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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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David Sykes Publisher
April Hilton-Sykes Editor

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Chamber Chatter
By Claudia Hughes, Exec. Dir.

By Claudia Hughes
One of the challenges in a small town is preventing burnout among volunteers. Another is reaching those in the community who wish to become involved and thus bring relief to those overextended.

There are many opportunities for people wanting to learn more about Heppner and the Willow Creek Valley. Interested in the workings of the community? Take your pick. You are welcome to attend city council meetings; Heppner Coordinating Council meetings, Chamber of Commerce and Heppner Economic Development Corporation.

Would you like to belong to an organization? Stop by the Chamber, the city, or Twice Upon A Time to pick up a directory. The library, museum, schools, St. Patrick's committee and many other entities would welcome your involvement. Sometimes they are so surprised and on such overload that they may not be able to think what to tell you at first, but return. It will come to them. You will be appreciated and have the opportunity to meet new people and get to know the old. Instead of the after Christmas letdown for many, volunteering will give you new energy and possibly the opportunity to discover new job opportunities. New ideas from new faces are what make the Willow Creek Valley tick.

Are your houses and business decked out for the holidays? Be sure to turn on that switch Sunday, December 19, so elves can judge fairly. Also December 19, enjoy the Inland Northwest Orchestra and Choral concert at Heppner Middle School at 3:15 p.m.. Local people will be participating to bring us top notch music for the holidays. And remember, stores are open for your shopping convenience on Sunday afternoons. You will find great ideas up and down Main Street Heppner.

One more reminder. Have you nominated someone for man, woman, youth, educator and business of the year? Nominations are due Friday, December 17, at the Chamber of Commerce office or at the offices of Bill Kuhn.

Thought for the week: Take time to sit by your Christmas tree and gather energy to help bring about the true meaning of Christmas to family, friends, and strangers you may chance to meet. Too much hustle and bustle can subtract from the true meaning of the season. Keep the season simple and about love. Enjoy.

Elementary children to be commended

To the Editor:
When flipping through last week's Heppner Gazette, I just couldn't pass up the chance to read the letters written by Mrs. Allen's fifth/sixth grade class. All of the students that submitted opinions on how to make this world a better place

are to be commended for their insight. It is great to know that there are so many aware, of not only community but global situations, and are concerned enough to put it in print. Their hopefulness is something all of us should share.
(s)Amber Flaiz

Editor's note: following are letters to the editor submitted by students in Jannie Allen's fifth/sixth-grade classes at Heppner Elementary School.

To the Editor:
I don't like litter and nobody does either. I was wondering if we could hang flyers downtown encouraging people not to litter. I think litter is gross.
I recycle glass, plastic, newspaper and cans, and so should other people.
(s) April Drew

To the Editor,
Hi, I'm Mahaley Huddleston. I'm going to tell you about how to make the world a better place. We need to make school enjoyable. A big problem is teasing. Would you want to come to school if you were teased? I wouldn't. It's like an old Indian saying, "Never judge a person until you walk two moons in his moccasins." So talk to your child about teasing.
Have you ever gone to the band room? I'm going to warn you, if you don't like bugs and if you are allergic to dust, don't go in there. Also the curtains are older than my great-great grandma. Gross. I think we should have a 50/50 raffle so we could fix the band room up.
Do you want school to be enjoyable for you and your kids? Then help.
(s) Mahaley Huddleston

To the Editor:
There are two concerns I have about the environment. One is automobiles that are more fuel-efficient and the other is controlling water pollution in Oregon.
If you are in the market for a new automobile, make sure you take gas mileage. Buyers should not get those extra options like air conditioning, power steering and power windows. All of these options add to your car's weight and thus reduce its fuel efficiency.
These days, there are cars that get 40 to 50 miles per gallon of gasoline. Why not think about buying one of these instead of that big gas guzzler that gets less than 20 miles per gallon? Of course, make sure that you only buy a car that is capable of using unleaded gasoline.
Now for water pollution.
You shouldn't throw garbage in the water. In Oregon most of the rivers, creeks and streams run into the Columbia River. For example think of those plastic things that hold six packs of pop. Fish get caught in them and die.
So let's get going to clean up the world.
(s) Casey Maben

To the Editor:
My name is Stephanie Howard and I am in the fifth grade. I am 11 years old. I think the world would be a better place if people would think more about others than themselves.
Some ways of doing that could be saying nice things to someone, cooking dinner for them, sending flowers or a card and just smiling.
Sometimes, all people want to do is complain. Maybe if people would try saying one nice thing for every time they think of a bad thing, maybe they would soon forget the bad. It always makes me feel better when I do something nice for someone. People also need to know that Jesus loves them.
At Christmas time people seem nicer to each other. It would be nice if they would show that all year long. We also need to take care of the things around us. Don't leave garbage. When things are picked up and clean it makes people feel good.
(s)Stephanie Howard

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DA obtains domestic violence grant

Morrow County is the recipient of a grant to help fight domestic violence, thanks to the efforts of Morrow County District Attorney David C. Allen. Allen applied for and received \$291,732 from the U.S. Department of Justice under the Rural Domestic Violence and Child Victimization Enforcement Grant Program.
According to the Justice Department, the primary purpose of the program is to "enhance the safety of abused women and children living in rural areas by creating and enhancing collaborative partnerships" agencies.
Allen said that the monies will be used to hire a deputy district attorney, fund an additional detective with the Morrow County Sheriff's Office, purchase

a video arraignment system to speed up and facilitate arraignment with hook-ups between the courthouse in Heppner and courts in Irrigon and Pendleton and eventually to the prison system and the state; and for funding for interpreting services for victim's advocates, who formerly acted as volunteers.
Allen said that Terry Harper, currently a deputy with the Morrow County Sheriff's Office, will now concentrate on domestic violence, child victimization and child dependency cases. A new deputy district attorney will be hired. Allen said that the grant will not require matching funds.
The new positions will not be funded beyond the terms of the grant, however, he said that the grant may be renewed.

Ione FBLA plans clothing drive
The Ione FBLA Chapter plans to hold a winter clothing drive in conjunction with the Ione Winter Concert Dec. 20.
The group is encouraging people to bring winter clothing in good condition to the event. All clothing collected will be donated to local area organizations who help the needy.

SNOWMOBILERS:
A certification course for young riders will be held at Columbia Basin Electric Co-op on Dec. 18 beginning at 9 a.m. Anyone operating a snowmobile must have a valid driver's license or certificate. There is no age limit and no charge for the course. Pre-register by calling 676-5401 or 989-8342.

Willow Creek Symphony to perform Sunday

The Willow Creek Symphony will make its debut under the direction of Lee Friese on Sunday, December 19, at 3:15 p.m. in the Heppner Middle School Gym.

Lee Friese is also the director and conductor of the Inland Northwest Musicians Orchestra and Chorale. The Willow Creek Symphony is composed of some 35 musicians from ages seven to 70 from the local area.

This is the Willow Creek Symphony's fifth year as a group and participation continues to grow, especially as more young Heppner area violin students are available to join the group. Currently 29 area students are taking violin lessons from four instructors who give lessons in Heppner: Peg Willis, Lee Friese, Tony Marks and Kathryn Unruh.

The Sunday afternoon performance will start with the Willow Creek Symphony performing traditional Christmas and folk melodies. Next the Inland NW Musicians Orchestra and Chorale will present well known selections from Handel's Messiah and a Christmas Concerto. The concert will conclude with a sing-a-long of Christmas carols with both orchestras joining to provide the accompaniment.

"It promises to be a special afternoon of music that the whole family will enjoy," said spokesperson Nancy Jepsen. Refreshments will be served following the concert.

The Willow Creek Symphony is being sponsored in part by a grant from the Morrow County Commission on Children and Families. Local businesses have also made substantial financial contributions to this performance. These contributions have accommodated transportation costs for traveling musicians, music and other expenses so that concert can be presented free of charge.

Travel arrangements have been made for senior citizens from St. Patrick Senior Center. Those who need transportation from their homes need to contact the Senior Center for pick-up service.

G-T Christmas messages due Dec. 20

A section in the Gazette-Times' December 22 issue will feature inspirational Christmas messages from area churches. Local pastors are invited to participate. The deadline is Monday, December 20, at 5 p.m.

The messages may be typewritten or hand written as long as they are legible. The G-T also invites the churches to send in Christmas worship or program schedules, but please do so in a separate article.
Call April, 676-9228, for more information.



Ralph Werner (tuba) and Louis Carlson (on bass violin) practice for upcoming Willow Creek Symphony concert

Morrow County Tournament, Dec. 17

By Jeff Hunt and Paul Neiffer
Are you prepared for Dec. 17-18. Do you know what's happening? Drop those unwrapped presents; stop putting tinsel on the tree, and come to Ione. This isn't a time to drink eggnog, it is time to get ready to watch some fast-paced, action packed basketball games. It's time for the South Morrow County Basketball Tournament in Ione, sponsored by the Ione Booster Club. Action begins at 3 p.m. on Friday and 1 p.m. on Saturday.

Trophies go to the top boys' and girls' teams. Teams eligible to win include the Klickitat Vandals, Heppner Mustangs, the Huntington Locomotives and the Ione Cardinals, who are hosting the games.

The first boys' games will be Klickitat vs Heppner and Huntington vs. Ione. For the girls it will be Huntington vs. Heppner and Klickitat vs. Ione. Concessions will be available.

Towels and dressing rooms are provided for the players. Tickets are \$3 for adults and \$1 for students.

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and Traditional Christmas Carols

also featuring
THE WILLOW CREEK SYMPHONY (ages 7 to 70)
under the direction of R. Lee Friese and Anthony Marks

HEPPNER MIDDLE SCHOOL
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 19th at 3:15 p.m.

Willow Creek Symphony is funded in part by a grant from Morrow County Commission on Children and Families

Local concert sponsors are: Bank of Eastern Oregon; Central Red Apple Market; CBEC; Klamath First Federal; Les Schweb Tires; Morrow County Abstract and Title; MCGG; Murray Drugs; Country Rose, John and Ann Murray; Peterson's Jewelers; TREO Ranches; Loren and Kathryn Unruh; Van Marter and Kahl Insurance; Wheatland Insurance

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