

The Official Newspaper
of the City of Heppner and the County of Morrow

**Heppner
GAZETTE-TIMES**

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David Sykes Publisher
Andrea Di Salvo Editor

All News and Advertising Deadline is Monday at 5 p.m.
For Advertising: advertising deadline is Monday at 5 p.m. Cost for a display ad is \$5 per column inch. Cost for classified ad is 50¢ per word. Cost for Card of Thanks is \$10 up to 100 words. Cost for a classified display ad is \$5.75 per column inch.
For Public/Legal Notices: public/legal notices deadline is Monday at 5 p.m. Dates for publication must be specified. Affidavits must be required at the time of submission. Affidavits require three weeks to process after last date of publication (a sooner return date must be specified if required).
For Obituaries: Obituaries are published in the Heppner GT at no charge and are edited to meet news guidelines. Families wishing to include information not included in the guidelines or who wish to have the obituary written in a certain way must purchase advertising space for the obituary.
For Letters to the Editor: Letters to the Editor MUST be signed by the author. The Heppner GT will not publish unsigned letters. All letters MUST include the author's address and phone number for use by the GT office. The GT reserves the right to edit letters. 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.

~ 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.

OSU economist was wrong

Like current rhetoric being broadcast by campaigning politicians, there's as much fiction as fact. A statement in last week's GT credited to OSU Micro-economist Bruce Sorte is highly questionable. He said "rural people want big government," and also he stated that "rural folks built big government."

Oregon's economy is based on agriculture, including the processing of food and fiber. Government intervention is often a hindrance. Property taxes support local government; however, in today's world, everything that needs to be accomplished is bound by some type of regulation. Years ago people banded together to fix problems without government help. Rural folks weren't bonded or unionized in the days when road improvements were mostly done by farmers. They didn't wait to have an environmental assessment, an appraisal of construction costs or an architect telling them how to proceed, they just knew how to do it. Like my Dad, ranchers took their work teams and fresnos and made roads or repaired washouts. There might have been a lost salamander or two but a passable road, without costly measures, gave farmers access to markets as well as school bus routes.

Most rural communities thrive thanks to perseverance of agriculture operators and the support services that small towns provide. Progress is often hampered by regulations handed down by state or federal government. Farmers and ranchers feed themselves and 155 others worldwide. Sorte inferred it is a mistake that government continues to subsidize farmers with price supports and other direct payments. Without subsidies, food prices would soar. In times of drought, price supports enable a producer to survive another season and retain his property even when crops fail. The government stores surplus food supplies to avoid disasters when droughts cause crop failures. During the Depression of the 30s there was no welfare or food stamps to help hungry folks. The government-stored wheat became flour to feed people who waited in long "bread" lines in cities. Country folks did what they could to help others less fortunate. I recall my folks sharing eggs, meat and milk with town folks whose money was lost when the banks closed and people had no money to buy anything during that time.

As to the other direct farm payments mentioned by Sorte, those programs have been a boon to preserve habitat and reduce soil erosion by both wind and water. Some government programs have targeted range improvements, creating more vegetation for both livestock and wildlife along with countering noxious weed invasions or controlling pestilence. These programs have a direct impact on the environment to the advantage of everyone.

Sorte also suggested that the area should possibly invest more in education. Locally, this county focuses on the best education program possible while coping with diminishing school funding. Heppner's future economic developments pale compared to Boardman's opportunities—enhanced by its location—with access to freeway, river and railway transportation. However, the Willow Creek Economic Development Group continues to pursue all possibilities. Heppner residents have a much better understanding of their situation than a college professor. And while the whole country suffers from an economic downturn, it doesn't hamper our community spirit as volunteers join forces to celebrate the town's heritage with our upcoming St. Patrick's festivities.

Merlyn Robinson
Heppner, OR

~ Op/Ed ~

**Preserving Oregon's environment, ecology, economy and way of life
Solutions for Oregon need to come from our local communities**

The protection of Oregon's heritage could perhaps be one of the best descriptions of those who are working in the Oregon livestock industry. Day after day, ranchers are working out on the land, raising their animals to produce a quality project. Preserving the land is part of that work...not unlike it was for the first settlers in this state. Conservation, sustainability and protection of the land and the wildlife that count on it for food and water have been constant values for Oregon ranchers.

When we look at issues that can have a significant impact on the makeup of our economy, our environment, even our way of life, it is important for Oregonians to consider the spirit that has driven this state. We understand that the best ideas for a problem come from those who are most involved. Local solutions that come from the individuals who best understand the many facets of a community, an area, or a region can result in reasonable, fair and effective answers to some of our most difficult issues we face daily.

Oregon's natural resources are some of its most precious resources. While the face of the state has changed with cities and industry popping up, Oregonians still care deeply about the land we call home. As ranchers, we know that it is the preservation of this land, the many natural resources that it provides and the wildlife living here as a system that will help to sustain our work in the beef industry. Oregon's agricultural sector is the second largest economic contributor to our state economy. The beef industry is a large part of that sector, which means contribution to the economic growth of our state economy and Oregon's comeback from this most recent economic downturn is also on the minds of cattle ranchers.

The ranchers who work their land every day to raise cattle have faced serious challenges in managing their business and investment with the very real and documented threat of predator kills, including the Canadian gray wolf. Recently, several groups with a variety of interests have called into question the work of ranchers to protect their land and their animals. Different proposals have been brought forward by various groups to address those issues. In order for a real conversation to occur between differing opinions, we want to state clearly that the Oregon Cattlemen's Association is committed to finding solutions that are based in science-based data and research and make sense for the local communities and residents involved.

Since the re-introduction of the Canadian gray wolf in the US, there have been millions spent to define management practices at the state and local levels. Yet, with all of that investment, we have not realized solutions that can provide responsible, professional, science-based management of the wolf population. The population of wolves overall has risen far beyond the levels that were planned for—and lack of locally-based management plans have caused conflict and unnecessary spending of landowner, state and federal dollars—all over the United States.

Oregon Wild has publicly contacted the Oregon Cattlemen's Association to sit down and discuss their suggestions on how the livestock industry should conduct their business. The OCA is always willing to engage in a constructive and fair conversation on topics of mutual interest, whether we agree or not. But we also must insist on seeing the data behind the ideas, assumptions and statements that are presented. We need to understand who makes up the coalition of groups that are promoting increases in the wolf population for Oregon. We want to understand their interests and intent in the issue.

It is important to the OCA that groups, stating they know what Oregonians prefer, what they support and what they embrace, have the data behind these statements. We want to know they are working at the local level here in Oregon to learn what Oregonians want and what they need. Plans for control and management of predators and natural resources cannot come from large, nationally-based organizations that are headquartered in states other than Oregon. Solutions that are best for Oregon's economy and environment need to be based in the experience and expertise of its communities. When large organizations, headquartered outside of Oregon, target Oregon for the promotion of their particular brand of conservation, Oregonians are subjected to the views of people who do not live here, in our local communities. They aren't working hard every day to make a living for their families within the local communities they are affecting. They aren't participating daily in those local towns and cities that make up our state.

We would like to know that the ideas or suggestions presented on behalf of Oregonians have been vetted locally first...in the communities that will be impacted. And with the individuals who will feel the results, both positive and negative, from predator and wolf management.

We ask that the stakeholders referenced by Oregon Wild be sure they take a look at what ranchers are doing daily to manage predator wolves in non-lethal ways...and the outcomes of those efforts.

Ranchers and the beef industry are proud of our commitment to conservation and sustainability. We have numerous documented examples of work done at the local level to restore waterways and land for the benefit of livestock and wildlife. Rangeland provides a critical source of water and food for Oregon's abundant wildlife, many of which are preyed upon by the same predators as cattle.

We are ready to find solutions to Oregon's strategy of wolf management that reflects the needs of livestock and wildlife, and of the people involved. We seek to find ways to answer some of Oregon's critical issues with answers that make sense for Oregonians. And those answers come from the people who call this state their home. We look forward to engaging in that work with others who are invested in Oregon's success economically, environmentally and for the future of all who call Oregon home.

Curtis Martin, President
Oregon Cattlemen's Association

The Wells brothers

Some people in this area will still recall Gene Wells and the Heppner Market.

Born and raised in Union, Gene and his twin brother, Dean, dropped out of high school to join the Marine Corps during World War II. Despite being separated into different units, they managed to meet together—along with older brother, Bob—for several hours on Guadalcanal, Christmas Day, 1943. Gene and Dean were both critically wounded in 1945 during the Okinawa invasion. All three brothers returned home to marry, raise families and lead productive lives.

Gene lived in Heppner from the late 1940s to mid-50s. He and Merle Burkenbine had the Heppner Market, located near the old City Hall on Willow Street. Gene then made a career with the Portland Provision Company selling Oregon Chief meat in much of Eastern Oregon, including Heppner's Central Market.

Being a life member of the Heppner Elks, he returned many times for the annual meetings. Gene died in 2010 at age 85. His wife, Jackie, lives near their daughter in Montana. Dean lives in Portland, and Bob recently passed away in California.

Heppner recognizes the service of Bob, Gene and Dean to their country and their communities.

Information submitted by Heppner resident Carl Martin.



Gene Wells

Ski outing enjoys new snow



Twelve skiers from the Arbuckle Nordic Club had a great time last weekend as they hit a trail covered with new snow... always a more enjoyable experience. Participants parked near the top of Coal Mine and then skied across Herren Meadow on the 750 road. After a warming fire and lunch, the sunshine broke out for their trek back to the trailhead. Club members look forward to seeing more faces, both new and familiar, when Steve Brownfield leads the trip next weekend. Pictured (L-R): Steve Brownfield, Sandy and Dan VanLiew, Luanne Brownfield, Sherry and Bill Ewing, Molly Rhea, Jonathan and Doreen Enz, Kristi Crowell, and Scott and Laurie Allen. -Contributed photo

Awana plans Grand Prix races

The Heppner Awana Club will be sponsoring a Grand Prix race on Thursday, March 1 for all Awana kids and their families. The event will be held at Willow Creek Baptist Church starting at 5:30 p.m.

Weigh-in will begin at 5:30 p.m.; a hot dog meal will be provided at 5:45 p.m. Opening ceremonies will start at 6:30 p.m. with the races to begin shortly thereafter. Awards will be given, and lots of fun is planned for the whole family.

Anyone who has questions can contact Dale Bates at 676-5773 or 541-980-5694.

Christian Church serves breakfast

Breakfast will be served this Sunday, Feb. 19, at the Heppner Christian Church from 8 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. Everyone is welcome.

Due to the Morrow County Fee schedule order No. OR-20-2011 as of January 1, 2012 the Morrow County transfer stations will increase their fees 20% for removal of waste. Due to inflation of annual operating cost and other expenses beyond our control.

Morrow County would like to encourage and remind you the free disposal of latex and enamel paints, computers, computer towers and televisions free of charge. Remember residence are still allowed to dump the large appliances and household items such as refrigerators, stoves, dishwashers, washer/dryers, water heaters, mattresses, sofa, loveseats and lounge chairs free of charge. Thank you. North end Transfer Station, 69900 Frontage Lane, Boardman, OR. 97818. South end Transfer Station 57185 Hwy 74, Lexington, OR. 97839. Both hours of operation 9:00 - 4:00 Saturday and Sunday. Any questions or concerns may be addressed to (541) 989-9500.



Exalted Ruler Tim Dickenson & his wife, Beth cordially invite you to Heppner Elks BPOE 358 for the 115th Annual "A Night in the Old Wild West" Saturday, February 18, 2012 Ladies Tea & Social begins at 3:00 p.m. Lodge 3:00 p.m. Dinner 6:30 p.m. Harson's Famous Pork Tenderloin Music & Dancing 7 p.m. -10pm Please dress in your finest western attire BPOE#358, 142 N. Main St. Heppner, Oregon 97836 541-676-9181