

~ 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.

TURKEY TRIALS

I've known a few turkeys in my life. Even dated a few (rarely successfully). So the idea of creating a home for them (the Thanksgiving kind) on my little acreage took a bit of thought. I needed some questions answered before I attempted their care and containment. What do they eat? Are they kind to chickens and farm ladies? Do they really have a single digit IQ, and do they really drown in the rain? Since turkey-keepers were in short supply in my area, I received very little help with my search. Most folks were of the opinion that the birds were not worth messing with. They could only regurgitate a most unkind description of "Dumbest Creatures on Earth?". Not one to encourage these sorts of disparaging remarks, I would answer "But maybe they aren't ALL like that. Maybe it's a small percentage. I mean, what if that's just one particular family of turkeys from the shallow end of the gene pool giving the whole species a bad rap?" These comments usually elicited looks of pity. Seems I've gotten those looks before, quite possibly back in my dating years.

So, I began planning my Turkey Farm. I put my money on the fact that everyone deserves a chance and they all can't be that stupid. I would start small and work my way up to supplying the whole town with their Thanksgiving turkeys. I figured about 400 birds would suffice since it's just a once-a-year gig. After hearing the general public's opinion on raising the Dumbest Creatures on Earth, I believed the chance of losing my cash crop to any fierce competitors was slim.

Now the search was on. Since most turkeys don't come with degrees or even diplomas, I had to go with what was available and hope for the Brightest and The Best. Before long, I was the proud owner of two Toms and one hen. I would sharpen my turkey-raising skills on these lucky birds and quickly expand my flock to the planned 400. The next few weeks and months were filled with excitement and anticipation as my little flock grew. Though the "ugly duckling" stage seemed to last a little longer than my other poultry breeds...quite a bit longer actually...they finally became fully feathered and began making those endearing turkey sounds we're all familiar with. They gobbled in the morning. They gobbled at night. In fact, turned

out they rarely DIDN'T gobble. It appeared Tom and his sidekick Jerry were really the talkers. Trixy was a bit stoic. The boys tried so hard to get her attention, strutting their stuff as often as they could just to catch her eye. They would puff out their chests, do their gobble thing, which I'm sure is the equivalent to our human mating call "Hey baby....watch this", and wait for her eager response. Sadly, their efforts returned null and void. She was not impressed. I'm sure they were quite perplexed at her lack of enthusiasm. If only they had a mirror. What she saw, but they didn't, was that the beautiful array of feathers they thought were on display had been whittled down to almost nothing by a couple turkey-chasing cow dogs. Little did they know that they each had been robbed of all but one lonely feather. Yes....one. The sight of those turkeys strutting their stuff, only to find out their "stuff" had gone from Harley to Moped was bit painful to watch.

So, was my adventure a success? Success is a relative term. Some people view any attempt at conquering a new skill as success, whether that particular skill is mastered or not. Sometimes, things like turkey farms or relationships just aren't meant to be. And, just to answer the looming question, and though nobody drowned under my care, yes....they really are that stupid.

By Susie Crosbey from Prineville

"A Veterans Thank You"

I would like to publicly thank Heppner High School (HHS) for another wonderful job in honoring local Veterans at the Celebration on November 9th. My family has served in combat units in the US Army for three consecutive generations (WWII, Vietnam, Afghanistan), so as Veterans we do understand the sacrifice of service to this nation. Principal Gerry, your students were very polite, and respectful, and asked good questions about what it means to be a Veteran. I would like to publicly recognize Jeannie Collins for her tireless support in orchestrating this event again, and her work is most appreciated by all who attended. Thanks also to Ken Grieb for his "roll call" duties, and Mr. Mike McCabe who spoke

eloquently on his own military experiences that I'm sure other soldiers in the audience could relate to. The HHS Chorus and their selection of patriotic songs were outstanding this year and of course, the luncheon served by the students is always a highlight for Veterans and their guests.

As a former HHS graduate, I'm proud to live in a community whose local high school takes the time each year to remember and honor all those who serve and have served. Please know how much it is really appreciated.

Chris Brown
Heppner Oregon

The Neighborhood Centers' Giving Tree and Kids' Shopping Day

This is our favorite time of the year for the Neighborhood Center. This is the time when our communities come together to give to others so they can have a wonderful Christmas.

The Giving Tree will be decorated at Heppner Market Fresh the day after Thanksgiving.

The ornaments on the tree will be gift suggestions for those on the Neighborhood Center's list of families who qualify for food baskets. Children from these families have chosen a need and a wanted gift. Often these are clothes, furniture, or a toy. These are all anonymous gifts from our generous communities.

If you would like to give a child, up to the age of 18 still living at home, please take an ornament from the tree and fulfill the requests. Bring the wrapped gifts to the Neighborhood Center by December 18th. The Neighborhood Center staff will give the gifts to the families. Please include the ornaments with your gifts. If your family, work group, church or civic

organization would like to adopt a family please let the Neighborhood Center know as soon as possible so we can match you to a family.

Another event for our client families is The Kid's Shopping Day. This activity helps the children in these families to experience giving Christmas gifts to their siblings and parents. This is different this year as the shopping will be at the St. Patrick's Senior Center. High school students will help arrange the gift choices and clean the dining hall after the event. This year's Shopping Day will be December 10th between 10:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. Times for families will be by prearranged appointment.

If your family is on our client list, return your applications to the Neighborhood Center by November 16, 2023. If you want to contribute to these events, please bring donations to the Neighborhood Center by December 8th. New gifts and monetary donations are always welcome.

Giving tree goes up in Les Schwab



Giving Tree - Contributed Photo

The holiday season brings with it numerous opportunities for the residents to come together and spread Christmas cheer to those less fortunate. One such way to contribute to the spirit of giving is through the giving trees located at Heppner Les Schwab. This is the fourth year for the giving tree at Heppner Les Schwab. While many Les Schwab locations participate in toy drives, the Heppner branch partners with

the Department of Human Services (DHS) to provide Christmas gifts for children in foster care in the county. Those wishing to provide a gift or two can pick a tag off the tree and then return the unwrapped gift to Les Schwab. DHS staff will collect the gifts, wrap them, and distribute them to foster children in Morrow County. The tree will be put up right after Thanksgiving and will be available until the 12th of December.



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This house is ready to go. Recently updated windows, kitchen and bathroom. Heat on demand water heater, new paint, fridge, washer, dryer and dishwasher. Large back yard. Within walking distance of the Heppner pool, high school and softball field. 485 W Morgan St. MLS#: 23328135



A beautifully remodeled 2-story home in Heppner. This spacious residence boasts approx 2,400 square feet of space, featuring 3 bedrooms and 2.5 bathrooms. This house has undergone extensive renovations, with almost everything being brand new. New dry wall, paint, flooring, bathrooms, kitchen, water heater, windows. 510 S Main St. Heppner MLS#: 23687525



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For sale: Prime commercial lot on Main Street, Heppner, Oregon. Property presents a golden opportunity to establish your presence in a vibrant community. Embrace the potential and seize this chance to make your mark in Heppner, Oregon. Act now and turn your visions into reality. Main St MLS#: 23022056



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