

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@rapidserve.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!

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.)

Dream your dearest dream for the community

To the Editor and residents of the Heppner community:

The town meeting has taken place. The specified committee is chosen and their work soon begins. With six others I am chosen to serve on it.

I write to invite the entire community to engage in the process of the work assigned to the committee. My invitation is this: For each of you who reads this letter, and others who may hear about it, to commit one-to-five minutes each day, beginning now, to concentrate on what you (one person) want Heppner to be like in 25 years (2027) and to continue this process through the month of February, six or seven weeks. I am asking you to jump over the controversy of the present moment and consider what your dearest dream for this community is -- to find words to describe it, create phrases to make it more concrete and sentences to communicate. While I am suggesting this exercise as a personal practice, I will encourage you, also, to share with friends and neighbors, co-workers and colleagues, what you are discovering about your hopes for the future.

It is important not to quibble, with yourself or others, over the difficulty of the times and invent "what if," "yes but," and other devices which can only impede imagination. I believe mind and imagination, as well as breath and heartbeat, are precious gifts of human life, to be exercised in our everyday living. Those of us on the committee pay taxes, worry about our long-term care, the education of our children, where the next loan payments are coming from, perhaps the next meal. Let the dream speak its truth without any of these encumbrances. This is a challenge with very high stakes. However, I write this, representing only myself, not the committee, at this point.

I find the committee's assignment especially significant because of the

season of the year: the dark of winter and the completion of Christmas festivity and celebration. Those of you who hear the liturgy of the Christmas story, from the words of ancient prophets, communicated through dreams and oracles, through the announcements of the births of two important people, through strange visions of shepherds, and wise men, foolishly following a star and obeying a dream which tells them to return by another route quietly, have traveled through a dream world which we are now moving out of, but which communicates messages of hope in dire circumstances to all sorts of people: Exiles in captivity whose native land is occupied; pregnancy and birth of a son to an old couple beyond child bearing age; "Fear not!" to a young woman whose pregnancy is literally thrust upon her, and the same message to her betrothed who is about to abandon her; shepherds who see lights in the sky and hear angels singing; the travelers from far off who see a message among the stars and journey, not knowing. In the darkest of times these stories ask us to believe there is hope as real even more real, than our fears.

I am asking of you to listen to your hopes during this short period of time to support an appointed committee as it does its work; in other words, to dream dreams... your dreams, not mine.

Those of you who know me realize that I am comfortable with biblical images. Keep this one, written by the prophet Joel in a dire time, close to your hearts, during these next few weeks.

The Lord said, "Later, I will give my Spirit to every one. Your sons and daughters will prophesy. Your old men will dream dreams, and your young men will see visions. In those days I will even give my Spirit to my servants, Both men and women." (contemporary version)

(s) Grace E. Drake
Heppner

County court discusses county's group insurance

By Doris Brösnan

At the January 2 meeting of the Morrow County Commissioners, budget officer Lisanne Currin and accounting supervisor Tawny Miles reported that Principal Financial Group, the company that carries the county's long-term disability group insurance, has "gone public." As a policy holder, the county owns some common stock, but as a public agency, the county is not allowed to own stock so must sell it. The commissioners authorized the sale of the shares, with the revenue to become included in the budget process.

Former County Judge Louis Carlson asked about the status of the Valby Road project, which he said was "looking real good." He expressed concern, however, that the intersection with Carlson Lane could cause an accident. He suggested knocking down the bank to gain better visibility.

Mayor of Ione Betty Gray, and Ione city clerk Cindi Doherty discussed with the court the city's request for additional funds to complete the pedestrian/bike-path project, to which the court had previously allocated funds. She explained that the project went over budget because the bill for asphalt came in for considerably more than the verbal estimate.

Commissioner John Wenholtz explained that the discretionary fund is not intended to cover projects' cost overruns. He reviewed awards to Ione since 1998 to demonstrate the county's support of the Ione projects and commended Gray and Doherty

on the completion of projects in the community. He recommended that they talk to the asphalt contractor, who should "make it right."

County Extension agent Bill Broderick met with the court to discuss his department needs for office space and his attempts to acquire additional space. Commissioner Dan Brosnan suggested that the court wait until after the special legislative session to take action on any possible move for Extension because of the uncertainty of funding for some departments, but the court agreed to look at rental and utilities cost estimates for a proposed new location while waiting.

The court discussed with planning director Tamra Mabbott and Port of Morrow representative Ron McKinnis a proposed agreement with Kittelson and Associates for a traffic impact analysis for the proposed Oregon Motor Speedway. With approval of counsel Bill Hanlon, the court approved the agreement.

Judge Terry Tallman opened and read the one bid on herbicides. Public works director Burke O'Brien and weed manager Dave Pranger will review the bid to assure compliance with the specifications.

Other actions of the court: - proclamation of the Year 2002 as the "Year of the Courthouse Centennial!";

- approval of retrofitting a pickup with a flatbed and a weed spray unit;

- approval of a permit to CenturyTel to locate a line along Road 810.

Health District

continued from page 1

utilities, insurance and taxes, if applicable.

-received a bill from Dr. Robert Boss for a year-end bonus and retirement benefits for Boss' physician's assistant. The board requested that Boss' submit information on the PA's salary, benefits and insurance prior to board approval of the expense.

-learned from Vander Does that the hospital construction is nearing completion and an open house is tentatively being planned for February.

-learned from Vander Does that he planned to meet with the contractor of the assisted living center Tuesday to finalize plans for resuming construction.

-approved an updated employee retirement plan with Vander Does appointed as a trustee for the 401A plan.

-set the board meeting calendar for the coming year as follows: Monday, January 28,

Ione City Hall; February, March 25, Pioneer Memorial Home Health Office, Heppner; Monday, March 25, Boardman Ambulance Hall; Monday, April 29, Lexington School District Office; Tuesday, May 28, after Memorial Day, Pioneer Memorial Home Health Office, Heppner; Monday, June 24, Morrow County Annex Building, Irrigon; July 29, Ione City Hall; Monday, August 26, Pioneer Memorial Home Health Office; Monday, September 30, Boardman Ambulance Hall; Monday, October 28, Lexington School District Office; Monday, November 25, Pioneer Memorial Home Health Office; Monday, December 30, Morrow County Annex Building, Irrigon. All meetings are at 7 p.m.

Town & Country banquet

continued from page 1

building of the Morrow County Courthouse and the coronation of the Morrow County Fair and Oregon Trail Pro-Rodeo Queen Salli McElligott and Princesses Julie Proctor and Gina Grant.

The Chamber of Commerce awards honoring Man, Woman, Business, Educator, Youth and

Lifetime Achievement will be presented, and some lucky person will go home with the door prize, compliments of Peterson's Jewelers.

Tickets for the annual prime rib dinner are \$20 and are available at Bank of Eastern Oregon, Klamath First Federal, Murray Drugs and the Heppner Chamber of Commerce.

Chamber luncheon Jan. 15

The Heppner Chamber of Commerce will hold its annual luncheon on Tuesday, Jan. 15, at All Saints Episcopal Parish at 11:30 a.m. The luncheon will be catered by Puddin' On The Ritz with music by Joe and Leann Lindsay. Board members, directors, and officers for the coming year will be installed and the annual "Hat's Off" awards will be presented.

Reservations should be made by calling 676-5536, prior to Friday, Jan. 11. Members are welcome to bring guests.

New board members are Larry Lutzer and Nancy Snider. Continuing board members are

Darrell Raver, Dick Allen, Jerry Breazale, Victor Vander Does, Bert Houweling, Dave Sykes and Cliff Green. Barbara Hayes is treasurer. Student representatives from Heppner High School are Shelley Rietmann and Julie Proctor.

Sharon Harrison will be moving into the position of ex-officio after serving as chamber president for two years. Trish Sweeney will be ending her term and turning over the position of secretary to "an interested person".

Order Magnetic Door Signs HERE

Heppner Gazette-Times

Weather Report

By the City of Heppner

For the month of December

	High	Low	Precip.
12/1	47	45	.00
12/2	54	23	.00
12/3	49	32	.08
12/4	45	35	.00
12/5	42	32	.00
12/6	49	41	.00
12/7	49	31	.06
12/8	54	38	T
12/9	56	30	.02
12/10	43	26	.00
12/11	39	32	.22
12/12	39	31	.12
12/13	52	39	.02
12/14	54	36	.06
12/15	51	27	.00
12/16	50	46	.00
12/17	55	31	T
12/18	44	30	.00
12/19	48	31	.00
12/20	48	31	.06
12/21	47	28	.00
12/22	48	21	.00
12/23	48	21	.02
12/24	42	27	.00
12/25	32	27	.00
12/26	31	26	.00
12/27	32	26	.00
12/28	34	24	.10
12/29	45	26	.00
12/30	32	27	.00
12/31	34	28	.11

We Have

**SOLID COPPER
CUFF BRACELETS**

with or without magnets



Member Jewellers of America, Inc.

Peterson's Jewellers

Heppner 676-9200

Motorcycle aerobatics

might draw ESPN

To the Editor:

I have received many comments on my recent letter concerning ATV racing in Heppner. Some would object to a few hours inconvenience from closed streets -- an understandable objection. However, with planning, it could be worked out. Others have said if the goal of this project is economic gain to Heppner, it would draw people to Heppner, not through Heppner. This could bring business to Main Street and a few afternoons of excitement.

Some former high school students tell me that the suggested course has already been tested and found safe at speeds higher than ATVs can presently attain. They further state that this course would make an excellent motorcycle race course. Airborne motorcycles on Water Street would provide exciting, crowd-

pleasing competition (unlike flat track ovals proposed elsewhere in the area). At the very least, motorcycle aerobatics might draw ESPN Television coverage.

For those that hope to someday see ATVs made street legal, I would suggest that they are already available in a slightly altered form--military style jeeps equipped with a roll bar.

(s) Dick McElligott
Ione

LinnBenton

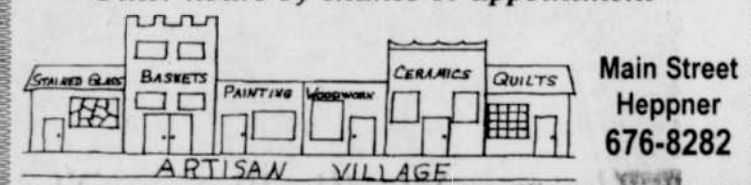
releases honor roll

The following local students at Linn-Benton Community College in Eugene earned a grade point average of 3.50 or higher for 12 or more graded credits during the 2001 fall term: Kristen Marshall, Heppner; and Maria Elisa Garcilazo, Irrigon.

CHANGE OF HOURS for Artisan Village

NEW HOURS:

Sunday 12-5 • Mon-Wed 12-5:30
Th 12-7:30 • Fri 12-4 • Sat Closed
Other hours by chance or appointment



Main Street
Heppner
676-8282

Oregon Ranch Ready For Hunting and Horses



1583 acre ranch near Heppner. Includes four bedroom, three bath home with office and game room, sports court, 20-stall horse barn, tack/wash room, large shop, corrals, holding pens, two ponds, dog kennels and much more. **Great deer and bird hunting.** Owner will carry contract.

\$565,000

Call David Sykes to see this property

(541) 676-9228 days • (541) 676-9939 evenings

1-800-326-2152



David Sykes, Agent

Heritage Land Co.
REALTOR

180 W. Baltimore #5
Heppner, OR 97836
www.heppner.net

For The Calendar Year 2001 We Received From The Community...

Food Donations Collected:8422.6 pounds
Clothing Donations Received: valued at \$22,386.50
Volunteer Man Hours Contributed: 1380.75 hours valued at \$8974.88
(minimum wage calculation)

We Met These Needs Within The Community...

Distribution of Food: 9861 pounds
Housing Needs (electricity, propane, rent & water/sewer): \$4,746.13
Personal Needs (emergency petrol and prescriptions): \$5,843.96
Thanksgiving Food Boxes: 48 boxes serving 111 people
(collecting, packaging & distribution)
Christmas Food Boxes & Gifts: 60 boxes serving 150 people
(gathering, packaging & distribution)

We lift our hearts and sing praises for living in communities of caring people, for together we make a great team & it really takes teamwork to make things happen.

WE APPRECIATE YOUR GIVING!

NEIGHBORHOOD CENTER OF SOUTH MORROW COUNTY