

~ 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.

**Stomping grounds**

I thought I'd be nice and help the horses out with those pesky flies this morning, especially since one horse's tail has been rendered inoperable for fly removal (shortened either by a bad dog or bad goat... nobody's talking). So, I mixed up some spray and was thoroughly saturating them (and me) with Permethrin when the attention-hog-in-your-pocket mare got impatient and moved in, planting her foot squarely on my toes. If you've never had a horse step on our foot...it feels a bit like stubbing all five toes at once. And it's not like they lift it off politely and say "OH...I'm sorry!" They just stand there... ignoring your screams, flailing arms, and feeble attempts at moving their 900 plus pounds in the other direction. Eventually, they might, per chance, decide to pick up a hoof, but they don't just pick it up. They have to pivot a bit...like they're trying to put out a cigarette butt. Meanwhile, you're stuck there, trying to keep your balance and your current level of consciousness.

Now I know what you horse people are saying... teach them to "move away from pressure." Yes, I know all that and have taught them all well (thank you Clinton Anderson). But there's something different about the horse-on-foot thing. It's like they know they've got you captive and that you're usually a mile away from anything that can inflict pain. I also know that a horse can feel a fly land on their back, so I'm pretty sure they can feel my fists pounding wildly on their hide. On a positive note...in the EMS world, we call this a "distracting injury." Takes the mind off any other lesser injuries,

pain, or problems, e.g.... aching back, sick cow, broken tractor...etc....etc.

So, after several weeks with a heck of a sore (broken) toe that's finally starting to heal... with a minor setback involving stubbing of same toe.... I've come to really appreciate all 10 toes. I've also come to realize the value of knowing where your toes are at all times. I've decided that, when sitting on a stool and snuggling up to a milk cow, one must strategically place one's feet so that they are out of harm's way just in case your half ton bovine decides to move her toes (1 hoof=2 toes).

I am usually very astute concerning the placement of both mine and Rosie's feet. So, when she decides to back up and gives me a split-second warning by raising her head and giving me "the look" .... I grab the bucket, the stool and move my feet... all with cat-like-reflexes. I don't know how I missed her cue, but I must have, because while I was busy aiming for the middle of the bucket, squeezing in time to my rendition of "Another One Bites the Dust" A Capella, her front hoof became firmly planted on my GOOD foot.

With the last hoof-on-foot-mashed-toe episode still fresh in my mind, sheer panic took hold.... complete with rapid pulse, increased respirations, chest pain and a very clear feeling of impending doom. Until.... I realized that she was only on the end 1 1/2" of the boot, which didn't contain any toes. I had bought these boots a size and a half too big...specifically to house my broken toe. Whew! Thank you, Lord.....it's the little things.

By Susie Crosby, Prineville, OR.

**WCCC Ladies play day results**

There were 3 players in the ladies' gameplay at the Willow Creek Country Club on August 13<sup>th</sup>. The weather was sunny and cool. The results are as follows; Low Gross of the field was Virginia Grant. The low Net field was Kris Linder. The least putts of the

field was Karen Thompson. Upcoming events include the Women's Club Championship is August 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>. If anyone interested in playing should contact Virginia Grant at 541-626-8426 or Karen Thompson at 541-980-5127.

**WCCC Sunday Men's Play**

Eighteen participated in the 2-man best ball on Sunday August 11<sup>th</sup>, at Willow Creek Country Club. The results are as follows: Net- 1<sup>st</sup> Dallas Harsin-Dale Holland 49.5, 2<sup>nd</sup> Tim Hedman-Curt Day. Gross- 1<sup>st</sup>

Dave Pranger-Dennis Peck 61, 2<sup>nd</sup> Charlie Ferguson-Barry Munkers 64.

The next Sunday play will be the par three challenge on August 18<sup>th</sup>. Charlie Ferguson and Dave Gun-derson will be in charge.

**MCSO apprehends felon**

Marvin Strickland, a resident of Boardman, Oregon, was arrested by the MCSO after a felony warrant was issued for his apprehension. The MCSO effectively captured Strickland earlier this week, af-

ter he attempted to evade authorities in Lexington, Oregon. A Facebook post warning the community of Lexington suggested that he might have been under the influence of drugs and not in a stable mental state.

**District Bond Committee reviews Irrigon Jr/ Sr High School**



Pictured is the shoring work that was completed in the main hallway at Irrigon Jr Sr High during December 2023.

-Photo contributed

(Irrigon) – Morrow County School District has developed a Community Bond Advisory Committee (CBAC) comprised of community members to develop recommendations for district bond projects. The CBAC has met monthly since February 2024 to review district facility needs. Part of their work has focused on Irrigon Jr/Sr High School (IJSHS).

During the summer of 2023, IJSHS was slated to receive some upgrades to its HVAC (Heating, Ventilation, Air/Conditioning) system. When the work began, some of the original ceiling and drywall areas that had been covered since the school was built in 1978 were exposed. Structural deficiencies in the roof-to-wall connection were discovered and brought to the attention of district administration.

According to Brandi Sweeney, Maintenance Coordinator for MCSO, the deficiencies were covered by the ceiling tiles from the drop ceiling and there would not have been a way to see the structural deficiencies in the years since the school was built. "Because of the finished drywall, as in any building that is completed, the deficiencies were not visible. The district had never been aware of potential structural issues in this school build-

ing," Sweeney said.

Immediately, district staff worked with two structural engineers from Vector Structures, LLC and Pillar Consulting Group, Inc., and a local contractor from Rock Enterprises, Inc. Their task was to design and install temporary shoring in the building to make it safe for staff and students. The first phase of the shoring was done during Winter Break in December 2023 and the second phase was completed during Spring Break in March 2024. "We are so appreciative of the dedication of the contractor and his crew. Their willingness to work long hours and weekends to complete the necessary work was vital to making the building safe for staff and students without disruption to their education," said Matt Combe, MCSO Superintendent.

Morrow County School District has spent about \$372,000 on the temporary shoring. Combe said, "We want to ensure the community that the building is safe, but this is a short-term solution." Moving forward, the district will have the building inspected once a year by a professional structural engineer until a long-term plan is established.

The CBAC is currently considering next steps for IJSHS as part of their committee discussions.

**HFD to host a free public BBQ August 25th**

-Continued from PAGE ONE are required and enforced to make sure each fireman is prepared for combat. For each "call" the firemen go out on, they receive \$15, whether it lasts 1 hour or 16. This saves millions in taxpayer funds for the residents of the greater Heppner area.

**Community Engagement and Education**

Beyond emergency response, the Heppner Fire Department is deeply involved in community outreach and education. Programs such as fire safety education in schools, community CPR training, and free smoke alarm installations are vital components of their service. These initiatives not only enhance public safety but also foster a strong bond between the department and the community it serves.

**Celebrating 125 Years**

To commemorate this landmark anniversary, the Heppner Fire Department is hosting an Open House with a free public BBQ on August 25, 4-6 pm. Also featured for the public's enjoyment will be a historical exhibit showcasing the department's rich history, latest techniques and demonstrations for

firefighting, activities for children, and a formal ceremony honoring past and present firefighters. "We are hoping families will attend and enjoy our departments rich history and family centered events." Says Katilyn Zinter, first female firefighter and Department training officer. "We will have lots of fun events for every age."

Fire Chief Steve Rhea expressed his gratitude to the community for their unwavering support over the years. "This anniversary is not just about the fire department; it's about the entire Heppner community. Our success and longevity are a direct result of the strong partnership we have with the people we serve. We are deeply honored to be part of this community and look forward to continuing our service for many more years to come."

As Heppner celebrates 125 years of its fire department, it also looks ahead to the future, with plans to further enhance its services and capabilities. The legacy of the Heppner Fire Department is one of courage, commitment, and community—a legacy that will undoubtedly continue to inspire future generations.

**BUCKNUM'S TAVERN**  
146 N Main Street Heppner 541-676-5274

**Lunch & Dinner Menu**

Specials 8/15 8/21

- Thursday - meatball sub and potato salad
- Friday - Chicken fried steak sandwich & hashbrowns
- Saturday - Chili Burger and jojos
- Monday - Buffalo chicken wrap & tortilla chips
- Tuesday - pepperoni cream cheese bagel sandwich & macaroni salad
- Tuesday Night - 6-9pm \$2 hard shell tacos
- Wednesday - 1/2 order biscuits and gravy, hashbrowns, sausage

**Pat & Trish Sweeney's Retirement Party**



Join us to celebrate Pat & Trish Sweeney's retirement! August 24 at 6:00 at the Heppner Elks Lodge Dinner provided. No host bar. Casual attire. No gifts, but cards are welcome.

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**New Listing**  
\$300,000  
Aprox 12 acres on 2 lots

This historic 1916 fixer-upper, set on approximately 12 acres across 2 lots, offers a unique opportunity for those with a passion for horses, farm animals, and rural living. With 3,168 sq ft of space, this 4-bedroom, 2-bathroom home is full of potential but requires personal updates and renovations. The property features ample space for gardening, recreation, or expansion, making it a perfect canvas for those looking to customize and breathe new life into a charming piece of history. Sold as-is, this home is ideal for those seeking tranquility and room to roam. 810 HEPPNER SPRAY HWY, Heppner. MLS#24651740

**\$470,000**  
**New Listing**

Discover this stunning 1,700 sq. ft. ranch-style home with 4 bedrooms and 2 bathrooms, perfect for families. Recently updated (2019-2024), it features a bright, open floor plan, paint, water heater, kitchen flooring, countertops, and appliances. Energy-efficient with a new heat pump, AC, insulation, and wood stove. Enjoy refinished wood floors, updated electrical system, Trex deck, and repaved driveway, newer roof. The private lot offers beautiful views and is close to the hospital and elementary school. Contact us for more details! MLS#: 24589246  
605 Pioneer Dr Heppner

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