

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

Published every Wednesday and entered as second-class matter at the Post Office at Heppner, Oregon under the Act of March 3, 1879. Second class postage paid at Heppner, Oregon. Office at 147 West Willow Street. Telephone (503) 676-9228. Address communications to the Heppner Gazette-Times, P.O. Box 337, Heppner, Oregon 97836. Subscriptions: \$12 in Morrow, Umatilla, Wheeler, Gilliam and Grant Counties; \$14 elsewhere.

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Community Calendar

Aquatic fitness class begins July 2

An aquatic fitness class sponsored by Blue Mt. Community College will start Wednesday, July 2 at the Heppner Municipal Pool. The class, open to both swimmers and non-swimmers, meets from 6-7 p.m. for five weeks. Cost for the class is \$15. For additional information, call BMCC Co-ordinator Marie Lane, 676-5039.

Wranglers Playday planned

The final Wranglers Summer Series Playday will be Friday night June 27 at the Wrangler Grounds. All Wranglers are invited to participate. Competition begins at 6:30 p.m.

Monday installation planned

An open installation at the Ruth Locust Chapter of Eastern Star Monday, June 30, 8 p.m. will see matron and patron Florence and Walter Jaeger of Halverson installing Dot and Lewis Halvorsen of Ruth Locust Chapter.

Cereal grain tour slated July 1

A twilight tour to view cereal grain research plots has been set for Tuesday, July 1 starting at 7 p.m. according to Mat Kolding and Luther Fitch from the O.S.U. Ag Research and Extension Center in Hermiston. The tour will be at Eastern Oregon Farming Company near Irrigon. Kolding, who heads the cereals genetics work at the Hermiston Center, points out that plots located between the railroad tracks and freeway immediately south of Eastern Oregon Farming Company headquarters include spring Durum wheats sown in the fall, semi-dwarf winter barleys, both soft white and hard red winter wheats, winter oats, and winter rye.

The tour will begin at the plots. The public is welcome. For further information call Fitch or Kolding at 567-8321 or 567-6337.

Work session slated at All Saints'

All Saints' Parish will hold a work session this Saturday at 9 a.m. Those who are able are asked to come and do some general cleanup around the church yard.

The Bishop's committee will meet this Sunday following the morning worship. Revisions to the Sunday School room building plans will be discussed and acted upon.

The Episcopal Church Women will hold their monthly meeting on Tuesday, July 1 at 7 p.m. Plans for the church rummage and yard sale to be held July 26 will be made at this meeting.

All youths planning to attend Cove church camp must get their registration forms and health certificates in no later than Sunday, June 29.

Heat pumps definitely not for everyone

Q. I read your answer that heat pumps can cut heating bills about in half. We bought a heat pump a couple of years ago. We saved gas all right, but the electricity to run the heat pump cost as much or even a little more than we saved on gas. So all we did was pay the electricity company instead of the gas company. I think it is misleading to say that you can save with a heat pump. Or is something wrong with our unit? - D.K., Madras.

A. Good point. We don't want to mislead people into thinking they can save money when they can't. Heat pumps definitely are not for everyone. Our answer was to a reader who has an electric furnace. A properly installed heat pump should use about half as much electricity as an electric furnace.

Comparing with gas is another matter. A heat pump costs more to buy than a standard gas furnace. To justify the additional cost, the heat pump must cost less to operate. (If you need air conditioning, which heat pumps provide, the system costs are comparable.)

A big factor in comparing heat sources is the relative cost of fuels. The price of gas is fairly uniform throughout Oregon, currently about 65 cents per therm. The price of electricity varies from less than two cents per kilowatt-hour to almost six cents.

Based on energy prices in your area, the cost of operating a properly installed heat pump should be almost 20 percent less than a standard (70 percent efficiency) gas furnace.

But before you decide that your heat pump may not be operating properly, there are a few things to check. First, have other things changed?

Sometimes energy bills increase even though you are saving energy because the rates have gone up.

Your electric bills may increase with a heat pump because you are using the air conditioning that the gas furnace didn't provide.

Your heating bills also will increase if you keep the house warmer with the heat pump. (This may not be intentional. The old thermostat may have been out of calibration.)

If nothing else changed much when you had the heat pump installed, then it may be working less efficiently than it could. A common cause of poor performance is that the more expensive electric resistance backup heat that was installed with the heat pump is on more than it should be. One reason might be the thermostat. Check with the contractor who installed the heat pump to see if there is an outside thermostat. This locks the electrical resistance backup off until the outside temperature falls below the point where the heat pump can no longer heat your home by itself.

Another possibility is that the heat pump may have been sized to fit your existing ductwork. Because heat pumps require larger ducts than combustion furnaces, a heat pump sized to existing ductwork may be undersized for your home. The backup heat (about twice as expensive) is therefore on more often.

Find a heating contractor with heat pump experience to look at your system. It's also a good idea to check references.

Oregon State University Extension energy agents and specialists will answer energy questions of interest to readers. Send your questions to Energy Answers, OSU, Corvallis, OR 97331. Include your name, address and phone number. The OSU Extension Energy program is conducted in cooperation with the Oregon Department of Energy with funding from Bonneville Power Administration and the U.S. Department of Energy.

Dr. Koznek attends convention

Dr. Clare Koznek attended the Oregon Osteopathic Convention in Ashland June 19-22. He did course work in the areas of cancer, arthritis, and cardiac care as well as attending

the Board meeting for the Oregon Osteopathic Physicians and Surgeons, of which he is a voting member representing Eastern Oregon.

Baker man gets life for murder of Boardman newspaper woman

Twenty seven year old Jerry Joe Wilson, Baker, stood trial Friday, June 6, and was convicted of murdering Boardman resident Beth Williams.

Williams had been editor and advertising manager of the Boardman Enterprise newspaper for 18 months.

The Enterprise is owned by the Heppner Gazette Times.

Judge William Jackson of the Baker County Circuit Court found Wilson guilty of one count of murder and sentenced him to life in prison with a ten year minimum.

Wilson had pleaded not guilty to the charge.

Wilson waived his right to a jury trial, which leaves him the option of appealing the verdict. Baker County District Attorney Ken Hadley said the defense has indicated that they will file an appeal.

Beth Williams, visiting relatives and friends in Baker, was reported missing by her mother, Ellen Williams, when she failed to return to their home March 22.

William's was last seen leaving Cattle Kates, a Baker bar, with Wilson March 22.

After an intensive police investigation, Wilson led police to Williams' body, March 27. She was found buried in a shallow grave off Trail Creek Road, about 11 miles south of Baker. William's purse was recovered in a separate hole. Police also found a shovel about a half mile from the grave.

A coroner's report indicated that Williams died of "massive" head injuries and had been bludgeoned to death with a blunt instrument.

At the 45 minute trial, Baker County District Attorney Hadley presented the court with statements, made by Wilson to investigators, a coroner's report, the testimony of four witnesses, as evidence against Wilson.

One witness testified that she had seen Wilson and Williams leave Cattle Kates together.

In a previous hearing a motion to suppress filed by public defender Ralph Smith asking the court to "suppress, limit or exclude" all statements made by Wilson to police

was denied.

Smith challenged that all physical evidence, including the body of the deceased, statements by Wilson and other evidence had been obtained illegally and that police had violated the defendant's Miranda rights.

During the trial, Hadley submitted to the court a statement made by Wilson to Oregon State Police detective Robert Maddox in which Wilson confessed to killing Williams in the early morning hours of March 23.

Wilson told Maddox that he and Williams left Cattle Kates bar and had gone to his cabin and engaged in sexual intercourse.

Wilson said that Williams became upset that he had not used birth control. Wilson said he told her that he had a vasectomy, but she would not calm down. He said that Williams began calling him names and that he hit her several times with his fists.

Upon driving her back to town,

Wilson told Maddox that Williams became upset again and began hitting him. Wilson then turned onto Trail Creek Road and when he stopped his truck Williams jumped out.

Wilson said he ran after her and she attempted to kick him in the groin unsuccessfully. He said she struck him and began threatening him.

Wilson stated that he hit Williams in the stomach, knocking the wind out of her and that she fell to the ground.

Wilson then confessed to picking up a rock "out of the head", and striking her twice on the head saying, "Shut up you SOB, just shut up."

Wilson went on to say that after returning from his job with a Chevron oil distributor he went back and buried Williams body.

According to the District Attorney's office, a blood-stained rock was found on top of the grave where Williams' body was discovered.

Hadley stated that Wilson was remanded to the Oregon Correction Division after sentencing.



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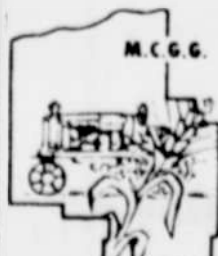


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