

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

GAZETTE-TIMES

Morrow County's Home-Owned Weekly Newspaper

U.S.P.S. 240-420

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David and April Hiltner Sykes, Publishers

From the other side... G-T's Mailbag to help with letters to Santa

(Editor's note: The following letter was sent to the Gazette from Janet McElligott, daughter of Jerry and Maryan McElligott, Ione.

Janet is attending school at the University of Portland at Salzburg, Austria. She was one of 38 people chosen from the U.S. to participate in the extension program.)

An hour ago I was sitting in a cafe next to a girl my age who works in East Berlin. The city is as gray and bleak as an old war movie whose picture has faded. And the life, she said, was the same. It's a world, she said, of politics for her and all of her "comrades."

"They" is an ugly word to her. "They force everyone to take five years of Russian in school. "They" won't let anyone leave. And "they" tell you how to live your life, and when to breathe.

The girl, whose name I never learned, spoke easily of hardships and the acceptance of "that's how it is, so we must make the best of it." She said many of her friends dream of places like America, but could never go. Except, she said with pride, one she knew who'd escaped. I couldn't understand everything she'd said, nor she, I, but I understood more than enough.

It was even difficult to breathe while in East Berlin for not for a second were you without at least one policeman in sight. It's nothing to see 10-15 walking together. I was even called "comrade," by one.

I've always wanted to visit a communist country and now I have. I really think it's something everyone should do, for nothing else could make you appreciate your own country more. And nothing could ever make you hate communism more. It kills the individual. It kills ambition, and it kills creativity and imagination. It only leaves room for the smallest spark of hope, a hope for something better. I know that hate and kill are strong words, but so is this emotion I feel.

Only now do I understand what freedom is. Cherish it.



Santa's Mailbag

Dear Santa,

I have been a good girl this year - sometimes I put my own clothes on.

For Christmas I would like to have an It's Sew Easy. I already told your Elf the other things I would like to have.

Santa, I have two sisters who have been good too. We have our stockings up - we are getting ready for Christmas. We watched some Christmas specials on TV.

I love you, Santa.

Love,
KELLY ANN WILSON

Since Santa is so busy around this time of year, the Gazette-Times is helping him out a little bit with his letters from boys and girls.

Kids are invited to write their letters to Santa in care of the newspaper:

SANTA
c/o Gazette-Times
P.O. Box 337
147 West Willow
Heppner, Ore. 97836

Letters for Santa's Mailbag received by Monday, Dec. 8, will appear in the Dec. 11 issue of the Gazette; letters received by Friday, Dec. 19 will appear in the Dec. 24 issue.

Be sure to sign your whole name (first and last) on your letter and send it in to the Gazette by Friday, Dec. 19, so that Santa will get it in time for Christmas.

If you can't write yet, maybe mom or dad or sister or brother will help you out. Remember that Santa will do his best to bring the things you ask for, but sometimes he just can't bring everything in his bag.

Dear Santa,

I would like a Master Caster for Christmas. And one of those things that crush cars. And a garage with more cars.

I've been a pretty good boy.

Michael Jones

P.S. Please bring my little brother some toys so he will quit playing with mine.

What's your opinion?



Question of the week: "What is Christmas all about?" Aleida Goodyear, 4, Heppner, says, "Holidays. Santa Claus brings toys."

"Whose birthday is it?" asked her mom, Carol.

"Paco's (grandpa's)," answered Aleida.

"Who else? Who was born on Christmas Day?" continued mom.

"Jesus," concluded Aleida.

Letters to the Editor

HHS students proud of school Thanks for sports pocket schedules

To the Editor:

When the Heppner High School Student Council met earlier this year one of the main goals discussed was how to improve community support. We felt that in previous years Heppner High students may have presented a negative impression to the community members, including school board members and advisory board members.

We feel that the impression made in the past does not accurately reflect the attitudes, behaviors and spirit of the current students. Therefore Student Council invited school board members and advisory board members to come to the school and observe classes, and see first hand the involvement, attitudes, and pride the students have in themselves and their school. We would like to take this opportunity to publicly thank the board members who took the time to come to school to observe.

We would like to extend an open invitation not only to the board members but to anyone else in the community that has any questions concerning the activities at Heppner High School. We are proud of our school and would be happy to show you around.

Thank you,
John Bier,
Student Body President

To the Editor:

As athletic directors at Heppner and Ione High Schools, we would like to thank Randall Peterson for sponsoring the pocket schedules again this year. These schedules are very helpful to us in our attempt to publicize our athletic programs.

John S. Sporseen
Gordon Meyers

DMV schedule

The Heppner office of the Motor Vehicles Division will be open 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., every week day during the month of December except for the following days:

December 25 - Heppner office closed, Christmas holiday.

December 26 - Heppner office closed, Christmas holiday.

School lunch menus

IONE SCHOOL

Thurs., Dec. 18 - Christmas dinner - baked ham, sweet potatoes, fruit salad, hot rolls, Christmas dessert, milk.

Fri., Dec. 19 - chicken-noodle soup, turkey or peanut butter sandwiches, crackers, pickles, dessert, milk.

Mon., Dec. 22 - Spanish rice, green beans, hot rolls, dessert, milk.

Tues., Dec. 23 - chicken salad sandwiches, pickles, potato chips, vegetable strips, oranges, milk.

School will dismiss at 1:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 23 for Christmas vacation.

HEPPNER HIGH SCHOOL

Mon., Dec. 22 - corn dogs, tater tots, salad, cookie, milk.

Tues., Dec. 23 - Cook's choice.

B.P.O. Elks Lodge No. 358

TOM & JERRY PARTY

SATURDAY NIGHT

6:30 to 8:30

NO DINNERS SERVED SAT.

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By

SWEETWATER

9 P.M. - ?

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