

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

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).

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**school board**

replacing Ellen Rollis; Noe Melendez, CMS ed assistant, replacing Maya Phipps.

-approved transfers/promotions for: Janice Huddleston, from part-time special ed assistant/part-time food service clerical to HHS full-time special ed assistant, replacing Becky Evans; Ellen Rollis, from part-time special ed one-on-one assistant to general ed assistant/food service clerical, replacing Robin Jones; Robin Jones, from ed assistant/food service clerical to HES general ed assistant, replacing Angie Hanson; Adam Eldridge, from CMS assistant football coach to RHS assistant volleyball coach; Sylvia Barrera, from full-time ESL assistant to SBE office assistant/food service clerical, replacing Kelley Ellis.

-approved extra duty contracts for: Mike Wetherell, RHS half-time DART

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coordinator; G. Ann Thomas, RHS newspaper advisor; Virginia Grant, HHS rally advisor; Becky Kindle, HHS assistant volleyball coach; Judy Daniels, CMS assistant volleyball coach.

-approved an attendance variance for two Hermiston School District students to attend full-day kindergarten at ACH; and one student to finish school at Hermiston High School.

-approved donations of school supplies to SBE from LaVern and Jack Bozarth from the C&D Drive Inn; and from Umatilla Electric Cooperative.

-approved an interim agreement for Karen Beck to teach math at Heppner Junior High School from November 1 through June 10.

-heard the following announcements: September 24-board work session, CMS library, 5 p.m.; next board meeting, October 8, RHS, 7:30 p.m.

**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.)

**Dutch people send support, prayers**

To the Editor:  
(Editor's note: This is a e-mail from a friend of Mark and Elaine Miller of Heppner who lives in The Netherlands and is a police officer.)

Dear Mark and Elaine,  
All the way from the Netherlands we just want to let you know that our feelings and prayers are with you and your country during these very difficult times. We were deeply shocked when we saw what happened in New York and Washington. I believe we can trust upon God who will help the leaders of your country to make the right decisions when they have to react on this senseless acts.

We hope that the Netherlands, although a very small country, will

give all the help and support your country needs. We already held three minutes of silence throughout Europe and I was glad to see that lots of Dutch people spontaneously went to the airport to help the Americans who could not fly home. Lots of them found a place to stay in a Dutch home.

When I see the images of New York and the people standing together, I sometimes think that this disaster, although terrible, brings the people closer to each other and helps them to find what real life means. Standing together and trust that God will always be there.

Greetings,  
Bram, Lyann and Helene

**Words can't express**

To the Editor:

When I first heard what happened at the World Trade Center and the Pentagon, I felt a distance to what had happened. I saw footage of the plane crashes several times during the course of the day, but the realism never seemed to sink in, I never felt a true sorrow for what had happened. Maybe it is because when we watch television we are accustomed to fiction, and when something this extreme happens, something that would seem so far fetched, even in a movie, can be hard to comprehend.

This has affected everyone in America. Whether they are infuriated or overcome by sorrow, or simply distant, it has made an impact in all our lives. For a few days afterward, I tried to forget what I had heard, what had happened, but in the days that have passed, I have found myself turning back to the news, unable to ignore it anymore.

The noble acts of heroism have been so profound, I find myself feeling guilty for my selfish ignorance, for thinking that I am not a part of this. When I saw the footage of the firefighters, policemen and everyone else that is involved, even the people that lined up for

blocks to give blood, doing everything they can to help, it makes me think of how great our nation really is. How in a time of such crisis, people-with ill regard for their own safety-will jump to the grisly task to aid the lives of others. The stories of the people that came to aid the victims who were trapped, and those who died trying, are more moving than anything else I have ever heard of or seen.

Those who committed this terrible act did it for reasons I cannot comprehend. The blatant disregard for human life they have shown, the illogical cruelty that they have set upon us, makes me feel no sadness for what retaliation they will receive.

In a rural community like this, I feel safe, but sometimes we can let that safety cloud the harsh truth, or make it appear fictional. I urge everyone to do what ever you can to help, whether it is the donation of blood or a simple prayer; it will pull our great nation together. I wrote this to try and express the way I feel about this catastrophe, but sadly I think my words don't begin to encompass the thoughts going through my head.

(s) Billy Ross  
Ione

**Son of Heppner resident receives call to active duty**

Heppner resident, Sherry Ewing, has received word that her son, Mark Bickham, Spokane, has been called into active duty in the aftermath of the attack on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon.

Bickham, 31, previously on active duty with the Navy, is a member of the reserves. He is married and has three children, three, eight and nine, and is employed with the U.S. Postal Service in Spokane.

While on active duty he helped direct aircraft on ships. In the reserves he works in surveillance.

According to Ewing, Bickham believes he will be stationed somewhere in the Pacific Northwest, but does not expect to find out until later in the week.

We Make POSTERS  
Heppner Gazette-Times

**FLY program offered for county's youth**

Morrow County youth 10 to 18 years old are invited to a new program, FLY (Friday Life Youth), to be held on non-school Fridays from 1-5:30 p.m. at Sam Boardman Elementary School.

The program will include an open gym, basketball, drawing and painting classes, kick boxing, dance and drill team. Snacks will be provided.

Students in south Morrow County who wish to attend may catch the bus at Heppner Elementary at 11:30 a.m. or at the school district building in Lexington at 11:45 a.m. A bus will also be available in Irrigon at Columbia Middle School at 12:35 p.m.

The program is free. Students who wish to attend may call program organizer Jesus Rome, 541-481-2911.

The program is sponsored by the Morrow County Commission on Children and Families, Morrow County Juvenile Department, Morrow County Behavioral Health and the Morrow County School District.

**Daughter upset by predicament**

To the Editor:

To the community of Heppner:

Sunday afternoon, September 16, I received a phone call from my mother. She was calling to let me know that the bridge that connects her to the outside world had just collapsed. Being the independent woman she has always been, she proceeded to tell me of her plans to make a better path down the creek bank, across the channel and start improving the one on the other side. I know my mother and I know she will get this done.

She hiked herself down, across and up yesterday morning to get to her car to go to city hall to see what could be done about the situation. The city manager was out of the office at the time and the clerk backed away from the counter, refusing to even look at pictures my mother had with her to provide evidence of the problem at hand. She had even taken with her photos from years before of bridges that had been destroyed by floods.

Now, as I do not live close, I began making phone calls to the emergency departments, to alert them of mother's unique situation. Mr. Mike Sweek of the police department was my first contact. He assured me that he would call the city maintenance crew and alert them of the situation and then go check on Mom. This he did, and was told by the city employee taking his call that this was "not the city's problem." After he had been to check on Mom, to reassure her that he would be there if she needed him, both professionally and personally, my mother called me again with the city's response. Remember that this was, after all, a Sunday afternoon, early evening.

My next call was to Mr. Rusty Estes, who is the fire chief, and who was, at the time, also in charge of the emergency unit. In between fire calls and an ambulance call, he also went to personally check on my mother, the situation, and reassure her that he would be available to meet her needs, both professionally and personally.

Also on Sunday evening, I left messages with city hall and various other heads of community departments. Some of those messages have yet to be returned.

Monday, I began another round of calls. To the city manager, who did go along with the acting police chief to meet with my mother and assess the damage. His proposal was that Mom would request that her neighbors find other ways of parking so she could park across

**Condition of girl stricken with E. coli improves**

The condition of Callahan Crossley, seven-year-old daughter of Shane and Maureen (Healy) Crossley of Hermiston, has improved and she has been discharged from the hospital.

The little girl was diagnosed with an E. coli infection and was admitted to Doernbecher Children's Hospital in Portland on September 9. She had previously been listed in critical condition and had received kidney dialysis and blood transfusions.

the bridge at the south end of Main St. and climb down into her yard from that point. The area that he referred to is an old piece of walkway left from the last flood and is badly eroded underneath. My mother started a flower garden there years ago to keep kids in the neighborhood from going over the edge with bicycles and such.

I made a call, as well, to State Representative Mr. Greg Smith to find other resources if possible, and was given names of persons he thought might be able to help. Neither of them have responded to my messages as of this time. Today is Tuesday, September 18. However, Greg was at my mother's door less than 10 minutes from the time that I called to see what he might do from his perspective and to reassure mother that he was there if needed.

My mother received a call from the city manager this morning wanting to know, "What the purpose was in stirring the whole community up?" over a matter that he thought had been quite nicely resolved to everyone's satisfaction. And I am quite sure he truly thought the matter was resolved.

Mother's situation is, and has been so unique, due to the location of her property, that for years she has had all county taxes reduced because she is not appropriately or adequately accessible to county services. Now, at 71, she has no appropriate access to anything. Not fire protection, not police protection, and certainly not medical access. Nor does she have adequate garbage service. She was told at city hall yesterday that the fire hoses would reach if they had to and how the ambulance crew got in was their problem.

I am issuing a plea to all whom know my mother, Betty Curnutt, to stand beside her, while I cannot, and fight for her on this one. She may think she can climb down, across and up on a daily basis to get to town for groceries, mail and medications, to doctor's appointments. And, knowing her as I do, she will try to do just that. I also issue just a small challenge to any of you who might not think this is not a big deal. Take just a moment and try going down, across and up to see things as they really are. And, until there is appropriate resolution of this matter, I ask that all of you who know her and love her for her strength and independent way of life, please keep her safe for me.

(s)Karen Curnutt-  
McMurry, R.N.  
Beaverton

**School board recall petitions filed**

Petitions to recall three Morrow County School District Board members were turned into the Morrow County Clerk's office by the September 12 deadline, according to Bobbi Childers of that office.

Childers said that petitioners turned in 98 pages of signatures at 4:45 p.m. that day.

The clerk's office has 10 days from the date the petitions were filed to verify the signatures on the petitions.

Board members named in the recall effort were John Rietmann, Ione, Pat McNamee, Irrigon, and Gary Frederickson, Boardman. The positions of two other board members, Barney Lindsay, Lexington, and Keith Lewis, Heppner, were vacated by the board following an inquiry concerning their residency. The board was prevented by law from filling those two positions until the residency issue is decided in court.

That leaves only two board members whose positions are not in question, Julie Weikel, Boardman, who is protected by law from recall because she has not been in office long enough, and John Renfro, Lexington, who recently took office.

Petitioners previously indicated that they were not only angered by the vacation of the two south Morrow County board members' positions, but also by the board's earlier decision to cut teaching positions, especially from the south county area, when faced with a severe budget shortfall.

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Pharmacy Hours:  
9 a.m.-6 p.m. Mon-Fri (closed 1-2 p.m. for lunch)  
9 a.m.-1 p.m. Saturday

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**CROP INSURANCE MEETING**  
Wednesday, September 26  
7 p.m. at the Ione Grange Hall  
**UPDATE ON CROP INSURANCE FOR 2002**  
Pie and Coffee will be served

**WHEATLAND INSURANCE CENTER, INC.**  
Meeting sponsored by Wheatland Insurance, Ione

**GRAND OPENING**  
Friday, September 28  
at two of Heppner's newest businesses:  
**COLUMBIA BASIN ESCROW, L.L.C.**  
and  
**COPPOCK SURVEYING**  
Located at 315 NE Chase Street, Heppner  
Join us for refreshments all day!

**TEEN HOMECOMING DINNER**  
Friday, September 21st  
Steak & Prawns  
Complimentary Sparkling Cider and Carnation  
for couples \$12.95 (each)  
Reservations Appreciated  
*John's Other Place*  
Main Street, Heppner • 676-5017