

~ 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.

Say something

What if the first time you heard a 12-year-old kid spout the F word in the grocery store, you stopped him and said "Hey there young man. You need to watch your language"? I can hear it now....."But it's none of my business". Well, what if we had made it our business way back when. I wonder how different things would be now. Maybe Mayberry wouldn't be so far off. Can you imagine someone walking down Main Street with their pants below their buttocks and their skivvies hanging out? I bet they would have been immediately escorted into a belt store. Aunt Bea would have been horrified. We need more Aunt Beas. But I fear the effective shock factor is behind us.

I know some parents don't give a hoot how their kids behave. They just take the path of least resistance, and it shows. But truth is, those kids interact with other human beings....and their behavior affects people in their path, one way or another. Yes, you can do everything "right" in raising your kids and still end up with a rebellious brat, but a good amount of parental effort usually pays off.... for everyone. Example: if and when one of my seven children ever got caught in a lie, I didn't brush it off. They were lucky to see their next birthday.....because credibility counts.

Remember the old saying "It takes a village"? A lot of truth in that. Society is a teacher. It can be a good one, or a bad one. It all depends on who remains silent. I just get the feeling we've been sitting on our moral behinds too long, and now we're reaping the consequences. Our silence and complacency have allowed a new "morality" to breed until our country is almost unrecognizable. Are we really that afraid of being confronted with "Get your hands off my uterus" and "It's my body, my choice"? Heaven forbid someone points out the fact that your hands are nowhere near her uterus and it's NOT her body being disassembled.

In our moral absence, we've allowed ourselves to be scammed into thinking "Reproductive Choice" isn't killing, and antisemitic rants are just "freedom of speech". And, of course, destroying others property is acceptable behavior if you're a college student. Meanwhile, quote the Bible and you're guilty of hate speech.

Speak up enough and someone might even hit you with the only Bible verse they know...."Judge not, lest ye be judged". I honestly wonder if Jesus were to turn a few tables today, people would be admonishing him for not being more tolerant. "Now remember Jesus....judge not...."

I can tell you what that verse DOESN'T mean. It doesn't mean we should just pretend like everything is good. And it DOESN'T mean we should let our schools' become cesspools, our borders become free-ways for sex traffickers and terrorists, our government become a sanctuary for liars and thieves, and our country become Communist China. So, speak up.... please.

"But even if you should suffer for righteous sake, you will be

blessed. Have no fear of them, nor be troubled...." 1 Peter 3:14

By Susie Crosby from Prineville, Or.

Response to- Commissioner Jeff Wenholz BOC letter

This letter is a response to Commissioner Jeff Wenholz BOC letter (G.T. 6/19/24). The G.T. quoted me (G.T. 6/12/24) giving due credit to Bobbi Childers and her staff for their "diligent, integrity driven staff for their unwavering commitment to the cause". What I actually wrote regarding our clerk and staff was kudos for their "diligence, integrity and plain old hard work on behalf of Morrow County." The issue in this recall is what best for Morrow County. Nearly 700 Morrow County registered voters signed a petition asking for a recall vote of our current BOC because they do not believe these Commissioners are doing what is best for Morrow County on every contentious issue: (nitrate well water contamination, ASA ambulance service, new Circuit Courthouse, Amazon tax abatement, transparency).

Wenholz and the BOC claim they are "following the law and legal processes and being prudent with taxpayer dollars." (G.T. 6/29/24) I contend they are using the law as a battering ram to dismantle the MCHD ambulance system as part of their Boardmen first agenda. This Morrow County ambulance system was one of the most highly rated in Oregon for nearly 30 years and that is a testament to Rusty Estes and over 60 EMT'S and Para Medics. The BOC Boardman first agenda claims no previous Morrow County Commissioners or OHA passed ASA plan has been "updated since 1998." (Wenholz, G.T. 6/19/24) Had Jeff Wenholz attended one of our five county BOC meetings in January and February he would have heard testimony and documents proving that is a falsehood.

The current BOC has been responsible to determine a site for the new Circuit Courthouse since January 2023. Eighteen months later, multiple public meetings and great controversy, Morrow County citizens still do not know where the new Courthouse will be. If it were up to Commissioner Wenholz the new Courthouse would be in Boardman (G.T. 6/12/24) and the BOC Boardman Agenda may well have been the reason for the 18 month delay.

The BOC Boardman Agenda has never been proactive regarding the County nitrate problem. "This is an issue that has been known about since 1990...did not occur overnight and will not be solved overnight." (Wenholz, G.T. 6/19/24) Had Wenholz attended any of the five city meetings he would have known the nitrate issue was most Morrow County citizens' number one priority, especially in the north end. In the face of a recall the current BOC is now claiming to make nitrate contamination a priority: Morrow County (Commission) "is

taking a leadership role in finding solutions (for nitrate contamination)" (G.T. 6/12/24).

The CREZ BOC Boardman Agenda is illustrated by the current contention in CREZ funding allocation. The Boardman Agenda has always dominated allocation of funds from CREZ. Sykes and Wenholz as current Board members of CREZ II always vote with Boardman and so has the Port of Morrow until John Murray and Kelly Doherty were elected. Wenholz claims "Morrow County would not be the beneficiary of the \$21.3 million that Amazon paid in property taxes in 2023...and does not include the about \$12 million they paid in Enterprise Zone fees last year." (Wenholz G.T. 6/19/24). Morrow County property taxes have increased every year since the first Amazon arrived. Our county energy requirements have skyrocketed 550 times. Each new Amazon complex requires the megawatts of 15,000 households. The electric rate payers fund the infrastructure for each new Amazon. Not only have Amazon property taxes not benefitted Morrow County taxpayers, the \$12 million tax abatement goes to special interest controlled by the Boardman Agenda. Only one of the

Amazons is in the city of Boardman and "very few of the CREZ business are in Boardman's jurisdiction." (Mike Gorman, G.T. 6/19/24) These Amazon data centers employ few technicians when complete and require excessive amounts of water and power that will end up costing Morrow County citizens unknown consequences. The Amazon tax

abatements are the driving force behind the Boardman Agenda and the current BOC.

Morrow County Citizens organization expects and will exhort the Governor, in a successful recall, to appoint Commissioners that will negotiate Amazon tax abatements to lower county property taxes, fund equally our cities especially with citizen water needs and finally attend to the needs of our aging schools, plus nitrate remediation, plus restore Morrow Counties Ambulance system.

One final issue that must be addressed by the Recall is the Wenholz/BOC giveaway of our industrial/agricultural property at the Columbia Development Authority. Why would Commissioner Wenholz and the BOC give away priceless industrial land that belongs to the citizens of Morrow County? This industrial land on I-82 and I-84, with railroad access and next to the second largest Port in Oregon, with proper innovation and technology could make Morrow and Umatilla county the industrial/manufacturing capital of Eastern Oregon. The Wenholz/BOC give away has no transparency. Jeff Wenholz as vice Chair of Umatilla Electric Company, who has the contract for power for the CDA, has a conflict of interest and is the subject of two UEC ethics investigations. Commissioner Wenholz as UEC Vice Chair. is required under a duty of loyalty to "Act only in the best interests of UEC and its members." (UEC Board requirements)

Now you know what "KEEP LOCAL CONTROL" really means. Stuart Dick Irrigon, Or

Good News Only by Doris Brosnan

A slow week for Good News?

This writer won a sort of "triple crown" plus one last week: 1) Trip with daughter and granddaughters to see the school in CA that the recent Salem graduate will attend. 2) Gathering with grandson and two families of grands to celebrate his earning an associate's degree at Linn-Benton. 3) And gathering with many families and friends to celebrate that granddaughter's high

school graduation.... And the "plus"? Bringing back to Heppner the "grand dog" from Salem, to spend a couple of weeks!

GT readers report enjoying the Good News tidbits. We also need to hear from readers who enjoy sharing if we are to continue. Sharing is as easy as sending to dbrosnan123@gmail.com or calling 541-223-1490. Here's hoping that good news comes to everyone reading this!

Schlaichs debut on The Cowboy Channel

-Continued from PAGE ONE



Jaylee and Kinsley Schlaich pose for a picture with Emma Cameron, Miss Rodeo America. -Photo Contributed

professionals, and even got their autographs. The day she competed on The Cowboy Channel was also her parents' 10th wedding anniversary, making it an extra special day.

In the coming years, Jaylee will be aiming to qualify for the KK Run for Vegas during the NFR

Convention. Amber expressed her gratitude to everyone who made the Young Guns competition possible. Despite the challenges, the family is supported by Jaylee's dad, and Kinsley is eager to follow in her sister's footsteps. She even joked about stealing Jaylee's horse to be on TV someday!

The Cowboy Channel is dedicated to Western sports and lifestyle, showcasing rodeo events, country music, ranching, and cowboy culture. It's available on various cable, satellite providers, and streaming services, celebrating the traditions of the American West.

DEADLINE: MONDAYS AT 5PM

Ladies WCCC June 18th Golf Invitational

The Willow Creek Country Club hosted a 9-hole Invitational on June 18th for the T-Bird Association. One of 7 events held through the golfing year for 8 different clubs around the area. 35 guests from 7 area clubs were represented, Meadow Springs C.C., Zintel C.C, Touchet Valley C.C, La Grande C.C, Buckskins C.C, Walla Walla C.C, and Walla Walla Veterans C.C.

12 Willow Creek C.C. ladies from our 9-hole Tuesday morning group joined in the play for a total of 48 players. The WCCC Tuesday ladies group also hosted the salad luncheon following the 9 holes of golf.

12 teams of 4 each with winners of teams and special events as follows:

Team Events- Low Gross - 1st Karen Thompson, 2nd Virginia Grant, Low Net- 1st Kris Lindner, 2nd Betty Carter.

KP 2nd shot #2 Mary Apple from La Grande, Karen Sinclair from Meadow Springs, and Karen Wolff from Heppner.

Longest putt #5 Jackie Allstott, Heppner.

Longest Drive #6 Stephanie Zimmerman

from Meadow Springs and Karen Thompson from Heppner.

Birdies- Andrea Molonet from Zintel Creek, Lura Powell from Meadow Springs, and Betty Carter from Heppner.

The Heppner course was in great shape through the help of various volunteers. All their hard work to help get the course prepared for this pre-planned special event was greatly appreciated by the ladies' group. The day turned out sunny and without too much wind. Great day for golf.

A big thank you to the ladies' group who pitched in and helped make the day a success, and a special shout out to Pat Dougherty who came out and helped with our morning snacks, kitchen duty, and lunch. We would also like to thank: Rick Johnston, Bill Morris, Mike Sweek, and Joe Sherman for their help organizing carts and assisting the ladies as they arrived from out of town. Without their help, we would have been in trouble. Special recognition goes out to the volunteers who loaned out their carts so we could provide rides for the guests.

WCCC Men's play

Twenty-one players participated in men's play on Sunday June 23rd, at Willow Creek Country Club. Results are as follows: Special Events, KP #4/13 Tim Wright, KP 2nd shot 1/10 Dennis Peck, KP 2nd shot 6/15 Dave Pranger, KP 2nd shot 8/17 Dave Pranger, Least Putts Charlie Ferguson. Net, 1st Dave Gundersen 59, 2nd Tim Hedman 60, 3rd Tom Shear/Curt Day 6. Gross, 1st Erin Mason 60, 2nd/3rd Dave Pranger-Jerry

Gentry 68. There will not be play next Sunday as the annual WCCC men's invitational will be taking place. The next regular men's play will be Sunday July 7th Hosts for that event will be Duane Disque, John Bowles, and Rick Paullus. The sign-up sheet for the 2nd half of Wednesday night play is in the clubhouse. The 2man match play league will begin on Wednesday July 10th.

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 Broker Chris Sykes



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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