

~ 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. All letters expressing thanks will be placed in the classifieds under "Card of Thanks" at a cost of \$10.

Hybrid wolves released

To the editor:
In 1995, without the approval of Idaho state statute, the Idaho legislature or Idaho citizens, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife released Rocky Mountain grey wolves and the next year brought in Canadian wolves. "New research shows the wolves now living and hunting (in the Pacific NW) are different from those that lived more than a century ago. These wolves are hybrids." (Rebecca Heisman, Hakai Mag. Aug. 10, 2018).

The introduction of the Canadian Grey Wolf was in direct violation of the Endangered Species Act. The impact of these wolves on elk, deer, cattle and the destruction of natural resources and the economy of associated businesses in the Pacific NW has been increasingly undermined. These hybrid wolves are apex predators. They have severely undermined big game hunting and the cattle industry.

In Idaho, environmental activists thwarted through the courts every attempt to manage these killer wolves for well over a decade after their introduction. Today in Idaho you can purchase five tags to hunt wolves, there is a bounty up to \$1,000 dollars, they can be trapped and baited and still these wolves proliferate out of control. This fiasco is coming to Oregon unless we force a change of policy, immediately.

These wolves now have inhabited and colonized much of eastern and southern Oregon and in due season the entire state. They kill three to five ungulates for every one eaten. They have extremely high rates of fecundity producing five to nine pups per year beginning at age one.

In eastern Oregon, our forefathers were the first pioneers to inhabit and therein bring productivity to the Blue Mountains. They eliminated the wolves from the mountains so they could prosper and their families and livestock would be safe. Rocky Mountain elk were introduced and along with deer hunting. Big game industry in eastern Oregon brings in tens of millions of dollars to the local economy. The improper

and illegal introduction of wolves is forcing big game out of the national forests and has irrefutable undermined the heritage and way of life of the citizens that depend on our national forest for hunting and cattle allotments.

In the Heppner unit, as all eastern Oregon units, the impact of elk being hunted and killed by wolves has already forced most of the elk off the national forest. Our cattle and deer population will be next. Wolves have colonized the Heppner unit and the elk forced to private range land has significantly undermined cattle forage, costing our ranchers tens of thousands of dollars. The cattle on forest grazing allotments are no longer safe from wolf depredation which will cause great stress to our ranchers, their cattle dogs and undermine cattle health and productivity.

Our forefathers established our heritage with their blood, sweat and tears. The big game belongs to the American people not the U.S. and Oregon Fish and Game. The national forest belongs to the American people, not the Forest Service. These agencies work for us. Our forest and big game are not being managed properly. These hybrid killer wolves cannot be managed by government agencies or environmentalists and must be removed from our forests and heritage. An example of environmental stupidity is illustrated by Southern Oregon Defenders of Wildlife, a nonprofit environmental group. They donated two neon green and yellow waving tubes to stand guard over a rancher's cattle. We need to be reminded of the example of our forefathers. They understood they could not co-exist with wolves that would destroy their way of life.

I will be producing a documentary, with the support of like-minded citizens, called "Pacific NW wolf depredation" to illustrate why we must act with urgency to save our heritage, and protect our cattle industry and our belabored elk and deer herds.

Stuart Dick, Irrigon

Flood siren test successful

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and Morrow County Emergency Management conducted a live siren test of the Heppner flood evacuation warning system last Thursday, Nov. 21, at noon. The test was to ensure the sirens are functional at the two locations in Heppner.

The sirens are a part of a basin-wide flood ear-

ly warning system which collects rainfall and stream data from Balm Fork and Willow Creek above Willow Creek dam as well as Shobe and Hinton Creek, which flow through Heppner downstream of the dam. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers works closely with Morrow County Emergency Management to monitor flooding potential

Obituaries

James Harold Smith

James Harold Smith, 76, died at his home in Heppner on November 17, following a seven-year battle with cancer. He was born August 6, 1943 at Coos Bay, OR.

James was an Army veteran, former police officer and former wildland firefighter. He loved music and the outdoors.

He is survived by his wife, Donna Smith; daughters, Dana Westfield, Darla Smith, Shannon Boor, Tracy Smith and Marcie Millerick; sons, James Smith, Richard Stiles, Terry Whitten, Andrew Scott and Shane Cady; dozens

of grandchildren; 14 great grandchildren; sisters, Dorothy Sinclair and Dee Dee Allen; and brothers, Carl Smith, Terry Allen and Larry Allen. He was preceded in death by his parents, brother Dan Smith and grandson Patrick Stiles.

At his request there will only be a small private ceremony. Memorial contributions may be made in the name of his wife, Donna Smith, at the Bank of Eastern Oregon. Sweeney Mortuary of Heppner is in care of arrangements.



James Harold Smith

Barbara Ann Harnett

Barbara Ann Harnett of Walla Walla, WA, died November 16, at the age of 80, surrounded by family. She was born November 16, 1939 in Brooklyn, NY to Helen Stewart Pike and Arthur William Pike.

Barbara graduated from William H. Maxwell Vocational High School June 25, 1957. She married Melvin Joel Harnett October 6, 1962 in Brooklyn, NY and they were married for 57 years. Barbara was a trustee and part owner of the Harnett Ranch at Upper Creek Road.

She worked at McDonalds in Walla Walla for 17 years and was considered a valued employee. Barbara loved to read, bake and spend time with her children and grandchildren. She participated in Amvets Post 1111 women's auxiliary, planted flowers, worked on latch hook rugs, Tri-chem painting, was the bookkeeper for the family trust and loved traveling and visiting friends.

Barbara made friends wherever she went and she was always doing things for others. She loved to bake cookies at Christmas and pass them out to friends and neighbors. She had

lasagna feeds for Balloon Stampede/Mother's Day weekends for family and friends; sometimes having up to 60 people attend. She

always kept busy and moving even when she did not feel well. According to her family, "She was loved by all and loved her family fiercely. She was small but feisty. She will be greatly missed."

She is survived by her husband, Melvin Joel Harnett; daughters, Dawn Harnett and Sheree Lobdell and son Sean Harnett and his wife Darcie Harnett. She has four grandchildren, Madeleine Lobdell, age 24, Luke Lobdell, age 19, Alexa Harnett, age 14 and Colby Harnett, age 11. She had three siblings and is survived by her brother William Pike. Her other two siblings were Jean Wilkens and Arthur Pike.

A celebration of life will be held on Saturday, December 7 at 3 p.m. at the Veterans Memorial Golf Course, 201 E. Rees Ave, Walla Walla, WA 99362.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in memory of Barbara Harnett to either the American Cancer Society or Ronald McDonald House Children's Charities.

Chamber lunch meeting scheduled

The next lunch meeting of the Heppner Chamber of Commerce will be held Thursday, December 5 from noon to 1 p.m. in the Heppner City Hall conference room. The meeting will include a short crop up-

date presentation by Larry Lutcher, OSU Extension. It will also be all entities reports.

Lunch will be provided by Tacos Hometown for \$10 per person and RSVPs are required. Lunch will consist of a chicken or beef burrito, chips and salsa and dessert.

The meeting location is accessible to persons with disabilities. A request for an interpreter for the hearing impaired or for other accommodations for persons with disabilities should be made at least 48 hours before the meeting to Sheryll Bates at 541-676-5536.

DEADLINE:
MONDAYS
AT 5PM

Design Cards Posters Flyers

Print & Mailing Services

- * Design
- * Print
- * Mail

Sykes Publishing
541-676-9228

Bank of Eastern Oregon opens new branches

The Bank of Eastern Oregon has opened a new branch in Hermiston at 1475 N First St and another in La Grande at 2514 Cove Ave. Both branches will be open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. The phone number for the La Grande branch is 541-624-5040 and the Hermiston branch can be reached at 541-303-8274.

The La Grande based lending team of David Stirewalt, Kristy Nelson and Craig Nightingale also have new quarters in the La Grande branch. The Hermiston based commercial lending team of Lucas Wagner and Jared Lathrop and mortgage officer Kaitlin Orcutt, also have new quarters in the branch.

"Since our beginning in 1945, Bank of Eastern Oregon has focused on providing quality banking services to the rural communities of eastern Oregon," stated Jack Wright and Melissa Samms, the new branches' local operations managers. "We look forward to meeting and making new friends with the residents, business owners, farmers and ranchers of Hermiston and La Grande."

Bank of Eastern Oregon is a full-service commercial bank specializing in agricultural and small business lending, municipal and special district deposit services and offers a wide variety of consumer and business accounts and services.

Firewood season ends for the winter

Personal-use firewood cutting on the Umatilla National Forest will end Saturday, Nov. 30. Firewood permits will not be available again until May 2020.

The public is asked to take additional precautions when cutting firewood late in the fall when road and soil conditions become slick, soggy and saturated. Firewood cutters should be prepared for winter weather conditions. Mountain travel will require extreme care to avoid getting stuck in the mud or snow and causing resource damage to the land and vegetation.

Another concern for late season firewood cutting is the misidentification of

live or dead western larch, a highly prized firewood also known as tamarack. Larch needles turn yellow and fall off at the end of the growing season, which can cause the tree to appear dead when in fact it is only dormant. Tips on identifying live larch are located in the firewood guide that accompanies each firewood permit.

Firewood permits can be purchased at any Umatilla National Forest office or at several local businesses in the community. Permits cost \$5 per cord with a minimum purchase of four cords for \$20. A maximum purchase of 12 cords total, per household, is allowed from National Forest lands during the calendar year.

Heppner Celebrate Christmas event schedule announced

The Celebrate Heppner Christmas event, organized by the Heppner Chamber will be held Thursday, December 12 at the Gilliam and Bisbee building in Heppner. Doors will open at 5:30 p.m. Rewards cards can be collected through December 12 to be redeemed at the event.

A meal consisting of spaghetti with meat sauce, sweet corn and garlic breadstick will be available for purchase for the first 120 guests. The meal, prepared by Gateway Café, will cost \$7 per person for adults and \$5 for children 10 and under.

Cookies, water and coffee will be available

throughout the evening. Tickets will be sold for the penny board and raffle prizes. Rewards cards can be placed in prize bags for the prizes a person would like to win. Scrooge will be in the crowd being his grumpy old self but will have \$10 rewards cards for those who can talk him out of one.

Pictures with Santa, Mrs. Claus and the elves will be held on the stage from 6 to 7 p.m. for \$5 each. Drawings for rewards, penny board and raffles will be held at 7 p.m.

For additional information contact the Chamber at 541-676-5536 or heppnerchamber@centurytel.net.

Come See us at Pettyjohn's
for
Holiday Gift
and
Decorating Ideas!

PETTYJOHN'S FARM & BUILDERS SUPPLY
424 W LINDEN WAY, HEPPNER, OR 97836
(541) 676-9157

FOOD DRIVE

Wheatland is hosting our annual food drive. We will be accepting donations of non-perishable food items until December 17th. Please stop by your local Heppner and Ione offices and help us help our neighbors in need. All donations will be donated to the Neighborhood Center and distributed throughout South Morrow County. Office hours 8 - 5 Monday - Friday

WHEATLAND INSURANCE CENTER, INC Serving Eastern Oregon since 1983

WHEATLAND INSURANCE CENTER, INC Serving Eastern Oregon since 1983

HEPPNER 294 MAIN ST. P.O. BOX 755 HEPPNER, OR 97836 Office (541) 676-9113 • Fax (541) 676-9001 1-800-504-9113	IONE 245 NW MAIN ST., SUITE 100 P.O. BOX 26 IONE, OR 97843 Office (541) 422-7410 • Fax (541) 276-7688 1-800-585-7410
---	--