

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

Published weekly and entered as periodical matter at the Post Office at Heppner, Oregon under the Act of March 3, 1879. Periodical postage paid at Heppner, Oregon. Office at 147 W. Willow Street. Telephone (541) 676-9228. Fax (541) 676-9211. E-mail: gt@heppner.net or gt@rapidserve.net. Web site: www.heppner.net. Postmaster send address changes to the Heppner Gazette-Times, P.O. Box 337, Heppner, Oregon 97836. Subscriptions: \$22 in Morrow County; \$16 senior rate (in Morrow County only; 62 years or older); \$29 elsewhere.

David Sykes Publisher
April Hilton-Sykes Editor

On the HEPPNER WEBSITE: www.heppner.net

- Start or Change a Subscription
- Place a Classified Ad • Submit a News Story
- View Real Estate for Sale
- City Council & Planning Minutes
- Local Businesses • County Park • Willow Creek Park Reservations
- Free Digital Postcards • Senior Housing • and more!

School Board continued from page 1



Linda Harrington speaks with Heppner residents Tom Sly and Doris Brosnan at the Morrow County School Board meeting Monday.

assistant; Melanie Beltane, ACH fifth grade teacher; JoAnn Coronado, ACH ESL ed assistant; and Shanna Evans, SBE special ed assistant.

-approved employment for: Paula Post, CMS Title I ed assistant; Carrie DeVault, Riverside High School PE ed assistant/laundry; Elizabeth Melendez, RHS ESL ed assistant; Karen Brace, SBE Title I ed assistant; Rosa Ortiz, ESL ed assistant; Patty Simms, SBE one-on-one special ed assistant; Teri Smith, SBE ESL ed assistant; Melissa Metz, Ione special ed assistant; Janice Huddleston, Heppner High School assistant cook/special ed assistant; Michelle Duncan-Luna, ACH special ed assistant; Chris Gardner, ACH assistant custodian; Linda Neumann, ACH part-time ed assistant; Nancy Rodriguez, ACH ESL ed assistant, replacing JoAnn Coronado.

-approved promotion for: Kevin Mossman, from computer tech I to computer tech II.

Orwicks to celebrate 50th



Gene and Dona Orwick, 1950

Gene and Dona Orwick of Lexington will celebrate 50 years of marriage, Saturday, Sept. 23, with a reception from 1-4 p.m. at the Heppner Elks Lodge.

The couple, both natives of Oregon, were married September 23, 1950. They have lived in Lexington and Heppner for the past 50 years.

Gene is a veteran. He has served as the mayor of Lexington and as a member of the city council. He is a member of the Elks and Shriners.

Dona is an artist and a member of Morrow County Arts and Crafts. She's a lifetime member

probationary confidential.

-approved extra duty contracts for: Marv House, CMS athletic director; Troy Phillips, CMS assistant football coach; Poul Murtha, CMS head boys' basketball coach and CMS assistant girls' basketball coach; Micki Fabian, CMS DART coordinator; Tami Sneddon, HHS cheerleader advisor; Darlene Marquardt, Ione computer trainer; Jay Rogers, RHS assistant soccer coach; and G. Ann Thomas, RHS annual advisor and Talented and Gifted coordinator.

-approved attendance variances for three students to attend school in the Morrow County District and a Russian exchange student to attend Hermiston High School.

-declared as surplus 130 pieces of aluminum from the Irrigon Learning Center building because it was damaged.

-approved a resolution to authorize investment of funds by county treasurer.

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. The G-T is not responsible for accuracy of statements made in letters.

Vote on on 9

To the Editor:

It looks like the OCA is at it again. Instead of offering up a ballot measure lumping homosexuality together with pedophilia and bestiality, this time they're aiming to "protect" students from positive "instruction of behaviors relating to homosexuality and bisexuality." Besides mistakenly equating one's sexual orientation with sex acts, what the heck could they be after?

Oregonians should not have to vote on (another) Ballot Measure 9, this one entitled, "The Student Protection Act". Protecting young people is the last thing such an initiative would do. Youths who come to the realization that they are gay, lesbian, or bisexual do so at great lengths and pains to themselves. The last thing they need is another mean-spirited ballot measure to make them feel more isolated from and rejected by the general population than they already do.

The reason that I can say this is because I know. As a teenager, coming to the realization that I was not heterosexual was extremely difficult. Even as student body president in a school of 2000 young people, I felt like I was the only one attracted to the same gender. Had I been able to talk to my counselor, I might well not have suffered in such severe isolation and self hatred. Had I had support, I wouldn't have needed

to put myself through endless prayer and spiritual self-abuse to be right with God. Perhaps I would not have hidden so deeply in the local library reading the few books I could find on the subject.

Fortunately, I came out to myself when the American Psychiatric and Psychological Associations were declaring homosexuality neither a mental disorder nor an illness. Fortunately, I chose to focus my energy on school and work instead of on suicidal thoughts and drugs to numb what I was feeling. Fortunately, I had a strong, caring family at home, although I didn't come out to my parents until I was 30. And, most positively, I've been able to create a fine life with a great guy, my partner of 10 years and my best friend.

Chances are pretty good that many of you have somebody in your immediate or extended family who has struggled or is now struggling with growing up other than heterosexual. Would you really want to put them through the kind of hell that the OCA is attempting to create? As a rural Oregonian, I've seen how the OCA played the divide and conquer game in small towns and rural counties in the past. Don't let them do it again. Fair-minded, independent, intelligent Oregonians can see beyond this 9 nonsense and will simply vote No on 9 once again this fall.

(s) Scott Thiemann
Gold Beach

County fair really all about Heppner

To the Editor:

The Heppner Fair has come and gone. It is listed as Morrow County Fair, but... that is a joke. If you question it, go and observe the judging. First of all, are there not any judges from the north end of the county? Are there any department heads or chairpersons from the north end of the county? So where is the equality? I don't feel they want any at the Heppner Fair. In all fairness, it was good to see Jane Dean in the office on check in day.

I walked about the open class displays on Friday of the fair. I will start with the booths. Hmm, the organizational booth that won first place had some pictures placed around the walls and some brochures on the floor of the booth, first place ribbon, address Heppner. Second place, Greenfield Grange at Boardman, had old farming and household antiques, the Bible, canned fruits, meats and vegetables, miniature farming equipment, brochures and fresh veggies and fruits.

One of the qualifications for judging was to show what the organization stands for and to show Echoes of the Past. I asked some others standing there observing with me, why the judges made the decisions they did. They couldn't tell me either, but they were happy with it because they lived in Heppner.

On to the Garden Club booths. Here again, I stood in dismay at the judging. The Garden Club deals with blooms, birds, bees, bats and the environment. I saw these things represented in the Boardman Garden Club booth, but no birds, bees or bats were represented in the Heppner Garden Club, yet they had a first place ribbon. Is it the judges do not know what the clubs are to represent? Or is it still a Heppner Fair?

Well on to the canned goods. My, where did they give the judging training for this department? As I stood in front

of this section, I noticed a group of teens looking at the canned goods. They were asking one another why one jar took a ribbon when the jar beside it looked better, more appetizing. Not minding my own business, I moved over to the teens and joined them. I began to get them to notice the better canning procedures used in the process of canning, the neatness of the food placed in the jars and the outside appearance. They, like myself, could not understand the judging, but we did notice all the special awards were not given to anyone at the north end of the county, even though there was some very nice looking jars of food.

Shaking my head, I went on to the sewing. A beautiful reversible vest was hanging on the end of a stand. It had written on the tag, "Lining too heavy." Now, since when does a reversible vest have a lining? Oh, well, it was not a Heppner address on it. Lots of beautiful pillowcases. One pair had some very intricate detailed embroidery work on it. No ribbon. Oh, well, it was done in the north end of the county. All winners were from the south end of the county, regardless of workmanship.

In sharing some of my findings with some local ladies, I was told many will not enter their stuff because they feel the judges want all their friends and relatives to win. Forget the workmanship or the theme being met, it is where you live. One lady said next year she would go to Heppner, rent a Post Office box before the Fair and then enter her stuff. Then she said she could win.

Don't get me wrong, there is some beautiful work from people in the Heppner area, but it is also from the north end of the county. My only wish is that the judging was fair. It is only a Heppner Fair. It is miscalled.

(s) Mary Garrett
Boardman

Heppner Police plan buckle-up blitz

The Heppner Police plan to participate in the "Three Flags Blitz" with British Columbia and Washington. Heppner Police will be looking for unbuckled drivers and passengers, in addition to improper use of the seatbelt and child restraint. The blitz will be held Sept. 15-24.

During the last blitz in June

2000, Heppner had 98 percent compliance. It was the highest compliance of all the cities and counties that participated.

The Heppner Police appreciate the citizens of Heppner for their participation in making the seatbelt blitz a success. "Good luck with this next blitz," said Heppner Police. "Do not get caught without your seatbelt on."

Is it right to ask for money for expensive, dysfunctional system?

To the Editor:

To the Morrow County School Board: Quite a few years back, when we built the Heppner High School, not enough people (myself included) recognized the future. Currently, we have 58 students in Heppner's middle school of grades seven and eight. In Ione, we have 40 students in grades five, six, seven and eight. Combined, this only totals 98 students.

A full-page ad in the September 13 issue of the Heppner Gazette Times gives the class schedules of all three Morrow County high schools. Heppner's and Ione's do not give the students a sufficient education for their needs in the 21st century.

We are in need of classrooms in the north end of the county. But, unless the administrator lets the school board ask the difficult questions, we will not come up with the right answers and the bond will fail. We, also, deserve the right to vote on the issue of a combined school to be called "South Morrow High," and we deserve the right to vote on a five-day school week.

The primary students who live 35 and 40 miles out and get up before dawn to board a bus are physically and, therefore, educationally challenged. The Hispanic students who go to

school four days to learn to speak English and then go home to speak Spanish three days are educationally challenged, also.

These challenges are above and beyond what they should have. And that says nothing of the extensive facilities that lie idle almost 50 percent of the time. I do not buy the statement that the teachers consistently use the facilities on the fifth day. One only has to drive by the elementary school to see that they are not there. The four-day week is not working as Superintendent Anderson claims. It only works for the teachers and administrators.

Our county farmers and ranchers are hard-pressed financially. Can it possibly be right to ask them to support an excessively expensive and dysfunctional school system?

(s) Meg Murray
Ione

P.S.: Chairman Gary Federickson refused to read the foregoing letter at the Sept. 11 meeting of the Morrow County School Board, remarking that they had discussed the matter at the budget meeting and survey. I fail to see how stonewalling public discussion furthers the passing of bond measures. The board is elected to protect the students' best interests-not the administrator's agenda.

Inviting BMCC alumni & friends to a
PENDLETON ROUND-UP EVENT
Westward Ho Parade Party
Friday, September 15, 2000
9:00 to 10:00 a.m.
215 SE Dorion, Pendleton, OR

Let'er Buck!

Hosted by: the BMCC Foundation
Lennie Reed, Read & Bone CPA's
For information call 541/278-5775.

Jennifer Currin Gutridge
Financial Advisor



- Retirement Planning
- IRA's/Roths
- Stocks/Bonds
- Mutual Funds
- Annuities
- Estate Planning
- Life & Long-term Care Insurance

Serving Eastern Oregon Families

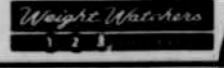
Call for information or appointment
1-800-777-9062
email jennifer@mcgeenet.com

McGee Financial Strategies, Inc.
A Registered Investment Advisor
12455 SW 68th Ave. • Portland, OR 97223

Securities offered exclusively through
Raymond James Financial Services, Inc.
Member NASD/SIPC

You can eat any food from any ad in this paper and still lose with Weight Watchers.

Sarah, Duchess of York
With our easy 1-2-3 Success plan, you can eat any food you choose. Every food has a POINTS® value. Just stay within your daily POINTS range and you'll lose weight. So clip those coupons. Look for the best deals. Shop for the food your family loves. And join Weight Watchers today to learn how to enjoy them all and still reach your goals.



JOIN ANY MEETING ANYTIME!

HEPPNER
Heppner Methodist Church • 175 West Church St.
Thursdays at 6:30 p.m.

HERMISTON
Hermiston Senior Center • 435 West Orchard
Mondays at 6:30 p.m.

For more information call weekdays
8:30 am to 5 pm
(503) 297-1021
(or toll free 1-877-297-1021)

©2000 Weight Watchers International, Inc. owner of the WEIGHT WATCHERS trademark. All rights reserved.

SCRATCH PADS - \$1 lb.
Gazette-Times • 676-9228