

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

**Heppner**  
**GAZETTE-TIMES**

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Morrow County's Home-Owned Weekly Newspaper  
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**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.

**Go figure**

**To the Editor:**  
The people of Morrow County will be delighted to learn that after months of battling with the "Demon Road Dept. Union", the "Forces of Enlightened Management" have landed a three-year contract that will only cost county taxpayer \$14,438 more than the union was asking for. Plus the proportionately higher benefits, of course.

The math is quite simple. The union asked for a straight 45 cents per hour raise each year for all employees. We even came down to 39 cents the first year, then 45 cents the next two years. This seemed fair to us and we were happy with it. The County Court, however, insisted that some employees should get virtually no raise at all while others would see up to a \$2.94 per hour raise over the three-year contract period. The court's plan will cost taxpayers \$73,406 over three years; the union's rejected proposal would have cost \$58,968.

How was this brilliant coup accomplished? When exhaustive negotiation failed to force the union to accept the additional \$14,438, the court took the employee's comp time policy hostage, telling the union flatly, "accept our wage proposal or we will eliminate comp time from the contract and implement it." Under the new rules, management can do that. The union then has two options: agree to implementation or strike.

The only alternative to allowing comp time is to pay for overtime. The court was apparently willing to bear that extra expense as well, but the Road Dept. Union members didn't want to lose the flexibility of comp time. Nor did we want to strike.

So at last we swallowed defeat and took the money.

We are writing this letter because we don't want to be the only ones thinking about that \$14,438 when we pay our property taxes

in November. We don't want to be the only ones thinking about it when we remember the way community services were crippled in the budgetary hatchet job last winter. We don't want to be the only ones thinking about what could have been done with that \$14,438 if the court hadn't been so bulldog determined to spend it where it wasn't wanted. We don't want to be the only ones thinking about it the next time the court uses lack of money as an excuse for not maintaining the roads or providing other public services. And we don't want to be the only ones thinking about it the next time we vote for county officials.

If this letter should raise some questions in your mind -- any question at all -- you will have to ask them of the County Court because we, quite frankly, are stumped. And they say unions are impossible to deal with. Go figure.

(s) Tom Berdortha  
Ione  
(s) David Pedro  
Echo

**Sending call out**

**To the Editor:**  
I write here to send out a call for someone to take my place as the main driver of the Dollaride service for seniors and disabled in South Morrow County, and for shut-in seniors who need meals delivered from the hospital kitchen 4 days a week.

I feel responsible to explain what the Dollaride is, how it has operated, and why I shall no longer be its main driver.

In 1988 when the Senior Center opened, I recognized a real need for senior transportation here and tried to get the Senior Center Board of Directors to organize and offer this service. They refused. I decided to do it on my own. The plan was to offer rides around town or out-of-town five days a week for seniors having

no other means of transportation. Reasons for rides could be medical, nutritional, recreational, social, educational, shopping or other needs - kind of a taxi service. My car was too small, too hard to get into, so I bought a '66 Ford Galaxy 500 in very good condition. I named the service Dollaride (one word blend of "dollar" and "ride") because it sounded like "dial-a-ride", suggested that a dollar would be a sufficient donation for a ride from home to the requested destination and home again, and jestingly, that it would give an old "doll" (or up to four old dolls at a time) a ride.

At first, wanting it to appear to be a senior center service, I advertised that riders should call their office. However, with 10 different volunteers each week there, things mixed up.

Obviously, Dollaride had to have one phone number and one person scheduling calls. Since then, it is my home phone.

In 1991, the AAA (Area Agency on Aging) representative Merri Reamer and the ODOT (Oregon Dept. of Transportation) eastern Oregon supervisor of the Special Transportation Fund, Joni Reid, urged me to apply for a place on their budget for Dollaride. The STF is given by the state from cigarette tax revenues to every county to be administered by county officials to provide transportation for the elderly and disabled. Here the court appointed committee which determines how the fund can best serve Morrow County senior includes: Commissioner Wenholz, chairman, Joe Wilson and Milt Partridge, Irrigon, Don Ball Ione, Ed Baker, Lexington, Delmer Hug, Boardman, and Bob Kahl and Bart Clark, Heppner.

After I applied and was accepted, I asked for some assurance that I could continue with some control over the Dollaride operation. Judge Carlson gave me a written "Letter of Understanding", granting my request and with the understanding that the vehicle would be stationed at my home.

In '93 we acquired a mini-van with a ramp wheelchair access which increased the comfort and scope of riders we could serve. At that time both the judge and I wanted to add to the service the delivery of meals from the hospital to shut-ins. I asked the Senior Board for assistance in getting drivers for the four-day service. They wouldn't. Dollaride did and has ever since.

Last month Commissioner Wenholz came by my home to tell me the STF Committee had decided (at a meeting of which I had not been notified) that to protect the van from vandalism and theft, we had to keep it in the senior bus shed at least every night. I objected, pointing out that the extra time, effort and possible discomfort required of the driver, walking in all kinds of weather sometimes at night, would add nothing to the quality of Dollaride service. I told him that in nine years stationed here no vehicle damage has occurred, and that his plan would only add mileage without passengers. I told him about the letter of understanding. He was adamant. Their reasoning just didn't make sense. I requested a meeting with the committee.

At the hearing, I tried to stress the history and importance of the Dollaride service to seniors and how inconsiderate it was to add at least seven pointless hours a month to the average of 30 already given by the volunteer driver. One member pointed out that the STF van in Ione is stationed at the driver's home. I also reminded the judge of the letter promise. He said, "Times have changed." The vote was

five to four to require the shed. It was the "straw that..." I would not submit to their pointless, mindless requirement.

Then, knowing how impossible it has been to find drivers who will commit for even one regular day, I begged them to let me drive until we can find a driver so that the service would not be disrupted. They refused that. The next day when I was not at home they came, took the van and locked it in the shed.

Since then, I feel I must continue the meal delivery to shut-ins in my car. For medical needs out of town seniors can call 1-800-752-1139. Ask for RSVP (Retired Seniors Volunteer Program). For other needs call Judge Carlson or Commissioner Wenholz.

Our great need is for someone to volunteer to be driver(s).

Sometimes agencies using tax-provided funds to care for the human needs of seniors and the disabled don't show much concern for those needs. This entire incident is a good example of that.

(s) Jane Rawlins

**Births**

**Chloe Louise Shelton**-a daughter Chloe Louise was born to Heather and Russell Shelton of San Francisco, CA. on August 6, 1997 at San Francisco, CA. The baby weighed 8 lbs. 14 oz.

Grandparents include Joyce Wilson of Golden Valley, AZ.

**Emma Kate Brazell**-a daughter Emma Kate was born to Diane and Brian Brazell of Albany on August 25, 1997. The baby weighed 8 lbs. 15 oz. and was 20 1/2" long.

Grandparents are Al and Jean Brazell, Lexington, and Warren and Carol Tripp of Salem. Great-grandparents are Helen Martin, Hermiston, and Mary Brazell, Lexington.

**Alejandro Zavala**-a son Alejandro was born to Julia Munoz and Zeferino Zavala of Boardman on August 26, 1997 at Good Shepherd Community Hospital in Hermiston. The baby weighed 7 lbs. 12 oz.

**Emily May Howard**-a daughter Emily May was born to Rebekah and Eric Howard of Irrigon on August 27, 1997 at Good Shepherd Community Hospital in Hermiston. The baby weighed 6 lbs. 13 oz.

**Marriage Licenses**

The Morrow County Clerk's office at the courthouse in Heppner reports issuing the following licenses during the past week:

Sept. 4: Veronica Rodriguez Lopez, 22, Boardman; and Joe Llamas Topete, 30, Boardman.

Sept. 8: Georgia Palmer Evans, 73, Hermiston; and Woodrow E. Howard, 82, Umatilla.

Sept. 9: Diana Gayle Bingham, 24, Heppner; and Shawn Lloyd McManus, 26, Heppner.

**Justice Court Report**

The Justice Court office at the courthouse annex building in Heppner reports handling the following business during the past week:

Dennis T. Greg, 31, Pendleton-Failure to Wear Seatbelt, \$49 fine;

Antoinette J. Robinson, 33, Portland-No Angling License, \$77 fine;

Maureen Lee Sander, 47, Oroville, CA.-No Angling License, \$77 fine;

David P. Rudicel, 50, Creswell-Illegal Possession of Game Fish: Undersized Trout, \$81 fine;

Diane Lee Kilkenny, 39, Heppner-Failure to Obey Traffic Control Device: stop sign, \$122 fine;

James Clyde Foster, 26, Springfield-Passenger Obstruction of Driver, \$126 fine;

Antoine Favue III, 56, Portland-No Throwable Personal Floatation Device, \$67 fine;

Michael Anthony Jack, 37, Vancouver, WA.-Offensive Littering, \$67 fine; No Angling License, \$75 fine;

James Douglas Putman, 30, Castle Rock, WA.-Failure to Wear Seatbelt, \$49 fine;

James Donald Hams, 46, Heppner-Failure to Obey Traffic Control Device, \$122 fine;

Davis Michael Alldritt, 44, Lexington-Violation of Basic Speed Rule, 77 mph in a 55 mph zone, \$122 fine;

Robert D. Mahoney, 55, Heppner-Group Axle Overload, 77,600 alleged, 68,000 limit, \$786 fine;

Michael Allen Mills, 40, Heppner-Violation of the Basic Speed Rule, 73 mph in a 55 mph zone, \$67 fine;

Ryan L. Miller, 25, Heppner-Combination Overload, 99,700 alleged, 80,000 limit, \$171 fine;

Valerie Bradley, 36, Heppner-Failure to Obey Traffic Control Device: stop sign, \$137 fine;

Darrel Simmons, 54, Spray-Tandem Overload, 35,600 alleged, 34,000 limit, \$49 fine;

Arthur C. Warren, 67, Heppner-Passing in a No-Passing Zone, \$122 fine;

Charles Richard McElligott-Violation of the Basic Speed Rule, 74 mph in a 55 mph zone, \$67 fine;

Kanstantin Kuznetsov, 39, Woodburn-Violation of the Basic Speed Rule, 70 mph in a 55 mph zone, \$67 fine;

Norman L. Branch, 42, Portland-Operating in Balm Fork arm with motor, \$101 fine;

Luanne Carolyn Flanagan, 28, Irrigon-Violation of the Basic Speed Rule, 84 mph in a 55 mph zone, \$122 fine;

Rodney Paul Langlitz, 30, Heppner-Violation of the Basic Speed Rule, 72 mph in a 55 mph zone, \$101 fine;

Tina Rene Kemp, 19, Lexington-Violation of the Basic Speed Rule, 73 mph in a 55 mph zone, \$67 fine;

Ryan Kathleen Furr, 38, Prineville-Failure to Obey Traffic Control Device: stop sign, \$122 fine;

Stephen Scott Dougherty, 29, Lexington-Exceeding Maximum Speed, 65 mph in a 45 mph zone, \$101 fine;

Daniel Alan Mathews, 42, Heppner-Driving While License Suspended infraction, \$287 fine;

Dennis Lee Lund, 35, Prineville-Driving While License Suspended infraction, Driving Uninsured, \$454 fine;

Shawn Robert Olivarez, 18, La Grande-Violation of the Basic Speed Rule, 75 mph in a 55 mph zone, \$126 fine;

James Ray Steelman, 42, Boardman-Driving Uninsured, \$192 fine;

Monty T. Bowen, 18, Prineville-Minor in Possession, \$147 fine;

Trent Boothe, 18, Prineville-Minor in Possession, \$147 fine;

Evelyn Setnes, 25, Lexington-Maintaining a Dog as a Nuisance, \$43 fine;

William Schwarzin, 43, Heppner-Furnishing Alcohol to Minors, \$820 fine, 180 days in jail, \$250 and jail sentence suspended with one year probation with no further violation of law;

Mickey Kroske, 27, Heppner-Maintaining a Dog as a Nuisance, \$43 fine.

**Health Dept.**

The Morrow County Health Dept. lists the following monthly schedule for blood pressures and immunizations:

Thursday, Sept. 11-blood pressures and immunizations, Heppner office, 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.;

Tuesday, Sept. 16-blood pressures and immunizations, Boardman office, 9:30 a.m.-4 p.m.;

Thursday, Sept. 18-blood pressures and immunizations, Heppner office, 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.;

Tuesday, Sept. 23-blood pressures and immunizations, Boardman office, 9:30 a.m.-4 p.m.;

Thursday, Sept. 25-blood pressures and immunizations, Heppner office, 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.;

Tuesday, Sept. 30-blood pressures and immunizations, Boardman office, 9:30 a.m.-4 p.m.

**Obituary**

**Isabel M. Holcomb**

Mrs. Isabel M. Holcomb, 79, of Heppner, died Tuesday, September 2, 1997, at her home.

Her funeral was Monday, September 8, 1997, in Page, Arizona. Concluding service and burial followed at the Page City Cemetery.

She was born July 19, 1918, at Tell, Texas, to William and Miriam Castleberry Smith. She grew up in Tell and attended schools there.

On December 20, 1934, she married Clyde L. Holcomb at Tell. They moved to California in 1939 and retired to Page in 1976.

Mr. Holcomb died in 1990 and Mrs. Holcomb came to Heppner four years ago.

She was a homemaker all of her life and remained active in the Church of the Nazarene.

Survivors include son, Bill Holcomb of Page; daughters, Enola Shepard of Tigh Valley and Jackie Adams of Heppner; sister, Ruth Helms of Riverside, California; brothers, Tommy Smith of Tell, and Travis Smith of Fort Pierre, South Dakota; seven grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Church of the Nazarene Memorial Fund, directly or through Sweeney Mortuary, P.O. Box 97, Heppner, OR 97836.

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