

~ 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. Email to editor@rapidsolve.net or upload to Heppner.net.

Town concerns about new retailer

To the editor:
To the individuals that have stated about their concerns of a new retailer coming to town.

The City of Heppner would like to clarify several points for your idea of coming to City Council to regulate the entity from being a member of the Heppner community:

1. You, as a citizen, are always welcome to come to any council meeting, but be aware that we are under extreme circumstances in regard to COVID regulations that limit meetings. The meeting will be limited to the council, two or three staff, the press and very few other individuals to maintain social distancing requirements. We do recommend writing, calling, using a spokesperson and/or using zoom to participate in helping to avoid a super spreader event or being turned away because of space. We will have the zoom information available at cityofheppner.org under council meetings.

2. The City of Heppner

does not have a business license requirement and does not regulate what businesses operate in the city limits.

3. The City of Heppner follows all zoning codes and offers free advice as to their purpose when wanting to find out if it is a permitted use in a particular zone. This information is available on-line at the city's website (cityofheppner.org).

4. Regarding what information has been asked of the city, so far it has only been on permitted uses of a property and what utilities are available.

5. No applications have been made for review of zoning. Building permits are issued through Morrow County in Boardman (not Heppner) and are in accordance with Oregon law, rules and code.

We always welcome your concerns and questions. Feel free to contact us by phone at 541-676-9618 or by email at heppner@cityofheppner.org.

Kraig Cutsforth,
Heppner City Manager

Improvement isn't inevitable, change is

To the editor:
There is a possible change coming to the Heppner's downtown culture and long-term vibrancy.

Corporate America wants to come to town. You may have heard that Dollar General is looking to place one of its box stores where the RV park now sits. If you didn't know, you should. Why? Because of the likely detrimental effects to our downtown that have already befallen thousands of small, rural towns once they arrive, settle in and begin to exert their long-term effects on the business district and culture of the town.

I suspect you may be saying my opinion is jaded because I have a 60-year-old main street business and just don't want any competition, but that is not my main reason for writing today. Murrays has, and is, staying pertinent and competitive with mail-order pharmacies, big box retail pharmacies, little cookie cutter box pharmacies, web-based pharmacies, etc., etc. by providing personal customer service and home-town values to everything we do. Murrays will continue.

My reason for writing in opposition to dollar box is the negative effect it will have on the culture of our town. Some people get up in the morning and go to work in a retail shop or service wanting to make a living, of course, but also to serve people. Kind, generous, helpful, friendly, affordable service to the people of Heppner can result in a lifetime of living here, and a lifetime of having that well delivered service available here. Lifetimes lived here, especially when started at an early adult age (meaning our kids) result in a vibrant community. One filled with school kids, jobs, volunteers, parishioners, shoppers, neighbors and club members. They create something good called 'quality of life', which paradoxically is most likely why they chose to return or stay here in the first place. As attractive as riots and loot-

ing are in other towns, they still are choosing to live in Heppner and participate.

How on earth could one store possibly be the ruin of our entire town's culture? Well, it has been proven in other communities our size to be the first step toward it.

A few specifics: The jobs they bring will not be additional to town, they will simply be shifted from a damaged business down the street. Googling these dollar box stores' employment practices shows that I would not want to work for them. Defective and extremely poor-quality merchandise.

Why did the Food and Drug Administration fine all three dollar box chains for selling outdated medications? How much outdated merchandise do you have to sell to get a federal agency involved to correct the problem? Or why would a class action suit be created across 16 states to address that Dollar General motor oil was of such poor quality as to be unusable in cars built after 1988?

Why would Heppner want stores in town that bring such a low level of quality? Why would we want to worry about any of these issues in a business we have in town? And why would we want to sacrifice the livelihood of some of our bright, young, businesspeople who brought to us such energizing events as Heppner's First Friday summer get together? We deserve better than a dollar box.

Please join me in asking the city council for a conversation about the future of the business district in Heppner and how we can maintain the very best aspects of it. I firmly believe that corporate box stores are not the direction we should go for our town's best future. Working together with our elected council people is the only way of accomplishing this. We will find a way.

Respectfully submitted,

John Murray

Brains of mankind connected to internet

To the editor,
We are entering into the 'Brave New World' as envisioned by Aldous Huxley in 1931. Huxley wrote of a dystopian world that included double talk, thought control, dehumanization and the end of individual liberty. In Huxley's vision, all citizens are politically and scientifically programmed by the state through psychological and biological manipulation and brainwashing conditioning. Huxley foresaw the world of 5G where all machines, objects, devices, animals, insects and the brains of mankind will be connected to the internet. This is called the Internet of Things (IoT). Huxley's vision of a dystopian world foresaw artificial intelligence (AI), virtual reality (VR) and robot, microchipped humans called augmented humans.

The internet had not been invented when Huxley wrote his science fiction novel. Even a few years ago a world under virtual police state totalitarianism would have been improbable. How could a virus, on the earth since creation, turn the world into Huxley's Brave New World?

On Oct. 18, 2019 Bill Gates orchestrated Event 201 exercising a three-and-a-half-hour pandemic tabletop exercise that simulated a series of dramatic world events that would be triggered by a worldwide COVID virus pandemic. Fifteen global businesses, government and public health leaders were players in the simulated exercise to bring forth the dystopian system the Bible calls the Beast. Gates and Dr. Anthony Fauci have been working for decades, experimenting with vaccines and viruses on children in third world countries, particularly India and Africa. The worldwide pandemic plan required research into manipulating viruses in the lab to explore and develop a path to cause animals viruses to infect humans. This research called "gain of function," is so dangerous that 200 scientists in the USA in 2014 forced the National Institute of Health to call for a moratorium. In the face of the moratorium, Dr. Fauci, as director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Disease (NIAID), "outsourced in 2015 the 'gain of function' research to the China Wuhan lab and licensed the lab to continue receiving the U.S. government funding." (Dr. Fauci Backed Controversial Wuhan lab with U.S. dollars," Newsweek, April 28, 2020) The Wuhan lab, under the direction of Dr. Fauci, experimented with the ability of a virus to jump from animals to humans, ('spillover potential') "which requires that the virus be able to attach to receptors in cells of humans (allowing COVID-19 to bind) to the ACE2 receptor in human lungs, and other organs." (Op. Cit. Newsweek April 28, 2021)

Welcome to the brave new world of Dr. Anthony Fauci and Bill Gates, owners and patent holders of Moderna and Pfizer. These two men are more powerful than any governor, general or president. They control and manipulate the economy and liberty of the entire free world and can

require their vaccines on all humans without relinquishing mandated masks as a method of dystopian world control. The worldwide press and media cover and expedite their every diabolical exercise. Anyone that challenges or exposes them will be censored and attacked as xenophobic. This same press will usher in a ruthless antichrist system worse than Nazi Germany.

What can be done to save our country, our way of life, our loved ones and our souls from this dystopian 'brave new world'? Commit your heart to Jesus Christ. The Bible clearly prophesizes at the end of the age Satan will deceive the world and attempt to rule in defiance of Almighty God. The battle belongs to God and only the return of the Lord Jesus Christ will defeat this satanic beast system. Do not yield to this satanic plan. Support our local business, especially those forced to close. Demand our schools open and stay open. Build up your immune system (more on that later). Find a Bible teaching church or home group. Build your faith through study of the Bible. Build your faith through prayer. Build your faith through standing up against falsehood, doubletalk unequal application of the law.

Stuart Dick,
Irrigon

Dollar General would represent positive economic growth within the community

To the editor:
Dollar General is currently in a due diligence phase for a new location at 388 N. Main St. in Heppner, Oregon, which means we're interested in adding a new store in Morrow County but have not committed to doing so quite yet. At this time, we anticipate having a final decision in late 2021.

At Dollar General, we strive to be a positive business partner and good community neighbor. We believe the addition of a new Dollar General store to the Heppner community would represent positive economic growth within the community. Our beneficial impact would be reflected through the creation of local jobs and opportunities for employee development and career advancement and through grants provided through the Dollar General Literacy Foundation that positively impact literacy and education initiatives at schools, non-profits and libraries. We hope our new store would help customers save money on the items they purchase most often and need so they have remaining funds to use toward purchases they want. Our customers are at the center of all that we do,

and meeting customers' needs is Dollar General's top priority when choosing store locations. In selecting store sites, we take a number of factors into consideration, carefully evaluating each potential new store location to ensure we can continue to meet our customers' price, value and selection needs.

The store would employ approximately 6-10 employees, depending on the individual needs of the store. Anyone interested in joining one of America's fastest-growing retailers with competitive wages and benefits, world-class training and development and the ability to further them through our growing organization career - where approximately 75 percent of current store managers were promoted from within our organization - may apply for available positions online at www.dollargeneral.com/careers.

Also, the critical role played by our stores has been evident during the COVID pandemic as customers seek convenient options to purchase essential household goods. During this time of national crisis, our customers have relied on Dollar General to remain open and provide the essential items they need at affordable prices in a smaller, less crowded and easy, in-and-out environment. We take this responsibility of service very seriously, and we are proud to have remained open for our customers during these uncertain times. Our efforts were recognized by Forbes magazine, which identified Dollar General among its top 25 corporate responders to the COVID-19 pandemic and are reflected in a Harris Poll that outlines the essential role Dollar General stores play in the lives of our customers.

Best,
Angela Petkovic
Dollar General
Corporation Public
Relations

Obituaries

Robert Patrick McLaughlin

Robert "Bob" McLaughlin passed away peacefully at home on Tuesday, January 12, 2021, with his wife Bette by his side. Bob was born August 30, 1929 and raised on the family ranch near Heppner, OR. The ranch was homesteaded in 1884 by his Irish

family. He never stopped asking questions and would much prefer to learn about someone else than to talk about himself. He will be remembered most as an honest, humble man of integrity and for his lifelong love and commitment to his

family. He is survived by his wife Bette; brother, Terry McLaughlin; son, Stephen (Rhonda) McLaughlin; daughter, Anne (Murray) Perkins; son, Chris (Shari) McLaughlin; daughter, Shannon (Mark) Chambers; daughter, Kelly (Jeff) Koker; 13 grandchildren, five great-grandchildren, and another on the way.

Because education was of such high value to him, a scholarship fund has been established for graduates of Heppner High School attending an Oregon public institution. Those wishing to make a contribution in his honor can do so by donating to the Bob and Bette McLaughlin Education Foundation (contact a family member for where to send the donation).

Fond memories for his family include summing South Sister on his 75th birthday and the yearly Pilot Butte Challenge. He was a conservationist before it was "cool," caring for his land and maintaining a lifelong curiosity of nature, as well as for the humans he encountered along the

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