

~ 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.

EMS

It looks like there's a chance my days in EMS may be over soon. Makes me sad. It's hard enough to make that choice when it's yours to make, even harder when it's being made for you. I don't pretend to know all the complexities of what's transpired between the "Powers That Be" in Morrow County concerning the ambulance service, but I can sure feel the effects, and it doesn't feel very good. I've been in EMS going on 14 years.... starting out as a driver and quickly learning I wanted to be in the back more than behind the wheel. That decision led to some interesting rides, and some rather rough ones. Have those midnight page outs and sleepless nights been worth it? Most definitely. As an EMTI in Gilliam County, then Boardman and Heppner for Morrow County, I've come away with some pretty awesome memories. Listening to my First Responder son sing a Bing Crosby song to an elderly patient who said it made the trip worthwhile. Singing Christmas Carols in July to a terminal patient at her sister's request. Visiting a 35-year-old patient that you and your daughter successfully resuscitated a few days earlier and seeing the gratefulness in his wife's eyes. Those were the moments I'll never forget. There are also some memories that will stick with me that sometimes I wish wouldn't. The look on a man's face when he realizes his wife is gone and

all you're doing for her now is in vain. The knowledge that the young boy you've just handed over to Life Flight will be told very soon that his mom didn't make it. The motorcycle rider that didn't make the corner but the music he was listening to moments before still plays on. And there is nothing that hits you harder than watching the faces of your fellow EMS crew dealing with the loss of one of your own. Those things change you. They've changed me....and I hope the changes remain. I never want to lose my appreciation for "normal life". Or for those times when things work, it all comes together, people get better, and you come back to the station knowing you've made a difference. It seems like there are so many things in this life that have questionable value. How many times we wonder if what we're doing is worth the time and effort. But, for me, when I'm in the back of the ambulance....I know that I know....it's a good thing to do. I will miss that. It's hard to move on from something that's been such a huge part of your life, and I pray I don't have to. I really hope that those decision-makers who have the power to make or break our local ambulance service listen to those on the ground floor, including the people we serve. Heppner has a great EMS crew. What a shame to ruin something so good for no good reason.

By Susie Crosby
Prineville, OR

Joint meeting held Jan. 10th

A joint meeting of the city of Boardman council, Morrow County Board of Commissioners, and the Port of Morrow Commission agenda Wednesday, January 10, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. Port of Morrow Riverfront Center 2 Marine Drive, Boardman. This meeting is being conducted with public access in-person and virtually in accordance with Oregon Public Meeting Law. If remote access to this meeting experiences technical difficulties or is disconnected and there continues to be a quorum of the council present, the meeting will continue. The meeting

location is accessible to persons with disabilities. Individuals needing special accommodations such as sign language, foreign language interpreters, or equipment for the hearing impaired must request such services at least 48 hours prior to the meeting. To make your request, please contact Brandy Warburton at 541-481-7678 or brandyw@portofmorrow.com Zoom Meeting Information <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81973120463?pwd=eKw4TUduRj-d0ZDZHNHRZNFBSbnVOdz09> Meeting ID: 819 7312 0463 Passcode: 174029



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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Good News Only by Doris Brosnan

Good to know: The Neighborhood Center is open four days a week, Monday through Thursday, "at least for now." The hours are also shorter than they had been now, 10:00 to 3:00. This is because of a shortage of volunteers at the Center. That situation and the shortage of space means that donations – except for food for the pantry – are not presently accepted. (The increased need for food donations results from the diminished deliveries from CAPECO.) Volunteers from the Center will be guest speakers on Tuesday, January 16, at the senior luncheon.

Also, good to know: The cost of a first-class postage stamp will increase by two cents – to 68 cents – on January 21. Time remains to buy "forever" stamps at today's price of 66 cents each before the increase goes into effect.

The local library is offering a "Virtual Reading Challenge" this month. Though it started on the first, plenty of time remains to log in reading time and complete some activities that can earn badges and chances to win prizes. To participate, "simply log into your Beanstack account to register or visit otld.org to create a Beanstack account." Then you can track your reading progress and have fun with activities. "Don't miss this opportunity to challenge yourself, have fun, and win exciting prizes," is the message at otld.org.

Who is the person at the Heppner City Manager desk in City Hall?! Actually, not a body snatcher, not a new manager hired without citizen knowledge. During the recent holidays, John Doherty, Heppner City Manager, shaved his distinctive – handlebar? – mustache, so his new clean-shave-look might take some getting used to.

Love was in the lone air as 2023 stepped aside for 2024: Three couples celebrated their wedding anniversaries. On December 30, Wayne and Diane Hams had been married 61 years. Their celebration of their lone wedding had to be especially low-key because Diane was down with a cold, leaving Wayne to cook the anniversary dinner. Allen and Nancy Anderson celebrated their 18th anniversary with dinner out on December 31, reminiscing about their lone wedding. Buzz and Annette Logan were married 50 years ago in Reno on December 31. His two sisters and a brother-in-law were with them that day, but this anniversary found the two of them enjoying their togetherness alone and content with an exchange of "Happy anniversary!"

Sharon Rietmann reports that she maintains brief daily diaries, accumulating them for a year or two before disposing of them. Recently the lone Community Church attendance record brought her attention to her past two years' entries, which confirmed that she and Harold have not missed a Sunday service in two years! (She modifies that report to "a weekend service" because in 2022, the congregation held a Christmas Eve service, which fell on a Saturday, instead of a Sunday service.) On January 7, 2024, the Rietmanns began what could well be their third year in a row of uninterrupted attendance at the church they have attended since 1979.

Not a New Year's Resolution, but the fact of an upcoming trip east in the spring caused this writer to dust off a "Prime Time Fitness" videotape and start working on this body inactive since tennis season.... Is not fair that exercise leader on the video, Bev Harris, hasn't aged in these 25-30 years since our time together! And no, I do NOT agree when she says, "you have springs in your shoes!" Argh!!

More chuckles from Dennis O'Donnell: "May you live to be so old that your driving terrifies people." "Never leave home without a kiss, a hug, and an 'I love you.'" Then remove the dog hair from your mouth as you walk to the car."

dbrosnan123@gmail.com or 541-223-1490 will get your tidbit into the Good News Only, and it will cause many readers to smile. Here's hoping that good news comes to everyone reading this!

Farmer applicator class Jan. 25th and 30th

Oregon State University will conduct a Private Applicator Test Preparation Class on Wednesday, January 24th. The class, which will take place in the conference room of the Morrow County (OSU) Extension Office, will begin at 8:45 AM. Class will end at 2:00 PM. Please bring your own lunch or something to snack on. Water and coffee will be provided. Class content will include: (1) label comprehension, (2) drift, (3) application and calibration math, (4) insects and pollinators, (5) federal and state laws, and (6) safety. An abbreviated "practice test" and review will take place during the last hour of the class. Participants who already have a license

can take the class if they are interested in a "review." Licensed participants will receive three (3) ODA-approved core credits towards their recertification. A second class is an opportunity to acquire three (3) "other" (non-core), ODA-approved recertification credits. The second class will be offered on Tuesday, January 30th. The class will get started at 8:45 AM. It will conclude at 12:45 PM. Topics of discussion include details from: (1) pyrooxasulfone, metribuzin, and sulfentrazone labels, (2) drift, and (3) the potential for crop injury from application of soil residual chemistry. Please contact Larry (541.969.0580) if you would like to attend.

MC Marriage licenses

Licenses Issued On December 28, 2023, for Felicia Rene Cavan (40) from Hermiston OR, and Dale Jay Wilson (46) from Lexington OR
Licenses Issued On December 21, 2023, for Peter Michael Harris (47) and Sarah Kathleen Velasquez (50) both from Boardman. Licenses Issued On

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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

\$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

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