

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!

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.

Smith takes responsibilities seriously

To The Editor:

We are new to Oregon politics. Therefore, I'm impressed with what I read of Senator Gordon Smith. His honesty, integrity and moral convictions are commendable. It's refreshing to find a politician who will vote his convictions in spite of the political consequences. Do you

people realize how rare this is? We Oregonians are fortunate to have U.S. Senator Gordon Smith working for us in Washington. Let us pray there will be more politicians in government who take their responsibility this serious.

(s) Ruth Donohoe
Heppner

County fair for north end too

To the Editor:

This is in reply to Mary Garrett of Boardman's letter to the Gazette-Times, Sept. 13.

The Morrow County Fair Board believes there are some misconceptions about how judging is done for open class and we would like to try and resolve this.

During this past fair, we had 340 exhibitors for open class, 75 from Heppner, 41 Lexington, 62 Ione, 25 Boardman, 16 Irrigon plus 21 entries from out of county (Hermiston, Condon, Sumpter, Albany, Arlington, Umatilla and John Day).

We always strive to get all of our judges from out of county but some years it is necessary to get one from Morrow County. (This year we had one judge from Morrow County). During the judging period on Tuesday morning and afternoon, all the tags attached to articles of clothing, jams, paintings, flowers, crafts, etc., are closed so that the judges do not know who made the articles they are judging. It is only after judging, that the tags are opened to display the name of the winners

for that particular article.

Why a judge prefers one article of food, clothing, jam or whatever, over another only he/she could explain what the difference was that he/she saw or liked.

If it seems to Ms. Garrett that this is only a "Heppner fair", then we are sorry she feels that way. We can only encourage that more people from the north end enter exhibits in the open class so it won't seem like a "Heppner Fair". Most complaints from the north end seem to be time and distance. There are not many county fairs that are centrally located or convenient to all the cities in the county. Look at Umatilla County Fair, they have entries coming to Hermiston from Milton-Freewater.

The Morrow County Fair is open to all residents of the county. We could only hope that more residents from the north end would participate in Open Class, then maybe the Fair wouldn't be considered a "Heppner Fair".

(s) Shirley Adams
Morrow County Fair Board
Member
Heppner

Vote no on Measure 97

To the Editor:

Vote no on Measure 97.

Some animal activists from the western urban part of Oregon want to ban trapping and restraining animals.

The Oregon State Grange, as well as others, is coming out against this measure, and for many reasons.

If this measure were to pass you could not trap a gopher or you would be heavily fined, up to \$5000, and could spend some time in jail. A person could not trap moles, skunks, opossums, mice, rats or other rodents and pests. This only part of the picture. Head gates, which are used to hold cattle sheep and horses, could not be used while giving the animal medical treatment. Doesn't this also mean

stanchions used by dairies would be banned?

Oh, it gets better. Lariats, or ropes, used to rope cattle at rodeos would be banned. There would go the Pendleton Round-Up. Snares used to catch rabid animals by animal control officers could not be used. These are some of the things that this measure is all about.

Think of the health hazard and the damage these pest could cause if not controlled. We need to get word out to all the people about how serious this measure is and ask all to vote no on this one.

(s) Jane Dean
Wheatland Pomona Grange
Master
Morrow County
Boardman

News media pro gay

To the Editor,

On April 29, East Oregonian editor Richard Hensley at a conference on bias in the press said, "I am sure some people can find a bias in our paper ...But I believe people are working hard, trying hard ...Even if they are liberal, they are trying to keep an agenda out. Whether they are successful or not you are the judge of that."

Shortly after that conference I wrote a response to community column written by Sikkander Jaad that denounced the OCA initiative to prohibit promotion of homosexuality in Oregon schools. Editor Hensley refused to print my response and two subsequent letters to the editor in other issues were also censored. Editor Hensley gave no reason why he has chosen to censor my voice and deny me freedom of the press. Let the reader be the judge. I am resubmitting the main point of my previous letter censored by Mr. Hensley.

"The vast majority of major newspapers in America, including the EO and the Oregonian are favorable to the gay lifestyle and behavior and promote their agenda. The national news media is pro homosexual as is the motion picture industry that gives voice, encouragement and sanction to the gay agenda.

Activist courts across America routinely rule in favor of gay civil rights cases in contention with family values. The President of the United States, through the Employment Non-Discrimination Act, is aggressively pursuing legislation that would force America to subsidize gay behavior and codify sexual preference as a legally protected minority.

Parades in every major city in

America draw millions of bold, vocal and liberated homosexuals, bisexuals, transvestites, man child lovers and drag queens lasciviously promoting their lifestyle in promiscuous (and at times, lewd public) behavior. The homosexual lobby is the best funded lobby in America and the average homosexual has a higher income than the average American family.

Editors such as Richard Hensley censor writers that uphold tradition Christian American values because they can not win their case with the pen. Since they control what the people read, it is in their power to censor arguments that threaten their liberal causes. In effect the news is manipulated daily to enforce liberal values and ensure that an anti-Christian agenda becomes the law of the land. Preserving traditional American values of freedom of the press and objective unbiased news are a mirage.

Fortunately in Eastern Oregon the gay press agenda is not working. According to the Oregonian poll (Sept. 18) 58 percent of Oregonians outside of the Willamette Valley and Portland favor Measure 9 to forbid promotion of homosexuality in our schools. Only 35 percent of country Oregonians oppose the measure.

Can a democracy, that depends on an educated and informed public to govern itself survive a liberally biased press? In the event that EO editor Hensley is once again intimidated into censoring this letter it is also being sent to eastern Oregon editors that still cherish our blood bought liberty of freedom of the press.

(s) Stuart Dick
Meacham

Campaigning takes sheriff away

To the Editor:

Re: Sheriff Denton Has Better Things To Do.

It's a shame that the sheriff has to "surface" at election time. Political campaigning takes him away from other more important work.

-Like Community involvement. I serve on a countywide program with the sheriff, called "Community Resource Team". Political campaigning takes him away from this important program. What is CRT? Call and I'll tell you.

-Morrow County has problems that require a full time sheriff. Our sheriff does not have time to travel between "coffee breaks" from one coffee shop to the next.

-Taxpayers would be obsessed with anger if the actions of the sheriff caused the county to lose a libel suit. That is exactly what would happen if the sheriff (or any other public department head) disclosed personnel issues to the media or general public.

If a public employee quits or resigns their position, they are the only one who can legally speak publicly about it. When there is no misbehavior, there is nothing to hide. However, if someone has knowledge or evidence of a public official's alleged misbehavior and does not disclose it, then they become an even greater evil.

-If criminal activities were not so prevalent in Morrow County (as well as any other county) then our officers and deputies would not have to be so cautious, during a traffic stop. Who has the guilty conscious then? Probably the one

who has something to hide. It would not be prudent for an officer to pull a vehicle over without first calling in pertinent information regarding the make, model and license number and providing their general location. It's difficult finding an injured or dead officer, especial at night.

-Experience has shown that many criminal cases have been compromised when well meaning officers have spoken out of place about suspicious events. How does the officer know whether or not the one they're speaking to may be the culprit? People who are cooperating in "neighborhood watch" programs must be informed through official channels. Besides they are the ones who are to be "informing", not informed. Does it make sense that police or sheriff personnel would divulge information to just anyone who calls in? "Hi, my name is George Washington, tell me what's happening...?"

Yes, It's a shame that the sheriff has to "surface" at election time. Besides, Why are we electing anyone to "sheriff"? Any unqualified person can run for sheriff. I'd rather see experienced and qualified people, like Verlin Denton, hired to fulfill this important job. It appears that our system of hiring police chiefs, fire chiefs, city managers, public work directors, etc., allows these people to fulfill the jobs that they have been entrusted. Good grief, otherwise we'd have to elect full time newspaper editors to every "coffee shop" in the county.

(s) Duane Jones
Heppner

Denton has experience, common sense

To the Editor:

To the Citizens of Morrow County,

My name is Chuck Denney and I am writing in support of your Sheriff, Verlin Denton.

I worked for the Curry County Sheriff's Office on the Southern Oregon coast for thirty years, the last 10 as the elected sheriff. I have been personal friends with Sheriff Denton for as many years.

I am supporting Sheriff Denton based upon his education, training and experience in public safety and not solely based upon our friendship. Sheriff Denton

worked first for the Gold Beach Police, then for several years under my command at the Curry County Sheriff's office until 1982.

I have always been impressed with Verlin's ability and knowledge in law enforcement. Verlin has the experience, common sense and professional maturity to serve the public safety needs of Morrow County well for years to come.

My wholehearted support goes to Verlin Denton for Morrow County Sheriff.

(s) Charles L. Denney
Curry County Sheriff, Retired

Wrights celebrate 50th anniversary



Albert and Beverly Wright 1950



The Wrights 2000

Albert Wright and Beverly Maness were married in Portland Sept. 19, 1950.

Albert is the youngest son of Oran and Pearl Wright of Heppner. Beverly is the daughter of Bill and Ethel Maness. She was born in Minneapolis, Minnesota, and moved to Heppner when she was 12. They both attended schools in Heppner.

Albert served in the Navy from 1946-1949. They met when Albert returned home to work on the family ranch on Rhea Creek. Beverly was working for the telephone company in Pendleton. They married and lived on the ranch until 1955 when they moved to Sweet Home. They returned to the ranch until their retirement in 1998, when they moved to their current residence in the town of Heppner.

Three children were born to Albert and Beverly: sons, David, now deceased, and Dean, who lives on the ranch with his wife Debra and their children (Dean's son Grant is the sixth generation to live and work on the ranch); and daughter Dianna Hoef and her husband Gerald who live in Hermiston. Dianna works for Heller and Sons and commutes to Walla Walla, WA., daily to spend time with her daughter, Angie, who suffered a brain injury and is currently hospitalized and undergoing therapy.

The Wrights have 11 grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. Beverly belongs to the Rhea Creek Social Club and is involved in Morrow County Extension. Albert keeps busy renovating their mountain home and helping on the family ranch. They both enjoy gardening, the outdoors and travel when they can.

A 50th anniversary dinner was held in honor of Beverly and Albert Wright at Beecher's Restaurant in Ione on Sept. 24.

The dinner was hosted by Marlene and Randall Peterson, Creth Harris and Jean and Leon Ball.

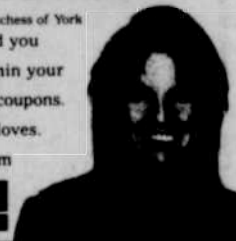
A group of close friends gathered to celebrate the event. Several out-of-town guests were present.

An anniversary cake was furnished by the hosts and hostesses and served by Lois Hunt. Skip Connor and Archie Padberg toasted the couple.

The evening was spent visiting and reminiscing.

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

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.

Copy • Copy • Copy • Copy • Copy • Copy • Copy
Get your copies made at the Gazette-Times

September 28th - Thursday
HUNTERS NIGHT: all-you-can-eat barbecue ribs with all the fixings! Dinner starts at 6 p.m. Win a Winchester model 70 sporter 7mm stw rifle, plus many more prizes! Get there early to purchase your tickets. Members and out-of-town guests only.

October 5th - Thursday
LADIES' NIGHT: Mike and Kim Armato and crew serving an Italian Dinner (menu to follow). Dinner will start at 6 p.m.

BINGO BACK ON WEDNESDAYS STARTING AT 7:00 p.m.

HEPPNER ELKS 358
676-9181 "Where Friends Meet" 142 North Main