

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.

## Put up or shut up

Why does Mike Simpson expect others to present alternatives to his \$33 billion plan to gut the economy of the Pacific Northwest? He claims, "We need to have honest conversations?" So, let's be honest.

The science has already been proven and recorded as fact, fish and dams can successfully co-exist. As a matter of fact, the highest numbers of both salmon and steelhead ever recorded returning to our rivers came during a ten-year period that began twenty-five years after the last dam was completed.

From 1938 - 1947, approximately 1.9 million anadromous fish returned over Bonneville Dam, the only dam in the river system at that time. From 2000 -

2009, approximately 6.8 million salmon and steelhead returned to our river system, an increase of 358 percent. The last dam was completed on the Snake River in 1975. Proof positive that fish and dams can, and do, co-exist.

Simpson and his minions need to prove their scheme to breach our dams and destroy our economy, at such a great cost, will result in the return of even one more fish to our rivers. The burden of proof is on them alone, nobody else. If they cannot prove their case, they need to shut up and go home.

Dick Sherwin  
Lewiston, ID  
Representing: Citizens for the Preservation of Fish and Dams

## HEALTH DISTRICT

-Continued from PAGE ONE

City Council, suggested the district make an effort to get the news out to staff before it appears in the paper. No action was taken on the suggestion to move the meeting date.

Also at the meeting, the board appointed Diane Kilkenny, nurse and former director for the Morrow County Health Department, to the board.

In other business, the board:

- directed staff to perform a feasibility study for increased service in the northwest area of the county, not to exceed \$30,000.

- held executive sessions concerning three issues: trade negotiations, submission of confidential information to the board and to consider the employment of a public officer, employee, staff member or individual agent."

- received a report from Chief Nursing Officer Kathleen Greenup, who noted they were "currently fully staffed."

- approved a contract extension for Amanda Fabian, PA-C.

- passed resolutions to authorize the county treasurer to invest funds and to authorize individuals to sign checks and vouchers.

- approved the "Custom Learning Program" for rural hospitals, not to exceed \$76,000. "This is a really good plan," noted VanderDoes.

- approved three items for surplus.

- received the following financial report for April: the district had \$1,193,166 in revenue, \$151,176 in revenue deductions, \$185,460

in tax revenue, \$28,183 in other operating revenue for \$1,255,633 in total operating revenue; \$1,346,069 in total operating expenses, \$43,307 in a non-operating gain, for a loss of \$47,128 for the month and an average monthly gain of \$176,766.

- received the following Pioneer Memorial Hospital report for April: six inpatient admissions, four swing bed admissions, eight admissions for observation, 621 total out-patients with ER, 68 emergency room encounters, 1,668 lab tests, 42 CT scans, two lower endoscopy procedures, one upper endoscopy procedure, 31 respiratory therapy procedures.

- received the following clinic reports: Pioneer Memorial Clinic in Heppner-391 patient visits, with five new patients, 33 seen by a nurse, 20 no-shows and 44 cancellations; Irrigon Medical Clinic-422 patient visits, 87 seen by a nurse and 29 no-shows; Ione Community Clinic-38 patient visits, one new patient, 34 seen by a nurse.

- received the following ambulance report: total page-outs-22 Heppner, 39, for \$27,401 in revenue; Boardman, 37, for \$30,004 in revenue; Irrigon, for \$33,930 in revenue; Ione, with seven life flights.

- received the following Home Health report: 157 patient visits; received the following Hospice report: no new admissions, one death; received the following Pharmacy report: 3,170 drug doses for \$110,249 in drug revenue.

## Time to resume litter pickup in Heppner

To the editor,  
As we move towards returning to normal as we move past the Covid virus, it is time to tidy up town in respect to the ODOT Adopt a Highway Litter Pick Up Program.

Our residents and businesses alongside the highways have been removing any litter from their highway frontages. Our citizens are picking up our state

highways through town as they go for healthy walks. Our cooperating organizations: The Bank of Eastern Oregon, the Heppner Lions, and the Morrow County employees are doing the entries to town.

These efforts make our community nice for our residents and our visitors. Thanks are extended to all.

John Edmundson,  
Heppner

### A View from the Green

## Over the Tee Cup

Karen Haguewood had low gross of the field at the playday held May 18 at the Willow Creek Country Club in Heppner. Judy Harris had low net of the field and least putts was split between Pat Edmundson and Sharon Harrison.

For flight B the low gross winner was Tiffany

Clement. Fairway shots for flight B went to Karen Haguewood.

Kris Lindner took low gross for flight C. Jean Creswick had low net and Lorene Montgomery had the least putts. Sharon Harrison had fairway shots for flight C.

## Kempken accepted into pharmacy program

Heppner student Jessica Kempken, 23, has been accepted into the pharmacy program at Oregon State University. Kemken has lived in Heppner since she was in the fourth grade and has worked at Murray's Drug as a certified pharmacy technician during the summers and holidays for the past three years.

Jessica graduated at the top of her class from Heppner High School in 2016, receiving academic honors and numerous scholarships. She was a tri-sport athlete and served as team captain in volleyball, basketball and softball. She also held leadership positions in student government, National Honor Society and FBLA, before attending Blue Mountain Community College for two years.

In 2018 Jessica was accepted into the early admission program at OSU



Jessica Kempken

College of Pharmacy and will be graduating in June with a bachelor's of bio health science degree. She will start the pharmacy program this fall.

Kemken intends to return to Heppner after she completes her doctorate. She is the daughter of Donna Sherman.

## Cemetery having irrigation problems

The Highview (Ione Cemetery) is having irrigation issues and the cemetery is currently pretty dry looking. Staff would like to apologize for its appearance and plans to have the irrigation working again soon.

The meeting scheduled for June 2 has been rescheduled to June 21.

### Lexington Burn Ban

The Fire Chief of the Town of Lexington is imposing a closed season for open burning effective Monday, June 1, 2021 until further notice.

The burning ban is for the Town of Lexington and includes all burn barrels and open burning.



Effective June 1, 2021, the Fire Chief of the City of Heppner is imposing a BURN BAN.

This also includes Burn Barrels.

Residents can request Natural Vegetation and Debris Piles be burned by the Fire Department during this period.

Sign up list for Fire Department burning assistance is at Heppner City Hall or call Fire Chief Steve Rhea @ 541-980-4232 or Assistant Fire Chief Eric Chick @ 541-701-4910



By Doris Brosnan

The rains have certainly been good news, hopefully in time to make a positive difference for the various crops.

A thank you and congratulations to the individuals elected last week to the various boards in the county. Now come the responsibilities entrusted to them. The voters in Ione continued support of their school by passing the general obligation bond.

Congratulations to Ione's two Crystal Apple Award recipients acknowledged on the 10<sup>th</sup>. JoAnna Lamb and Mary Rosenberg were chosen for the extra efforts they make in their services to the school's students. The award is sponsored by the Intermountain Education Service District.

Congratulations to the HHS drama students and Alaina Lemmon, director, who delighted their audiences with an entertaining production of Matilda on the May 19 and 20.

Ione School's eleven seniors enjoyed a luncheon on the 19<sup>th</sup>, welcomed by their Topic Club hosts.

On the 15<sup>th</sup>, several high school students enjoyed another sign that social life is getting back to normal, thanks to parents eager to help this happen. The Heppner students danced away the evening at the prom held in the transformed Elks lodge. Ione students enjoyed a prom with a spectacular touch where they danced away the evening under the stars, in the park, which featured a decorated dance floor on the stage.

The new season of high school and junior high sports began last week as the previous season wrapped up. Heppner/Ione's spectacular high school baseball season ended in a win in the consolation round of state playoffs last weekend. This as HHS's track-team members who had placed for 2A state competition ran and threw in Union, and the Ione School team members who had placed for 1A state competition did the same in La Grande on Saturday. This happened on the day after the first basketball games on Friday (both towns' girls and boys were successful). Now everyone, including junior-high athletes, have moved on to a short season of what has traditionally been winter sports.

Hunter Nichols, who runs track at EOU, left on Sunday with teammates who were heading for Gulf Shores, Alabama, for the National Outdoor Track competitions. Hunter will be running the 800-meter tomorrow. (He attended the national indoor competition last winter.) Good luck, Hunter.

Some other signs of some returning normality are the events now planned for the near future: Heppner's Farmers' Market return, June 17; the Town and Country Banquet and

Awards event return on June 17 (tickets available at the Heppner Chamber office, Murray's, BEO); Music in the Park returning once a month in July, August and September; and expectations of a fair and rodeo return in August. Watch for coming details.

Another Red Cross blood drive was scheduled by the HHS Honor Society for today at the St. Patrick Church parish hall, so if you are reading this early enough, you might have time to go donate.

Yes, Meredith Thomson Walters returned to Heppner almost a year ago, after having spent some time in California with a son's family, and says she is happy to be back in the house that was always home. She suspects that one reason many people have not realized she had returned was because they had not recognized her when she waved. Hard to realize who is behind that face mask. Meredith's son Aaron has been experiencing Heppner, too, since he has been able to do his work remotely while staying with her, and he has been busy beautifying the yard and helping her make some changes inside before he returns to his home.

Betty Gray's youngest son, Les Mathews, came from Phoenix to celebrate his 53<sup>rd</sup> birthday, which was on the 17<sup>th</sup>, and to stay for a four-day visit. Les joined Betty and his two siblings, who came to share the moment, the first time in many months being able to get together.

Lorene Montgomery reports that her son-in-law Mike Prater (married to her daughter Cathy) will be inducted into the Idaho Rodeo Hall of Fame on Lorene's birthday, October 15. Mike, retired from his oil business in Nampa, was a well-known bull rider who rodeoed when Paul Hisler did, Lorene says.

Ever wonder if what you think is true of our area's population numbers is truly true? I did. According to or.gov, the 2020 Census lists Heppner residents at 1295, Ione with 330, and Lexington with 265. This means all communities have gained new residents since the 2010 numbers listed: Heppner 1291, Ione 329, and Lexington 238. (Look at you, Lexington.)

Ione's city-wide clean-up was noted before. Heppner residents are getting a clean-up assist and encouragement from the welcome mat at the city's site on Riverside that will be open through June 1 for yard debris and for discards that can go into the large dumpster-trailer on site.

Good news is always welcomed news, so please share your tidbits by sending them to dbrosnan123@gmail.com, or calling 541-676-5382 or 541-223-1490 or stopping me on the street.

Here's hoping that some good news comes to everyone reading this.

**FIRST FRIDAY LUAU!**

Friday | June 4 | 5-10PM

Heppner Fit Park

VENDORS AND SHOPPING 5-7PM  
FIRE PERFORMANCE 7PM | LIVE MUSIC 7-10PM  
BEER AND WINE TASTING 7-10PM

Brought to you by the Heppner Outreach Council

**IONE RURAL FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT**

**BURN BAN**

**EFFECTIVE JUNE 1, 2021 UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE**