

The Official Newspaper
of the City of Heppner and the County of Morrow

**Heppner
GAZETTE-TIMES**

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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.

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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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.)

Library/city hall project worthwhile

To the Editor:

I'm writing to say that I am one citizen of the community who favors the Library-City Hall Project. I have read with interest the question/answer discussion in recent issues of the paper. Getting these questions clearly into public discourse is important to the community and to the progress toward completion of this important project.

The present library and museum were resource places for the summer youth project in which I was involved in 1992 and 1993. At that time I felt that the building which holds both was no longer adequate for joint quarters. Either one or the other needed to move for both to be enhanced and have enough space to provide for what each is meant to do.

About the same time I began my work as a CASA volunteer (Court Appointed Special Advocate for children and youth caught up in the Juvenile Court system by reason of neglect or/and abuse). One of my privileges was to attend interagency meetings, which were and are held to build cooperation and a protective network for children deemed to be "at risk" by one or all of the agencies who deal with children and youth at any level. I do not remember one of these monthly meetings where someone, or more than one, from local law enforcement did not express a desire for better quarters for talking with or formally interviewing children and even families who were under stress - a place of safety for the children and comfort while decisions were in process and would need to be carried out quickly.

More than a year ago when the first public meeting was announced, I breathed a sigh of relief, thinking: At last, something is being done that is important for the future, not only of Heppner, but also something which would enhance directly and indirectly, the whole county. I went to the meeting to be sure someone would mention the need for considering aids for vision impaired persons - young and old - in a new library.

The first meeting was informational, question and answer, probing possibilities and then a division into groups so every individual could have input. Personally, I felt consulted; I felt

that research had been done on the finding end of the spectrum; I felt that the people invited as resource people were ones who had hands-on experience with the kinds of problems presented by the uniqueness of Heppner community; I felt all who came from "the outside" were here to listen to us - not to "tell us", so to speak. Their intent was to take every suggestion we had made and put them together according to priorities, codes and other limitations set by state and federal law. The critics were by no means ignored.

Some time later, the second meeting was called to look at and discuss the architects plans, question the plan and make further suggestions. Lighting, heating, cooling, energy saving, design and accessibility were among some of the specific concerns I remember being discussed -- and, yes, taxes.

I continue to feel that a number of people, city council and planners, the library board and Oregon Trail Library District personnel, have put a lot of thought into a necessary and difficult project. I know something about writing for grants and felt that the case for it was well described - and not overblown. I did not feel that any one was ramrodding anything. Never were communication lines closed.

I know there are others out there who feel as I do. I hope we can consolidate the energy for the new Library-City Hall that was evident at the previous meetings and which gave a go-ahead for what has been done to date. I don't know if my grandchildren or great-grandchildren will spend their adult lives in Heppner or not. Somebody's will and I would like to think that I have contributed to that future.

(s) Grace E. Drake
Heppner

Death Notice

Faye Ruhl

Faye Ruhl, 88, of Heppner died Friday, December 21, 2001. Graveside service will be held Thursday, December 27, 2001, at 11 a.m. at the Lexington Cemetery.

A complete obituary will be in the Jan. 2 issue of the Heppner Gazette.

Library has new circulation system



Story and photo by Debbie Harper
Oregon Trail Library District has a new circulation system. No, the heating system isn't working better. The district, along with Eastern Oregon Library Network, recently merged its holdings database with other libraries in Eastern Oregon, bringing the number of participating libraries to 68.

The new circulation system, called Pioneer Library System, connects school, community college, university and public libraries.

Telecommunications equipment in both OTLD branches was upgraded and DSL lines were installed. The DSL lines enable patrons to access information on the Internet more quickly.

What does that mean to Morrow County? In addition to more than tripling the available libraries that can now be searched on-line, the

merger created a universal borrowers card. Your library card is now good at any of the 68 libraries in the system. Want to check out a magazine in Wallowa or check your e-mail in Baker, you can do that with your OTLD card.

The new system is up and running in Heppner. Library staff would like patrons to stop in and have their existing cards scanned in order for everyone to get their information migrated to the new system.

The new circulation system and the telecommunications upgrade were made possible through grants from the Ford Family Foundation, the Meyer Memorial Trust and the Collins Foundation. The hardware supplier, Innovative Interfaces, worked closely with Pioneer Library System. It extended quote deadlines, and project time lines and revised quotes for the system.

Local student to compete in National Geography Bee



Heppner Junior High School National Geography Bee winners (left to right): **back-Robert Worden, Kyle Carlson, James Van Liew, Sam Martin, Rory Kilkenny; center-Brendan McElligott, Roy Proctor, Sloan Keithley, Dan Basile; front-Justin Delveaux, Casey O'Neal and Juliana Moore.**

For the 14th year, the National Geographic Society is holding the National Geographic Bee for students in the fourth through eighth grades in thousands of schools across the United States and in the five U.S. territories, as well as in Department of Defense Dependents Schools around the world.

All Heppner Junior High School

Obituary

Verlie N. Derrick

Verlie N. Derrick, 85, died Monday, December 17, 2001, at Pioneer Memorial Hospital in Heppner.

Funeral services were held Friday, December 21, 2001, at Bishop Funeral Chapel in Pendleton. Interment was at Skyview Memorial Park in Pendleton.

Mrs. Derrick was born March 4, 1916, in Clay County, Kentucky, the daughter of George W. and Louisa Bengé. She grew up in southeastern Kentucky and attended school there.

She moved to Eastern Oregon in December 1940. Mrs. Derrick had been a resident of Fossil, Pendleton and Heppner for the past 61 years. She enjoyed the outdoors, yard work, gardening, baking bread and pastries, and quilting.

Mrs. Derrick was preceded in death by her parents, several brothers and sisters, and her husband, Calvin W. Derrick, in 1965.

Survivors include a son, Troy E. Day, and a daughter, Joylene Struthers, both of Heppner; grandchildren, Curtis Day of Heppner, Lori Branstetter and Robyn Sergeant, both of Pendleton; five great-grandchildren; a sister, Eva; and many cousins, nieces and nephews.

Memorial contributions may be made directly to Pioneer Memorial Nursing Home, P.O. Box 9, Heppner, Oregon 97836, or through Bishop Funeral Chapel.

Bishop Funeral Chapel of Pendleton was in charge of arrangements.

seventh and eighth graders were given a qualifying test in Linda Dutcher and John Flaherty's social studies classes. The results for the first level of in-school competition include eighth grade: first place Roy Proctor, second place Dan Basile and third place Juliana Moore; seventh grade-first place Casey O'Neal, second place, Brendan McElligott and third place Justin Delveaux. Seventh through 12th places were awarded to the following students: seventh place Rory Kilkenny, eighth place Sloan Keithley, ninth place James VanLiew, 10th place Sam Martin, 11th place Robert Worden and 12th place Kyle Carlson.

The next level of competition was the oral school bee. Alan Beck asked the questions and Doug Orwick was timekeeper. TAG coordinator Linda Dutcher coordinated the contest. Sam Martin placed second and Brendan McElligott placed first in this level of competition.

Brendan McElligott, the winner of the Heppner Junior High School Bee, will advance to the next level of competition, a written examination. All school winners are eligible to win the national championship and its first prize, a \$25,000 college scholarship, at the national competition May 21-22 in Washington, D.C.

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Looslies win Lexington judge's choice lighting award

Dan and Carmen Looslie of Lexington were the winners of the Lexington Christmas lighting contest judge's choice award. Their display was deemed the "most appropriate to the season, judge's choice award" by the Lexington City Council. They received \$30.

Robert Montgomery won first place in the "best decorated fence" category and \$30. Second prize and \$20 went to Dean Hunt.

Roger Ehrmantraut took first place and a \$30 prize for the "best decorated entryway" category. Lindsey Harle won second place, with a \$20 award.

The "most unique" award went to Jerry Baker, who won a \$30 prize. The second place

award of \$20 was won by Steve Wilson.

The "mini but bright" award, a judge's choice award sponsored by the Morrow County Grain Growers, was won by Marge Ball. She won a \$25 gift certificate.

The awards were sponsored by the Lexington City Council and Columbia Basin Electric Cooperative.

Lexington Mayor Val Doherty presented the awards. "We wish that everyone could have won and encourage more participation next year," said a spokesperson. "Anyone with suggestions for categories, please let the council members know. We have about run out of ideas that would include more people."

Dam maintenance included in Corps projects

The Fiscal Year 2002 (FY 02) Energy and Water Development Appropriation Act, signed Nov. 12 by President George W. Bush, includes \$4.5 billion for U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' civil works projects to help maintain and manage navigable waterways, effectively operate flood damage reduction and multiple purpose projects, and restore and regulate wetlands and other important environmental resources across the nation. Of the total funding, the Corps' Portland District will receive \$141 million to fund work in the Rogue, Willamette, Columbia and Cowlitz river basins.

To increase the survival of migrating salmon and steelhead trout, Congress has authorized the design, testing and construction of new or improved fish bypass facilities. One of the Corps' biggest construction programs is the Columbia River Fish Mitigation Project.

System-wide work includes studies of turbine passage and gas abatement and adult passage improvements. Among other projects at Bonneville Lock and Dam, \$5.9 million will fund installation of adult passage detection technology, doing gas abatement measures at the spillway, continuing development of surface bypass at the second powerhouse and continuing evaluation of adult fall back issues.

At John Day, \$4.4 million will allow continued development of extended screens and surface bypass systems, as well as other fisheries improvements. At The Dalles Dam, \$3.3 million will fund testing of a surface bypass system at the powerhouse and continued juvenile survival evaluations. The three projects also will receive funds to

meet new requirements for implementing the Federal Columbia River Power System biological opinion - The Dalles will receive \$300,000, Bonneville, \$450,000 and John Day, \$300,000.

The Corps is continuing work on fishing sites for Native American tribes which have treaty fishing rights on the Columbia River. At a proposed cost of \$5 million, the Corps will continue design and construction of treaty fishing sites at Bonneville, The Dalles and John Day reservoirs. Twenty-three of the scheduled 31 sites were completed by the end of FY 01; eight more sites will be completed during the next six years.

The Corps operates 19 multiple-purpose projects within Portland District, as well as the sediment retention structure built after the 1980 Mount St. Helens eruption, the Willow Creek project near Heppner, and Willamette Falls Locks at West Linn. In FY 02, \$63 million has been appropriated for operation and maintenance activities at these locations.


Former resident

now in Hermiston

Elvira Irby, formerly of Heppner, would appreciate hearing from friends and family. She now resides at the Good Samaritan Care Center in Hermiston after falling and re-breaking her hip after a hip replacement weeks earlier.

Her address is: 970 W Juniper Ave. Hermiston, OR 97838-2197. Her phone number is the same as when she was at the Hermiston Terrace.

**December 31st ~ Monday
New Year's Eve Party!** Crab feed/roast beef dinner starting at 6 p.m. Music starts at 9 p.m. Champagne and party favors at midnight. For Elks members and out-of-town guests only.



HEPPNER ELKS 358
676-9181 "Where Friends Meet" 142 North Main

Happy New Year
from everyone at Peterson's Jewelers

We want to take this opportunity to say thank you to all our customers & friends who have helped to make our past year a success.

We will be closed Jan. 1st



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**Come Help Us Celebrate
Everett Keithley's
90th Birthday!**

**Saturday,
Dec. 29th
Heppner
Elks Lodge
2-4 p.m.**

No gifts please

