

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

### CAT scan from page 1

Heard a report from Dahlman concerning her trip to Washington, D.C., representing the Oregon Hospital Association. She voiced concern over the current administration's new bill which would eliminate billions of dollars in hospital

reimbursements. The board also met in a March 15 special telephone conference meeting. Following executive session the board voted to go ahead with a contract with Dairyland for a computer system update which they want to have on-line by June 1.

### 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.

### Heppner to seek Irish sister city

To the Editor: I have presented an idea to Heppner City Council and it has (been) approved. I am inviting everyone to join in a search for an Irish sister-city match for Heppner.

When I recently considered the fact that Heppner does not have such a community in Ireland, I was surprised. We are obviously proud of our Irish roots, and we tout our Irish-ness each spring. We need an Irish connection on the Emerald Isle. So, what to do? The city council agreed to my sponsoring a "find a sister-city" contest. This could be especially interesting to school students, but I hope that our adult population will also give the search a try.

What I propose: finding a community that shares some of Heppner's character. I think that many aspects of life in Heppner can be used for finding a match - for instance: weather, topography, industry, businesses, demographics,

school sizes, form of government, organizations, location in relation to other communities, services. . . I am sure the list goes on and on.

Anyone who wants to enter the contest will submit the name of the community in Ireland with reasons for its being selected. If enough people participate, the top contenders, chosen by a panel of citizens, will then present their choices to the Heppner City Council for a final selection. The city will assist the winner in making contact with the community. The person whose suggestion is chosen will win \$50 from me. I will be talking with some other people, in the meantime, to see if anyone else wants to add to the prize. So, the search can begin.

On June 17, I will hope to receive many entries. And I hope Heppner will be able to establish a connection and exchanges of many sorts with an Irish town.

(s) Doris Brosnan

### Doris Brosnan true auction leader

To the Editor: The article in last week's paper incorrectly identified me as the chairman of the St. Patrick's Day Auction Committee. Please notify your readers that the St. Pat's Auction Chairman and champion is Doris Brosnan. Many, many, volunteers make the auction happen, but absolutely no one works harder to pull off this minor miracle

than Doris. She is our true leader... tons of energy, spirit, the organizational and logistical skills of a general and tireless devotion to the main fund raiser that makes the St. Pat's celebration something everyone in town can enjoy and be proud to have happen.

(s) Delanne Ferguson Heppner

### Don't drop animals

To the Editor: My name is Ashley Zimmerman and I am a fifth grader at Heppner Elementary School.

I am writing about people

dropping off animals. There should be a fine against people that drop off animals. It's not fair to them at all, so please find them a good home.

(s) Ashley Zimmerman

### Citizens show support for St. Pat's

To the Editor: Once again the citizens and business owners of Heppner have demonstrated their support of our St. Pat's celebration through their bounteous donations to the auction. The auction committee is truly impressed with the generosity and unselfish attitude of our friends and neighbors that surface each spring!

The Heppner merchants who support the auction deserve our applause for the efforts they put into their selections. They bent over backwards to offer useful, appealing and popular merchandise. Another twist to donations this year came from Kirk and Robinson, who donated 1/3 the price that another local, Oliver Devin, paid for a bull at their Sunday sale. Private citizens chose worthwhile used and collectible items as contributions. They added to the "country store's" variety.

The auction - important to next year's weekend and to local non-profit projects - was a success, according to early reports. We continue to work toward making the event a pleasure for everyone. As we try what we think will be improvements, we make mistakes and learn from them. We hope that the auction is evolving into a great wrap-up

to the weekend.  
(s) Doris Brosnan, chair Heppner

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**A U  
Reminder...**

### To Water Users:

**Winter packing may now be removed from meters.**

Also, a reminder that the customer is liable for any damages to the equipment and that it is a violation to operate the meter stop that controls the flow of water to the meter unless there is a shut-off on the property side of the meter.

Please contact the Water Superintendent at City Hall if there is a problem with your water service.

David Winters  
City Crew Foreman  
Phone: 676-9618

## People for the Pool raises \$135,000

People for the Pool, Inc. announces the recent fulfillment of their financial obligation for the Willow Creek Water Park and indoor multi-use spa/pool.

Organized in July, 1992, by a group of local citizens to coordinate interest and fund raisers for South Morrow County swimming facilities, People for the Pool raised \$135,000 through donations, grants and fund raisers. Contributors were thanked by their names or inscriptions being placed on bricks or plaques and displayed in the pool house in Heppner.

The first cash donation was made by Velva G. Bechdolt, Pendleton, a former Heppner schoolteacher. The largest cash contributor was Kinzua Corp, the previous mill owners, with \$45,000 donated upon sale of the mill in 1994. Gail and Forrie Burkenbine, owners of Red Apple Central Market in Heppner, donated over \$15,000 through the return of one percent of grocery receipts turned in to People for the Pool, including the last donation that paid the financial obligation in full this month.

Grants were obtained from the Oregon Community Foundation and Morrow County Commission on Children and Families.

The first fund raiser was by a

third grade class of teacher Cara Osmin's who held a bake sale at Heppner Elementary. Members of that class are now juniors at Heppner High School. Some of the other numerous fund raisers included: produce sales, bake sales, bingo, lapel buttons and T-shirts sales, walkathon, bowlathon, golf tournament lunches, running the county fair gates, change jars, Ewe-do-Bingo, bed race Calcuttas, lamb barbecue, rummage sale and a rodeo court dance. Raffles were held with the following: afghan, wood leprechaun, jewelry set, silver bars, lamb, Blazer banner, golf bag, gift basket and a shamrock embroidered jacket.

"The funds were raised by true community effort and support," said PFTP, Inc. spokesperson, Kay Proctor. "Morrow County and its supporters should take a moment and pat themselves on the back for a job well done."

Officers and board members past and present include: president, Joyce Breeding and Archie Padberg; vice-president Sonja McCabe and Gail Hughes; secretary-treasurer, Kay Proctor; board members, Theo Greenup, George Nairns, Darlene Seroggins, Dennis Miller, Janel Lacey, Jeanette Padberg, Kristine Anderson, Debra Gutierrez and Georgia VanWinkle; committee members, Walt Foster, Doris Donnell and Sarah Carlson.

## Mustang baseball team prepares for 1999 season

By Rick Paulus

The Heppner Mustang baseball team is getting ready for the 1999 season to start and is looking forward to a successful one. Head coach Robin Graff and assistant coach Tony Pupo return 13 lettermen from last year's team, which placed third at the Columbia Basin Conference District tournament and had a 15-5 overall record.

Senior Derek Gunderson leads the returnees as he was on the honorable mention All-State infield and was also a first team CBC infielder. Senior Tim Dickenson (infield) and junior Dylan Pettyjohn (pitcher) were also in the first team. Senior Shane Matheny was honorable mention at third base. Matheny's injured shoulder is not quite in baseball shape, so he will start the year in outfield. Pettyjohn, sophomore Zach Fabian and freshman Michael McCabe will fill in at third base.

Dickenson will be at shortstop, first base and will pitch. Gunderson will be at second, and senior Blas Elguezabal and junior Josh Hill will be at first base. Allan Gribbskov returns as the catcher.

David Bates will pitch and play in the outfield. Cody Bellamy, Cory Bennetto, Mark McElligott and Nick Anthony will also see time in the outfield. Sophomore transfer Pat Davidson and freshmen Stefan Matheny, Travis Bellamy and Kelly Paulus will fill in as needed.

Last year, Gunderson hit .446 with 29 hits, 27 stolen bases and scored 41 runs. Matheny hit .400 with 26 hits, three home runs, 25 RBIs and scored 32 runs. Dickenson hit .333, with 20 hits, two home runs and 14 stolen bases.

"We have 18 solid players who can play a lot of different posi-

tions. (We have) strong pitching and team speed and should be better with the bat and better defensively this year. We get great team leadership with the seniors who are real positive, along with a good work ethic," coach Graff said. "The team goal is to win our half of the league and go into districts in first place. If we beat the teams we should beat and not play down to the level of the opponent it should be a fun year. We also have a solid group of freshmen who we aren't afraid to play anywhere."

The Mustangs start their season quickly as they hosted Sherman County on Tuesday, March 16, and then will host Dufur on Friday, March 19 in a double-header starting at 3 p.m. in non-league games.

## Booster Club scholarships

The Heppner Booster Club will award four \$300 scholarships to Heppner High School seniors planning to continue their education past high school.

The graduating senior must be attending an institution of higher education this fall.

The Booster Club invites all seniors to apply for the scholarship. Applications for the scholarship are on file at Heppner High School. The filing deadline is April 31.

## Former G-T editor arrested in M-F

Police, searching for a handgun at a Milton-Freewater residence, found the gun, along with 16 marijuana plants and an elaborate system for growing and drying the plants.

Former Valley Times newspaper publisher Terry Hager, 50, was charged with unlawful use of a weapon and manufacturing a controlled substance. Hager was managing editor for the Gazette-Times in the late 1970s.

Police obtained the search warrant after Richard Gillman, 48, of Milton-Freewater, told them that a man threatened him with a gun shortly after midnight Friday in the parking lot of Circle K at the south edge of Milton-Freewater.

Gillman told police that he had a confrontation with the same man earlier at the M-F Supper Club. He said the man pointed a handgun at him at the Circle K parking lot, threatened him and fired a shot over his head. Gillman was not injured.

Police investigated and identified Hager as the suspect, obtained a search warrant and then went to Hager's house at 920 Lamb St., Milton-Freewater, at about 5:30 p.m. Friday to search for the gun.

In addition to the weapon Hager allegedly used to threaten Gillman, police also confiscated 16 marijuana plants, a system of lights, a fan and dryers, scales and marijuana apparently packaged for sale. The value of the total seizure was estimated at \$24,000.

Hager was arrested and lodged in the Umatilla County Jail. Bail was set at \$21,500.

The Milton-Freewater Police were assisted by the Blue Mountain Enforcement Narcotics Team, which will continue the investigation.

Hager recently sold the Valley Times, a weekly newspaper, to a couple from Massachusetts. Hager had owned and operated the newspaper since December 1994.

## Spring Break Ideas:

Come to Portland; shop 'til you drop at Clackamas Town Center and stay at **Grandma Char's Bed and Breakfast.** (2 exits south of the Center-you can't get lost!)

**CR**  
Stay the night at **Grandma Char's Bed and Breakfast.** Leave your car, and limo to the airport (no long-term parking fee). Coming home, arrive at PDX, limo back to **Grandma Char's**, stay the night and head on home the next morning.

**Package #1 (Shopping Trip): Two people, \$50**  
(queen bed, private bath, breakfast included)

**Package #2 (Limo Service, Two Nights Lodging & Car Storage):**  
Two people, \$170 (queen bed, private bath, breakfast included)

For reservations and directions, phone (503) 654-8117



Grandma Char's Bed and Breakfast  
Portland

**HAPPY SAINT PATRICK'S DAY!**  
& MANY, MANY THANKS  
to all the hard-working "leprechauns" & participants in Heppner's  
17th Annual Wee Bit O'Ireland

Disguised as chairmen of the Coffee Hour, Auction, Parade, Sheepdog Trials, Lamb Barbecue, Ceili, Social Hour, Flags, Paddy Wagon, Entertainment, Tours and Food events, Buttons, etc., these super "leprechauns" and their committees put in long, tedious hours, day and night, so that one and all could have a great weekend in Heppner.

We invite you to attend the wrap-up meeting on Tuesday, March 23, 6 p.m. at Kate's.

Again, THANKS to Heppner & the rest of our county from Claudia Hughes & Cara Osmin Wee Bit O'Ireland Co-chairwomen

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