

~ 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@rapidservice.net or upload to Heppner.net.

**FAIRY TALES**

When I was a kid, I had a bit of a love-hate relationship with fairy tales. On one hand, what little girl (and more.... apparently, these days) doesn't love the thought of going to a ball in a sparkly dress and wearing magic shoes? Or who doesn't want to wake up to a handsome prince after hanging with a bunch of funny-looking short dudes? But I have questions. I mean that prince was taking a pretty big risk with Cinderella's shoe. And seriously, Snow White..... did it even cross your mind to wash an apple given to you by some gross old lady? And don't get me started on Hansel and Gretel. I mean ....Diabetes? Hello? Some fairy tales are still being told today....like "Our Borders are Secure" and "Our Economy is Great". Those are good ones. Well, this time of year, the baby Jesus is getting some attention. Joseph, Mary, shepherds, and some wise men are too. I've seen some beautiful Nativity Scenes and I love the fact that folks are actually giving Jesus some thought. But I wonder.... how many put Him away with the Christmas lights and don't think of Him again until next year? So, is the whole Joseph and Mary traversing afar thing a fairy tale? Do they deserve the same billing as Santa and his elves? If you do a little research, I bet you'll find out there was a real, "historical" Jesus who walked the earth, was born in Bethlehem, raised in Nazareth, performed miracles, and had thousands of followers in short order. His birth announcement even made a sitting king so nervous that he proclaimed an edict that cost a lot of baby boys their lives. That evil king took the threat of the Jewish "king" seriously. The fact that the disciples died for their faith in Him speaks volumes to me. While you may die for a lie that you don't KNOW is a lie, nobody dies for a lie they know is a lie. All those men had to do was say "wait...I was wrong" and they could have most likely saved their lives. But they knew the truth. They knew Jesus. And they knew their suffering and their death would be worth it. There are plenty of accounts other than the Bible that speak to the truth of the real Jesus... and that he was who He claimed to be. Yes....and they never found the body of the "man on the middle cross". If you think it's all a little far-fetched...think of

this. Have you ever seen an atom? Are there things that exist that you have never seen with your naked eye? Do you need proof that they exist or do you take it by faith because you can see and feel the results of their existence? So, you can look for all the proof you want, or you can pray to the one that made a huge stir 2000 years ago and changed the world. Ask Him to reveal Himself to you. You'll be surprised at what you find. It will change your heart.... and your life. "You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart." Jeremiah 29:13

By Susie Crosbey from Prineville

**Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.**

As a young man, my political ideology was molded in the 1980's when President Ronald Reagan (Republican) and Speaker of the House Tip O'Neal (Democrat) would joust with their words and thoughts for America.

Every day it would play out on the evening news...conviction with civility.

History later told how these two leaders, after work hours, would sit down and just plain talk. They grew to become friends. While their political visions could not have been more different, they shared a common love: America.

For way too many folks, 2023 has been a year of anxiety, tension and dis-sension. Neighbor upset with neighbor. "Us versus them." For those who perceive that they have been wronged, wrath cannot come quickly enough. Recall, ethics complaints, gossip and unseemly social media posts unfortunately will be part of our collective history.

Let's change this in 2024.

Let's be slow to accept gossip. Let's seek to understand, then to be understood. Let's commit ourselves to sitting down and having a conversation with those with different views.

A good joust with words and thoughts is healthy. Let's do it with conviction and civility.

Representative Greg Smith  
District 57

**BMCC Honor Roll fall term 2023-24**

Pendleton - Blue Mountain Community College fall term 2023-2024 honor roll recognition went to the following full-time students:

President's List for Morrow County: 3.75 - 4.0 GPA:

Cindy Agripino, Jessica Altamirano, Wyatt Browne, Chad Doherty, Sanyana Felipe, Chanel Gonzales, Jasper Hardy, Samantha Howard, Tony Jimenez, Trinidad Mendoza, Belen Ponce, Caelyn Pullen, Eri-

ka Rodriguez Coria, Humberto Sanchez, Victoria Schenk, Cynthia Wenberg, and Mayra Wightman.

Vice President's List for Morrow County: 3.5 to 3.74:

Ana Barajas, Lainey Claybrook, Audrey Guenther, Sadie Hasbell, Karensa Jones, Jacob Lentz, Juliana Magana, Juliet Montes, Ivonne Navarro, Noah Reaves, and Sariah Thomas.

Vice Presidents List for Gilliam County: 3.5 to 3.74  
Grace Claugton

**Good News Only** by Doris Brosnan

One minister asked at a Christmas celebration, "What did you GIVE this Christmas?" A question to which many people have lengthy answers: While respecting their wishes to remain anonymous, we can still shout out a "Hats off to you!" to the thoughtful individuals who extend helping hands to others by contributing financially to their expenses at Columbia Basin, City of Heppner, Market Fresh, Murray's, Les Schwab, Grain Growers.... It IS a wonderful world of kind people! The Heppner FFA Backpack Program provides backpacks "filled with non-perishable, child-friendly and nutritious food to children who are food insecure. The backpack is discretely distributed to students before weekends and school holidays so that children who have their nutritional needs met through other programs, such as the National School Lunch Program, do not go hungry when those resources are not available." This Christmas, the students added RAKs (random acts of kindness) to about half of their thirty backpack families, families "who could use a little extra cheer and support" by providing hams or turkeys and all the fixin's and presents to give them a little pick-me-up. Family members may not realize that their greatest gift to their parents and grandparents is their presence, more than their presents. The gift of time together. And the little ones do not realize what a gift their entertaining enthusiasm is! As heard in the midst of one gathering of four generations: "Wow! Everyone is here!" .... "Yes, and we haven't even had an argument!" Diana Ball was one such fortunate mom/grandma/friend who celebrated Christmas with a full house, with son Duane's family - he, wife Stephanie, daughter Alison, and sons Carter and Jacob and friend Gabby - daughter Andrea Fletcher's family - she, husband Andy, and sons Casey and Cody - and friends from Moses Lake, Dave and Diana Dollahide. This writer's holiday celebration is an extended one, as the Salem family came last Friday to celebrate until Sunday, and the other family plans to come to Heppner for a brief stay on Saturday. In the meantime, gracious friends, the Clements and Harrisons, extended a dinner invitation for Christmas Day. On the other hand, Claudia Hughes is hoping that her daughter, granddaughter, and sister did not get her cough as a gift when they were with her and Merlin for Christmas. Jan Stroeber reports that her family had a wonderful Christmas, "but oh, the house is so quiet this morning!" (A statement often heard about town after families head back home.) And her wish to the GT readers is for a "happy new year; hope that it is loaded with good health and fun times." Nancy Anderson says that she and Allen spent Christmas in Elgin at her son's with all three of her kids and their families. Great to all be together! "Woke up to snow on Tuesday morning." Claudia and Merlin Hughes had a surprise phone call from Portland on Tuesday morning, from a couple who live in the home that William and Kathleen Hughes - Merlin's great grandparents, Irish ancestors who first settled in Heppner in the late 1800's - built in Portland a few years before the Heppner 1903 Flood. Merlin and Claudia first discovered this house with only an old photo and a phone call from a friend. When next in Portland, they found the house with "Hughes" in front, in concrete with carriage tie-downs for horses. "So, bravely we climbed the many steps to the front door and knocked. (It took some doing to convince Merlin to knock on a stranger's door, but so worth it!) We have enjoyed staying in contact with the couple who invited us in and had been researching all the past owners." The Mrs. said we were an answer to her prayers! "There was even a picture of the Hughes family on the landing of the curved stairway, which included Merlin's dad when he was a little boy." Good News to share? It only takes a couple of minutes: [dbrosnan123@gmail.com](mailto:dbrosnan123@gmail.com) or call 541-223-1490. Here's hoping that good news comes to everyone reading this!

**\$380,000**



**9.09 ACRES**

Secluded mountain property! Don't miss out on this incredible opportunity to own your own mountain property. Whether you're looking for a hunting retreat or a permanent residence, this property has it all. With approximately 9.09 acres of land and a private pond you can embrace the beauty of nature and create a life of serenity in the mountains you've always desired. MLS#:23510132

**\$26,000**



**Lot For Sale**

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

**SYKES REAL ESTATE**

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**Broker**  
**Chris Sykes**  
541-215-2274



**Sheriff's Report**

**MCSO Nov 5**-Officers were advised of a Burglary occurring on Se Thomas Ave in Irrigon, the reporting party advised at least 5 people in his attic that managed to get through a crawl space, reporting party requested contact.

-Officers received a request for a welfare check for the reporting party's husband, occurring on Wagon Wheel loop in Irrigon. The reporting party left the home after they began fighting and the male was throwing things in the home, she is worried about what he may do. There were no weapons in the home and make has never had any suicidal tendencies, she is just worried not feeling comfortable to return at the moment. MCSO responded.

-Officers received a

request for a welfare check occurring on Alpine Ln/ Bombing Range Rd, in Lexington. The reporting party states there was an older female walking on Alpine Ln carrying a number of bags. Female appears to be gesturing as if she was talking to herself. She was wearing bright pink t-shirt and blue jeans with blonde hair. MCSO responded.

-Officers were advised of a burglary occurring at Vadata Pdx 178 on Bombing Range Rd in Boardman. The reporting party is one of the amazon security guards and came across a kicked in door on site. The reporting party can see some footprints inside and is requesting a deputy responds to help him walk through it. MCSO and BPD responded.

**SYKES REAL ESTATE**

**Broker**  
**Chris Sykes**  
541-215-2274




**\$395,000**

**NEW LISTING**

Discover peace and seclusion on this expansive forty-acre parcel boasting a fully functional two-bedroom, one-bathroom cabin. Embrace the breathtaking views of the mountains from the upper level's reverse living 640 square foot great room. In the summer, explore the property's ATV trails, while in the winter, delight in t snowmobiling or sledding with access to thousands of acres of National Forest Land located at the property's corner. LOP tags may be available for hunting enthusiasts, or simply relish in the opportunity to observe the abundant wildlife that frequently visits the property, including elk, deer, bear, and turkey. Enjoy the convenience of a private well with a backup valve-filled cistern, two natural springs, electricity, and internet access, ensuring utmost comfort and connectivity.  
80439 Black Mountain Ln Heppner  
MLS#:23425595

**\$275,000**



**375 W Union Ave, Heppner**

**NEW LISTING**

This single family home, spanning 1641 square feet, boasts a spacious dining room and living room along with a family room 3 bedrooms, 1.5 bathrooms and lots of storage. Situated in a peaceful neighborhood, it is conveniently located close to the swimming pool, high school, baseball park, and downtown area. The property sits on a large lot with street access, with lots of parking and also features a shop. Large covered deck, patio and a carport. The total land area is 0.25 Acres. MLS#: 23224220

**\$259,000**



**Price Reduction**

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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