitable year showing \$842,022 net income on over \$54 million in sales as opposed to \$5,937 net on sales of about \$57 million last year.

For the future Ripple said the co-op would be working to increase profits by taking advantage of markets, looking for new customers and increasing sales in the farm supply department. He said the co-

op can go to the Oregon State Extension Office on November 19 and again on December 7 at 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. to apply, or they can call 1-866-861-2010 for more information.

Anderson also urged people to be cooperative when contacted by the census as the results will help rural areas get their share of tax dollars like the stimulus money recently handed out by the federal government, and will also determine how many representatives to congress different areas will

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Immunization clinics set at three district elementary schools; more clinics tentative

By April Sykes

Morrow County School District Superintendent Mark Burrows told the board that H1N1 (Swine Flu) immunizations have been scheduled for students at district schools starting with Heppner Elementary School this Thursday, November 12. Immunizations will be held at A.C. Houghton Elementary in Irrigon and Sam Boardman Elementary Friday, November 13.

Burrows told the Gazette-Times Tuesday morning that the Health Department has told him that clinics previously sched-

uled at Irrigon Elementary, Irrigon High School and Morrow Education Center in Irrigon on Wednesday, November 18, Windy River Elementary and Riverside High School in Boardman on Thursday, November 19, and Heppner High School on Tuesday, November 24, are now tentative depending on the vaccine availability.

Burrows said that children nine years and younger will need two vaccinations, the second of which they are tentatively scheduling in December.

Morrow County Health Department Direc-

tor Sheree Smith, R.N., said that the immunizations will be delivered via shots, rather than a nasal mist.

Burrows said that flyers in both English and Spanish, along with a consent and claim form and general information about the H1N1 virus have been sent home to parents. Children will not be able to receive the immunizations if the consent form is not returned completed and signed.

Smith's information form said that in addition to the school-age popu-

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Heppner, Ione to host playoff games

Both Heppner and Ione will host state football playoff games this weekend.

Heppner will host Monroe on Saturday, No-

vember 14, at 1 p.m.

Ione will host Cove on Friday, November 13, at 7 p.m. This will be the first playoff game that Ione has

hosted in 29 years.

OSAA ticket prices will apply for these games. Prices are \$6 for adults and \$4 for students.

Health Department announces H1N1 vaccine clinics

The Morrow County Health Department will be holding the following H1N1 vaccine clinics:

Thursday, November 12

- Ione Schools 8:30-11 a.m.
- Heppner Elementary 1-3 p.m.

Friday, November 13

- AC Houghton 8:30-11 a.m.
- Sam Boardman Elementary 1-3 p.m.

Gazette-Times to close for Thanksgiving

The Heppner Gazette-Times will be closed on November 26 and 27 in observance of the Thanksgiving holiday. The office will re-open on Monday, November 30, at 9 a.m.

Ambrose bags 300-class bull



Tom Ambrose of Boardman killed this bull in the Heppner Unit, Ditch Creek area, on October 28. The bull is a 7x7 non-typical that unofficially scored 304 points on Boone and Crockett's calculator. -Contributed Photo

The Heppner Gazette-Times wants to see pictures of your trophy animals from this hunting season. Stop by to have your picture taken, drop off photos, or email them to editor@rapidsolve.net.

HHS to hold annual Veteran's Day Program

Heppner High School will host their annual Veteran's Day Program on Thursday, November 12, at 10:30 a.m. in the gymnasium. Throughout

the morning veterans will be speaking in different classroom about their experiences.

A lunch for veterans and their spouses will

be provided.

All past and present service personnel, as well as the public, are invited to attend.

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