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## No free right turn in Heppner



**Something missing?** The right turn without stopping sign has come down on the corner of May and Main streets in Heppner. The signs were removed to make for safer driving conditions during the downtown renovation project. Motorists are reminded that they must now come to a complete stop before turning right on to main street.

The Heppner Police Department reminds motorists that they must now make a complete stop at the stop sign at the corner of May and Main streets (by Les Schwab and Coast to Coast) before turning right. The free right turn sign has been taken down and only a stop sign

remains.

The stop sign previously allowed a free right turn without stopping, but recent construction and narrowing of Main Street has created a dangerous intersection. Traffic has now been moved to the east side of

Main Street.

Heppner Police Officer Merle Cowett said that motorists may proceed right without stopping only if being flagged through the stop sign. He warned that traffic fines double in construction areas in the state of Oregon.

## Local inventor creates electronic gate

"The livestock industry has been around for over 5000 years, and for 5000 years producers have had three main worries: heifers, bankers and gates," says the advertising about a new device for ranchers.

From a cluttered workshop on his dad's ranch outside Lone, young inventor Barney Zinter hopes he has done something to eliminate one of those worries. No, he hasn't found a substitute for bankers, but he has come up with an alternative to that age old nemesis, the gate.

Zinter has invented a device to keep cattle from going through an open gate.

Called The Gatekeeper, the device hangs on a gate post, and when a switch is flipped cattle won't come in or go out, thus eliminating the tiresome and time consuming task of opening and closing gates.

In fact it was doing this job that gave Zinter the idea for The Gatekeeper. "We were moving cattle here on the ranch, and I bet I got in and out of the rig 15 times," he says. "I just thought, there has to be a better way." And there was.

In a small workshop squirreled away in the attic of his home, Zinter assembles the electronic components that make The Gatekeeper work.

A built-in motion detector senses when cattle come near, activates a battery-powered speaker unit and the ensuing loud noise scares the cattle away from the open gate. And those who have used it like it.

Richard Kinzer of the Mahoney ranch stopped by during a recent demonstration in the larger workshop where final assembly of The Gatekeeper is done, to offer his opinion. "Oh yeah they work," said Kinzer. "Cows just went go through 'em." He said the Mahoney ranch has two. Joe Halvorsen of Lone also uses them on his ranch.

Zinter has been developing his idea for the past year and a half and actually making the devices for sale for the past five months. He has about 24 of the units out.

The Gatekeeper sells for



Barney Zinter shows his invention "The Gatekeeper"

\$225 and is available for demonstration and sale at the Morrow County Grain Growers in Lexington. Doug Holland, who runs the store at the co-op helped Zinter get the machines into the store and in front of the public.

Zinter says he is constantly working on improving the device. (He is presently working on a remote control sensor that will allow a horse rider to shut it off before riding through.) Each Gatekeeper comes with a set of instructions for setup and operation.

To do its job and keep cows away, The Gatekeeper emits a series of six loud noises, from a siren like sound to a loud beeping.

Cattle don't get used to the sound, and they will go through the gate when the device is shut off, says Zinter. Being around cattle all the time, he has been able to constantly test his invention.

Zinter says he has applied for a patent and, as far as he can tell from research, there has never been a device anything like it patented.

## Main Street construction update

Al Frye, project manager of the Heppner Main Street Renovation, has provided the first update on construction for area residents, businesses and motorists.

Following is the update for the week of June 18-25:

"As you can see," says Frye, "we moved the traffic to the east side of Main Street. We have been stripping off sidewalks and asphalt on the east side of Main

Street. "We will continue putting in storm sewer pipe on the west side and grading out and putting in concrete sidewalks. (We will) also start with the water services going into houses and private businesses.

"We're going to follow up this work with excavating, then putting on the gravel base, followed up with the bottom lift of asphalt (approximately four weeks of doing this work).

## St. Patrick's plans summer school

St. Patrick Catholic Church in Heppner will offer a summer school program from June 23 through June 27. The "Miracles of Jesus" will be the week's focus, and a surprise "Green Day" will add a touch of excitement during the week.

All area children from kindergarten age through eighth

grade are invited to attend. Information is available by calling 676-9462.

Sisters of St. Mary will be in Heppner for the summer program and several local parishioners will help with the classes.

Classes will begin each day at 8:45 and continue until noon. Each session will end with the celebration of a mass at noon.

HEPPNER

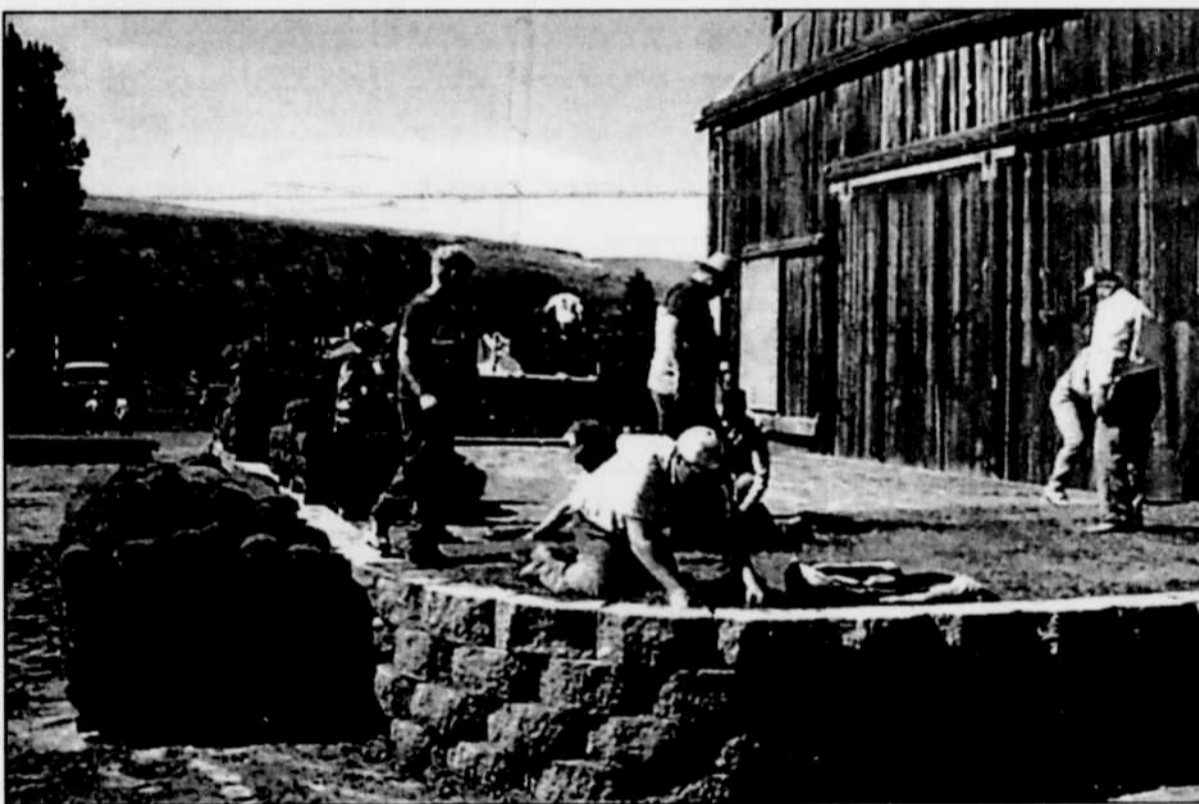


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## Volunteers get stage ready for blues bands

## Ione gets ready for big 4th celebration



Volunteer workers lay sod on the new stage at the expanded Ione park. The city is getting ready for its annual 4th of July celebration, which will be bigger this year with the addition of a blues festival featuring name bands from the Northwest.

Volunteers were out in force last week, preparing the new expansion of the Ione park in preparation for the upcoming 4th of July celebration.

The celebration will be special this year as it will feature appearances by Northwest Blues sensation The Paul deLay Band, as well as Jimmy Lloyd Rea and the Switchmasters and Li'l Lynne and the Smokin' Soles.

Last week volunteers were preparing the new stage area that will be used for the

performances.

"This is a real community effort," said Shelly Rietmann who arranged for the bands, as she watched sod being laid and new trees planted in the park expansion area.

The Morrow County Arts Council and the Morrow County Unified Recreation District are helping to fund the blues bands appearance in Ione. And the list of donors for the park expansion is long.

The Willow Creek Parks Dist., The Port of Morrow,

Bank of Eastern Oregon, City of Ione, Pettyjohn Lumber, Monte Crum Ranches, Irene Swanson, Columbia Basin Electric Co-op, Bob Hubbard, ICABO, Morrow County Grain Growers, Murray's Drug and Wheatland Insurance are all some of the businesses and individuals who donated money, materials or other items to make the park expansion possible and ready for what promises to be a big day in Ione on the 4th of July.

## Heppner, Morrow County in dispute over tax monies

A dispute over tax monies between the city of Heppner and Morrow County may leave the city \$56,531 short and minus their third city policeman beginning fiscal year 1998.

The city's shortfall resulted from a change in disbursement of tax monies following the passage of Ballot Measure 50, which was supposed to simplify the tax system and free up more monies for local governments. But, according to Heppner City Manager Gary Marks, BM50 created an anomaly for the city, giving it less money instead of more. The taxpayers, however, will still pay the same amount of money.

With the new formula, Morrow

County will receive \$90,789 more under BM50 than it would have under BM47. The county would have received \$3,427,717 under 47 and will receive \$3,518,506 under 50.

Both city and county officials testified before the Oregon Senate Revenue Committee last week concerning the disbursement. And what the city believed would be a formality to correct the situation turned into a disagreement between the county and city. According to Marks, members of the revenue committee hesitated to give the money to the city when faced with county opposition. "I think its bleak at this point that we're going to collect it," said Marks.

Prior to passage of BM50, city of Heppner voters passed a city levy which would enable the city to keep a third city policeman, whose salary has been paid by a grant obtained by the city, which is due to expire soon. BM50, in effect, negates the levy, said Marks. He said the money lost amounts to around 20 percent of the city's tax collections compared to around eight tenths of a percent of the county's collections. "It would impact the city to a much greater extent," he said.

"Ray (Morrow County Commissioner Ray French) and I went down and testified against the (city's) proposal. My position

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