

~ 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.

**State of Delusion**

Speeches have got to be pretty good to keep my attention; might be a direct result of ADD. The president's speech the other night captured me for all of 60 seconds. To be honest, I have a tough time seeing him without thinking of Walter, Jeff Dunham's puppet, which can actually be pretty entertaining.

But all puppets aside, it's the content of his speeches that is tough to hear. A few words in and I'm rolling my eyes or picking up something to throw at the TV. Just tell the truth. We aren't stupid. You can't tell us how great the economy is when we've just walked out the store with one small bag of groceries and sixty bucks less in our pockets....and no meat. And we see the price at the pump and remember what it was before you "built back better."

Honesty matters. In fact, it's probably the most important character trait there is in my book. Without it, you have as much integrity as a cheap, wet paper towel. When you find someone has lied to you, it not only hurts like heck... it makes you question everything they've ever said or done. It takes away the validity of anything they say or do in the future. I've heard, "Ooh, I wouldn't lie about that." Really? Then could you please publish a list of all the circumstances in which you would

lie...just so I don't have to guess?

I recently heard a young person say, "Just don't do it and say you did." Broke my heart. To them, lying was an acceptable option, and not even a difficult one to choose. I think we're missing something in the education and direction of kids today. Society speaks loudly...most often more loudly than parents.

So, how much is trustworthiness worth? Do we mind not knowing what to believe when our president speaks? Should we have to research everything that comes out of his mouth? Sometimes I think we're so used to being lied to, we give it no more than a shoulder shrug. Where's the accountability? I'd love to see a president raise his hand and swear to tell the truth before he makes a speech. Just wondering... how many years does one get for committing perjury? I miss the days when truth mattered, when there were consequences and when we feared a God that pays attention. I miss integrity. When my kids were little, they knew there was one thing that would bring about a swift and severe reaction. Lie to me, child, and you'll be lucky to experience your next birthday. It didn't take long before they got the hint. Thankfully, all seven have experienced several birthdays since.

Susie Crosby  
Heppner, OR

**Police state doesn't seem far-fetched**

When I was young, some my age decided not to have children due to fears of a nuclear holocaust. I was more afraid of a police state.

Wanting children very much, I finally decided our country didn't appear to be headed for a police state—any time soon, anyway. Now, some young people are deciding not to have

children due to fears of climate change making the earth uninhabitable. I am still more afraid of a police state.

And now I have grandchildren, and a police state here doesn't seem so far-fetched, or far away. It's up to us, the mercy of

God, and the leaders God sends us, to keep that from happening.

Sandra Johnson  
Heppner, OR

**Wheatridge wind facility**

-Continued from PAGE ONE meet in other north or south county locations.

The new schedule will take effect March 1. The previous schedule had been set in place by ordinance in 1981.

The commissioners also approved the findings of the Morrow County Planning Commission regarding a proposed new rock quarry out of Ione during a land use hearing on Feb. 8.

Morrow County Public Works applied to permit a new rock quarry to be located on property owned by JJMC, LLC off of Ella Road out of Ione. The application included an amendment to the Comprehensive Plan

Goal 5 aggregate resource inventory, rezoning the 20-acre site to add a significant resource overlay zone and a conditional use permit. On Dec. 6, the planning commission voted unanimously to recommend the board of commissioners approve the amendments and permit application.

"We've lost a few pits around the county," said Morrow County Public Works Director Eric Imes. "We're trucking rock a long ways, which costs a lot of money. I'm looking forward to getting this open," he added.

This was the first land use hearing on the application. A second will be held Feb. 22.

**Good News Only** by Doris Brosnan

(No Heppner, Lexington or Ione individuals shared tidbits this week, but HHS activities offer good-news bits for local students.)

For school-sports enthusiasts who would like a really, really up-close look at the action in the arenas while being paid, opportunity awaits: One can be in the thick of it as an official! Individuals 18 years old or older can receive necessary training that can lead to this occasional work and alleviate the OSAA's challenge to find enough officials to cover the many sports. One web site with info seems to be [highschoolsportsofficials.com](http://highschoolsportsofficials.com).

Congratulations to the HHS wrestlers who will be going to state competition in Portland on the 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>: Zach Brown, Jaime Cavin, Cade Cunningham and Saul Lopez. Good luck!

Congratulations to the HHS boys (ranked ninth in the state) and girls basketball teams. They will be headed for the first playoff rounds in Pendleton this weekend. Good luck!

Congratulations to all of the HHS FBLA members who successfully competed in business-related challenges at the Blue Mountain Region Leadership Conference in La Grande. They are now qualified to compete in the state competitions in April: Jackson Coiner, Morgan Cutsforth, Owen Cunningham, Caden George, Caleb George, Irelynn Kollman, Paul Lindsay, Saul Lopez, Trevor Nichols, Mason Orem, Cameron Proudfoot, Katie Spivey, Karver Wilkins and Brooklynn Wilson. Good luck, all!

Pizza is back! What a tribute to Drew Brannon's grandfather, Bob DeSpain: "DeSpain Pizza" opened on Feb. 8, Bob's birthdate. Good luck, Brannons!

Did you mark your calendar? This Saturday at 4 p.m. at the Heppner Elementary all-purpose building, the Inland Northwest Orchestra will present a free concert.

Good news? Just in time for St. Pat's weekend in Heppner, ODOT seems to have created a hot pink and white conglomeration of lines, letters, and numbers on the highway-Main Street in preparation for a future bit of work planned for this summer. So, our one-of-a-kind shamrock intersection will be sharing space on Main Street. Too bad the additions couldn't at least be in green and white.

Spread your happy moments farther by contributing to "Good News Only." An email to [dbrosnan123@gmail.com](mailto:dbrosnan123@gmail.com) or call to 541-223-1490 will do it.

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

**State surveyors make their mark on local towns**



Surveyors work on Main Street in Heppner as part of a larger ODOT project that includes altering sidewalk wheelchair ramps. -Photo by Andrea Di Salvo

Survey crews were working in Heppner last week in preparation for a planned re-do of sidewalk wheelchair ramps. Heppner City Manager Kraig Cutsforth said it's not a city project, but rather part of a statewide Oregon Dept. of Transportation (ODOT) plan, so all of Morrow County's towns can expect surveyors and work crews if they haven't had them already.

The work doesn't affect any of the city's current or future projects in a big way. Cutsforth did say the city had altered some of its past plans, such as the work on Chase and May streets, to accommodate the state's new plans. Others have been put on a back burner to make sure time and many spent won't be wasted by being wiped out by changes the state chooses to make later.

Most of the changes will be slight, affecting only the grade on the ramps. Some will be major reconstructions, such as altering

the intersection at Quaid and Main to provide better visibility and safer sidewalk travel.

Cutsforth said he's been told more crews will be back in town in the near future—though hopefully not the week of Wee Bit O' Ireland.

According to the ODOT website, the Umatilla/Morrow County portion of the project is estimated to cost nearly \$12.5 million, with \$444,062 spent to date and an estimated completion date of November 2023. The Gazette reached out to ODOT but has not received word on when actual work might begin in South Morrow.

**Senior bake sale big success**



Trevor Nichols shows off some goodies for the senior class cake auction held during the weekend's basketball games. Along with a 50/50 raffle, this helped to raise more than \$5,000 for the class. Seniors and their families say they're grateful for the community support. -Photo by Tylynn Cimmityotti

**Barbershop to sponsor chili cookoff**

Faded Joe's Barbershop will hold a "Wee Bit o' Chili" chili cookoff on Saturday, March 18, during the Wee Bit O' Ireland celebration in Heppner. All proceeds will go to Tupper

Outdoor School. Cooking will begin at 10 a.m. with judging from 12-1 p.m. Limited entries are available for teams of three. Contact Faded Joe's Barbershop for entry forms.

**Morrow County Republicans to meet this week**

The Morrow County Republicans (MCRP) will meet at 6 p.m. this Thursday, Feb. 23, at the Morrow County Government Building in Irrigon. Precinct committeepersons (PCPs) and anyone interested in the county Republican Party are encouraged to come and join the discussions.

MCRP will begin drafting a budget for 2023 and continue planning the 2023 fundraising event, as well as discussing presence at spring/summer community events.

PCP positions are open in Heppner, Lexington, Boardman and Irrigon. Individuals interested in one of these positions are encouraged to attend this meeting to learn about the positions. PCP appointments can be made during MCRP meetings.

The Republican Party is open to individuals interested in conservative ideals and values. The Republican Party platform can be found at <https://oregon.gov/>. For more information on the Morrow County Republican Party, contact

**Shrove Tuesday pancake supper planned**

On Tuesday, Feb. 22, Hopeful Saints Ministry will hold its annual Shrove Tuesday pancake supper from 5-8 p.m. at Hopeful Saints Parish Hall on the corner of Gale and Church Streets in Heppner. Gluten free pancake options will be available.

Besides pancakes, there will be ham, fruit, coffee, tea, juice and milk—all you can eat for \$15 for families, \$5 for adults and \$4 for children.

All proceeds will go to mission and outreach needs in local communities.

Please note:

**Murray's special hours**

Monday Feb 20th

Pharmacy Dept 2-6 pm only

Main store and Breaking Grounds 9-6

217 North Main St., Heppner, OR  
Phone 676-9158 Floral 676-9426  
[murraysdrug.com](http://murraysdrug.com)  
Hours: Mon-Fri 7am-6pm • Sat 8am-6pm • Sun 9am-2pm  
Pharmacy: Mon-Fri 9am-6pm

DELIGHTFULLY YUMMY

**VEGETARIAN & PLANT BASED COOKING CLASS**

7PM - Tuesday, February 28th

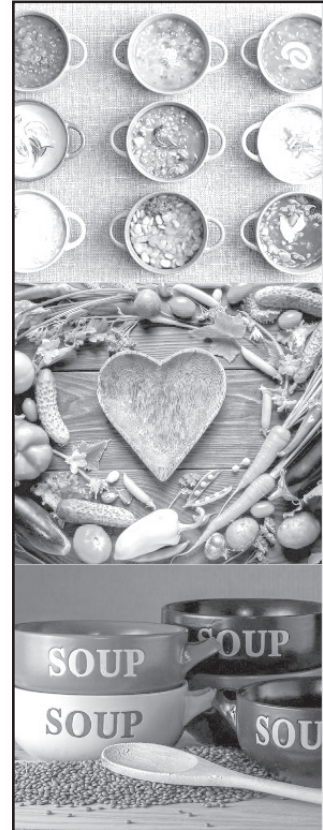
This month showcase is Soups

Free - All Welcome

Recipes & Samples at Class

This event will be shared live on Facebook @ Delightfully Yummy

Located & Hosted by Heppner SDA Church  
560 Minor Street, Heppner  
Questions (541)561-9132



**Welcome to the Circus**  
Exalted Ruler Wacy Coil & his wife, Kylie cordially invite you to the 126th Elks Annual  
Saturday February 18th, 2023  
Ladies Tea - 2pm  
Lodge - 3pm  
Dinner - 6pm  
turkey leg, corn on the cob, potato and salad  
Music, dancing and festivities to follow  
ADMISSION ONE  
BPOE #358  
142 N Main St  
Heppner, OR 97836  
BOOK YOUR SEAT AT 541-676-9181