

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

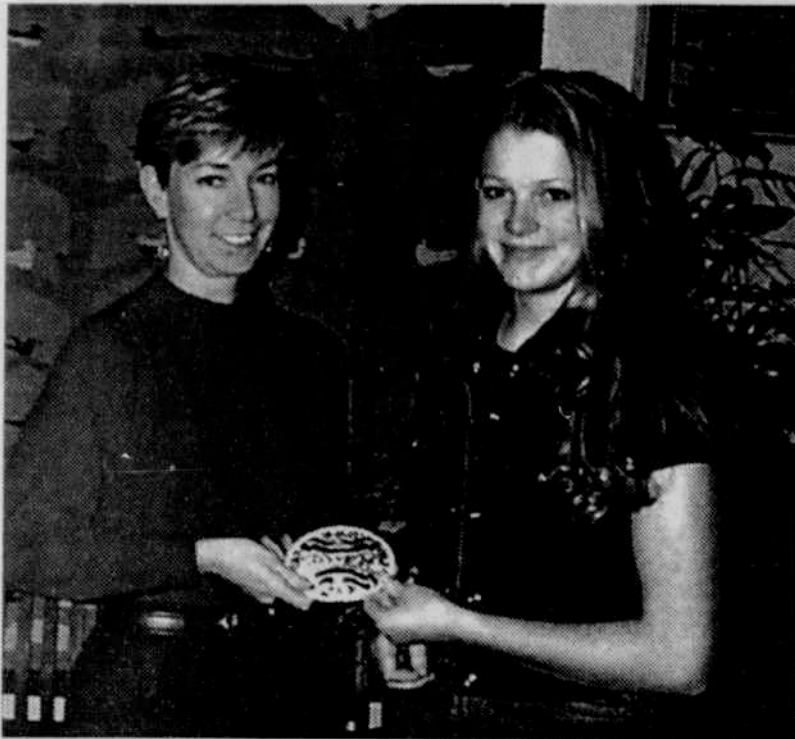
**Heppner
GAZETTE-TIMES**

U.S.P.S. 240-420

Morrow County's Home-Owned Weekly Newspaper

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David Sykes Publisher
April Hilton-Sykes Editor

Bank presents court buckle



Kate Close, manager of Inland Empire Bank in Boardman, presents an official court buckle to Morrow County Fair and Oregon Trail Pro Rodeo Princess Tracy Rankin. "The court is a great group and I think we're going to have a great year," said Princess Tracy.

**CLASS OF 1999
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Saturday, January 30th

During halftime of the boys' and girls' basketball games

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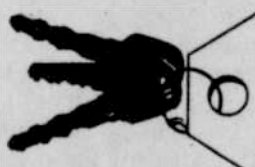
GIRLS:

Kathleen Greenup
Amber Peck
Jill Barber
Janelle Healy
Julie Watkins
Jaci Hughes
Kristi Worden
Bobbie Rankin
Brooke Sweeney
Brooke Boyer

BOYS:

Derek Gunderson
Blas Elguezabal
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Jared Eckman
Royal Robinson
Casey Evans
Riley Tingue
Travis Winters
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**Ione site
council meets**

The Ione Site Council met on Jan. 13, with Steve Schaber, Dick Allen, John Collin, Arlynda Gates, Anita Orem, Becky Hunt, Betty Rietmann, Anne Morter, Dean Robinson, Linda Jones and Charity McElligott present. Dale Holland and John Rietmann were absent.

Dick Allen reported on input forms from Ione teachers on how they thought they could better prepare students to meet benchmarks. A total of ten teachers responded, with the majority asking for more time to prepare. It was passed by consensus that Allen would present this report to the school board.

The council approved travel requests for Robin Graff to attend an eight-man football workshop in Hillsboro and for Dean Robinson to attend the Oregon Athletic Directors meeting in Sunriver.

After a brief discussion, the council passed by consensus to continue with the School Improvement Plan as it is currently written.

Allen reported that the state has changed the way the assessment tests will be grade this year. Composite scores of 40 and above will be needed to pass the writing assessment and a composite of 32 will be needed to pass the math assessment.

Testing dates for the remainder of the school year were passed out. The council will help to organize and provide snacks for the longer tests. Rewards will be given for the shorter tests.

The Presidential Awards were discussed and tabled until some further investigation on criteria can be done by Allen.

In honors and recognition, Niki Sullivan placed third in the Umatilla/Morrow VFW Voice of Democracy contest. She wrote an essay and delivered a speech to achieve this honor. The Ione varsity volleyball team was honored by the Oregon Dairy Association for academic excellence. The team, based on team-wide grade point average, placed seventh in the state from all schools, and received a pin.

Artist-in-residence Linda Peterson will be teaching weaving to grades K-6 from Jan. 25-Feb. 5. Sandra Van Liew gave a preliminary demonstration on carding wool on Jan. 21.

The Ione Site Council's next meeting is Wednesday, Feb. 10 at 5 p.m. The public is invited to attend.

**Commission
approves grant
proposals**

The Morrow County Commission on Children & Families approved two Community Development proposals during the December 8 meeting.

Grants were awarded to purchase equipment to start up a Tae Kwon Do facility to Irrigon and another to help purchase Cub Scout uniforms and manuals for disadvantaged youth in Heppner and Lexington.

The Community Development Fund was established for anticipated community needs and to leverage other funds and resources into services, advocacy and projects for the children, youth and families of Morrow County.

The commission is seeking new proposals for the upcoming quarter. There is approximately \$1,200 available this quarter and the maximum grant is \$500. Examples of reasonable Community Development Fund requests include: seasonal program needs; small capital expenditures (except for private property); service program staff training; one time events and pilot projects.

Next quarter's proposals will be reviewed on March 9 during the monthly commission meeting but must be received by the commission office by February 28 to be considered. Applications are available at the commission office at 120 South Main in Heppner or by calling 676-9675.

FAX PAPER
Gazette-Times 676-9228

St. Pats holds baby shower



Youth at St. William's Catholic Church who bagged baby items for needy mothers at Good Shepherd were: Background: Salli McElligott, Natalie McElligott, Diana McElligott, Mark McElligott, Adam McCabe, Jeremiah McElligott. Middle: Adrienne Swanson (holding Rachel Holland), Caitlin Orem, Colin McElligott, Taylor McElligott. Front: Clay Morter, Beth Morter, Kylie McElligott, Mary McElligott, Zac Orem, Emily Holland, Nikki McElligott, (holding Don McElligott).

St. William's Catholic Parish in Ione held a "Baby Shower for Jesus" over the advent season.

Parishioners collected newborn baby items to donate to needy mothers and their babies at Good Shepherd Hospital in Hermiston.

**Club to honor
yard of month
winners**

The Heppner Garden Club will honor the 1998 "Yard-of-the-Month" winners at their February 1 meeting at 7 p.m. in St. Pat's Senior Center.

The program will be "Roses in Heppner Gardens and Around the World." The public is invited to attend.

**Pomona Grange
holds meeting**

By Delpha Jones

Wheatland Pomona Grange met on Saturday at the Willows Grange hall in Ione for the regular meeting. The steward, Clarence Buchanan, conducted the meeting in the absence of the master and overseer.

Reports from the attending grangers were interesting, with many activities reported, such as dinners, Christmas parties and the upkeep of the buildings.

Due to the death of the assistant steward, the office is vacant and subordinate granges were asked to consult the members to see if anyone would like the position.

The Legislative report concerned the land use bill and a report on ladybug beetles and their impact on the environment.

It was also reported that the there are several species of new weeds invading farmlands and weed control will be working on this project.

Boardman (Greenfield) Grange will host the GWA conference on March 12.

It was suggested that notice of Pomona meetings be sent to the East Oregonian.

It was suggested that the county deputy try and get a state officer on someone to be master for the fifth degree. Several members are ready for the degree from each of the subordinates and all those members are urged to be present at the date set.

The literary program was given by Chad and Anita Otterness, teachers from Boardman. They spent two years in Cairo, Egypt, teaching and gave an interesting account of their time there and the interesting places to see. They said that the students there all wear uniforms and are taught English and one hour of Arabic each day. The women cover their heads and sometimes their faces when going out. Some of the interesting and historical places to visit include Mt. Sinai, the Camel Market, Israel and the pyramids.

The calk walk was enjoyed. Two masters were present and Willows had six members present; Lexington, six; and Greenfield, three. A bad snowstorm kept the Spray people away from Pomona.

The next meeting will be April 24 at Spray.

The shower is an annual celebration for the parish and a chance to help the less fortunate, said spokesperson Jeri McElligott.

Joining the church in collecting newborn items were the Ione Topic Club, Willow's Grange,

and the Ione United Church of Christ. The youth of St. William's separated items into individual bags, each containing diapers, clothing items, blankets, and toiletries. Fifty bags were filled and donated to Good Shepherd in January.



Off The Wall

By Merlyn Robinson

By listening to the state of the union address, we've learned that the government is going to take care of any and all problems, even an ingrown toenail. It was often repeated that prosperity reigns, even for landowners who produce all that milk and honey.

Ge, even agriculture was mentioned by 'Wily Willie' while 'Guileful Glitch' had his moment in the spotlight. That safety net mentioned for farmers must be something used in the drying of tobacco crops--a campaign contribution commodity and a tax-plenty substance. Other types of farmers might use a net to carry their possessions when they are forced to leave farmsteads behind. Just ask the heartland of America if producers have received protection from the flux of wheat, livestock and carcasses flooding this country from neighboring nations under NAFTA, the so-called free trade agreement.

A hog farmer in the Midwest related that due to increasing the number of pigs per litter he had increased his production. Yet this year he couldn't understand how litter numbers kept increasing each time he made morning rounds. He finally caught on to the fact that a neighbor was dumping pigs into his pens at night so that this neighbor could reduce his feed costs.

About all that prosperity, besides food producers, just ask the labor force in steel mills, textiles and other industries who have lost jobs due to downsizing, mergers and closures. Locally there is a tragic impact to families and the community due to Kinzua's closure plans. Regulations and appeals have even prevented the harvest of dead trees into salvageable material from large forest fire burns.

Keiko the whale must be enjoying his home off Iceland after expensive airplane transport. Although there are homeless and destitute people, that whale's former facilities, costing over \$8 million, are being torn down - to be replaced by shark tanks costing thousands. Gotta keep those sharks protected and happy, not unlike the two-legged ones in politics who fleece the public.

But there is some 'people protection' such as those shelter-in-place kits about to be distributed to folks as a first line of defense against a possible lethal nerve agent leak at nearby Umatilla Chemical Depot. Those kits contain plastic sheeting, duct tape, towels, etc. (all that high-tech stuff found in most homes) to keep nerve gas from seeping into openings at homes. Nearby folks were also supposed to receive tone-alert radios- to serve as a warning. However a dispute over production contracts is caught up in court. If some folks are beyond the range of warning signals, perhaps some designated riders are going to use gas masks on themselves and their horses to spread a warning Paul Revere style. Like our Eastern Oregon winds, the political rhetoric blows strongly both hot and cold. Creative ways to spend this year's national income surplus were mentioned, so I guess the government doesn't have to worry about a national debt of over a trillion dollars and the accruing interest. I propose that bankers should also be as forgiving on rural folks' budgets for 1999.

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