

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

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For Advertising: advertising deadline is Tuesday at noon. Cost for a display ad is \$4.50 per column inch. Cost for classified ad is 40¢ per word. Cost for Card of Thanks is \$5 up to 100 words. Cost for a classified display ad is \$5.10 per column inch.
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School Board

from page 1

They bladed Shaw Creek Ditch, Penland Lake Road, Alpine, Sandhollow, Campbell, Barclay, Melville, Eightmile, Lunceford, Shobe and Upper Rhea Creek. The parks are open, the park brochures will soon be updated, and on June 21, in Salem, the department will offer a grant proposal for park restrooms.

In a discussion with O'Brien about a contractor's request for a trade of oil rock for some road rock, Commissioner Wenzel voiced a concern based on previous experience. After weighing the issue, the court advised O'Brien not to agree to the proposal. The court also requested O'Brien to send a letter to the Port of Morrow requesting them to repair or complete the two road-approach cuts they made and to get a permit they need.

Other actions of the court included the following:

- approval of a road approach on Bombing Range and Wilson Road;
- approval of a permit to push a water line under Third Street in Irrigon;
- approval of funds from Behavioral Health for speakers and a microphone for the OSU Extension 4-H music program;
- approval of the county's half of the purchase of a door for the Boardman Annex;
- agreement to cancel the UPS service in the clerk's office;
- appointment of Duane Jones to the lay citizen position on the local Public Safety Coordinating Council;
- approval of signing the Riverfront Subdivision plat maps.

Funds for home purchases

USDA Rural Development has been allocated targeted funds to the Morrow County area for low or very-low income families to purchase a home. No down payment is required; the loan can be made for up to 100 percent of market value-not to exceed \$86,300; closing costs may be included in the loan or be gifted. The loan is written at current market rate of 6.875 percent and subsidized with interest assistance to as low as one percent depending on income.

Morrow County adjusted income limits: one-person household, \$21,550.00; two-person household, \$24,650.00; three-person household, \$27,700.00; four-person household, \$30,880.00.

Chamber Chatter

By Claudia Hughes
Chamber Executive Director

Congratulations to our graduates. We hope their trip to Silverwood was a huge success. Some of the seniors up in age (who prefer not to be referred to as seniors) just rode The Tremors Roller coaster and pass on this message to high school seniors: "If we can do it, so can you." It's good to have fun no matter what your age. Therefore, my Thought For Your Week: "Years may wrinkle the skin, but lack of enthusiasm wrinkles the soul."

Heppner is not short on enthusiasm, just short on time. Golf tournaments, baseball tournaments, bicycle races, Jr. Hereford shows are just a few of the activities keeping our Main Street busy during the month of June. The Chamber is here to promote activities, welcome visitors, answer calls, send visitor packets, direct folks to campgrounds and RV sites, identify our motel and encourage local business. The list goes on as we work toward providing an enjoyable experience for all of our visitors and prospective residents.

You are the ones who make the difference as you bend to pick up trash, plant flowers, smile, offer information to new faces and stand behind a counter to give the best customer service ever. When you tell someone about the museum, golf, walking tour, water park, bowling, fishing, camping and the history of our area, you generate enthusiasm. It's about pride and Heppner has it.

The chamber hopes you had a great Memorial weekend, remembering those who have gone before and visiting with those still here. Slow down your "dash" and experience life with enthusiasm.

Applicants must have a good credit rating, stable income, be legal residents, do not own adequate housing, be owner-occupants and be unable to obtain credit elsewhere. Financing available for new manufactured units (built with approved dealer), existing stick built homes that met thermal standards and new stick built homes (constructed with licensed/bonded contractor). Site must be an adequate building site that cannot be subdivided.

For more information and application packets, contact the local Rural Development office at 1229 SE 3rd, Suite A, Pendleton, Ore. 97801; phone 278-8049, ext. 4; or fax 278-8048 during normal business hours.

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. (Any letters expressing thanks will be placed in the classifieds under "Card of Thanks" at a cost of \$5.)

District spends tax dollars to oust board members

To the Editor:

The Morrow County School District is spending our tax dollars to pay lawyers to oust two school board members. Board members Barney Lindsay and Keith Lewis are being accused of not living in the correct school board position zones. Both were informed during an open public meeting of the suspected violations and were advised by a school district lawyer that their voting may not be legal. While this is the first that Barney and Keith had heard of these concerns, it was obvious that the superintendent and all five other board members had discussed this situation.

Morrow County adopted the current zones in 1993 and the zoning descriptions were very vague and difficult to understand. The district was advised to update and give more accurate detail to each zone. They failed to do this. Consequently, the Morrow County School District is questioning the status of both Lewis and Lindsay. Why didn't the school

district fulfill their responsibility to qualify candidates when they filed for election? Why weren't these issues raised before the board certified their elections?

This situation becomes even more complex when you consider that the superintendent is hired by the school board and is supervised by them. Two board members are now being treated as if the superintendent was their boss instead of the other way around.

The school board chairman's job is one of leadership. He is to promote teamwork among board members. The current chairman, Gary Frederickson has fallen well short of his responsibilities by participating in and allowing this situation to occur.

Respect, honesty, courtesy and fairness are what all Morrow County students are taught. Why are the five school board members and superintendent not following their own guidelines as our students are? (s) Ed Hiemstra
Heppner

Board's move favors superintendent

To the Editor:

At this week's meeting of the Heppner Chamber of Commerce, Bruce Anderson, the current Morrow County School's superintendent, stated that the June 6 special board meeting of the Morrow County School Board will not accept input from the public. At this meeting, the school board will make a determination as to whether they will attempt to reverse their certification of the elections of Barney Lindsay and Keith Lewis. This is an obvious attempt to keep the public away.

Mr. Anderson does not seem to understand that he is an employee of the district. The board should instruct Anderson to keep silent on this issue. He is in no legal position to participate in this matter. He certainly is in no ethical position to take part in this.

Bruce Anderson has much to gain from this proposed action. Lewis and Lindsay are the board's harshest critics of Mr. Anderson. Removing them would all but assure Anderson that his job performance evaluation by the board on June 26 will be

undeservedly positive. In fact, this evaluation was moved forward one month in order to ensure that the board would be stacked in his favor. Who do you think instigated this maneuver?

That Anderson has been so successful in manipulating the five board members is indicative of the void of board leadership. He has become the de facto board chairman. It is time for Gary Frederickson to assume his responsibilities of chairmanship and stop being intimidated by Anderson or other board members. It is time for the elected school representatives to do their jobs and put the superintendent in his place.

I will attend the special board meeting in this matter. The board will know my opinions by my attendance. I urge all who agree with me to attend the special board meeting, June 6 at 7 p.m. at the Lexington school district offices. Your mere attendance will be public input. (s) Mike Armato
Heppner

Arlington Aglow to feature speaker

Arlington Aglow will feature Dorothy Biamont as guest speaker at Arlington Thursday, June 7, at the Arlington Grade School cafeteria beginning at 7 p.m.

Commission plans budget hearing

The Oregon Wheat Commission will hold its annual budget hearing on Monday, June 11, at noon at the Red Lion Hotel in Pendleton.

Copies of the 2000-2001 proposed budgets are available for public inspection in the office of each Oregon county extension agent.

The commission will also hold its regular meeting on the same date immediately following the annual budget hearing in the same location.

The commission meeting is open to the public and anyone wishing to attend is invited to do so.

Obituaries

Mary "Oleta" Akers

Mary "Oleta" Akers, 85, of Irrigon, died Saturday, May 19, 2001, at her granddaughter's home in Irrigon.

Funeral services were held Thursday, May 24, 2001, in the chapel at Burns Mortuary of Hermiston with burial at the Island City Cemetery following.

She was born February 15, 1916, on a ranch on Butter Creek near Pine City to Edward O. and Ollie Wattenburger Neill.

Following high school graduation at Pine City, she attended Eastern Oregon Normal School, now Eastern Oregon University, at LaGrande, where she received her teaching degree in 1936. She later returned to earn her master's degree.

After teaching for one year at Eight Mile, she married Wilson Dale Akers on June 1, 1937. She also taught at Hamilton, Island City and Milton-Freewater, retiring when she was 65.

Mrs. Akers was a member of the Christian Church and a member of Alpha Xi Chapter Delta Kappa Gamma, a society for Key Women Teachers.

She enjoyed fishing, reading, crocheting, card stamping and crafts, and most of all, her family.

Survivors include a son, Ed Akers of Frenchglen; daughter, Donna Narramore of Dunlap, Tennessee; sisters, Neva Neill and Lenna Hermann, both of LaGrande; 15 grandchildren; 38 great-grandchildren; and four great-great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her husband, Wilson "Dale" Akers; daughters, Glenna Greer and Nancy Castillo; two grandsons; and two great-grandsons.

Memorial contributions may be made to Doernbecher Children's Hospital Foundation, P.O. Box 4100, Portland, Oregon 97208-9908, or Vange John Memorial Hospice, 645 W. Orchard, Suite 6, Hermiston, Oregon 97838.

Burns Mortuary of Hermiston was in charge of arrangements.

John Joseph O'Connor

J. J. (Jack) O'Connor, 90, of Mesa, Arizona, passed away April 10, 2001.

A memorial Mass was held at All Saints Catholic Church in Mesa, Arizona, on April 19, 2001. A memorial service was held on May 22, 2001, at the Elks Lodge #2239 in Fallon, Nevada. Interment was in the family plot.

Jack O'Connor was born March 15, 1911, in Everett, Washington.

His career with J.C. Penney began in high school and continued after his graduation in 1930. In 1936 he transferred to Kellogg, Idaho, as assistant manager. He has managed stores in Ritzville, Washington, Heppner and Fallon, Nevada. He retired April 1, 1971, after almost 41 years with the J.C. Penney Company.

While in Heppner he was a volunteer fire fighter, a sponsor and coach of Boy Scout baseball. He joined the Order of Elksdom and achieved the honor of Past Exalted Ruler, Lodge #358.

In Fallon he sponsored and coached Little League baseball, was president of the Kiwanis and in charge of several rodeo projects. He was a charter member, Past Exalted Ruler and life member of Fallon Elks Lodge #2239.

He met his wife Millie in Everett, Washington, and they were married June 25, 1934, in Seattle, Washington, nearly 67 years ago.

After his retirement, the couple moved to their new home in Apache Wells, Mesa, Arizona.

Jack's spiritual foundation and passion for helping others guided his life. He was a member and usher at All Saints Catholic Church. He was a charter member of the Apache Wells Beautification Volunteers. He was proud to be a waterman and plumber and to see Apache Wells flourish and grow.

Survivors include his wife Millie; son Dennis; grandchildren John and Stephanie; and great-grandsons Kyle and KC of Fallon, Nevada; son Michael; grandchildren Kelley, Shannon, Racchelle, Ryan, Breanna and Bridgette of Southern California. He was preceded in death by his parents, Ella Mae and Denis O'Connor; brothers Edward and Maurice; sisters Hannah and Maureen; and son Kelly, who died in a swimming accident in 1968 at the age of 14.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Elks Lodge #2239 Youth Projects- in Fallon, Nevada or to the Apache Wells Beautification Volunteers in Mesa, Arizona.

HES holds spring concert

By Debbie Harper

Heppner Elementary School held its spring concert Thursday, May 24. The theme was "Only Love Is Spoken Here". It was the last HES concert conducted by Ralph Werner, who's retiring at the end of this school year.

The fifth grade read speeches they had written especially for retiring teachers Ralph Werner and Barb Orwick. As a special request, they sang the Division song for Orwick. They both received flower baskets as appreciate for their many years of dedicated service.

Eddie Collins opened the concert with a few words about love and hope. The third and fourth grade choir sang "Only Love Is Spoken Here."

The kindergarten classes sang "Sugar in the Morning", accompanied by the woodwind trio of Kylie Tasker, Brendan McElligott and Drew Prindle. It was highlighted by a solo by Lizzy Rill.

The first grade sang "I Love You", accompanied by Seth Morgan on the violin.

Karen Clough's second grade class and Sue Gibbs' combined second and third grade sang "You Are My Sunshine." Cecilia Villalobos, Cody Dollarhide, and Macey Buford performed a skit about friendship and kindness as the lead in to "I Like You Like You Are."

Gibbs' class stayed on stage and sang with Cara Osmin's third grade class. Ashley Wolff introduced "Thank You For Being You" and Jessica Hughes and Chance Day introduced "Let's Communicate".

Fourth graders Taylor Disque, Spencer Palmer and Bo Foster spoke about appearances and respect as an introduction to "I Like The Way That I Look." Joe Pranger introduced "Love Makes The World Go Around."

The fifth grade band played the Eagle Summit March and the rousing theme to Star Wars. The sixth grade played "Strawberry Rock", "Royal March" and the returning favorite, "Louie, Louie."

All the grades returned on stage for "Love Is A Song." The concert concluded with Eddie Collins reminding everyone that "Only love is spoken here."

THANK YOU

Words cannot express our appreciation and heartfelt thank you to the entire community for the love, support, prayers, cards, flowers, food, arrangements and money that was so freely given to us during the recent loss of our dear baby Wales. The outpouring of your love and kindness made the loss a little easier to bear.

Erik and Cynthia
Ken and Bonnie

and all the rest of **The Wenberg Family**

"Wherefore comfort one another with these words:

For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with Him. For the Lord Himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, ... and the dead in Christ shall rise first. Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord."

I Thessalonians 4:18, 14, 16, 17

Morrow County (OSU Extension) Dryland Crop Tour

Thursday, June 7, 2001
8:00 am - 1:00 pm

The Morrow County Dryland Crop Tour will include in-the-field presentations about (1) winter and spring cereal varieties, (2) cheatgrass and goatgrass control in winter wheat, (3) fertilizer placement for spring wheat production, and (4) alternative crops and rotations. The tour will begin at Starvation Farms and then proceed to Kelwayne Haguewood's place and Bill Jepsen's place. Presentations will be made by Chris Rauch, Nathan Blake (new statewide variety testing person on board at CBARC), Don Wysocki, Larry Lutchter, Mike Berry (Monsanto), and Bill Jepsen. Lunch will be provided.

A Great Big Thanks to all of our Sponsors:

Morrow County Wheat League, Morrow County Grain Growers, McGregor, Monsanto, and the Bayer Corporation. Call the office if you would like information (676-9642).