

## Grain Growers hold customer appreciation day



Morrow County Fair and Oregon Trail Pro Rodeo Queen Bobbie Rankin (left) and her court (left to right) Brooke Boyer, Tracy Rankin and Nonnee Walters, have fun at the Morrow County Grain Growers annual customer appreciation breakfast held Saturday, February 13, at the store in Lexington. Besides ham and eggs and pancakes, MCGG presented carnations to the ladies and awarded door prizes.

## 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.

### Seek employment diversification

To The Editor:

I'm sorry the mill is closing. I hope the Heppner Economic Development Corporation will be able to come up with a diversified number of employment opportunities for workers being displaced by the mill closure. Unless there have been some drastic changes, most people hired by WalMart work at minimum wage without benefits and with few raises, not exactly a family wage like the mill paid. Also, WalMart's ability to buy in volume at lower prices and undersell independent merchants has put many locally-owned stores out of business

nationwide.

I hope the economic development folks do seek employers beyond WalMart and the prison(s) at Umatilla. Ideally, there would be several additional sources of employment available, and I hope that is what will happen. Relying on WalMart alone to absorb replaced mill workers isn't going to be enough, and could be harmful to independent retail stores in the region.

I wish Hepper lots of luck in its efforts to develop jobs for those being laid off at the mill.

(s) Sally Cohn  
Portland

### Jepsen third in state contest

Matt Jepsen, a 12th grade Heppner student, placed third in the Oregon state finals of the VFW Voice of Democracy Speech Contest. He represented District 8 and was one of 16 district winners who competed for state awards.

The top five finishers in the state, including Matt, were asked to give their speeches to those who were gathered in Salem for the VFW convention.

## 4-H News

### North Lex Livestock

By Emily Key and Natalie McElligott

The North Lex Livestock 4-H meeting was held on February 7 at the Krebs' Ranch. Sixteen members were present. The club was given a tour by Skye, Kip, Shelby and Maureen Krebs. Members viewed the lambing operation.

The next meeting will be announced. Notices will be sent out to members. Snacks will be provided by Nikki and Natalie McElligott, who will also be giving a presentation on the parts of a steer.

## KIRK & ROBINSON RANCH

### St. Patty's O'Bull Sale

Sunday, March 14th  
1:00 p.m.

Morrow County Fairgrounds • Heppner

Plan to attend the three day Irish celebration in Heppner and choose your 1999 range sires from the top end of our Polled Hereford, Saliors or Angus bulls. Bulls will be available for inspection at the fairgrounds starting on Friday, March 12th. This is a low-key, silent auction where bidders may place or raise bids without haste. Write or call for information.

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## Degree team to attend Grange

By Delpha Jones

A degree team from the Oregon State Grange, under the direction of Nina Samples, will be present at the Lexington Grange Hall on Sunday, Feb. 21 to give the Pomona degree.

A potluck dinner will be held at noon and degree work at 1 p.m. The State Master hopes all those qualified will be present for the degree.

## Corrections classes to be offered

Blue Mountain Community College, Community Action Program East Central Oregon and the Oregon Department of Corrections are again teaming together to offer Careers in the Oregon Department of Corrections.

CODOC is a short-term training opportunity consisting of a series of three courses offered at BMCC's West Campus in Hermiston. The intent of the training is to prepare participants for formal application for employment with the Department of Corrections. The focus is general and is for persons interested in positions in any capacity, including food service, maintenance, medical service, clerical and corrections officers.

The training will begin with the first course on March 30 and end on June 3. Classes are offered in two separate sessions. Participants will take one session or the other.

The afternoon session meets Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 1 to 5 p.m. The evening session meets Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 6 to 10 p.m.

The application process begins immediately and must be completed by March 12.

Each class is worth five credits and the cost for each is \$180.

Students who successfully complete all 15 credits will receive a Blue Mountain Community College Certificate of Completion. Enrollment for the CODOC training is limited

**NEWS DEADLINE**  
5 p.m. Monday

## Rebekahs hold card party

By Delpha Jones

The monthly Rebekah card party was held recently at the lodge hall. The serving table was decorated in a Valentine's motif with red and white flowers, napkins and streamers.

Refreshments were served. The following prizes were won: men's high-Bob Taylor; second high-Clarence Buchanan; women's high-Maryanne Palmer; and low-Luella Taylor.

The next card party will be the first Saturday in March.

## Lexington News

By Delpha Jones

-:- Mr. and Mrs. Butch Sawyer from the Tri-Cities, WA. were recent callers in Lexington.

-:- Mr. and Mrs. Ray Papineau and daughters, Carmen Looslie and Connie Jones, were Union callers when they attended the funeral of family friend, Mrs. Carlson.

-:- Kathy Tellechea is recuperating at home from recent surgery.

-:- Word has been received of the death of Marj Angel, a former Lexington resident.

-:- Roni Jones and children spent several days at the home of her parents in Union. She recently spent several days in St. Anthony Hospital in Pendleton.

## Cardinal varsity girls fall short of Condon

The Ione Girls Varsity struggled against the Condon Blue Devils on Feb. 5, and fell short, 32-52.

The Ione Lady Cardinals also came out cold in the first two quarters, ending the first half 9-29.

The Cardinal ladies heated up the third quarter, adding 11 points, followed with 12 points in

the fourth quarter.

Nikki McElligott was the lead scorer for Ione with 18 points, and played an excellent defense with nine rebounds, three assists and four steals. Freshman Kristina Powell made her presence known under the basket, pulling down seven rebounds in the fourth quarter.

## Blue Devils overpower Ione

The Ione Cardinals hosted the Condon Blue Devils JV boys on Feb. 5 and the Blue Devils overpowered Ione, 71-35.

Ione had difficulty getting out of the gate the first quarter, scoring only four points to Condon's 21 points.

Ryan Bennetto canned a three-point basket in the second quarter, but it wasn't enough aid to help the Cardinal squad and, by the end of the first half, the

Devils had outscored the Cardinals, 39-9.

The Cardinals picked up the pace the second half, adding 26 points.

Jeremy Rietmann led the Cardinals with nine points and grabbed two steals. Jacob Neiffer added six points to the Cardinal effort and Cody Erickson, Adam McCabe and Ryan Bennetto led the Ione men in rebounds.

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