

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](mailto:gt@heppner.net) or [gt@rapidserv.net](mailto:gt@rapidserv.net). Web site: [www.heppner.net](http://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

News deadline is Monday at 5 p.m.

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.

For Public/Legal Notices: public/legal notices deadline is Monday at 5 p.m. Dates for publication must be specified. Affidavits must be required at the time of submission. Affidavits require three weeks to process after last date of publication (a sooner return date must be specified if required).

On the HEPPNER WEBSITE: [www.heppner.net](http://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!

**Engagement  
Zacharias-Bacon**



**Jennifer Zacharias and Jake Bacon**  
Jennifer Ann Zacharias and Jake Allen Bacon have announced their engagement to be married.

Jake is the son of Bill and Marcy Bacon, Prineville, formerly of Heppner and Ione. He graduated from Ione High School in 1994 and received a bachelor of science degree from Eastern Oregon University in 1999. He is employed as a middle school PE and health teacher and coach for the Grant Union School District 3.

The bride-elect is the daughter of Judy Norberg, Boise, Idaho, and Paul Norberg, Joseph. She graduated from Joseph High School in 1993 and received a bachelor of science degree from Eastern Oregon University in 1998. She is employed as an elementary school teacher for the Grant Union School District 3.

The couple plans a July 4 3 p.m. wedding at the Oxbow Ranch Bed and Breakfast in Prairie City.

A barbecue and reception will follow the ceremony. Friends and family are invited to attend.

**Gutierrez - Wilson**



**Amanda Gutierrez and Jeff Wilson**

Kevin Gutierrez of Prineville and Barbara Zeller of Ione announce the engagement of their daughter, Amanda Christine Gutierrez of Pendleton, to Jeff D. Wilson, Pendleton.

The bride-elect graduated from Heppner High School in 1997. She is employed by OSU Extension Service in Pendleton and will graduate this fall from Eastern Oregon University with a bachelor of science degree in psychology. She will then enter graduate school at Washington State University, majoring in psychology and social services.

Wilson is the son of Carmen Wilson and Dan Loosie of Lexington and Danny Wilson, Heppner. He graduated from Heppner High School in 1997 and is now self-employed as a contractor and owner of Jeff Wilson Construction.

Gutierrez is the granddaughter of Lee and MaryAnn Palmer, Ione, Geneva Palmer, Ione, George Gutierrez, Heppner, and the late Helen Drake.

Wilson is the grandson of Ray and Gay Papineau, Lexington, and Bud and Delores Wilson, Hermiston.

The couple will be married August 25, 2001, at St. Patrick's Catholic Church in Heppner, with a reception to immediately follow at the Heppner Elks Club.

LETTERHEAD • ENVELOPES • BUSINESS CARDS

STATEMENTS • INVOICES • and more!

Heppner Gazette-Times Printing 676-9228

**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.)

**Assisted living board addresses location question**

To the Editor:

We appreciate every opportunity to inform our community of our assisted living project, and the recent question of the facility's location is such an opportunity.

"Willow Creek Terrace" will sit south of the Heppner Cemetery, east of the Van Liew home, west of Willow Creek Lake. The facility will be adjacent to the Lakeview Heights subdivision, at the end of Frank Gilliam Drive.

The Port of Morrow donated the land on which the facility will be situated. This gifted land is valued at \$50,000. \$50,000 represents a substantial savings to our effort. The property is within the city limits and has immediate access to all utilities, representing another important savings.

Eight of the apartments at Willow Creek Terrace will have a view of Willow Creek Lake. Eight of the apartments are to have a view to the west, the familiar "hills of home"

and the grazing Van Liew sheep and lamas. Should the view to the northeast create a problem, we are prepared to plant a wall of arbor vitae to block that view. (We hear a surprising variety of thoughts on this neighboring expanse of manicured green grass. One suggestion is to seek permission to put a gate in the fence so that tenants and visitors can easily access the area for walks, and walks down "memory lane.")

We welcome suggestions and questions from our community as work on our facility progresses. And we hope others share our excitement over knowing that as the projects takes shape, our goal becomes closer. We want to provide a safe, comfortable, attractive home-like environment where our seniors and disabled can live close to those they love.

(s) Suzanne Jepsen  
Board of Directors chairperson  
Willow Creek Valley  
Assisted Living

**Spending education dollars for nothing**

To the Editor:

At Superintendent Anderson's direction, the Morrow County School Board has hired a retired judge from LaGrande to take off their hands a decision concerning the board's attempt to dismiss two duly elected members of their own board.

A decision by a retired judge would have no legal standing but would cost taxpayers \$150 an hour

plus expenses. The original board action for dismissal was irresponsibly instituted by the board as a result of an anonymous letter. The board's vote at the June 6 hearing is once again a glaring example of spending education dollars for nothing.

If teachers are now to be held accountable, so too should boards and superintendents.

(s) Meg Murray  
Ione

**Join voluntary blackout**

To the Editor:

Have you ever noticed that when the power goes out, everybody gets together to try and figure out what happened. People leave their homes and go out into their hallways and streets and meet and greet each other. There's something mysterious about it, yet community building. Well, if that's been your experience, or not, I have something to share with you ...

Roll your own blackout/National Voluntary Blackout, the first day of summer, Thursday, June 21, from 7-10 p.m. worldwide, all time zones.

There's a grassroots effort to have everyone in the country "roll their own blackout." I call it a National Voluntary Blackout. It's in part a response to the following item from The Times of London which appeared in The Vancouver Sun on Monday, May 14, p.11.

"[George W.] Bush, a Texas oilman, was asked last week if Americans, the world's biggest energy consumers, should change their lifestyles to counter shortages. Ari Fleischer, his spokesman, said: "That's a big 'no.' The president

believes it's an American way of life, and that it should be the goal of policy-makers to protect the American way of life. The American way of life is a blessed one, and we have a bounty of resources in this country."

Whether you agree with Mr. Bush or not, we do live a "charmed" and comfortable life here in this country, and I urge all Americans to seriously consider turning off as many of your electronic appliances as possible on Thursday, the first day of summer.

If everyone participates (or a good portion of everyone), the energy-saving voluntary blackout will roll across the whole hemisphere. So, turn off your lights, TVs, and computers from 7-10 p.m. on June 21. Unplug whatever you can unplug in your house. Light a candle, take a stroll in the dark, watch the stars. Do anything that's not electronic. If everyone participates, we can make a difference and send the message that we're willing to be part of the solution.

(s) Monika Hunter  
Heppner

**Elks Father's Day picnic scheduled**

This Sunday, June 17, the Heppner Elks Lodge will again host the annual Father's Day Picnic at Cutsforth Park for all current Elk members and their families.

The festivities will begin at 11 a.m. with hot dogs and beverages provided by the Elks. Salads and desserts are potluck. Games and

fun for all ages will be held: coins in the straw, egg toss, football accuracy competition, softball and the annual horseshoe pitching match are all on the schedule.

"Pack up the kids and head to the mountains... enjoy a day with the family and have some outdoor fun," said an Elks spokesperson.

**Secret agents**

To the Editor:

Life is sacred. The feeling of your muscles growing weak and then collapsing on your airway. Your respiration becoming shallow and labored; you struggle to breathe. Death from certain nerve gases can either be rapid if the gas is absorbed quickly or slow and prolonged from smaller doses of the chemical agent. In reality you probably would not come in contact with enough chemicals to have the effects mentioned above occur. But you could already be absorbing enough chemical agent to cause you or your children to have an increased risk of cancer. Either way, dying from being in contact with chemical agents is not a painless or good way to die.

The Umatilla Chemical Depot (UMCD) is in the Umatilla and Morrow counties of Oregon and three miles south of the Columbia River. The Depot stockpiles around 12 percent of our nation's chemical weapons, including some of the nerve gases that could have effects on surrounding residence as stated above, if there were to be the smallest amount of a leak in just one of the bunkers. Weapons stockpiled at the Umatilla Depot consist of rockets, land mines and spray tanks, along with nerve agents from World War II. The Army needs to do more testing to make sure that there is no chance the families living around the Depot get in contact with these harmful chemicals and the army should inform those families of the dangers and ways to prevent contamination if a leak occurs.

There are current signs of possible present leaks. According to the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) press release on the US Army Umatilla Chemical Depot, "In September 1999 approximately 34 constructions workers at the Umatilla Chemical Agent Disposal Facility were affected by an unknown substance and required medical treatment." (EPA 1)

The workers alleged that they were in contact with chemical agent and requested the EPA's help in investigating the matter further. The EPA agreed with the Army's assessment that "it was unlikely" (EPA 1) that the chemical agents had anything to do with the workers' injuries. It makes the credibility of the Army and the EPA (both government-run agencies) come into question when so many workers were in contact with the unknown substance and that most of them believe it was chemical agent that they came in contact with. The EPA did however give recommendations of how the Army should follow up on the investigation.

The EPA also found Army data from air monitoring stations that showed the presence of very low levels of chemicals agent. However, at these levels there is an uncertainty as to what is being measured (EPA 1). The possibility is still there that the readings were caused by warfare chemical agent and not by some agricultural chemical blowing past the depot. Even if present leaks are too small to hurt a human being, why should we wait until there is a large leak or break out to do anything more and protect our families? The levels might have been very low, but neither the Army nor the EPA explained what would happen to the residence living around the depot if small prolonged contact with the chemical agent was occurring.

The U.S. Army is in construction of a warfare weapons disposal unit. The disposal unit is going to be constructed on the depot to break

down and destroy chemical weapons. To be more exact, the Army is mounting a \$1.2 billion effort to dispose of munitions containing more than 3,000 tons of nerve and mustard agents, enough to kill about 90 percent of the U.S. population (Hunsburger 1). This is a giant step forward for the U.S. Army in reducing the risk of human fatalities caused by chemical agents. However, the transportation of chemical agents to the new disposal unit justly adds to the need for additional testing of leaks.

The leaks of chemical agent could be either by direct air contamination or through ground water contamination. Either way, you could be contaminated and not even realize that it is occurring. According to [geocities.com](http://geocities.com), a website dedicated to giving you the facts about what chemical agents do and how they do it, "Gases (and) vapors ... when inhaled can be absorbed through any part of the respiratory tract" (1). Absorption of these chemicals can have serious effects and can cause death. Some of the possible effects are anoxia resulting from airway obstruction, weakness of the muscles or respiration, blood pressure falling, and unconsciousness.

Human lives are not the only thing at risk for the surrounding residence if ground water is contaminated. Residents could lose their crops and livestock. Families surrounding the Depot depend on their crops and livestock for money to survive. It is their first, and, in most cases, only source of income. It would be nearly impossible to clean-up the chemical agents and the water supply would be drastically lowered. Families would be forced to move, if the situation was bad enough.

Some people may say that the Army is doing everything they can right now to test and notify the public of leaks. Is there really such a thing as enough testing when lives are on the line, especially when there have been signs of possible present leaks? In The Oregonian editorial entitled "Umatilla Chemical Depot emergency plan shows flaws," columnist Brent Hunsberger questions the response time to alert nearby residents of a nerve-agent release. Hunsberger reported, "Hermiston's chief, who is responsible for mobilizing hundreds of emergency workers, thinks it's inexcusable that for an hour and a half his department sat unaware of the site's evacuation. Had chemical agents been involved... the results could have been disastrous for the 30,000 people who live within about eight miles of the depot." This slow of an emergency response is dangerous and gives even more reason for more testing to be done.

As a resident living near the depot I understand the uncomfortableness of knowing that my family's health is at risk. I share the values of our crops and animals' lives. I want to know that my family is as safe as it could possible be when they are home and that is why I am reaching out to you, my community, to stand and take all the precautions available to keep our loved ones-children, grandparents, aunts, uncles and friends safe from harm.

As stated earlier, life is sacred and worth enough to take the extra precautions to save. All that I am asking of you is to write your government officials and stand up for children of the future, for they are the ones who are going to suffer the consequences if nothing further is done to protect lives. It is time to stop ignoring the warning signs and do what is necessary to defend against the cruel death a chemical leak can cause. All we need is a few more precautions and public awareness to get this goal accomplished. Our Oregon government representatives are there listen and serve us. Join together and write a letter to save lives.

(s) Amy Papineau  
Lexington

**WCCC plans family barbecue**

The Willow Creek Country Club will have a family barbecue on Sunday, Jun 17, at 4 p.m. The golfing is for both men and women with the type of play determined by the committee in charge.

Each family will bring their own meat to the barbecue. Those whose last names begin with "A" through "K" should bring salad and "L" through "Z", dessert.

Hosts for this family barbecue will be John and Kelli Boyer, Gary and Becky Hunt, Dale and Karen Holland, and Del and Linda LaRue.



**DO WE HAVE YOUR MONEY?**

The Division of State Lands is publishing notice that the Division is holding unclaimed funds, stocks, and safe deposit box contents for over 300,000 people or heirs, businesses, and other entities whose last known address is in Oregon.

• To determine if you have unclaimed money search for your name at [www.state.or.us](http://www.state.or.us) on the internet. Click the button "Look for Unclaimed Property" and follow the directions.

• Free public access to the Internet can be found at your local public library and at most community colleges.

• You can also search for your name at [www.missing-money.com](http://www.missing-money.com) if you have resided in any of the following states: AZ, CO, DE, DC, FL, IA, KS, KY, ME, MD, MA, MI, MN, MO, NY, NC, NE, NH, NJ, NM, OK, OR, SC, SD, UT, VT, WA, WI, WV. Access [www.unclaimed.org](http://www.unclaimed.org) and you will be directed to unclaimed property web sites for all states.

The internet sites are updated frequently so check often.