

## 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.

To the Editor:  
"Sedan Values"  
I was a week before Christmas and all through the town,  
Not a creature was stirring except a sedan;  
It cruised the streets looking for something to do;  
It had no conscience; scruples and values were few.

As it drove down Main it spotted the perfect crime;  
Destroy St. Nick and his elves ... turn them to slime!  
No one was looking, so it drove through the park;  
No one witnessed the mayhem ... it was quite dark.

The elves were not so lucky, though Santa was spared,  
The scene of Christmas spirit was suddenly not there.  
The soldiers of wood were unable to defend  
Such cruel destruction that had befallen all of them.

The scene had been born of loving hands.  
Creativity and time had been the only demands.  
Volunteers that had made these elves and toys  
To bring smiles of happiness to all our girls and boys.

Now certain souls were looking down at this scene...

Henry said to Jack, "What have we here?  
Someone not nice, bringing our town fear.  
Sheriff McDuffee would bring a halt to this.  
His bravery has never been amiss."

"Get JW Reddington, he'll let the citizens know  
What happened this night to bring our town so low."  
But little they could do this night;  
They were only spirits, though they tried with all their might.

Their only hope is the city would recover;  
Sharing the loss and supporting each other.  
The pride of the citizens of Heppner is strong  
Even when they have been given a great wrong.

Now the very next day the pitiful scene was found;  
The elves and the toys scattered across the ground.  
The evidence included the tracks from a sedan;  
The police said that they would do what they can.

The staff of the museum were quite upset and didn't know  
That something like a sedan

could have its priorities so low;  
To take away from the community the Christmas spirit they had shared;  
Destroyed by a reckless sedan that had not cared.

There were tears from children for the elves gone from the site.  
The parents were thankful that it was only elves destroyed that night.  
The teens hid their tears but they knew,  
That life wasn't always perfect from their point of view.

"We really enjoyed them, we really did care.  
We hope that next time no one will dare  
Destroy our Christmas spirit of Santa's Workshop;  
This mayhem and destruction, it really must stop!"

We hope that we've learned something from this event;  
The museum staff and volunteers and all the time that was spent  
Bringing the citizens some holiday cheer;  
We hope to replace it by December next year.

...Now our city founders Henry Heppner and Jackson Morrow were talking again,  
With the early editor of the Heppner Gazette, Mr. Reddington:  
They came up with a statement that they would like to share;  
Because they knew the citizens of Heppner really must care.

"We ask that you remember the responsibility of owning a sedan;  
To nurture it and love it as part of your plan;  
Teach it morals and pride, to do what is right;  
We wouldn't want to have happened again, what happened that night."  
Tami Sneddon  
Heppner

## Wind causes power outage

Much of Heppner experienced a power outage on Sunday, Dec. 27. The outage lasted only around 20 minutes, from 11:46 p.m. to 12:05 a.m.  
According to Columbia Basin Electric Coop general manager Jerry Healy, the outage, which affected 80-90 percent of the downtown area, was caused by high winds.

**We Make POSTERS**  
Heppner Gazette-Times

## Sheriff's Report

The Morrow County Sheriff's office (MCSO) reports handling the following business:

Dec. 21-Heppner Police Dept. received a report of drug paraphernalia discovered at a Heppner residence.

MCSO received a report of two kids out on frozen ponds along I-84, milepost 161. An officer was unable to locate anyone.

MCSO deputy removed a dead deer from the roadway on Highway 207, milepost six;

MCSO received a report of a person hitting their grandparents' dog at a Lexington residence.

MCSO dispatched to the Heppner Police Dept. a report of a white Chevy extended cab passing on Riverside and traveling at a high rate of speed.

MCSO, Heppner Police Dept. received a report of a man at a Heppner residence who was drunk, had a gun and was refusing to leave. He reportedly threatened several subjects.

Heppner Police Dept. received a report of a fight at Bucknum's Tavern. Gordon Walker, 40, was arrested for four counts of Menacing, Criminal Trespass I, and Unlawful Possession of a Firearm. Walker was lodged at the UCSO jail.

Dec. 22-Heppner Police Dept. received a report of a verbal argument on a neighbor's front porch.

## Playing with our lives

To the Editor:

My name is Chelsea Bredemeier and I'm a seventh grader at Columbia Middle School in Irrigon, OR. My language arts class is writing letters to editors around the country in hopes of getting published.

I am writing about Hanford and the Umatilla Army Depot. I know that you probably don't care or even know that you might be in danger or that we are in danger. Irrigon is located two miles from the army depot and 50 miles from Hanford. If either of those places were to leak, it would not take long

for the chemicals to reach us. There is also a PCB dump outside of Arlington that not very many people know about. If you don't know what PCBs are, they are low radioactive wastes.

So as you can see, Irrigon, Boardman and Umatilla are kind of in a triangle of chemical dumps. We have Hanford to the north, the army depot to the southeast and the PCB dump to the southwest. Remember, it's your lives that the Dept. of Energy, the Army and the Portland dumps are playing with.

(s) Chelsea Bredemeier  
Irrigon

MCSO received a request for an extra patrol at an Irrigon residence.

MCSO received a report of harassment at the Washboard Laundromat in Irrigon. The subject waited for a woman's husband to leave and then went into the laundromat and harassed her.

MCSO and ODFW received a report of four men hunting in a Port of Morrow field that was posted closed to hunting.

MCSO received a report from ODFW that some people have special permits to hunt on no-hunting days.

MCSO received a report of a six month old Labrador puppy sitting in the westbound lane in Lexington. The dog was returned to its owner.

Heppner Police Dept. received a report from a man who said two subjects called him names, used foul language and tried to run over him. The man said he beat the pickup with a baseball bat.

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for the chemicals to reach us.

MCSO received a report of a broken window on a vehicle parked behind the North Lexington Grain Elevator.

MCSO received a report of a small fire at Three Mile Canyon. The fire was put out.

MCSO received a report of a fire alarm at Finley Buttes Landfill. It was a false alarm, but also out of the district.

MCSO, Boardman ambulance received a report of a man having a heart attack in Boardman. The patient was transported to Good Shepherd Community Hospital in Hermiston.

MCSO deputy cited Brian Burnside, 18, with Failure to Perform the Duties of a Driver with Property Damage.

MCSO deputy arrested Joseph Kindel, 18, for Burglary II, Theft

and Criminal Mischief II. Kindel was lodged at the UCSO jail.

MCSO received a report of a woman locked out of her residence. There were no deputies in the area.

MCSO received a report of a lost chocolate lab at the Irrigon Marina.

MCSO, Heppner Fire Dept., Heppner ambulance received a report of a one vehicle accident with one person injured and still in the vehicle approximately three miles south of Hardman on Highway 207. The patient was transported to Pioneer Memorial Hospital in Heppner.

Heppner Police Dept. received a report of a car alarm sounding on Morgan Street.

MCSO received a report of a possible drunk driver who was all over the road on Highway 730 westbound. An officer was unable to locate anyone.

Heppner Police Dept. received a report of an alarm on Riverside Street in Heppner.

Boardman Police Dept. received a report of an intrusion alarm at the Boardman Chevron.

MCSO received a report of gates open and lights on inside MCGG in Lexington at 2:15 a.m. It turned out to be the cleaning service.

MCSO received a request for a welfare check at an Irrigon residence with a previous history of domestic violence. An officer was unable to locate anyone at the residence.

MCSO received a request for assistance for a woman wanting help in getting her kids from her husband for visitation.

MCSO, Boardman Fire Dept. received a report of a Toyota on fire on I-84 between Highway 730 junction and Patterson Ferry. Two men were trying to put out the fire.

MCSO received a report of a burglar alarm at Cascade Specialties on Bombing Range Road. An officer was unable to locate anything.

MCSO received a report of a puppy found at Coast to Coast in Heppner.

MCSO received a report of a Rottweiler killing a duck at a Boardman residence. The caller said they had previous problems with the dog and wanted to know if they could kill the dog. MCSO advised not to and said they would send a deputy over.

## Inaccurate reporting

To the Editor:

In response to an article published in the Heppner Gazette-Times on Dec. 23, 1998 entitled "Heppner man turns vigilante," I would like to make it public that Mr. Verrall is not a member of the Heppner Crime Prevention Committee. He attended the first meeting of the committee as a volunteer and participated in the first meeting of the Neighborhood Watch group but quit shortly thereafter because of "personal reasons." He has not been a participant in either group since August, 1998. The inference in the Gazette-Times that the Committee now supports vigilantism is totally

false and an offense to those of us who are working hard with law enforcement officials and local citizens to eradicate the crime in Heppner in a peaceful, but lasting way. The action of Mr. Verrall, whether true or not, have no reflection whatsoever on the philosophy of the Heppner Crime Prevention Committee as the inappropriate and inaccurate accusations of one reporter do not reflect on the otherwise professional journalism normally seen in the Heppner Gazette-Times.

(s) Darwin Merrill  
Chair, Morrow County Crime Prevention Committee  
Heppner

Heppner Police Dept. received a report of a man missing in Heppner. The man showed up and was okay.

MCSO received a report of the flood computer jumping to a Level 3. The fire chief checked the status of the creek and advised the creek was frozen solid.

MCSO deputy arrested Roberto Rodriguez, 22, on a circuit court warrant for Delivery of a Controlled Substance and Possession of a Controlled Substance. Rodriguez was lodged at the UCSO jail.

Boardman Police Dept. received a report of a dog attacking another dog in Boardman.

Oregon State Police received a report of a woman in lone coming home and finding her ceiling fan on. When she left home, it wasn't on.

MCSO, Oregon State Police and the Boardman Police Dept. received a report of a domestic dispute at the Outback Apts. in Boardman.

Boardman Police Dept., Boardman ambulance received a request for an ambulance for a 50 year old female having a severe anxiety attack. The patient was transported to Good Shepherd Community Hospital in Hermiston.

Dec. 23: MCSO and Oregon State Police received a request for a welfare check in Irrigon. All was okay.

MCSO deputy cited a 14 year old for Criminal Mischief II.

MCSO received a report of a possible car fire or overheating on I-84 westbound. It turned out not to be a fire.

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**happy NEW YEAR !!!**

**December 31st - Thursday**  
NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY  
Crab Feed, Baron of Beef  
Dinner from 6-8:30 p.m.  
Live music from 9-?? Party Favors!

**BINGO IS BACK! Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m.**

**HEPPNER ELKS 358**  
676-9181 "Where Friends Meet" 142 North Main

**Happy Holidays from Wright Chevy!**

**THE 99s ARE IN!**

The all new Silverado extended cab 4x4 pickups  
The 1999 S10 extended cab ZR2, 4x4, wide stance

The 1999 Chevrolet Malibu LS Sedan  
A great car at a price you can afford!

The 1999 Chevrolet Venture Extended 4-door van, loaded - Great family van!

The 1999 Oldsmobile Alero, 4-door, GL sedan  
Great looks - All New!

**Watch our showroom floor... It's Due In Soon! 1999 Chevrolet Corvette Coupe**

**Low GMAC financing on selected models!**

**Wright Chevrolet**  
Chevrolet & Oldsmobile  
Fossil, OR  
541-763-4175 - 1-800-336-0057  
Herb Wright - Bill MacInnes - Bill MacInnes, Jr.

**G-T FOOTBALL PICKS CONTEST**

Each week through football season, the below football "experts" will test their gridiron knowledge by picking winners of games in both the pros and college.

PICK THE WINNER!	Chris Sykes	Greg Grant	Butch Laughlin	Larry Mills	George Koffler	Molly Rhea	Dennis Stefani	Les Payne	Kim Gutierrez	Rick Paullus	Stef Jensen	Guest Editor 99 New Year
Buffalo @ Miami	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Arizona @ Dallas	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
New England @ Jacksonville	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Green Bay @ San Francisco	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1) Southern Cal vs Texas Christian	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2) Virginia vs Georgia	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3) Penn State vs Kentucky	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4) Georgia Tech vs Notre Dame	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5) Michigan vs Arkansas	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6) Mississippi State vs Texas	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7) Texas A&M vs Ohio State	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8) Wisconsin vs UCLA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
LAST WEEK'S RIGHT SCORE	11	11	1	12	9	7	9	11	11	8	11	10
WRONG</												