

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.)

Board, superintendent exhibit integrity

To the Editor:
The June 28 meeting of the Morrow County School District was a very sad occasion. No one in that room wanted to see Keith Lewis and Barney Lindsay removed from the board. There simply was no alternative. If, as has been suggested by some, the board had "fixed" the problem by ignoring the zone boundaries the problems created would have been devastating to the entire county.
The growth in the North County has brought us more than children to educate. It has also brought us parents that vote. With boundaries in place and honored, all zones in this district are guaranteed representation. If these boundaries were ignored it would open the possibility for the area with the most votes to elect only representatives that were "friendly" to their schools. No one wants that. Mr. Lewis and Mr. Lindsay will have the opportunity to run what I am sure will be successful campaigns in the

future. In the meantime, let's not recall three members because they voted to follow the law.

Mr. Anderson has tendered his resignation. He hopes that act will help heal wounds that this county is suffering. Again Bruce Anderson is putting the welfare of the children of Morrow County ahead of personal wishes. That is so like him.

Mr. Mike Armato and a group of disgruntled followers are asking that three board members be recalled because they chose the only path available to them. The legal one. There was no glee in their actions. They had no choice.

I, for one, am so proud of them. They could have avoided this recall by ignoring the zone borders; instead they chose to do what is lawful. They exhibited the kind of integrity I want in my school board members. Please refuse to sign Mr. Armato's recall petition. Men of honor are not easily replaced.

(s) Meredith DeHaven
Irrigon

Students identified problem, issued challenge

To the Editor:
Two weeks ago Mrs. Allen's students wrote letters to the editor on various topics of concern to them. Ten of the letters concerned the old city swimming pool. The letters commented on what an eyesore the old pool is and urged that something be done about converting the old pool to some good use.

The students have identified a problem that the Heppner community really needs to solve. Fortunately the state grant that was used to repair the pool after the last flooding in 1971 does not have to be repaid thanks to the construction and operation of the new Willow Creek Park District Aquatic Center.

A committee was appointed by the city council to evaluate the old pool and bath house as to possible beneficial uses. The finding of the committee was that the old pool and bath house structure were completely worn out and should be demolished with the property developed in some way for community recreational use. The committee determined that the cost of remodeling the old facilities would be excessive. Retrofitting of the old pool facilities was determined to be a bad investment of scarce resources.

A local engineer is working on a demolition and disposal plan. Completion and implementation of the demolition and disposal plan would be the first step in converting the old pool to beneficial use.

Various ideas have been floated as to the next use for the site. These include a sports court (skating and basketball) and a 1903 flood victims memorial park.

Regardless of what the community decides would be the best converted use of the old pool, the conversion will require the energy and effort of a highly motivated organization of people committed to carry the project through to completion.

What community organization would be able to accept the challenge of the pool conversion project? The Lions Club was nearly killed by the effort involved in installing a solar heating system for the old pool. They're not interested in putting their organization at risk again.

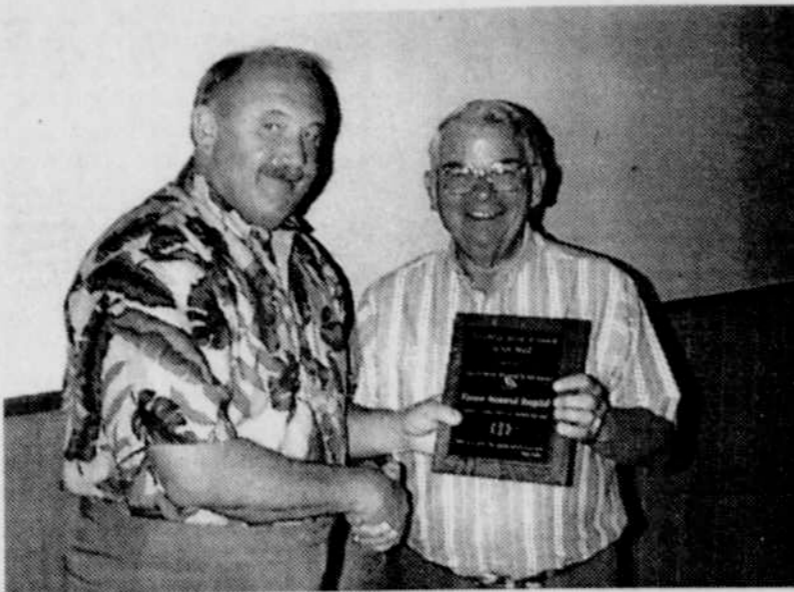
The Masons and Oddfellows have come forward on many occasions with financial support for valuable community projects. They might be able to help with monetary contributions toward materials and supplies for the project, e.g. fuel for heavy equipment for the demolition. Various local heavy construction contractors might see their way to donate equipment use and operator time.

All of this still leaves open the

Swim lessons set at Ione

Swimming lessons will be held at the Ione pool starting Tuesday through Friday, July 24-Aug. 3. Cost is \$30 per child. Call 422-7105 to sign up.

Hospital, Chamber honored for work with student program



Larry Mills (right), Morrow County Health District Board Chair, receives certificate of appreciation on behalf of Pioneer Memorial Hospital from George Murdock, Umatilla-Morrow ESD superintendent.

Pioneer Memorial Hospital and the Heppner Chamber of Commerce were recognized recently for their support of the Umatilla-Morrow School-to-Work program.

According to the presenters, the hospital has hosted several students for Job Shadow Day sponsored by the Heppner Chamber of Commerce, and has, each year for the past four years, had at least two work experience students from Heppner High School. Staff members of several hospital departments have also provided the HHS anatomy class with an extensive, six-week job shadowing experience.

"The hospital and medical community have consistently sponsored work experiences and job shadows for students," said Greg Grant. "They are great to work with."

The Chamber of Commerce has also worked extensively with the program.

This year the Chamber coordinated the business recruitment end of the Job Shadow Day for Heppner Junior High students.

The Chamber is also

unique among other chambers in that a student representative from Heppner High School attends the meetings as a board member.

Members of the Chamber also support School to Career activities by posting Heppner Elementary School's Character Education program's "Word of the Month" and by displaying student posters illustrating the desired character trait. Chamber members also provide local schools with donated incentive rewards for students displaying those traits.

According to the presenters, Chamber members and representatives have entered classrooms as guest speakers, talking about their businesses, hobbies and their lives, providing students with exposure to a variety of career and job options. The Chamber has provided students with job shadows, internships and cooperative work experience opportunities over the years and has organized multiple community events, including the annual St. Patrick's Day celebration, Christmas lighting contest and parade, litter clean-ups and community tree planting days, "encouraging student participation at all levels."

Watermelon Festival slated

The 18th annual Irrigon Watermelon Festival will be held Saturday, July 28, at the Irrigon Marina Park.

The day will get underway bright and early with breakfast from 6:30-9 a.m. A softball tournament begins at 7 a.m. and the parade starts at 10 a.m.

To enter the softball tournament call Dan Gordanier, 922-5134, or Norma McCombs, 922-0123. To enter the parade, call David or Charlene Cooley, 481-2639.

The event will also feature continuous entertainment throughout the day, with the "dignitary seed spitting contest", arts and crafts booths, bingo, a dunk tank, food booths, kids' games, a Hula Hoop contest and a "giant" raffle.

Entertainment will also include the "lively, spirited and

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@rapidsolve.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

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

- 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!

Man arraigned on assault charge

Antonio Garcia Fernandez was formally arraigned in the Circuit Court of Morrow County July 6 on the charges of assault in the first degree, menacing and harassment. Fernandez, 37, is currently held in the Umatilla County Jail with bail set at \$50,000.

These charges stemmed from a June 12 incident where Fernandez allegedly assaulted his wife in their

Boardman home. Assault I, a Measure 11 offense, carries a maximum penalty of 20 years incarceration in prison and/or a \$300,000 fine.

"This particular incident of domestic violence was quite egregious and my office will prosecute this case aggressively," said Morrow County District Attorney David C. Allen.

DINNER and FUND RAISING FORUM

Thursday, July 19th
Heppner Elks Lodge

Social Hour: 6:30 p.m.
NO COST Dinner: 7:00 p.m.
Menu: Italian
Tuscan Pork / Vegetarian Spaghetti

Donations for
legal expenses
will be encouraged

Sponsored by Friends of Barney and Keith


Banking Anytime from Anywhere

- View Balances
- Print Statements
- Transfer Funds
- Pay Bills Online
- And More!




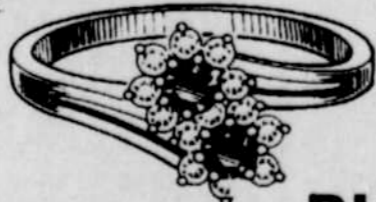
We're still your hometown bank,
here to offer you personal service...
Now we can offer that service in more ways than ever!

To sign up for Online Banking, stop in or call us.

 **Bank of
Eastern Oregon**

WWW.BEOBANK.COM


 Member FDIC



RUBY & DIAMOND

... is at its most dramatic
in jewelry set with
fiery red & dazzling diamonds.

We think it's a terrific way
to light up every day of the year.

 **Peterson's
Jewellers**
Heppner 676-9200