

The Official Newspaper of the  
City of Heppner and the  
County of Morrow

**The Heppner  
GAZETTE-TIMES**  
Morrow County's Home-Owned Weekly Newspaper  
U.S.P.S. 240-420

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**Jerome F. Sheldon, Publisher**  
**Steven A. Powell, News & Sports Editor**

## Change of Owners

With this week's issue, Jerome and Jane Sheldon end their ownership of the Heppner Gazette-Times. They pass their reins over to David Sykes and his wife, April Hilton-Sykes, who have been involved with a family-owned newspaper at Reedsport, on the southern Oregon coast. Their investment in Heppner reflects a confidence both in their own capabilities and the economic future of Morrow County.

For the Sheldons, it has been an interesting year indeed, becoming acquainted with the life of eastern Oregon through their operation of a community newspaper.

The Gazette-Times has almost a century of history behind it, under various ownerships. It is one of the oldest institutions in the area. We are sure the community's loyalty to the newspaper will continue with the new owners.

## Oregon's Bright Spot

Morrow and Gilliam counties appeared as a bright, white spot in a map of Oregon published in last Sunday's issue of the Portland Oregonian. The map illustrated a story on unemployment statistics comparing the Portland metropolitan area with the rest of the state.

All of the counties were shaded in various tones according to the percentages of their unemployment. The statistics were gathered from various sources, but mainly from unemployment compensation claims.

In Morrow and Gilliam counties the unemployment rate is less than 5 percent, reflecting the stability of an agricultural economy. Certainly, there has been a slowdown in lumber production and a number of millworkers in the Heppner area have been laid off. The curtailment has produced a pessimistic outlook among some business people. But agriculture seems to provide a continuing economic base, as it has for generations past, and a reason to look ahead with cheer.

Eastern Oregon is literally one of America's breadbaskets—and Morrow and Gilliam counties are major suppliers of wheat and beef, as well as other crops. As long as people have to eat, one can be sure that this county will continue to prosper.

## Shortchanging America

Now even the government is admitting that gasoline rationing via coupons "would unavoidably shortchange millions of Americans if it takes effect."

According to an Associated Press story last week, Deputy Administrator Douglas G. Robinson of the Department of Energy "said the plan, calling for massive issuing of coupons would require \$100 million to develop and would have a substantial error rate."

Robinson quoted a 10 percent error rate would see ten million to 15 million persons not receiving gas rationing coupons if the plan went into effect.

This is a huge error which would create a gigantic mess!

This is just another reason why we oppose gas rationing via coupons.

When one stops and realizes that rural areas of America, like Lake County, are going to suffer more than population centers if gas rationing coupons went into effect...one can see why gas rationing coupons should not be instituted. *Lake County Examiner, Lakeview, Ore.*

## Salem Scene

Amid a veritable cascade of bad news about Oregon's economy, some good news for both business and consumer has been largely overlooked.

The news in recent weeks appears to have been dominated by reports on the effects of inflation, interest rates, the sagging housing industry, mill closures unemployment and damage wrought by a cantankerous Mt. St. Helens.

Gov. Victor Atiyeh has even drawn fire for suggesting methods state and local governments should utilize to meet anticipated deficits in tax revenues and federal aid.

Meanwhile—and comparatively unheralded—came another announcement by the Governor that should be emphasized as a definite bright spot in an otherwise gloomy economic forecast.

Gov. Atiyeh's good news dealt with an unprecedented 16 per cent reduction in rates charged employers for workers' compensation insurance.

And by way of comparison, the two gubernatorial announcements stack up this way:

The anticipated income tax revenue shortfall amounts to \$52 million for the current biennium, coupled with the loss of \$13 million in anticipated federal aid. Total, \$65 million over the two-year budget period.

The workers' compensation rate reduction is expected to produce an \$80 million annual savings in the cost of doing business for Oregon employers!

It may take a while for an \$80 million savings in a half-billion-dollar cost program to filter down to the consumer. But it is a significant development for a state that has regularly ranked among the highest nationally in workers' comp costs. And it certainly will contribute to the competitiveness of Oregon manufacturers with those in other states.

The rate reduction has been filed by the National Council on Compensation Insurance and the Oregon Compensation Rating Bureau. It has been approved by the Oregon Insurance Commissioner and goes into effect on July 1.

Broken down into the three major industry groupings, the reduction is an average of 15 per cent for manufacturers, 16 per cent for contractors and 16 per cent for all other classes. Businesses with high losses due to extensive worker injuries and illness will not save as much.

Rates are based on loss experience and administration costs. Gov. Atiyeh praised Oregon employers generally

when announcing the rate reduction, declaring that their efforts to reduce losses were a major contributing factor in bringing rates down.

The Governor also credited the Workers' Compensation Department headed by Director Roy Green with cost reductions and claim reforms that produced half of the savings.

The reduction is only the third time rates have gone down since the present workers' compensation system was formed following passage of the Three-Way Bill in 1965. Other reductions were relatively insignificant decreases of 1.2 per cent in 1970 and 0.7 per cent in 1972. In other years rates escalated substantially—as high as 27 per cent in 1971 and 29 per cent in 1976.

Improvements in the state workers' compensation system are a top priority of the Atiyeh Administration and the rate reduction announcement occurred only weeks before results of the Governor's task force study of the system is due to be revealed. Atiyeh has indicated the study will pro-

vide a foundation for long-range reforms aimed at producing positive worker benefit and additional employer cost reductions.

Commenting on the rate decrease, Green stressed it should not be construed to indicate employer savings will mean reductions in worker benefits. On the contrary, he said, the rates have no bearing on benefits and some will rise this year as much as 8.1 per cent.

The department director went on to pinpoint several developments that have combined to create more favorable rates. One is a decline in both incidence and severity of on-the-job injuries due to employer concern for safe working conditions. Another is efforts by the department to re-employ injured workers with marketable skills.

He cited as an example of this program the fact 1,200 such workers were employed in 1977 and the total will be near 5,000 for 1979.

Still other contributing factors involved legislation enacted in 1977 narrowing the definition of permanent total disability, requiring re-examination of permanent total disability claimants every two years and declarations of earned income.

Oregon's permanent total disability caseload had soared to 300 a year and currently has declined one third to 200 annually. At an average cost of \$150,000 apiece, that decline alone could produce a savings of as much as \$15 million, Green said.

So in the meantime, whether your major concern involved volcanic ash on your strawberries, pounding the pavement in search of a job or trying to stretch a shrinking dollar, take heart. Good things are happening, too. Even if you do have to look hard at times to find them.

## Silver lining for clouded economy

BY JACK ZIMMERMAN



### "Quote"

"We need in politics men who have something to give, not men who have something to get."

Bernard Baruch

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

# A host family sought

Editor:  
We are writing this letter hoping that somewhere out there is a family waiting to become a host family for next year's A.F.S. student.

For us this year as a host family has been very worthwhile and heartwarming. Our friends and family have benefited with us and we have been looking forward to helping the next host family or families.

So far, however, no family

has come forward and those previously interested have dropped out.

Heppner High School cooperated in every way with Jari Alasuvanto and with us. They would like to have another A.F.S'er and I'm sure Jone High School would also welcome an exchange.

If you as a family (any type of family) are interested in the project please do not let any preconceived opinion stand in your way. Contact Elaine

George, Jerry Healy or us right away.

Sincerely,

Bob and Marian Abrams  
Heppner

(The Abrams family this past school year hosted Jari Alasuvanto, from Finland, who was an exchange student at Heppner High School under the American Field Service. He was graduated with the class of 1980.)

## Did you hear volcano erupt? How many bangs?

Editor:  
The sound of the explosive eruption of Mt. St. Helens on the morning of 18th May was heard, with various intensities, many miles from the mountain. It seems probable that such long range propagation of the sound was caused by conditions in the upper atmosphere on that morning. In order to further elucidate this phenomenon, known as upper atmospheric focussing, I am seeking the assistance of your readers. It would be appreciated if anyone who heard the explosions between 8:30 and 9:00 a.m. on Sunday, 18th May could let me know by letter or postcard where they were when they heard the explosion, how many bangs or other sounds were heard, and what was the intensity of the sound compared with such things as a slamming door, a car backfiring or a gun being fired. Was the sound intensive enough to cause any damage?

Your assistance and that of your readers will be much appreciated.

Yours sincerely,  
J.M. Dewey  
Professor of Physics  
University of Victoria  
Victoria, B.C. V8W 2Y2  
Canada

## Packwood joins New Jersey senator in health bill for 'elderly disabled'

Senators Bob Packwood (R-Ore) and Bill Bradley (D-NJ), have urged Congress to adopt "new and humane answers to the health needs of the elderly and disabled" by encouraging alternatives to hospitals and nursing homes.

The two Senators recently announced their intention to redesign health programs for senior citizens and the disabled under a new Title XXI of the Social Security Act.

"Too often, the elderly and disabled individuals are auto-

matically admitted to hospitals or nursing homes for care they would rather have and could be provided at home," Packwood said.

"While we recognize that hospitalization or nursing homes may be necessary for some patients, we believe that many others could and should avoid being admitted to an institution. Our bill is meant to help people receive the right mix of social and medical services they need to remain in their own homes."

## Sifting through the TIMES

1930  
Fifty years ago construction began on a two-story colonial house on Gale and Center streets that was going to be the place of Heppner's new mortuary. M.L. Case was the owner of the structure, which was estimated to cost \$10,000.

Heppner Library opened above the Humphrey's drug store.

Heppner's artesian well dedication with sports, a band, and prizes was planned for the Fourth of July.

1955  
Twenty five years ago more than 60 Forest Service firemen gathered at the Tupper Guard Station for a week of training.

Camp Fire Girls had a meeting in Heppner and two new groups were formed because of all the interest.

Three "Bobs" were set to shoot off fireworks at Jone. The men involved were Bob Rietmann, Bob DeSpain and Bob Hoskins.

Queen Carol Ann Wiglesworth and her Morrow County princesses were set to be honored at the fair and rodeo kick-off dance in July.

Heppner School Superintendent H.C. Reed resigned so he could become principal at

Willamette Valley school.

Funds were being asked for in the amount of \$37,000 from the state emergency funds to control grasshoppers in the county.

High school physical education instructor Larry Downen was the lifeguard at the Heppner pool, which was delayed in opening because of the late arrival of filter equipment.

1975

Five years ago Robert Lowe of Heppner went to Portland along with two members of the Heppner Gazette-Times to visit with Russian Lt. General Georgi Baidukov and other Russian dignitaries.

Mickey Hoskins was crowned queen of the Morrow County Rodeo by her mother, Darlene Hoskins, who was the queen years before. Donna Rea was fair and rodeo princess. She moved to Milwaukie at the age of one from Jone and later moved to San Francisco but came to Jone every summer to visit relatives. Her mother finally was persuaded to let her attend school in Jone.

Tri-County Health Services received more than \$91,000 from a grant.

## 'Sign only those petitions that you understand'

Editor:

The League of Women Voters of Oregon wants to alert Oregonians to be aware of a number of initiative petitions which are now being circulated. As Oregonians, we take pride in the initiative-referendum process pioneered here in Oregon. As citizens, it is our responsibility to refer to the voters only those petitions that will result in positive change.

There are several petitions that are now being circulated that would result in irreparable harm to our form of government: that would do away with programs that have made Oregon a leader in the nation for responsible public action. We urge you to sign only those petitions which you fully understand and know the effect they will have. Such responsible citizenship can save taxpayers countless dollars and demonstrate our

constructive effort for change when change is needed.

An informed electorate can effectuate positive changes. Be an informed voter. Know what you are signing and the effect it will have if passed. Inform others and vote in November.

Sincerely,  
Norma Jean Germond,  
President  
League of Women Voters of Oregon

## VA spending

The Veterans Administration spent \$243,231,455 in Oregon during fiscal year 1979 for benefits to veterans and dependents, facilities and operations. John Vogel, director of the Portland VA regional office, said

Of the total VA expenditures, \$316,273 was spent in Morrow County.

## Business Directory

### Auto Parts



### Heppner Auto Parts

234 N.Main Heppner 676-9123

### Floor Covering



### M & R FLOOR COVERING

422 Linden Way  
676-9418  
Heppner

### Furniture

### CASE FURNITURE

Heppner  
Carpet, Linoleum, Counter Tops Installed  
Beauty Rest mattresses, Fabrics and Accessories,  
Sherwin Williams Paint

### Insurance



For all your Insurance needs

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HOWARD BRANTY

### Medical Supplies



### MEDICAL CENTER PHARMACY

Free Mailing Service On Prescriptions Hospital Supplier  
Mon-Fri. 9a-5p Sat. 9-1p. Located in the Medical Center  
1100 Southgate Pendleton 276-1531

### Monuments

### SWEENEY MORTUARY

Cemetery, Grave Markers 676-9600  
Granite, Marble, Bronze or 676-9226  
Serving Jone, Lexington & Heppner p.o. Box 97

### Office Equipment



Service calls every Wednesday in Heppner, Jone and Lexington

332 S. Main St., Pendleton Telephone 276-6441  
811 N. First, Harlamon Telephone 567-2731

### Petroleum



GLENN DEVIN  
Chevron USA, Inc.  
Commission Agent  
676-9633