

~ 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.

Just business as usual for the greater good

To the Editor:

It has been many years since the spotted owl was all that was heard from the environmental community. In time the spotted owl has faded into obscurity as a battle cry of the folks that were so concerned in its salvation. In fact, the last I hear of this poor bird it was being inter bred with an owl from the east coast, and will probably disappear altogether as a specie.

What has not faded into obscurity is the condition of our federal forest. No longer are the large yellow pine and red fir harvested, but rather left to over ripen, mature, and die where they stand. If this does not occur then they will be consumed by a huge fire. The fire became our answer to lost timber harvest. We were led to believe this will make up for those lost timber dollars. But at what cost to our economy and even nature itself. We let cougars and wolves thrive and decimate our deer and elk herds, kill livestock and again we do nothing to stop it. And yes, it all started with the spotted owl mentality.

The halt of timber sales and the lack of available logs, systematically closed saw mills. Our loggers were slowly put out of business. The mills were scaled down and have slowly, but surely, closed. The loggers and mill workers have had to relocate to find employment. The economy of Oregon was scaled back and has suffered ever since. Our schools lack recourses once available from timber dollars, our roads suffer from inadequate funding and our small rural communities have slowly but surely slipped downhill into merely a shadow of their former stature.

Now we have a new threat on the horizon. It is a little harder to see and little harder to feel. But it is just as deadly to our economy as the spotted owl. It is air quality. Again those folks that think milk comes from the dairy cooler in the supermarket, eggs from a box of 12 in that same supermarket, or toilet paper from a package of eight, are the same ones that can tell you all about the majestic Eagle Cap Wilderness or the unspoiled beauty of the majestic Cascade Range. They are the same folks that have made their fortune the old fashion way, either married it or inherited it. Whichever way, I will bet that fortune started in the not so distant past with dollars from timber or agriculture. This type of money paid for the hippie generation's education and extracurricular endeavors. It paid for the trips to Europe where they learned a lot about socialism and spreading the wealth. It paid for them to spend time getting back to nature in a nice lodge in the mountains. The sad part, it didn't give them a picture of real life. It made them able to look at the world through rose colored glasses that overlooked the average American working man, struggling to make ends meet and take care of his family. And now those same folks, instead of wearing sandals, headbands, and feathers in their hair, are wearing suits and ties and running our country. Their children are taking up the cause after being mentored by college professors that have no background in reality but rather live in the academic world their entire life.

Do you remember 911 and the twin towers? Sure you do, or you should. Two airliners with terrorists at the controls purposely flew into those buildings, killing thousands with not thought or regard to all who would die that day. They were doing that under the banner of Al-Qaida. Their god would reward them for their act and the Muslim world would praise them.

Well, guess what? We are seeing a similar situation today with the PGE Coal Fire Plant in Boardman. Maybe not a hit by an airliner, but causing destruction just as surely as if it were. The pilots are the Sierra Club, Department of Environmental Quality, Environmental Protection Agency, the Gorge Commission, and yes, even the USFS. Hundreds of jobs lost, families left to survive in any way they can, loss of dollars to schools, tax revenue, roads, and even social welfare programs. And they will all be glorified by their peers for generations to come!

Are we weak and infirm as to allow this to happen again in Oregon? We surely are not so naïve as to believe we will be given a fair shake with public testimony? No, I fear it will just be business as usual for these terrorists, just business as usual for the greater good!

Submitted by Gary Jones, Heppner
Author Unknown

HES announces December Students of the Month

Heppner Elementary School recently announced their Student of the Month recipients for December. The character trait for the month was sharing. Pictured are: Top row (L-R) - Madison Jewett, Diana Healy, Payton Lehman, Kevin Murray, Kacie Gray, Alex Lindsay, Destiny Owen, and Gavin Hanna. Bottom row (L-R) - Tyson Vawser, Aimee Turrell, Adan Guerra, Zander Fisher, Harley Anderson, Hailey Wenberg, ZaBrena Masterson, Chance McCormack, Zach Bredfield, and Alison Cecil.



"Cabin Fever" music/comedy program to be held Jan. 14-16

John Wambeke & Friends have the cure for "cabin fever" with a trio of concerts Friday and Saturday night, January 14 and 15, and Sunday afternoon, January 16, at the Hermiston Conference Center on Highway 395.

The night performances begin with a Dutch oven dinner at 5:30 p.m., followed by the show which features a variety of music and a healthy dose of comedy. The Wambeke Band is back by popular demand for their third annual variety show. A combined crowd of 700 people attended their two Cabin Fever Concerts last January. John Wambeke of Hermiston is on guitar as singer and songwriter and is joined by his son Frazer, and Frazier's trio - with expertise in piano, vocals, drums and bass guitar. Along with the Wambekes will be some

familiar faces from previous concerts including Pat Ward, Marty Campbell, and local musician, Eric Jepsen on fiddle.

Wambeke and sidekick Pat Ward will again be transforming themselves into Thelma and Eunice, the ladies of Dibbley Parish in one of their skits. The "ladies" have a habit of gossiping about whatever's on their minds. This program will show them in a courtroom battle.

The cost of the dinner shows is \$28 each. Advance purchase is required. The Sunday afternoon matinee performance of humor and music, without the food, begins at 3 p.m. and costs \$8 per person. Tickets for Sunday can be purchased at the door or in advance at the Hermiston Conference Center by calling 541-567-6151.

WindWave undergoes remodel



WindWave employees demolished their offices during the first part of November, in preparation for a remodeling project. A carpenter began work November 8. The staff moved back into the building on December 16. Bottom Photo: Pat Lauritsen, general manager - Photos by Autumn Morgan

Ecumenical Youth Group to host Valentine's Day dinner fundraiser

The Ecumenical Youth Group of Hope Lutheran/All Saints Episcopal will host a Valentine's Day dinner fundraiser on Monday, February 14, from 6-8 p.m. at All Saints Episcopal Church in Heppner.

The cost for the dinner is \$10 and will include lasagna, salad, French bread, cupcakes, and sparkling cider and coffee.

Pipes to swirl in Condon when Scots toast Robert Burns, heritage

The 14th annual Robert Burns Supper will be celebrated in Condon Saturday, January 22, at the Condon Elks Lodge on Main Street. The new tradition of honoring the Scottish heritage of the Greater Condon Area has been alive for over a decade, and recalls the celebrations of the 1950s when the Clan MacCleay Pipes and Drums, and Scottish families from miles around, would honor those whose ancestry heralded from Scotland.

Pipers, drummers, and vocalists are anticipated to come from Athena, Pendleton, Arlington, Redmond, Prineville, Portland, McMinnville and the Carson, WA, area to help the Condon community celebrate its Scottish heritage on the 252nd anniversary of the birth of Scotland's beloved bard Robert Burns. The celebration is in its 14th year as an organized event, and has become a favorite wintertime diversion at Condon.

The event features lively music from the 'Old Country', a traditional Scottish meal of 'haggis, neeps and tatties,' and anecdotes from the annals of Scottish families who settled in the Greater Gilliam County area in the mid-to late 1800s. Area families of Scottish heritage are encouraged to search through their family lore for diaries, notes, photographs and other memorabilia, and to share the information at the gathering.

Where ancestors came from in the Old Country, what they did there, why they came to America, why they got here, what they brought with them, what they did after arriving here, where they lived, and especially, note any particular remembrances or special anecdotes or family traditions that came with the immigrants and which perhaps survive today.

In the early days of settlement in Gilliam County, an organization known as the Caledonian Society was formed by those who arrived early, to help fellow Scots still arriving to find work and housing. In later years, in the 1950s and early 1960s, celebrations to honor the early Scottish settlers were held at Condon, John Day, Dayville and other areas where Scots settled. As the Scottish pioneers passed away, the celebrations honoring them seemed to fade away as well.

The rejuvenated tradition of honoring the area's Scottish heritage has the same purpose - to honor the Scottish heritage of the area. The written documentation of the area's Scottish families will become a valuable genealogical and research compilation of the area and its people. Those who attend are invited to take a run at the podium to talk of their family's earlier years.

The celebration is held each year on, or near, the birth date of the famed Scottish poet, the Immortal Robert Burns, Scotland's endearing Poet Laureate who was born on Jan. 25, 1759.

The afternoon, and into the evening, is spent with lively readings and recitations of Robert Burns and other poetry, music of the country, the pipes and drums, snippets of letters and family histories. Also included is a shortbread contest which offers a host of unique prizes, and an ample supply of shortbread.

The public is invited to the event. Tickets are on sale at the Times-Journal in Condon and will be available at the door. Tickets are \$17.50 per person, or \$30 for a couple for all day and evening events.

Ramirez takes second in poster contest



In the Morrow Soil and Water Conservation District conservation poster contest article in the December 29 edition of the Gazette, a photo was not included. In the 10th-12th grade category Alondra Ramirez of Riverside Jr/Sr High School was awarded 2nd place. The MSWCD staff would like to apologize for this omission. -Contributed Photo

Prescription Profiles for 2010 available upon request

Town & Country tickets for sale!
Town & Country Awards Banquet
Thursday January 13th, 2011
6:00 pm No host social hour • 7:00 pm dinner

Espresso Specials-
Caramel Vanilla Latte \$3.00
Butterscotch Spritzer \$2.25

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