

~ 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 \$15. Email to editor@rapidsolve.net or upload to Heppner.net.

To the Editor: Just Why?

I've been doing some serious thinking lately, trying to outrun the big black cloud overhead...and it's gaining on me. Seems like I spend much of my day just shaking my head, thinking "Why? Just why?"

How do you deal with the craziness...hatred from complete strangers, and violence against the innocent? How do you deal with liars who have no conscience, especially when they're the ones in authority? How do you deal with friends who can't see the cliff they're heading towards, even though you've done your best to point it out?

Our American society used to have a conscience. The Bible was the gold standard, and the Ten Commandments were the code we sought to live by and raise our kids by. They were used to measure our actions and our behaviors. Even those who didn't follow them knew they should. There was hope of heaven and fear of hell.

That was before we left the God of the Bible and created our own. Our new god is one of convenience....one that morphs into whatever works best for us at the moment. He's a god of no consequence.... because he always agrees with us.

So, we have people doing evil things and others calling it righteous. We have people believing lies and repeating them with no thought or reasoning. We have people hating others just because it's fashionable. We have people shrugging their shoulders and calling it all politics. And we have people saying

we need to "do something". Agreed. But what? We air our gripes, post and repost on social media (and letters to the editor), and we give a frown or a thumbs up. We basically pat each other on the back and preach to the choir. Great for confidence-building but not so effective in making change. And it does little to hold the appropriate feet to the fire.

There's talk of civil war. Some are prepping, gearing up, and heading for the hills. But there's a huge gap between airing our opinions on Facebook and taking the kind of action that changes the course of history.

For a long time, our vote has been our voice. But I have sincere doubts about our voting system these days. Can we keep the cheaters at bay to find out what the majority of us choose?

What is the answer? I think whatever action we take to make a change needs to begin on our knees. I believe in a God who loves, listens, and is intimately involved in the fate of our country. And I believe he's waiting to hear from us. Our complacency toward the evil in this country has gotten us here. It needs to stop. No governmental edict, no mask, no mob, no circumstance whatsoever, and no amount of evil can keep us from praying. That's where we need to start.

"Unless the LORD builds a house, the work of the builders is wasted. Unless the LORD protects a city, guarding it with sentries will do no good." Psalm 127:1

Susie Crosby
Prineville, OR

Columbia Basin Electric announces rate increase

Columbia Basin Electric has announced an average rate increase of 1.6 percent for electricity. According to a CBEC news release, Bonneville Power Administration (BPA), will be doubling the cost of TIER 2 power (\$32MW to \$64MW) in October 2023, which Columbia Basin Electric relies on for all "load growth."

"The utility industry has been hit hard by inflation and material shortages," said the release. Effective for the October billing, an average rate increase of 1.6 percent, affecting most rate classes, was approved by the Columbia Basin Electric Board of Directors. "The increase is part of an ongoing strategy that is intended to ensure that rates are tied more closely to the cost of providing electricity. The rate increases are based on a Cost-of-Service Analysis (COSA) that was completed in August," according to CBEC.

"The cost of essential items like wire, meters, and

transformers has increased by 200-800 percent and lead times have gone from months to a year or more. As a result, nationwide electrical rates were up an average of over 14 percent last year," said CBEC.

"Columbia Basin continues to strive to serve our members by providing reliable electric service at the lowest cost possible," said the CBEC release. For more information, contact Columbia Basin Electric at 541-676-9146.

A View From The Hill

By Doris Brosnan

Dorothy Green's news is impossible to top, since only about one in every 5,000 people in the United States is a centenarian, and Dorothy joined that group last weekend with her party at Willow Creek Terrace. Whatever Dorothy attributes her longevity to, many neighbors view her great condition as something to aspire to.

No more birthdays to celebrate on the Hill this month, but there will be the periodic celebrations of particular foods, which will add some sparks to the weekly menus - which still feature some fresh produce from the Terrace's garden. And speaking of menus, the Terrace continues to search for another cook, so foodies and gourmets might want to swing by the Terrace to learn more about the position.

Before lunch on October 15 and 22, Kathy Turner will bring some sixth-grade students to entertain with their piano and singing performances. Staff and residents are looking forward to those.

This month's Wednesday afternoon craft workshop will feature door décor with a fall motif. This activity will begin the day after the interested residents are taken to the St. Patrick's Senior Center downtown for their free flu shots and lunch, receiving some protection from the yearly flu bug and enjoying a social outing in one trip.

An activity that will stimulate imaginations and create some fun in the spirit of Halloween will occur on Oct. 26, when each resident will receive a bag of five items that can be worn, and the results revealed at the cocktail hour will probably bring some ooh's and aah's and lots of laughs.

As Halloween brings October to an end, the community on the Hill will be looking forward to visits from wee ghosts, goblins, and assorted scary and cute creatures who venture up for some treats - no tricks.

Joining the staff in time for this month's weekly routine and extra-special activities are three new caregivers. Jazmin Haak has taken the position of resident care associate director, which means that she will be working with Leann Lankford by handling the medical component of the administrative position while Leann focuses more on the business requirements. Angelina Hammons has come from Hermiston to join the staff. And the third new face belongs to Tracie Diehl. All three women have "hit the floor running," so to speak, eager to meet everyone and get immersed in the daily life at the Terrace.

They have joined everyone in getting out the welcome mat for JoAnne Bursleson, who plans to move to the Terrace this weekend. JoAnne, a Heppner resident for almost thirty years, knows many of the new-to-her neighbors, who view her move-in with them as a nice addition to the as-busy-as-you-want-to-be life at Willow Creek Terrace.

SCC releases honor roll

Spokane Community College lists 487 students on its honor roll for the 2023 Summer quarter, which ended in August. The honor roll lists those students who achieved a grade point average of 3.0 or above.

SCC is one of two community colleges within the Community Colleges of Spokane district. It is known for its programs in career and technical training as well as its apprenticeship programs, but it also offers associate degrees including those that are transfer-ready for those going into universities. Five other locations in rural areas of northeastern Washington, and a program in the Airway Heights Correctional Center.

Patience Kannah, Carlos Meza, both Irrigon.

Community Colleges of Spokane is a 12,300-square-mile state community college district that includes Spokane Community College, Spokane Falls Community College and six rural education sites. CCS offers high-quality academic transfer, career-technical and eLearning degree and certificate programs; business and community

training; and adult literacy programs throughout northeastern Washington, enrolling approximately 34,000 students a year," according to a news release.

Good News Only by Doris Brosnan

When Tyler and Lindsey Boyer were expecting their first baby, Bridger, seven months ago, plans for a baby shower were interrupted time and again. So, on September 20, Bridger Boyer enjoyed an evening of meet-n-greet with his parents' friends and friends of Grandpa John and Grandma Kelly Boyer at the Broken Spoke. Guests enjoyed a light dinner and dessert, and the main attraction was the passing around of the guest of honor. True to the report from Kelly and from another grandmother, Jean McKnight, Bridger was the perfect little person who enjoyed the attention. After some months at home with their new guy, Tyler will return to his job with Community Counseling Solutions and Lindsey will begin a new job.

John and Kelly Boyer had recently returned from Boise before the evening with Bridger. They had been able to attend grandson Cole's first football game as a seventh grader. Fans in the stands also included Cole's mother, Brooke, and brother, Evan.

Some readers will remember "back in the day" when pinochle players were plentiful, as were weekly or monthly pinochle parties. Doesn't seem to be true now. But this writer was able to eventually, after many phone calls and groveling, get together eight players for an afternoon of pinochle last Thursday. At least half of the players had to dust off the memory banks to remember the how-to's!

What an astounding woman! "Amazing" Dorothy Green celebrated her 100th birthday with friends and family at the Willow Creek Terrace last Saturday. Pretty impressive, Dorothy! We now look forward to 101!

Ione and Heppner school students will be the beneficiaries of the successful dinners and auctions held in the past two weeks by the respective booster clubs. Hats off to the planners, workers, diners and bidders for their great support of the school activities.

Always looking for upbeat news items, some Gazette-Times readers will be happy when you contribute your tidbits, so how about adding by sending those to dbrosnan123@gmail.com or calling them to 541-223-1490. Easy peasy.

Hope good news comes to everyone reading this column.



BUCKNUM'S TAVERN
146 N Main Street
Heppner
541-676-5274

Lunch & Dinner

Specials 10/5-10/11

Thursday - spicy chicken burger with fries \$9
Friday - meatball marinara sub with chips \$9
Saturday - tomato soup and extra cheesy grilled ham & cheese sandwich \$9
Monday - kielbasa with sauerkraut and fries \$9
Tuesday - chopped turkey wrap with cream cheese, tomato, and lettuce and a side of Macaroni salad for \$9
Tuesday night - 6-9pm \$2 hard shell tacos
Wednesday - cheeseburger casserole and corn for \$9 or \$7 for seniors

RANCHERS AND FARMERS

It's Renewal SEASON

See Amber and Shane for **Operating Lines, Equipment and Farmland Purchases**



AMBER SCHLAICH
270 N. Main Street
Heppner
(541) 676-9125
Ag/Commercial Loan Officer



SHANE LAZINKA
280 Main Street
Jone
(541) 422-7466
Ag/Commercial Loan Officer



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541-676-9228

Morrow County is holding a FREE Hazardous Waste event so you may take some of these items: Used oil, Oil filters, Spent Antifreeze, Automotive Batteries, Alkaline & rechargeable batteries, Propane tanks (smaller than 25 gal), Roof and Asphalt patch, Adhesives, Glues and Contact cement, Caulk sealers and Joint Compounds, Lawn and Garden Chemicals, Fertilizers, Pool chemicals, Household cleaners (bleach, ammonia, furniture polish, toilet bowl cleaners, carpet shampoos), sludge (soil contaminated with oil), mercury thermometers, florescent lamps, all types of aerosol cans, Used cooking oil, road flares, PCB ballasts, Organic peroxides (hardening agents).






HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE


JOIN US OCTOBER 21ST, 2023 and get rid of the HAZARDOUS WASTE lurking in or around your home!

EVENT: 10/21/2023 BETWEEN 9AM-12PM at the North-End Transfer Station

North-End Station
69900 Frontage Lane
Boardman, OR 97818

We appreciate your continued efforts in helping to keep our county clean!

 If you have any questions and/or concerns please let us know by emailing spointer@co.morrow.or.us or calling (541) 989-9500.