

~ 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.

What's the Point

I have questions. So, you would think, as long as we've been here, we'd be getting it right by now. Whether you figure we've been here 6,000 years or 6 zillion, have we not yet learned something? How can we land so far from what works? Since the world is pretty much currently a mess, maybe we should try to figure out what we're doing wrong.

So how about we just dump The Ten Commandments because everybody knows lying, stealing, and murder, to name a few, are great things. No difference between good and evil anyway, right? It's all relative. Or better yet, let's just make our own morals to suit ourselves and call it good. Let's start with blurring the lines of the old good vs evil thing and come up with new "definitions", and new catchphrases. That should do it. Nope....won't work. "Income Redistribution" is still stealing. "Gender fluidity" is still perversion, a "minor-attracted person" is still a sicko pedophile, and "Reproductive choice" is still killing. And until your conscience is totally seared, you know inside those things are wrong. That's why you work so hard at making them "good". I guess there is a point where a mind gets so depraved that they don't feel guilt, but you have to be pretty far gone for that.

Where does real morality come from? It comes from the One who made us. He determines what's good and evil and we have the freedom to act on it. But if you don't believe there's a creator...that cre-

ates a problem. I know it's popular now to "pray to the Universe". That's right up there with making a golden calf and deciding to worship it. Dumbest thing ever. Creator vs created? The trouble with making stuff up is that, eventually, reality shows up and empty theories fall flat.

The saddest thing I've ever heard is "I believe that when we die, we're dirt." So, if that's really the case, and something went boom somewhere, and here we are.....then what's the point and where did that "point" come from? Why are we even here? Do we have a purpose other than fertilizer?

If you take a box of City Legos open it up and throw the entire contents in the air...what are the chances of it landing in the form of New York, or any city for that matter? Well, that's about the same chance as the "Boom" theory landing us exactly the distance we need to be from the sun to not fry or freeze. And since everything you can feel or touch has been created by someone, makes the Intelligent Design "theory" pretty plausible. You are here by design and were created with a specific purpose, and that purpose is to know and love God. When we look for Him, He says we will find Him. Why are you here? Because He loves you. When you find the truth, everything else makes sense.

"You will seek Me and find Me when you search for Me with all your heart." Jeremiah 29:13

By Susie Crosby, Prineville, OR.

Class of '74 Reunion

"It's time to renew old friendships and catch up with one another," explains a spokesperson when talking about the 50<sup>th</sup> Reunion for the HHS Class of '74.

The weekend of September 7 will see many 68-ish-year-olds about town, some familiar faces, some back in Heppner for the first time in several years. These graduates will have a variety of planned activities to choose from while enjoying visits with classmates and local acquaintances who stop by for chats.

The planning committee reports a good response to the invitations, from graduates and from teachers who helped to guide them through the challenges of high school. The invitation includes a questionnaire that, when filled out will provide information to be included in a keepsake booklet, so hopes are that the few classmates who have yet to respond will say they are coming and will add their updates to the class information.

Individuals who arrive on Friday will have opportunities to tour the museums, tour HHS and the track and baseball fields, attend a volleyball tournament, and attend the school's first football game.

A golf scramble will find some classmates on the course on Saturday morning. Then, Saturday afternoon and evening at the Heppner Elks Club will be the weekend highlight. Beginning with a 4 PM social hour, the attendees will dine at 5 PM, followed by some special presentations, a slide show memorializing deceased classmates, and a photo op for the group. The class is inviting families, friends, and HHS graduates from other classes to join them any time after about 7:30 PM. Music and dancing will top off the evening's revelry.

"It takes a long time to grow an old friend" notes the letter to the 44 members of the Class of '74, and the planners hope that the truth of that adage is appreciated, and classmates will be eager to come to Heppner to reminisce and refresh friendships.

Contact persons for the event: Gary Hunt (golf) 541-314-5799, [gjbmhunt@hotmail.com](mailto:gjbmhunt@hotmail.com); please sign up by 8/20. Patricia Hughes (questionnaires, money) 541-676-5520, 280 S. Court St., Heppner 97836. Kathy Arrington Hedman 541-561-6405, [kmh2175@hotmail.com](mailto:kmh2175@hotmail.com). Toni Toll Roach [jtroach625@gamil.com](mailto:jtroach625@gamil.com).

Firefighters hold lines amid challenging conditions

Battle Mountain Complex morning update August 6, 2024

Battle Mountain Complex Morning Update for August 6, 2024: Firefighters continue mop-up, containment at 39%.

UKIAH, Ore. – Overnight, firefighters pushed containment to 39% as they continued to extinguish lingering hot spots and increasing mop-up depth. Today, crews will continue mop-up operations around the entire perimeter of the fire. Firefighters will pay special attention to the duff, the dense layer of pine needles that accumulates in the understory, under Juniper trees and limb them up to ensure that no fire smolders and climbs branches later in the summer.

Firefighters will continue securing the area between Ditch Creek and the Potamus drainage as they bring the fire to control features along the ridgetops where it's flatter and more defensible. Late in the evening and overnight, with the cooler temperatures, crews will burn the light vegetation to those firelines at a low intensity to remove the grass and brush but leave trees intact. Crews will also continue building contingencies and a shaded fuel break north of that area as an additional safeguard for homes and natural resources.

Crews will also continue suppression repair work along lines considered fully contained, especially along the east and southeast. Suppression repair work consists of burying firelines, knocking down berms built by bulldozers and using waterbars diverting runoff to minimize potential soil erosion and environmental impacts. Crews will also remove hazardous, standing dead timber near firelines and roads.

Residents should continue to expect to see smoke in the interior and the unburnt island within the fire perimeter as unburnt vegetation burns well within the fire's footprint. Crews

will continue to patrol the fire perimeter throughout the summer to check fire behavior and ensure the fire doesn't escape.

Oregon Department of Forestry's Incident Management Team 3 will be passing the baton to Southwest Complex Incident Management Team 3 tomorrow. The entire team would like to extend our thanks and appreciation to the Ukiah, Dale, Ritter, Long Creek, Monument and Heppner communities for their unwavering support during this challenging incident. It has been an honor to serve.

For Morrow County, visit <https://experience.arcgis.com/>

Public Land Closures: The Bureau of Land Management has closed public lands along the John Day River from Kimberly to Dale, and from Kimberly to Service Creek. More information here: <https://www.blm.gov/.../oregon-washington/fire-restrictions>.

The Umatilla National Forest has implemented a closure for public lands within the Heppner Ranger District and the North Fork John Day Ranger District. More information at: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/umatilla/news-events/...> and <https://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/umatilla/alerts-notices/...>

**FIRE AT A GLANCE**  
 Total Estimated Complex Size: 181,941 acres  
 Monkey Creek Fire: 177,457 acres  
 North Fork Owens: 4,484 acres  
 Total Containment 39%  
 Cause: Under Investigation  
 Estimated Cost: \$51,180,190  
 All Resources  
 Hand Crews: 57  
 Engines: 74  
 Water Tenders: 38  
 Dozers: 22  
 Helicopters: 9  
 Total Personnel: 1,805

BM Juniors team placed 2nd in D3 tournament



The Blue Mountain Junior Softball team placed 2nd in the Oregon District 3 little league tournament this past June. -Photo contributed

HHA to hold meeting August 13<sup>th</sup>

The next meeting of the Heppner Housing Authority for the Heppner Senior Center will be Tuesday, August 13, at 4:00 p.m.

in the St. Patrick's Senior Center dining room. For more information, contact KayRene Qualls at 541-980-2836.



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## Lunch & Dinner Menu

Specials 8/8 8/14

**Thursday** - Steak sandwich with jojos  
**Friday** - Ham and cream cheese wrap with fruit  
**Saturday** - chicken plus with cottage cheese  
**Monday** - Philly taco with chips  
**Tuesday** - Tuna melt and salad  
**Tuesday Night 6-9pm** \$2 hard shell tacos  
**Wednesday** - Turkey BLT with macaroni salad

ALL NEWS AND ADVERTISEMENT DEADLINE: MONDAY AT 5:00 P.M.



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