

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

Heppner
GAZETTE-TIMES
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Morrow County's Home-Owned Weekly Newspaper

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

Will we ever be back in a "normal" world?

To the editor:
I have sat with many people on many occasions and have been asked this question. What is normal? The world we live in seems surreal and after almost two years of this pandemic we have all forgotten what life was prior to this. Holidays, birthdays, graduations, all gatherings are still not permitted. We are still not supposed to breath freely, shake hands, hug anyone or see a doctor with our faces being seen.

You are not immune after one - two shots and a booster, how many more shots are they wanting to give of an unknown medication? What ever happened to two weeks to slow the curve, what happened to the Governor's own words of 70 percent and life will be "normal" again. Yet here we are in another extension of the state of emergency. Really? Three cases of the newest variant Omicron and we are keeping our state (one of very few states that are not open) under control, so she can continue to receive federal money for the new surge of the "less deadly" variant.

How many boosters are we going to have to receive before we have "normal life back?" Government has never taken your rights away and willingly given them back to you. They have gained power over the people, and this is what they want for our world, division of society. And they are succeeding. I hate watching families/friends divide over a shot. For what? Who is this all benefiting?

Our borders are wide open, with absolutely no

control over who is coming in or what they may have (covid) yet we as free American citizens are supposed to follow the orders for the greater good of humanity, how does that work? Who in the world gave our government this much control over our bodies? Why are they willing to let people quit their jobs, be forced from them? Our military members are starting to be threatened with discharge if they don't receive this shot. Fifteen percent of our military members are willing to walk away from their career over this; 210,000 members (2018-member count) are willing to leaving their livelihood, future benefits over this. And our government is sitting there without a care what that would mean for your and my safety without a strong military.

These are scary times, unknown times, uncertain times. This is why I started Freedom of Choice meetings. With all the uncertainties of this world and waiting for "normal" again, we need to have people around us, supporting each other as we navigate this world on a daily basis, to see a smiling face and knowing there are people out there that still believe in choice. It can feel very lonely (especially with division of family and friends). You are not alone. And together we can show support. Join us January 2 at 3 p.m. at Two Old Hags Pizza. We are all in this together and we stand united together. We are here for everyone.

Staying Loud and Standing Proud for you and next to you.

Dawn Brosnan

World needs good news

To the editor:
The Gospel, the teaching of Jesus Christ in the New Testament is commonly known as "Good News." Reminds us of the encouragement of Doris Brosnan's column, "Good News Only." Never before since the victorious end of the Second World War has America and the world more sorely needed "Good News." Nevertheless, despite every effort, every vaccine, every new and more oppressive strategy, the world grows more contentious, more locked down, more fearful, more ominous.

Sports teams across the western world are experiencing new Covid outbreaks even though 97 percent of these athletes are vaccinated. There is never a word of explanation in the news, CDC, Dr. Fauci, Pfizer etc. why these vaccinated athletes are not only catching but spreading the pandemic at a far greater rate than the general public. Sporting events, theater productions, numerous venues of compulsory vaccinated employees have been postponed or cancelled because of positive Covid infestation, yet the call for vaccine passports to protect the public grows by the day.

Some countries in Europe "have even banned unvaccinated from gathering in private homes." (Philadelphia Trumpet, "Lurch toward Tyranny," Richard Palmer, p. 11, Jan. 22) In Austria "The unvaccinated can only leave home to buy essentials, to work, or get the job... Police now patrol the streets, demanding to see the individuals' vaccination status." (Op. Cit. Palmer, p. 11) In Oct 21 "Italy became the first country in the world to require vaccine passports for its entire workforce." (Op. Cit. Palmer, p. 11) "The German state of Hesse passed a law allowing all businesses, including supermarkets, to bar the unvaccinated from their premises." (Op. Cit. Palmer, p. 11) "The European Union is also using

the vaccine passports to centralize the information it has on its citizens." (Op. Cit. Palmer, p. 11) England, Australia, New Zealand, Canada and the rest of the world are following Europe to establish radical authoritarian dictatorships under the guise of the Covid pandemic.

Ok. Where is the good news? It is being censored, rewritten, banned and/or condemned. Our Godly forefathers, the same ones berated by pro vaccine zealots, blessed America with our Constitution, Bill of Rights, Second Amendment and love of the "Good News" of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. No other nation on earth has the foundation of the "Good News" of Jesus Christ to provide a strong defense against the authoritarian tyranny taking over the world. Jesus came into the world to save mankind, not condemn mankind. The Gospel of Jesus Christ is the "Good News" that defeats the coming tyranny of the rising "beast" government of worldwide vaccine mandates.

Trusting the "Good News" of Jesus Christ cancels and eliminates fear and doubt. Trusting the Gospel of Christ establishes hope and faith in the midst of confusion and anxiety. A commitment to the "Good News" of salvation through Jesus Christ establishes power and authority in the heart and soul of the believer. Trusting in the power of the "Gospel" provides all the armor (Eph. 6:10-17) required to stand against the vaccine mandates and wiles of the devil. The "Good News" of Jesus Christ proclaims, "greater is he that is in you than he that is in the world." (1 John 4:4)

The "Good News" message of Jesus Christ is our hope and confidence against every Covid outbreak, vaccination mandate and authoritarian power grab. Let us seize the banner of liberty and freedom promised in the "Good News" of the Gospel.

Stuart Dick, Irrigon

Good News Only

By Doris Brosnan

The lack of contributions this week probably disappoints anyone who might have looked forward to "Good News" tidbits from our friends and neighbors. Certainly, being busy with Christmas gatherings could preclude even thinking of sharing those moments that made you smile. But maybe next week's quieter time will help turn thoughts to contributing something for the pleasure of our readers. We would love to learn who "motored" up to see whom. The weather - wonderful for snow play in the mountains - created many worries, especially for grandmothers who take their job of worrying for family travelers very seriously. The good news for them was the safe arrival and return of their loved ones.

The highlight for our

column this week is knowing that two such travelers were Aimee Turell and Trevor Antonucci, who were excited to share a big Christmas announcement with Aimee's family: They are engaged to be married, though they have not yet set a date. Aimee attends Portland State University while also holding down a parttime job, and Trevor works for a HVAC company. Congrats.

Readers are eager for some good-news tidbits so just a few minutes of your time can bring smiles to many faces. Contributions can come this way before Monday afternoon by writing to dbrosnan123@gmail.com or calling 541-676-5382 or 541-223-1490.

A Christmas greeting to everyone. And here's hoping that some good news comes to everyone reading this.

County weighs options for more office space

Commissioners look at minor renovations up to new building in Heppner



A small, cramped jury deliberation room is one problem with current courthouse spaces

By David Sykes

What to do about cramped and outdated offices and other spaces at the 118-year-old historic courthouse in Heppner has been an on-going topic at county commissioner meetings for some time, and the commission recently took possession of an extensive 120-page report detailing what to do about it.

The main problem is the circuit court facilities at the courthouse have been deemed outdated and too small for court business and proceedings, and after complaints and talks with circuit court officials, the county hired nation-wide design company DLR Group to do an extensive study on the current facilities, and what can be done to alleviate the problems.

The study came up with four options to fix the overcrowding and outdated

facilities.

Option 1 calls for minor courthouse renovation of the existing courthouse to address some circulation, security, and occupant amenities. It results in a more efficient use of space but does not accommodate future growth or address all of the current space deficiencies.

Option 2 is a more substantial interior renovation of the existing courthouse to organize its operations primarily around circuit court functions. This option would require county departments to relocate to another undetermined location or facility.

Option 3 provides a substantial renovation and addition to the existing courthouse to fully accommodate court and county space needs on the existing courthouse site.

Option 4 provides a

the existing courthouse to organize its operations primarily around county functions and builds a new circuit court facility on a different site, the location of which is undetermined.

Cost estimates range from \$7.86 million for renovation of the courthouse to \$18 million for renovation plus an addition, and \$12.8 million for a replacement courthouse. The study also said a seismic upgrade of the existing courthouse was necessary at a cost of about \$4.4 million.

Since the circuit court is a state court system activity, commissioners have learned there is money available to help with upgrading and improving the court portion of any project.

Commissioner Melissa Lindsay recently attended a meeting with the Oregon Judicial Department in Salem where she presented the county's new feasibility study to that group.

Lindsay reported the information was "well received" by the state and the county should expect some money to help with construction costs, whichever option the county chooses. However, the most the state will contribute is \$1.2 million to the renovation. She said the county has until January 24 to decide and then ask the state to participate with funding.

Commissioner Don Russell said there have been problems with the circuit court facilities in Heppner for quite a while and it will probably take new construction to fix it. "It's hard to remodel an existing building and get more space, and it (circuit court) needs more space," Russell said. "The jury deliberation room is not big enough. It wasn't big enough 25 years ago," he emphasized. Russell urged the commission to think about the county facility needs for the next 25 years when making a decision on what to do.

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MONDAYS AT 5:00 P.M.**

Ione Community Church
470 E Main Street,
Ione, Oregon
Church School & Adult Study at 10:00 am
Worship at 11:00 AM

"You will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart."
Jeremiah 29:13
Join Us in the Search

New Year's Eve
Friday December 31st
Steak dinner
potatoes
salad and vegetable

Dinner starts at 6:00 pm.
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