

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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Obituary

Juanita F. Spiekermeier

Juanita Frances Spiekermeier, 79, of Belle Fourche, South Dakota, formerly of Heppner and Sheldon, North Dakota, passed away Sunday, May 20, 2001, at Belle Fourche.

Mass of Christian burial was held Thursday, May 24, 2001, at St. Paul's Catholic Church in Belle Fourche, with interment following at Pine Slope Cemetery.

Juanita Frances Phelps was born June 17, 1921, in Toppensish, Washington, to Royal C. and Margaret F. (Doran) Phelps. She grew up and attended school in Heppner, graduating in 1939. She attended St. Anthony's Nursing School in Pendleton, graduating as a R.N. in 1943.

In 1941, she met A.J. (Alexander) Spiekermeier and the two were wed in 1943 in Ocean Beach, California. They lived in Heppner until 1949, when they moved to Sheldon, North Dakota, where she worked as a registered nurse in a doctor's office.

In 1964, they moved to Belle Fourche, South Dakota, where she lived until her death.

She worked at the John Burns Memorial Hospital and the Northern Hills Nursing Home at Belle Fourche. The couple raised five children. They all enjoyed vacationing and camping as a family. Following their retirement, the couple spent their winters in Yuma, Arizona, and enjoyed traveling the U.S. She stayed active in the senior center and enjoyed pets, crafts, crocheting and visiting her friends.

Survivors include three sons and two daughters: Gary and wife Sue of Ortonville, Minnesota; Judy Day and husband Steve of Spokane, Washington; Jim and Rita of Indianapolis, Indiana; Diane Voyles and husband Kevin of Belle Fourche, South Dakota; and Kevin of Spearfish, South Dakota; plus 11 grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Humane Society of the Black Hills.

Kids fishing derby planned

The Kid's Fishing Derby is fast approaching. This annual event will be held at the Willow Creek Reservoir on Sunday, June 10, from

1-5 p.m. The derby is held in conjunction with the National Fishing and Boating Week. The event is sponsored by the Mid Columbia Bass Club, Northwest Steelheaders, Heppner Lions Club, Ducks Unlimited, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, and the U.S. Forest Service. The derby promises to be a memorable time for the young and old alike.

Youngsters 12 years and under can pre-register at Heppner Elementary School or the school district office. Kids can also register

on the day of the derby. All children must be accompanied by a parent or guardian and should bring their own fishing poles and tackle. Pop will be provided.

Prizes, donated by local merchants and clubs, will be awarded. An extra event is the Zebco Casting Contest, which will take place during the fishing derby.

All kids who participate will receive fishing-related material. Local volunteers will be on hand to offer assistance, expertise and fishing tips.

For more information, contact the Heppner Ranger District at 676-9187.

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.)

Recall, dissolution possible solutions?

To the Editor:

When the Morrow County Unified School District was formed 40 years ago it caused much controversy. Feelings ran high and there were hard feelings among the various communities and among their board members. However the board members always treated one another with respect and usually stopped for coffee or refreshments after the meetings to visit.

This situation persisted for several years until it became apparent that much of the dissension was caused by the county school superintendent whose strategy was to keep the communities and their board members divided. I sincerely

hope that the same situation does not exist at this time. The problem was only resolved then by a successful recall, the blanket resignation of the rest of the board and the dismissal of the old superintendent. Only the latter did much to improve education.

If we were to undergo another such horrible situation perhaps it would be better to dissolve the present district and go back to four independent districts. At least now each of the four areas would be able to support themselves and then each community could operate their schools as their own citizens desire.

(s) Don McElligott
Ione

Hats off to local woman

To the Editor:

New to the block... Our second full summer here brings me to comment on the following:

This really is a kind, concerning and friendly community. A Main Street to be proud of. A Christmas season with carols daily-what a joy. A St. Patrick's celebration that is fun and well done. Many people stepping forward to spearhead community projects.

It is here I wish to speak of one special person.

I did not know this individual well, until a year ago. Her mind is sharp, concern for the community and fellow man is genuine and awesome. She has been instrumental in starting program after program,

project after project, often giving not only time effort and enthusiasm but her own money as well. She speaks her mind and is met with some resistance. Her generosity and strong convictions of love of community and country are to be admired whether we agree or not. I hope others within Heppner can recognize how much she has done and take the time to thank her.

Since your illness, I miss not being able to tap into your wealth of knowledge.

Jane Rawlins ...my hat is off to you.

Keep up the fight.

Your friend,
(s) JoAnne Burleson
Heppner

Tentative bond timeline set

To the Editor:
Dear Morrow County School District Patrons-

There have been several questions asked about the school bond since it was passed on May 15. Most of the questions are about timelines, when can the communities have input to the design process and when will the major building projects begin in each community. The following timeline is very basic and is subject to change after a project manager and architect are hired.

Tentative timeline:
June 6 Special Board Meeting - Certify Bond Election Results, Authorize Sale of Bonds, Review Investment Policy Guidelines.

June 25 Regular Meeting - Adopt Capital Projects Budget (Bond Projects), Hire Project Manager.

July 9 Regular Meeting - Hire Architectural Firm.

September through December - Develop Plans and Specifications for Major Projects (Meetings with Local Advisory Committees and Patrons).

December through February-

Develop Bid Documents.

March, April and May - Accept and Approve Successful Bids.

April thru June - Begin Work on Major Projects.

May and June 2003 - Expected Completion of Major Construction.

In addition to major building projects, there are several large remodeling and repair projects such as roof replacement, heating and cooling system replacement, window replacement, electrical upgrades, etc. These projects will begin this June and will be continuing over the next three years. Our project manager will assist in scheduling these projects.

Bonds will be sold at the end of this month. Seattle Northwest is our financial advisor and will be handling the sale of bonds.

We appreciate your support of the school bond levy. We will do our part to complete the scheduled projects and report to you on project progress on a regular basis.

(s) Bruce N. Anderson
Superintendent,
Morrow County School District
Lexington

Stop sign means stop

To the Editor:

To whom it may concern-

And there are a lot of unconcerned people out there. There is a stop sign and a pedestrian sign at the exit of the Forest Service parking lot. It means stop behind the sidewalk, so you won't hit someone walking on the sidewalk.

I have lived here since the Forest Service moved next door and I've been almost hit more times than I care to remember. Been called a "witch", only it began with a "b". When I called their attention to the

fact they almost hit me.

The county employees and others using the lot are the most serious offenders.

I've asked the city police to give out some tickets, but (they) just warn and are soon forgotten.

I won't be so nice. So smile when you blow it next time - you're on camcorder. And you will get a ticket.

(s) Johanne Wood
Heppner

P.S. How will you feel when you injure a child?

Are we going to allow board's action?

To the Editor:

The people of Lexington know where Barney Lindsey lives. His name was approved to be on the recent county-wide ballot to represent the people of Lexington and was elected. The people of Heppner know where Keith Lewis lives and his name appeared on the county-wide ballot to represent Heppner. He was also elected. The results of the ballot were certified by the school board.

The school board now say they made a mistake and have hired an

attorney to correct what they say was a mistake. They would like to deny Lexington and Heppner representatives on the school board by appointing some other persons to support Lexington and Heppner on the board.

I served on Morrow County school boards for 18 years. I cannot believe what I hear and read about Mr. Anderson's participation in the attempt to replace Mr. Lindsey and Mr. Lewis on the board. Are we going to allow this to happen?

(s) Ed Dick
Heppner

June 3-9 National Garden Week

To the Editor:

National Garden Week is June 3-9.

It is the time of the year when all across America we start planting our gardens and flowers that invite the birds and butterflies to feed on them and bees to pollinate the flowers.

As we place the posters around

for National Garden Week, it serves to remind people of how plants can beautify their homes as well as their town.

The Heppner Garden Club will be placing posters and bouquets of flowers in businesses in Heppner in honor of that week.

(s) Chuck Bailey
Heppner Garden Club
Heppner

Commends living center, but not by cemetery

To the Editor:

I must commend all the people that worked and came together to bring about an assisted living facility; it's a great thing. But to place it in the middle of the cemetery, you have to be kidding. I cannot imagine anything more

depressing to be a resident and to be reminded of the end every time I looked outside. I pray to God that I may never be so cruel to any of my loved ones to place them in that position.

(s) Bob Bergstrom
Heppner

Chamber Chatter

By Claudia Hughes
Chamber Executive Director

Should the Heppner Chamber take stands on issues? This has often been the topic during our board of directors meetings, Tuesday meetings and during many state Chamber meetings. To arrive at an answer, a policy of endorsement with five levels of commitment is used to determine the direction taken and discussion usually occurs during at least two Chamber meetings. Under no circumstances does the Chamber organization take part in or lend its influence to the election of candidates.

The Chamber has often taken positions on matters that it felt would directly benefit the community. In addition, stands have been taken against measures that the Chamber feels are a direct threat to the health of our community, our businesses and agriculture. Most recently the decision was made to answer Klamath Falls' request for buckets with messages and to let legislation know how we feel.

The reality is that if the farm economy can be shut down in Klamath Falls, it could happen anywhere across the state to farm families and rural communities dependent on agriculture. It's like a tiny snowball that starts at the top of a mountain and turns into an avalanche destroying people and communities along the way.

The Heppner Chamber bucket will read: "Put family farms, rural communities and agriculture first. Work together for balance and find common sense solutions." The environment and endangered species are important but not more so than the livelihood of entire communities and human beings. It's about balance and speaking up. Join us.

On the lighter side, ...June 8-10 will find bicycles in Heppner and Ione for the Columbia Plateau Stage

Race. Merchants will be given welcome signs for their windows prior to the event. Many families will be visiting June 24-26 for the Junior Hereford Show at the fairgrounds. Both of these events are opportunities to showcase Heppner. Give visitors a friendly "hello" and help them understand small communities.

Thought for the week: "Hard work never killed anyone, but then relaxing is responsible for very few casualties." Take a deep breath and relax.

Public works

plans for sealing

Morrow County Public Works will be chip sealing and fog sealing on Bombing Range Road from June 11-26. Drivers are asked to expect delays or plan to use an alternate route.

For more information, contact Morrow County Public Works at 989-9500.

Marriage Licenses

The Morrow County Clerk's office at the courthouse in Heppner reports issuing the following marriage licenses:

May 4: Michael Ozaki Andelin, 22, Pasco, Washington; and Carley Nichole Empey, 19, Mesa, Washington.

May 29: David Anthony Lee, 22, Connell, Washington; and Kira LaVaun McGary, 20, Mesa, Washington.

May 29: Jose Alfredo Pena, 19, Boardman; and Jamie Nichole Cisneros, Boardman, 20.

May 29: Michael Lane Brisco, 47, Irrigon; and Louanne Metcalf, 35, Irrigon.

June 1: Michael Reece VanArsdale, 35, Heppner; and Shelly Lynn Sieler, 29, Heppner.

Beecher's Restaurant,
350 Highway 74, Ione will be
closed SUNDAYS and MONDAYS.
If you wish to have a private party
on these days, please contact
Betty Gray at 422-7038.
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BURNING BAN

Effective June 11, 2001, the Fire Chief of the City of Heppner is imposing a **CLOSED SEASON** for open burning based on local fire safety concerns. **This burning ban is for the City of Heppner.** A reminder that open burning also includes a "burn barrel."

The closed season will remain in effect until further notice this fall as per **ORS 478.960.**

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