

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

Heppner
GAZETTE-TIMES

U.S.P.S. 240-420

Morrow County's Home-Owned Weekly Newspaper
Published weekly and entered as periodical matter at the Post Office at Heppner, Oregon under the Act of March 3, 1879. Periodical postage paid at Heppner, Oregon. Office at 147 West Willow Street. Telephone (541) 676-9228. Postmaster send address changes to the Heppner Gazette-Times, P.O. Box 337, Heppner, Oregon 97836. Subscriptions: \$18 in Morrow, Wheeler, Gilliam and Grant Counties, \$25 elsewhere.

April Hilton-Sykes News Editor
Stephanie Jensen Typesetting
Monique Devin Advertising Layout & Graphics
Bonnie Bennett Distribution
Penni Keersemaier Printer

David Sykes, Publisher

Spray Rodeo plans for 50th year

The Spray Rodeo will celebrate its 50th year May 24-25 with the largest event of the year for the town of 160 residents.

This year all the past rodeo queens are invited to attend and will be in the Saturday parade and grand entry. Marjorie (Vaughn) Kane, the first queen who now lives in Little Field, Arizona, plans to attend.

Grand marshal for this year's rodeo is Frank Robison who is the only member left on the board who helped start the rodeo. He has helped every year since.

This year's celebration begins at the Spray school gym the evening of May 23 with a dance beginning at 9 p.m. with music by "Old Spice" from Redmond. At midnight the Buckeroo Breakfast begins in the school cafeteria. The breakfast is put on by the Wheeler County 4-H Leaders Association and runs until 11 a.m.

At 8 a.m. on May 24 the Eastern Oregon Half-Marathon

begins at Service Creek and ends in downtown Spray. All the runners will be in on time for the parade which begins at 11 a.m. At 1 p.m. the rodeo begins with rodeo stock furnished by Craig "Bo" Pinz P9 Rodeos from Parma, Idaho.

Saturday evening another big dance will be held and once again the Buckeroo Breakfast begins at midnight and ends at 11 a.m. on Sunday.

Sunday morning a cowboy church service will be held in the grandstand at 9 a.m. The final performance of the rodeo begins at 1 p.m.

The weekend action includes a one-fourth mile kids pony race, one-fourth mile ladies race, one-half mile men's race, and 3/4 mile relay race. Probably one of the most exciting events of the rodeo is the Wild Horse Race at the end of each performance.

Scott Allen from Klamath Falls, a radio announcer, will make his first appearance at Spray as announcer.

Obituaries

Howard E. Crowell

Howard E. Crowell, 77, of Ione, died May 9, 1997, at St. Anthony Hospital in Pendleton.

Recitation of the Rosary was at St. William's Church in Ione on Sunday, May 11, 1997. Funeral Mass was Monday, May 12 at St. Patrick's Church in Heppner, with interment at Highview Cemetery in Ione.

Mr. Crowell was born on October 6, 1919, to A.C. and LaUna Crowell. He married June Steagall on November 12, 1951. He lived in Heppner and Ione his entire married life.

Mr. Crowell belonged to the Volunteer Fire Dept. and St. William's Catholic Church. He worked for the railroad on a section crew. He was also a munition handler at the Umatilla Army Depot during World War II. He worked on various farms, delivered milk, was an oil delivery man and spent his last 15 years of work as custodian of Ione Schools. He retired in 1981. Since retirement, he enjoyed his family, helping his neighbors, hunting, fishing and caring for his church yard.

Mr. Crowell is survived by his wife, June; son, Gene Crowell and his wife, Kristy, of Ione; daughters, Karen Kandle and her husband, Rick, of Vernal, Utah, and Sharon Rietmann and her husband, Brian, of Ione; five grandsons, four granddaughters, and two great-grandsons; a sister, Kay Davis, of Tacoma, Washington; and brother, Bob Crowell and his wife, Toni, of Omak, Washington. He was preceded in death by his parents and three sisters.

Donations may be made to Pioneer Memorial Hospital, P.O. Box 9, Heppner, OR 97836, or St. Anthony Hospital, 1601 S.E. Court Ave., Pendleton, OR 97801.

Sweeney Mortuary, Heppner, was in charge of arrangements.

Theta B. Stratton Lowe

Theta B. Stratton Lowe, 86, longtime Heppner resident, Veradale, WA, died April 28, 1997 in Veradale. Disposition was by cremation. Memorial service will be Sunday, June 1, at 1 p.m. at All Saints Episcopal Church in Heppner.

Mrs. Lowe was born on Nov. 8, 1910, at Portland to Emery and Ruth Burnside. Her family lived in the John Day and Monument area. She lived 50 years in Heppner before moving to Veradale to live with her daughter.

Mrs. Lowe enjoyed quilting, and gardening and often entered her canned goods in the Morrow County Fair. She taught 4-H sewing and worked as an aid at Pioneer Memorial Hospital for many years. She belonged to the Degree of Honor Lodge and the Heppner Garden Club and was an active member of All Saints Episcopal Church.

Mrs. Lowe was preceded in death by her husband, Robert, three sisters, Rita Stussi, Long Creek, Salley Herburger, Mt. Vernon, and Tot Stratton, Unity. She is survived by her daughter, Ida Sue Scott, Verdale; son, John Jay Stratton, Monroe, WI, 11 grandchildren, five great-grandchildren and one great, great-grandchild.

Contributions, for those who wish, may be made to All Saints Episcopal Church, P.O. Box 246, Heppner, OR 97836.

Men's breakfast planned for Sunday

A community men's breakfast, sponsored by the Christian Life Center, the First Christian Church and the Church of the Nazarene in Heppner, will be held on Sunday, May 18, beginning at 8 a.m. at the Christian Life Center.

All men and their sons are invited to attend.

MCURD makes activities possible

The Morrow County Unified Recreation District (MCURD) has entered into a contract with the newly formed Morrow County Arts Council.

The Arts Council is in the process of facilitating several projects funded by MCURD -- a performance of "A Fine and Pleasant Misery" by Tim Behrens in Boardman which also included transportation to the performance from Heppner, Lexington and Ione; a performance by Morrow County Community Theater (coming soon); four performances by the Willow Creek Youth Symphony, county wide; two performances by the South Morrow County Choir, county wide; tumbling by Cindy Sumner, 12 and eight-week sessions; dance lessons by Cheri Westphal, two 12-week sessions; Friday instrumental instruction by Ralph Werner throughout the school year and open to the general public.

In the upcoming year MCURD, like all special districts, will have to make some hard funding decisions to compensate for the estimated \$80,000 loss to the district created by Measure 47. MCURD asks that people submit their comments to MCURD, P.O. Box 765, Heppner, OR 97836 or contact the board member in your area. Board members are Cyde Marie Estes, Heppner and south rural area; Jim Swanson, Ione, Lexington and rural area; Terry Tallman, Boardman; Dan Huxoll, rural Boardman and Irrigon; and Randy Tovey, Irrigon.

MCURD was formed in 1995 under the Oregon Revised Statutes as a park and recreation district. The voters approved a three-year serial levy of \$450,000 dollars to fund the operation of the district.

The primary purpose of MCURD was to provide funding, outside of the school district, for all co-curricular activities that were in jeopardy under the

constraints of Measure 5. MCURD entered into an intergovernmental agreement with the school district for the funding of those activities. The agreement is designed to provide the school district with \$390,000 annually, for three years, to facilitate all co-curricular activities. Any money received by the school for "pay to play" or gate receipts is refunded to MCURD. The school district operates within a budget, billing MCURD only for the actual expenditures to run the programs.

To meet the requirements of the law, MCURD must also provide community activities. "The board of directors has been committed to providing cultural events and instruction to each of the communities," said a board news release. They have presented the following cultural entertainment: mariachi players and advertisement for Cinco de Mayo, Boardman; two performances of the Blue Mountain Concert Choir, Blue Jazz and Jazz Ensemble, Heppner and Boardman; two performances and instructional classes from the classical guitarist Carl Oakes, Heppner and Irrigon; a bus excursion to the Imperial Tombs of China Exhibit in Portland, county wide participation; a performance by "Do Jump" a dance troupe for Ione's Fourth of July; performances by Toni Madrigal, Blue Velvet, Quetzacoatl and Dan Burns and advertisement for the Irrigon Watermelon Festival; a performance by Nicht-Yow-Way an Indian cultural dance troupe for the Morrow County Fair and Rodeo.

All performances have been open to the general public with no admission charges.

Instruction provided by MCURD included two-eight week sessions of guitar lessons by Carl Oakes and funding for ski lessons and lift tickets for the Morrow County Ski Program.

Letters to the Editor

Editor's note: Letters to the editor must be signed. The Gazette-Times will not publish unsigned letters. Please include your address and phone number on all letters for use by the G-T office. The G-T reserves the right to edit.

Lundquist supports Measure 50

To the Editor:

Coming up next week is a statewide vote on Ballot Measure 50, the legislatively referred measure to implement real property tax reform. I would like to take this opportunity to give you a brief outline of the benefits of this measure (and) encourage your support on May 20.

The most important point I could make is that Measure 50 guarantees Oregonians the property tax relief they asked for in November 1996. The original measure, Measure 47, was filled with loopholes and confusing language that would have forced the courts to decide whether or not Oregonians ever saw a shred of real property tax relief.

The original measure was poorly written; it had unintended consequences that jeopardized property tax relief for Oregon home owners and put critical local services at risk. Measure 50 guarantees Oregonians lower property taxes and limits future

increases to three percent. At the same time, it protects school funding, saves rural hospitals, libraries, police, and fire services.

I support Measure 50, because it cleans up all the legal uncertainties of the original measure and guarantees real property tax relief. It is easier to understand, less expensive to administer and simpler to implement than the original measure.

I support Measure 50 because I stand behind the will of Oregonians who voted for property tax relief and because I know that only Measure 50 will protect rural hospitals, school funding and local police and fire fighters. Only Measure 50 will guarantee lower property taxes. I would like to encourage your yes vote on Measure 50 on May 20.

(s) Lynn Lundquist,
Speaker of the House
Salem

Ione-Lex cemetery schedule listed

The Ione-Lexington Cemetery gates will be open Saturday through Monday, May 24-26 and Thursday through Sunday, May 30-June 1 from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. No glass containers will be

allowed, but containers are available.

Flowers will be removed after 10 days and plastic flowers and decorations will be removed at the discretion of the Sexton after June 8.

Letter home from Bosnia

(Editor's note: The following letter from Bosnia was written by Morrow County District Attorney Earl R. Woods, who is serving in Bosnia with his National Guard unit.)

When I was a kid, I grew up with the Cold War and the notion that all communists were "bad." I never bothered to give much thought to what was "bad" about communism, but I embraced the notion enthusiastically none the less.

Well, here I am now in a former Warsaw Pact communist country, and I've finally figured it out. Everything is "bad" - the roads, the buildings, the vehicles, the aircraft, their weapons and every other project they've ever done requiring craftsmanship.

When I arrived in Hungary at the Ta'zar Airfield, I noticed the remains of a MIG 21 which had crashed at the end of the airport and which no one had bothered to remove. There was also a long row of MIG 21s lined upon the tarmac next to the runway. When I asked why the aircraft were still there, I was told that the Russians wanted to take them with them when they left, but they wouldn't start. Hungarian mechanics have been working on the aircraft since the Soviets departed, but they have not established enough confidence in the aircraft that they are willing to fly them.

Now that I've left Hungary and spend all my time in either Bosnia or Croatia, I've come upon other evidence supporting my theory. Examples: I've noticed that when Yugoslavian folks build a house, they don't put the windows in for three years after construction. Why? Because their houses settle so much that the windows break if you put them in before the settling occurs.

I've noticed that all former communists close the bathroom doors and leave a window open in the bathroom after use. I thought they were conserving heat. Turns out I was wrong. They

don't vent their plumbing and if you close the window and open the door, you end up burning a lot of incense.

Did you know that all vehicles built in the former Soviet block countries come equipped with a tool box?

Do you know why most citizens here keep their bathtub full of water with a bucket in it? Right - they might want to flush the toilet. You can't count on the municipal water system.

Another interesting feature of life here is the electrical outlet. The receptacles are in the floor (all 220 volts) with cute little "doors" over them which no one bothers to close, so you're either tripping over the doors or the cords, or stepping on them.

You're not going to believe this story but it's true. We brought the bomb dogs into a building here in Slavonki Brod and one of them found a plug and proceeded to pee on it. This caused the lights to go out in the south end of the building, plus we now call the dog "Crispy." True story.

Another true story here is the beer-for-lunch break. We are situated in the middle of an ammunition and tank factory on the edge of the Sava River. There are little snack shacks located around the camp and the employees all come out at lunch to cough down a couple-three brews every day. The ammunition plant blew up in part in March and no one thought much about it. I'm convinced their diet had something to do with it.

Interesting features of life behind the Iron Curtain... I could go on for hours and I will when I get home.

(s) LTC Earl Woods
Slavonki Brod, Croatia

4-Hers named to ambassador program

Jessica Krebs of Ione and Kristi Worden of Heppner will be among more than 100 Oregon 4-H members from throughout the state who have been selected for the 1997 4-H Ambassador program.

Participation in the Ambassador program is one of the highest honors a 4-H member can earn, according to Duane Johnson, Oregon State University Extension 4-H youth development specialist.

"To become an ambassador, 4-H members must undergo a rigorous review of their accomplishments in 4-H and in community and school activities," Johnson said.

Ambassadors fill an important function for the OSU Extension 4-H Youth Program, Johnson said. They promote the OSU Extension 4-H programs throughout the state and participate in a variety of state, county and local activities.

Included among those activities are giving talks about 4-H to community groups, setting up 4-

H displays in stores and shopping centers, promoting 4-H activities on radio and television talk shows, and recruiting new 4-H members. In addition, the ambassadors train 4-H leaders and members, and provide leadership for 4-H educational programs at the county and state level.

The new ambassadors will learn more about their responsibilities to help represent and promote the 4-H program at the 4-H Ambassador Weekend, June 20-22 at Linfield College in McMinnville. The weekend, sponsored by the Oregon Farm Credit System, will also include classes on life skill development, work force preparation and citizenship, Johnson said.

Some of the ambassadors will be interviewed and invited to participate in the 1997 National 4-H Youth Congress in Memphis later this year.

Morrow County Arts Council
brings back by popular demand

BMCC JAZZ CHOIR & "THE MILKMEN QUARTET"

Admission is free
Donations will be accepted to help cover expenses

Friday, May 16th at 7:30 p.m.
St. Patrick's Parish Hall, Heppner

DON'T FORGET THE SUNSCREEN!
LARGE SELECTION AVAILABLE

Graduation Coming Soon...
Hallmark Cards & Gifts

Murray's Drug INC.
217 North Main Heppner 676-9158

Belair
FINE TIMEPIECES

For The Graduate

Swiss Quartz Accuracy
660' Water Resistant

Member of America, Inc. A.G.S.
Peterson's Jewelers
Heppner 676-9200