

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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April Hilton-Sykes Editor

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.

Hospital situation is sad

To the Editor
These are my opinions only as a taxpayer of Morrow County. Since deer season has begun, Pioneer Memorial Hospital has been very busy with all sorts of injuries. One of these hunters from the west side was waiting for his ride to come and get him to return home; he told me how much he and his wife loved this area and planned to move to Heppner in two years when they retired. His mother has early signs of Alzheimer disease and was so impressed with our facility and happy that our

nursing home was in with our hospital. In listening to this hunter my heart just broke because the hospital and nursing home will be all gone by the time they get here. What upsets me even more is the attitude everyone has taken toward each other and what is happening at the hospital, such as jobs being created for certain people. We don't have the fun-loving hospital that people enjoyed going to. This situation is really sad.

(s) Maryetta Baker
Lexington

Staff needed at PMH, nursing home

To the Editor:

Dear Citizens of Heppner:

As you may be aware from the recent board meeting of the Morrow County Health District, we are in need of direct care staff at the hospital and nursing home. Recently, several individuals have gone back to school, and other staff members have gone to part-time work while they attend Blue Mountain Community College. The hospital and nursing home have an immediate need for five individuals. We

run three eight hour shifts which are: 7:00am to 3:00pm, 3:00pm to 11:00pm, and 11:00pm to 7:00am. As you can imagine, we have openings on all three shifts, with a greater need on the evening 3-11 shift.

I have placed advertisements in the local newspapers, and hand flyers around town. If you are interested, I would love to speak with you. You can call me at the hospital at: 541-676-2932

(s) Scot Jacobson
Human Resources

World bluegrass champions plan concert in Heppner

Nolan Murray and his bluegrass band, String 'Em Up, the 1998 world champion bluegrass band, will perform in Heppner on Saturday, October 10, from 7-9 p.m. at the Heppner Elementary School auditorium.

A portion of the proceeds of the family show will benefit the Heppner schools' music program.

Tickets are available at Murray Drugs in Heppner and Murray's Condon Pharmacy and at the door. Tickets are \$7 for students and seniors and \$10 for adults.

String 'Em Up won the 1998 World Champion Bluegrass award in Waterbury, Connecticut.

String 'Em Up consists of a four-piece "powerhouse" band. Leading the group's vocals is Jim Walker from Big Lake Ranch, British Columbia. He also plays banjo, rhythm guitar

and bass. Nolan Murray of LaGrande enjoys playing a wide variety of instruments and writing music. He toured and recorded with several Canadian artists before moving to Branson, Missouri, where he worked with David Frizzell, Loretta Lynn and Brenda Lee. He plays fiddle, mandolin, banjo and rhythm and lead guitar.

The two others in the band are Curtis Jones, who is from Georgia, guitar and vocals, and Del Cox, base and vocals.

String 'Em Up repertoire includes a nice variety of music, including old time fiddle, gospel, Irish music and even some old Bob Wills Texas swing. The band is also promoting their new CD, "Contagious Bluegrass", which was produced by James Bailey, a former member of the Country Gentlemen.

MCCCF to meet

The next meeting of the Morrow County Commission on Children & Families will be held Tuesday, October 13 at 7 pm at the A.C. Houghton Elementary School Library in Irrigon.

The main topic of discussion will be the approval of community development proposals.

This is a public meeting and any interested party is invited to attend and participate in the discussions. For more information call 676-9675.

The Oregon Wheat Commission, in conjunction with the Idaho Wheat Commission and the Washington Wheat Commission, will hold a regular meeting on Tuesday, October 20, and Wednesday, October 21, at the Sheraton Hotel (206/621-9000) at 1400 Sixth Avenue, Seattle, WA, at 8 a.m.

The commission meeting is open to the public everyone is invited to attend.

Help needed for former Morrow C. resident

To the Editor;
Enclosed is a write up about Jovita Reyes, whose mother, Cassandra Chapel Reyes grew up in Ione and Heppner. Cassie is the daughter of Blaine and Delsie Chapel who were life-time residents of the area.

June Crowell and I are collecting money to be sent to the Jovita Reyes foundation in Woodburn. The foundation hopes to be able to get enough money from friends to be able to purchase a van with a lift for Jovita. I am sure it would mean a lot to Cassie to know that friends from her home in Morrow County care and want to help. We are setting a deadline of November 15. Anyone wishing to know more about the Reyes are welcome to call June Crowell or Jean Jepsen. You may mail checks to June Crowell at Box 101 in Ione, or Jean Jepsen at PO Box 7 Ione, OR 97843.

Let's all get behind this project and help Jovita.

(s) Jean Jepsen & June Crowell,
family friends.

A year ago Jovita Reyes was the star of a party at her family's Woodburn farm to celebrate the six-month anniversary of a marrow transplant that gave her a second chance at life.

The party was held, in part, to say thanks to people who supported Jovita and her family during a five-year struggle with leukemia. Jovita was thrilled that she would return to school with her friends.

But this year, the 13-year-old honor-roll student can't join her eight-grade classmates.

Instead, Jovita was recently released from Doernbecher Children's Hospital, where she endured months of steroid treatments and was haunted by side effects that left painful and permanent scars. She faces a long and arduous recovery period restricted to a hospital bed at home.

Jovita was diagnosed with acute lymphocytic leukemia in 1992, and chemotherapy brought the disease into remission. But when she had a relapse in August 1996, doctors thought her best hope for a cure would be a marrow transplant.

She didn't have a matching donor within her family, so she had to find an unrelated donor through the National Marrow Donor Program Registry.

Jovita triumphed in her repeated battles against leukemia and with the marrow transplant, said her physician, Dr. Ted Moore, director of Doernbecher's Pediatric Bone-Marrow Transplant Program. But she won't be able to enjoy her victories for quite a while.

When it was learned that Jovita's body couldn't tolerate major transplant anti-rejection medicines, Moore said, she received heavy dose of a special steroid medicine.

"The transplant is working--we see no signs of the leukemia," he said. But as a side effect of the

steroids, Jovita has developed avascular necrosis - a painful and debilitating destruction of her joints.

"She will be wheelchair-bound for the near foreseeable future," he said. "It'll be over a year or two before she's able to have an opportunity for hip replacement surgery."

Jovita is taking large doses of medicines and must come to Portland often for exams. The trips are extremely costly, said her parents, Miguel and Cassandra Reyes.

Jovita's escalating medical costs are wracking the family budget, said Cassandra Reyes, who must drop to a part-time schedule as a special-education teacher at Myers Elementary School in West Salem. Miguel manages residential activities at Chemawa Indian School in Salem.

Cassandra Reyes said she has to reduce her work hours to spend more time nursing Jovita. "Right now, she's completely bedridden - and she's fed intravenously.

...She can't move her left leg at all. Someone has to lift it for her."

Jovita must be transported to Portland by a stretcher-van service that costs from \$200 to \$265 each way, Cassandra Reyes said. Lates, when she can sit up, the trip will cost from \$160 to \$180 round trip via a wheelchair-van service.

But the family's health insurance does not cover such non emergency transportation costs, Cassandra Reyes said.

Prescriptions also are expensive, she said. "One medication Jovita uses for pain costs about \$1,000 a month. Another prescription costs from \$365 to \$390. That's just one drug. She takes 10 different

TV to focus on rodeo stock

Athletic and powerful bucking horses and steers are in high demand on the championship rodeo circuit and the breeding of these exceptional animals is the focus of an Oregon Field Guide program airing Thursday, October 15, at 8:30 p.m. on Oregon Public Broadcasting. Animals distinguished for their bucking ability are an essential part of every rodeo and a report by Oregon Field Guide reporter Jeff Douglas introduces viewers to the stock contractors who breed these valuable horses and steers.

At the center of this report is the Beard family ranch of Northeastern Oregon, one of the Northwest's most prominent rodeo animal breeders, and a training facility for teenage rodeo competitors.

The high-tech Beard operation is designed to breed the most athletic horses and steers possible and they accomplish this with great success (they provide rodeo bucking animals to every major rodeo in the state) and at great expense. One Beard Ranch steer, for example, is valued at \$15,000.

Ione Site council holds first meeting

The Ione Site Council met on September 16 for their first meeting of the year.

Four new members, Becky Hunt, Anne Morter, Jim Swanson and Dale Holland, were welcomed to the council by outgoing chair, Maureen Krebs.

A committee was formed to research possible criteria for earning an academic letter. Committee members are Arlynda Gates, Betty Rietmann, Dale Holland, the class presidents and the president of the Honor Society. They will report back at the next meeting.

Dick Allen reported on the results of the statewide assessment tests, given to third, fifth, eighth and 10th graders last spring. He also informed the committee that "levels" testing was scheduled for the week of September 21 for grades 3-10. Levels tests are given in the fall and spring so that the school and the students can track their progress in meeting state benchmarks.

Officers were elected for the 1998-99 school year. Steve Schaber will serve as chair, John Collin as vice-chair, Charity McElligott as secretary and Anne Morter as reporter.

Betty Rietmann was recognized at the district in-service meeting for receiving an award for teaching in Morrow County for 30 years.

Jim Swanson reported on the state of the Morrow County Unified Recreation District's advisory vote, set for November 3. Duane Neiffer is Ione's representative on the political action committee that has been formed to pass the measure.

The next scheduled meeting of the Ione Site Council is Wednesday, October 14, at 5 p.m. in Room One at Ione High School.

Funeral services held for 2 1/2 month old

Funeral services for the two and one half month old son of John and Nancy Maine of Corvallis were held October 2, 1998 in Corvallis. He died September 28, 1998, at home.

His grandparents are Elmore and Jackie Maine, Corvallis, and Carl and Geri Martin, Heppner.

Memorial contributions in his name may be made to AIDS Foundation, in care of McHenry Funeral Home, 206 NW Fifth St. Corvallis, OR 97330.

W.C.C.C. Golf

WCCC Ladies' Play Tuesday, Sept. 22

Low gross of the field: Pat Edmundson.

Low net of the field: Luvilla Sonstegard.

Least putts of the field: Betty Christman, Carol Norris, Lynnea Sargent, Karen Wildman.

Flight A: low gross-Lois Hunt; low net-Susan Atkins; least putts-Karen Thomsson; long drive: Pat Edmundson.

Flight B: low gross-Bernice Lott; low net-Joyce Dinkins; least putts-Bunnie Lindsay.

Flight C: low gross-Cheri Lovgren; low net-Jackie Allstott; least putts-Cam Wishart.

KP: Lynnea Sargent.

Birdie: Pat Edmundson, #1.

WCCC Ladies' Play Tuesday, Sept. 29

Low gross of the field: Pat Edmundson.

Low net of the field: Karen Thompson.

Least putts of the field: Bernice Lott.

Flight A: low gross-Jan Paustian, Lois Hunt; low net-Carol Norris; least putts-Susan Atkins, Luvilla Sonstegard.

Flight B: low gross-Suzanne Jepsen; low net-Lynnea Sargent.

Flight C: low gross-Della Heideman; low net-Cam Wishart; least putts-Jenny Reynolds.

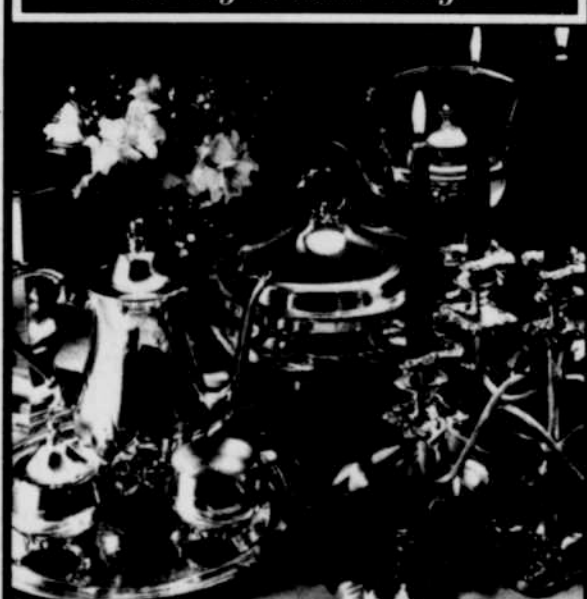
Long drive: Jan Paustian #15.

KP second shot: Lois Hunt #13.

Chip in: Susan Atkins #11.

Birdie: Susan Atkins #11.

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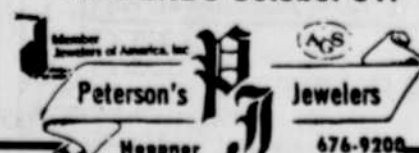


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