

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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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.

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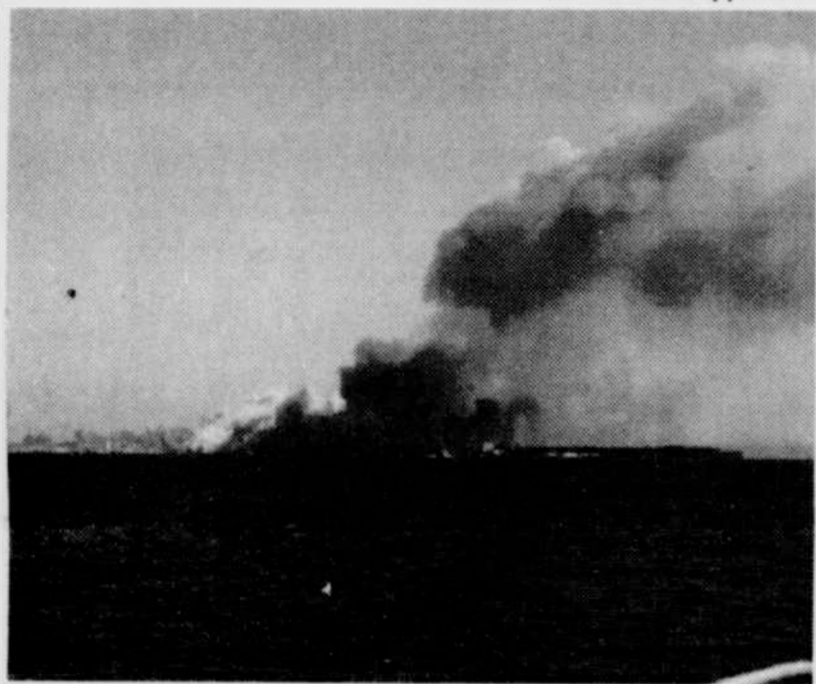
they're not going to let anything happen. You can't let it bother you or you'd just stay in your room and feel insecure. No place is completely safe."

While not downplaying the tragedy, Van Liew says that being there at the time of the attack provided him "the opportunity of a lifetime."

Van Liew says that his

mother was concerned, but not overly so. "She thinks it's (going to school in New York) an opportunity. She doesn't seem to be too worried about it."

Van Liew left Friday to return to school where he is a sophomore in the civil engineering program. A 2000 graduate of Heppner High School, he is the son of Sandra and Dan Van Liew of Heppner.



The smoke from the devastation clouds Manhattan.

Film on Harry Potter planned

The Heppner Christian Life Center church invites the public to a showing of the video, "Harry Potter, Witchcraft Repackaged," on Sunday, Jan. 6, at 6 p.m. at 535 W. Morgan

St. in Heppner.

The video will examine the question, "Is the witchcraft contained in the Harry Potter books simply innocent reading?" Everyone is welcome to attend.

Aerosoles - Mootsie Tootsie - Salt Waters - Jerzees - Fruit of the Loom - Jefferies

**98th Anniversary
Clearance Sale**
(Hollomon's 26th year anniversary)

- RED WING WORK BOOTS ----- 30% off
Men's 8" lace-style #404 & #407
- WOMEN'S DRESS BOOTS ----- 25% off
- SNOW BOOTS ----- 25% off
Men's - Women's - Kid's
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Men's - Women's - Kids
- ASSORTED SOCKS ----- 50% off
- PANTY HOSE ----- \$1⁰⁰ pair
- SWEAT PANTS & SWEAT SHIRTS ----- 30% off
- FLANNEL SHIRTS ----- 30% off
(Some fleece lined)
- BRAWNY FLANNEL FABRIC ----- 30% off
- ALL CHRISTMAS FABRIC ----- 40% off
- MEDIUM-WEIGHT FLANNEL FABRIC -- 30% off

Many other unadvertised sale items and our SALE RACKS to check out!

OFFICIAL OUTLET FOR HEPPNER HIGH BOOSTER CLUB ITEMS!

Clearance Sale: January 2nd through January 12th

SHOE BOX

TALK - N - TOPS • FABRIC'S ETC.
143 N. Main Street • Heppner • 676-5241

Mountain Mist - Rhino - Second Wind - Lee - Western Chief - Coats & Clark - Otto

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.)

Current library small, crowded

To the Editor:

Do we need a new library and city hall?

The library has been located in the current facility since the end of May, 1960. At that time the library only loaned books. In addition to books, the library now keeps large print books as well as audiotapes and videotapes on shelves for people to check out. Between 1,000 and 1,200 children's books, adult books, magazines and tapes have been loaned each month during the past year. The branch also borrows 20 to 40 materials from other libraries every month.

The library space is so small that there is no adequate place to sit to browse through a book or magazine or to preview a tape. Fifty new books were recently purchased by a grant. The one small couch had to go live elsewhere. There is only a closet for an office or work space for processing new materials to be shelved or for repair of "injured"

materials.

The age of the current facility has created infrastructure (heating, air conditioning, lighting, plumbing) challenges for many years.

Since the early 1990s the library has made computers available for patrons to use for Internet research and for e-mail. Between March 14 and April 26 this year 470 computer log-ins were recorded. People use the computers for many varied purposes. Senior citizens write letters or use e-mail. Temporary construction workers and visiting family members, including those briefly taking care of elderly parents, use the Internet to stay in contact with family and business matters at their homes.

The current city hall also is extremely crowded. There is not a room in which to hold small meetings or conversations. The space reserved for city council meetings is inadequate. Storage space is limited.

Do we need a new library/city hall building? Probably so.

(s) Barbara Hayes
Heppner

Alternative ATV plan

To the Editor:

I have to be fair and say I agree with the letter in the Dec. 19 Gazette-Times by Pete McElligott. Pete sure told it like it is. It was an informative letter, very good. The last paragraph was a little sharp. Having the ATV thing inside of Heppner is still ridiculous.

Why can't the state license ATVs to use public roads except for freeways and state highways? The ATVs don't need to race on any road. They should operate at a safe speed, although it's been proven speed is not the cause of accidents. Carelessness is the cause of accidents. If you are careless, you had better slow down. If the ATVs want to race, let them go to a race track.

The U.S. Forest Service is supposed to manage forest lands owned by the public. I see a lot of green gates, Forest Service padlocks, berms pushed up by bulldozers and many signs prohibiting further access. These things are a little difficult for me to put up with, after driving all over it most of my life. There are a lot of special places I plan to see again someday. It makes me wonder how many more restrictions the public will put up with. The people have power to change things, they only need leadership. Maybe they should organize and let their employees know who is in charge.

It seems as though county road closures are getting somewhat contagious. In fact, it's more like epidemic. How do you go about closing a county road that has been open and used by the public since

year one? I should hope you should have to take it to a vote of all registered voters in the county. This should include all roads everywhere that have been open for the last 30 years, regardless of being maintained by the county or not. Once the public has used a road for a long time, it's just not right to close it. As least it's in poor taste.

Seriously, why can't street-legal ATVs be licensed the same as automobiles and carry insurance required by the state? They should go by traffic laws and by doing so it would eliminate the log truck or cattle truck hazard.

How about letting the ATVs buzz around on all gravel and dirt roads between Heppner-Spray Highway and as far east as Ditch Creek. Lots of good area and it won't cost 1.2 million. There's strong possibilities here that by staying on the gravel and dirt roadways between Highway 207 and Ditch Creek it would solve the traffic, weed and fire problems. Make it clear if they get off the roadways onto any private or public land they are to give up all rights and will be prosecuted by the state. Safe drivers would help prevent accidents.

Food for thought: the Zellers in Ione are wonderful people, so are Bert and Kim of Heppner's Red Apple, Cliff Green's Hardware and Murray's Drug. I wish we could get something together to help everyone. How would you like to drive to Hermiston for a dozen eggs? I think we should support our good neighbors. Let's work together and come up with a plan.

(s) Mel Piper
Heppner

OWGL to increase educational efforts

The Oregon Wheat Growers League will increase its educational efforts and also work to increase membership. Those goals were set out in action plans approved by the membership at the OWGL's 75th annual convention held recently.

One of the new efforts calls for "convention scholarships" to be offered to outstanding college ag students in Oregon. "These would pay all their expenses to attend our convention," said Judy Rea, Ione, a past president of the OWGL and current Oregon Wheat Commission member.

Some of the action plans endorsed by the OWGL membership include the following:

- Involve youth organizations such as 4-H and FFA to promote family involvement;
- Make a safety check list poster available for members;
- Secure a seat on the Oregon Ag

**Ione Council
Plans meeting**

The Ione City Council will hold its regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, Jan. 8, at 7 p.m. at Ione City Hall. The time has been changed from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Nan Hall from Heery International will be present to review the proposed site plan for the new school building. For more information, contact Ione City Hall at 422-7414.

**County court discusses
disbursement of forest funds**

By Doris Brosnan

At the Dec. 26 meeting of the Morrow County Commissioners, Morrow County Treasurer Gayle Gutierrez reported the receipt of the National Forest funds, to be divided among the road department, the general fund and the schools. Commissioner Dan Brosnan noted that the Oregon State Legislature had indicated that school funding would go to the state, to be distributed under the school-funding formula, so Gutierrez agreed to find out why the school portion was included in the funds to the county.

Administrative assistant Andrea Denton reported that expenses for the city of Ione's bike path project had exceeded the tipage-fee award. Judge Terry Tallman explained that Ione Mayor Betty Gray had contacted him to say that the asphalt costs had exceeded the verbal estimate. After a lengthy discussion, the court approved the original tipage-fee amount and agreed to invite the mayor to the next meeting to discuss the balance.

Morrow County Behavioral Health director Kelly Sager updated the court on the department's issues. He reported that the department still has a need for an office for the office manager, as well as two more offices. The court awaits a report from the Extension Service about a possible relocation, which could favorably affect this need.

Sager reported that the department's growth continues at the north end of the county and includes two hours of counseling service in the schools each week for Oregon Health Plan students. Space continues to be an issue at the north end, Sager said, and he proposed using some carryover funds for resurrecting plans to remodel that office.

Sager reported that Wheeler County is breaking ground on a new office building in Fossil. A Community Development Block Grant is funding that project. In Grant County, Sager said, they have not yet been able to recruit an assistant director. He pointed to a very low salary scale in Grant County as the problem in recruitment. He has notified the Grant County commissioners that failure to recruit could result in canceling Morrow County's contract with them when this one ends in June.

Sager reported that a department survey has been completed and results are being tabulated. He reported that Sheri Gregory has been hired as a secretary, to begin on January 2. He also explained to the court that a new rule requires that professionals with master's degrees, not associates with bachelor's degrees, do assessments. He requested the court to consider financial assistance to help employees to get the professional degree because his department has had problems recruiting professionals.

He also reported on a pilot program for which Morrow County was chosen, an innovative treatment program in which a client's psychologist, psychiatrist, neurologist, physician and school

are involved.

Sager and the court discussed his desire to allow staff one hour monthly for performing volunteer services. Commissioner Dan Brosnan, while agreeing that volunteerism is important to communities, expressed opposition, noting that tax money pays them to perform specific services to the public; if they are being paid for their time, the work is not volunteer; and union and precedent problems could ensue. Commissioner John Wenzholz said that he is also opposed. Andrea Denton suggested allowing employees to flex schedules and participate in volunteerism during times that do not coincide with their work schedules. Sager requested the court to give the issue more thought.

Planning director Tamra Mabbott again appeared to discuss the proposed Farm Agricultural Building Agreement. Tallman and Wenzholz said they found the language confusing, so Mabbott suggested some changes which may clarify the issues. The court and Mabbott discussed the agreement in detail and the court approved the agreement in principle, noting that Mabbott will complete checking on related issues and finalize the wording.

County assessor Greg Sweek approached the court about adding an appraisal position to the department in the next budget. He explained the costs, some of which would be paid by a grant. The court had several questions for Sweek, who said that the department is not able to handle the demands with just one appraiser, citing the need for appraisals in the Irrigon area as one example.

Public works director Burke O'Brien reported the following: the crew continues blading on Strawberry, Kemp and Stock Drive lanes and Valby, Meadowbrook, Bert Peck, Cemetery Hill, Kinsfather, Lloyd and Lindsay roads. They are replacing old asphalt on Homestead with gravel. They have plowed and sanded on North Fork and Willow Creek Road.

O'Brien introduce a petition to vacate a portion of Third Street West in Irrigon. He indicated that he would complete research and make a recommendation with the planning director at the next meeting.

Tallman and O'Brien both reported having been asked by different parties if the county could be hired to grade private roads. The court discussed the issue in length but did not make a determination.

The court also approved membership in "Community Oregon" and approved the behavioral health carryover report.

**WE
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Heppner Gazette-Times
676-9228

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for insurance or tax purposes
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