

~ 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.

Heppner can be proud of its appearance

To the editor:
Heppner can be very proud of its community appearance. What prompts me to say this, is that today, July 9, I walked on State Highway 395 in Hermiston from Sherrell Chevrolet to the Chuck Wagon Café. The amount of roadside litter was appalling.

In contrast, as I drove back to Heppner, I was impressed with the litter-free condition of our city streets and the highway entry to town. This happens because a lot of people pitch in and do their bit to keep our community looking good for ourselves and for our visitors.

So, Heppnerites keep up the good work and, whenever you see an item of litter, continue to pick it up and put it in a trash receptacle.

Thank you,
John Edmundson, Heppner

Op/Ed

Commissioner urges governor to support coal terminal

Editor's note: Morrow County Commissioner Leann Rea sent the following letter to Governor John Kitzhaber on July 9.

Dear Governor Kitzhaber,

At the June 27, 2014 Roundtable Discussion in Pendleton, I asked you to take another look at the Coal Project proposed in Boardman, OR. I would like to follow up on the comment that I made when I asked you to reconsider your earlier decision that did not support the project.

As you will remember, Japan suffered a severe earthquake and tsunami in 2011 which destroyed much of their nuclear power capability. This has made them, along with other East Asian countries, more dependent on coal as their source of electricity. Many of these countries are our nation's trade partners. Since it is very apparent that these countries will be relying on coal for power generation for many years to come, I am compelled to again request your reconsideration. These countries will be obtaining coal from some source, if not the United States, then Canada or China.

The coal sources in Montana and Wyoming are a low sulfur, low mercury coal product, while the coal sourced from China is a high sulfur, high mercury product. To me it only makes sense to support the economy of the United States, particularly Montana, Wyoming, Idaho, Washington and Oregon rather than support the economy of the Chinese government.

I understand your concern of the coal plant emissions traveling across the Pacific Ocean to affect our state and it's citizens, however, as stated above, the emissions from the US coal would be much less harmful than the emissions from China's coal. In the long run this would be beneficial to not only Oregon's economy, but would reduce the risk of toxins crossing the Pacific.

Thank you for traveling to Pendleton and allowing us to express our opinions and concerns personally.

Respectfully,
(s) Leann Rea, Morrow County Commissioner

Put-put fundraiser planned for Taylor

A put-put fundraiser "all fore" local woman Janet Taylor is planned for next Saturday, July 26, at the Morrow/Grant OHV Park, 71000 East Morphine

Lane, Heppner, OR. Sign-in starts at 10 a.m. with play to begin at noon. Cost is \$25 for 13 and older, and \$10 for 12 and under.

Fee includes two rounds of put-put as well as barbecued hamburger, hotdog and beverage.

Awards will be given for best put-put and wanna-be put-put.

Funds raised will go to help Taylor with medical expenses.

For more information, contact Tim Adams at 541-379-7416.

Tri-County 4-H campers have fun of 'Olympic' proportions

From June 19-22, 26 counselors and 65 campers, along with adult staff, camp cooks, nurses and volunteers hailing from Morrow, Gilliam and Wheeler counties, gathered at Cutsforth Park for a fun-filled week.

"Surprisingly, the weather was great this year and we saw no rain during the four day outdoor camp; everyone was very thankful!" said Morrow County 4-H Agent Ashley Jones.

Camp started with opening Olympic ceremonies in which each tent group made a flag to represent their group and then paraded the flags from the mess hall to the campfire ring. The camp even had commentators giving play-by-play details to the crowd waiting at the campfire.

This year a variety of classes was offered, including soccer and sports training by Joe Colby, watershed and stream health by Debbie Bunch and fun kitchen science by Gilliam County 4-H Agent Cindy Osterlund. Also available to the campers was a wide selection of crafts, including rockets from the Ukiah Community 4-H Club leaders Ted and Laura Orr and Norma Barber, building birdhouses taught by Kendall Derby, DIY sports pennants, painting birdhouses, outdoor



4-H campers and counselors take part in some fun "get acquainted" games during the first day of camp. Here the group is pictured using an old Army parachute for an active and fun game. -Contributed photo

cooking and many more.

Outdoor activities like capture the flag, a heptathlon event full of various sporting events, and multiple "get acquainted" games kept everyone busy in the warm sunshine. The hike was another great success; two separate trails and activities were offered, with one hike activity teaching campers and counselors how to build an outdoor shelter, taught by Morrow County Sheriff's Deputy Scott Carter, as well as the traditional hike to the top of Little Baldy Mountain, which assisted by Brian Spivey.

One evening was capped off with the launching of dreamboats onto the pond followed by the ever popular camp dance. Family and friends had the chance to view closing Olympic ceremonies with the parade of tent flags and award ceremony.

"Everyone went home tired and happy again this year, and a great deal was learned by all!" said Jones.

The Tri-County 4-H Camp is held due to the generosity of numerous camp volunteers, instructors and helpers: Dr. Tracey Hanrahan-camp doctor, Mary Reser and Tracey Edwards - camp cooks, Sue Gibbs - kitchen help and transportation, Andrea and Andy Fletcher - night patrol and hike help, Scott Carter and Brian Spivey - hike help, Kendall Derby, Ted and Laura Orr, Norma Barber - activity help, Debbie Bunch and Joe Colby - class instructors, Jeannie Collins - camp transportation, and Dave and Roberta Jones - camp hosts at Cutsforth Park.

And of course, 4-H camp is not possible without the help and dedication of the 4-H camp counselors.

"This year we had an outstanding group of young people who were ready to work hard, had great attitudes during the entire camp, and really formed a cohesive and strong leadership team," Jones said.

Morrow County Counselors were: Austin Carter, Amanda Rea, Kane Sweeney, Lexi Bray, Macy Gibbs, Ian Meakins, Kolby Currin, Alex Lindsay, Emily Taylor, Tyanna Billings, Malysa Smith and Madisen Haselbusch. These young people take time away from work, sports or other family events to attend counselor trainings and then camp itself.

Next year's camp theme was voted on by the campers and it will be Battle of the Bands for 2015. For more information on how to participate in 4-H or to attend 4-H camp, contact the Morrow County Extension Office at 541-676-9642.



(L-R) Jace Coe, Junior Roque and Cal Homer have fun learning about kitchen science at the Tri-County 4-H Camp class taught by Gilliam County 4-H Agent Cindy Osterlund. -Contributed photo

Inland NW Musicians announces its upcoming 16th season

Inland Northwest Musicians, having just completed its 15th season with concerts in Arlington and Pilot Rock, has announced its next season.

Inland NW has scheduled 22 concerts from Oct. 2014 through June 2015. Rehearsals will begin next month with the Inland NW Chorale on Monday, August 25, followed by the Inland NW Orchestra on Thursday, August 28. Starting dates for the other ensembles will be announced soon. All concerts are free to the public.

Inland Northwest Musicians is a non-profit organization with offices in Hermiston. R. Lee Friese is the director and conductor of the four ensembles. Associate conductors are Randy Morgan for the Wallowa Valley Orchestra and Ralph Werner for the Willow Creek Symphony. The group welcomes

musicians from Northeast Oregon and Southeast Washington. Rehearsals for the Inland NW Orchestra and the Inland NW Chorale are held in Pendleton at Harris Junior Academy. The Wallowa Valley Orchestra rehearses in Wallowa, OR and the Willow Creek Symphony rehearses in Irrigon, OR.

Inland Northwest Musicians was founded in 1999 by a group of instrumentalists and singers interested in forming a classical music organization that reflected certain core values. Inland Northwest Musicians was built around these cornerstone beliefs:

-Music is for everyone, regardless of income or geographic location. Audiences everywhere deserve to share in the world's greatest music in live performance.

-All musicians, including beginners, deserve the chance to

develop their talent. Music is a lifelong pursuit that contributes to health, well-being and a high quality of life.

-A regional arts organization should truly represent and serve the region, be "owned" by and accountable to its membership. All constituents are valued—musicians, audience members, staff, volunteers and financial contributors.

For additional information or questions about Inland Northwest Musicians, playing or singing in one of the ensembles, or the concerts, visit their Facebook page or their website, www.inlandnorthwestmusicians.com, or contact Judi Mason at judimasn@eoni.com or 541-314-5407, Kathy Vernam at kvernam@gmail.com, or R. Lee Friese at 541-377-1865.

Community theater supporters, participants invited

Anyone interested in establishing and supporting a community theater group is invited to contact Jodi Segreaves at 541-626-1440 or stop by to see her at Sweet Productions in Heppner.

Actors, costumes, musicians, scenery, lighting, sound and investors are all needed for this new venture.

Community lunch menu

Amazing Grace Fellowship members will serve lunch on Wednesday, July 23, at St. Patrick's Senior Center. The meal will include shredded pork served on a bed of cabbage, rice pilaf, broccoli salad, pickles, Hawaiian rolls, and pineapple coconut cake. Milk is served at each meal. Suggested donation is \$3.50 per meal. Menu is subject to change.

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