

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

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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Chamber Chatter

By Claudia Hughes
Chamber Executive Director

Visitors to the Chamber of Commerce this time of the year are asked to forgive the mess on my desk. Piles range from new Chamber goals to be typed, minutes from the board meeting, St. Pat's brochures and parade entries to be mailed out, a list of potential vendors, a response to a car club who wishes to visit Heppner in April, dues to process, mail to sort, notes on a bowling tournament, business articles to read, entertainment to schedule for St. Pats, and calls to return. Is there anyone who would like to be a Chamber office volunteer on Fridays? Drop by the office for a chat.

And what types of calls come to the Chamber office? Some examples: a rural community wants to start a Chamber and needs information; another Chamber wishes to know what our by-laws say about director terms; many calls are for lodging and St. Pat's information; Senator Wyden's office called to plan a town hall meeting (which is scheduled for the Senior Center on Wednesday, February 20, at noon.); a meeting with Bill Scott at the Port of Morrow to discuss rural economy; people wanting locate information; visitors wanting to know when the Scenic Byway opens, and the list goes on. It's an exciting place to work and never boring.

Oregon Business arrived in the mail. A couple of articles of interest are "Partnering for Success" related to the Baker/Morrow Regional Partnership; and "Reading Into The Future", which deals with the importance of libraries as a key to economic development in Eastern Oregon. Libraries are easy to take for granted. Heppner could be in the forefront if we all work together. In the 21st century, libraries will be the key for information, high-speed connectivity and an essential tool for business relocation and startup, as well as providing an opportunity for information to everyone in every walk of life. Let's move forward with the many opportunities that other rural communities are struggling to acquire.

Mark your calendars: next week Bob Krein will provide information on the elk TB problem; February 19, State Representative Greg Smith will speak to the membership; February 26, Tom Wolff will update the membership on new tax audit information.

Want to know more about Chamber? Visit us at noon on Tuesdays at John's Other Place.

Thought for the week: "Happiness consists in activity... it is a running stream, not a stagnant pool."

Lexington Grange to meet

Lexington Grange will meet on Monday, Feb. 18, at 6:30 p.m. the hall beginning with a potluck supper. The public is invited to attend the program which will begin at about 7:30 p.m.

Bonnie Wenberg of the Artesian Village will be the speaker for the evening.

DA's Report

Morrow County District Attorney David C. Allen has released the following report:

-Juan Manuel Bedolla-Torres plead guilty to Unlawful Possession of a Firearm and Menacing, both Class A misdemeanors, and was sentenced to 180 days in jail, suspended, 24 months bench probation and 80 hours community service. He was also ordered to have no contact with the victim and pay \$869 in fines, fees and assessments. His seized weapon was forfeited to the state.

-Reginaldo Rodriguez DeLa Torre plead guilty to Attempt to Elude a Police Officer, a Class A misdemeanor, and was sentenced to 180 days in jail, suspended on the condition that he successfully complete probation conditions, 24 months bench probation and revocation of his driver's license for 90 days.. He was also ordered to comply with conditions of diversion and pay \$934 in fines, fees and assessments.

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.)

Don't take people at face value

To the Editor:

This is a response to Mr. Mewhinney's letter to the editor last week.

The United States was based from the beginning with the Freedom of Choice, which includes the freedom of expression or opinion.

Everyone has the inevitable right to their own opinions, whether it is a judgmental, opinionated old man who chooses to write a letter to the editor or a 15-year-old good student to have blue hair and facial piercing.

We all adorn ourselves in different ways to express who we are. If it be the old woman who dyes her hair black or bleaches to blonde to make herself seem just a little younger. Or the old man who wears his shirt a little too tight not realizing the fact that he may have put on extra weight.

Teenagers since the beginning of time have expressed themselves in different ways from the previous generation. Some of this stems from the environment that they grow up in, such as the Willamette Valley or any other part of our county. If lone's community can't tolerate the different cultures and environments then how will they be able to teach our children to be successful outside our area?

If Mr. Mewhinney had set his opinions aside and got to know this young person, he would have found out that she is a very nice young lady and good student. Mr. Mewhinney obviously makes narrow-minded decisions without the benefit of taking people for their value and not their looks.

(s) Robbin Ferguson
lone
(s) Betty Bergstrom
lone

Ione Legion Auxiliary assists family

Ione Legion Auxiliary #95 met on Feb. 5 at June Crowell's home for a salad luncheon. Eleven members were present for the meeting.

The members purchased a Spinoza Bear, which was given to a family of four children in John Day. These bears are given to abused children or ill children to help them cope. The bear has a high quality cassette player and speaker hidden deep in its fur. They have messages of unconditional love that the children need in times of crisis. They can also play messages from families who might not be able to be with the child.

The group will be passing around a petition to get a check-off space on Oregon Tax Forms to help the Oregon Veterans Homes.

A Girls State Tea will be held on Sunday, Feb. 24. Invitations will be going out soon. The annual birthday dinner was discussed and a date in March will be set.

City council votes down *continued from page one*

the survey, which mainly gauged public support for a new \$1.3 million library/city hall facility, would be released to the public at a joint meeting of the city council and library district on Wed. Feb. 20 at the library in Heppner.

Other business

In other action the council approved new charges for turning off water because of non-payment of water bills and other events. The rate was raised from \$5 to \$35 during working hours,

and \$125 after hours. The city will also charge \$5 to turn water back on and \$125 after hours for restoration of service.

The council also gave the go-ahead for the Department of Land Conservation and Development to come into Heppner and complete a study to find a suitable site if someone wanted to build a new motel in the area. The study would not cost the city any money, city manager Jerry Breazeale said.

Heppner students participate in reading program



Pictured (left to right): back-Ben McCarl, Katie Kilkenny, Cyde Coil, Jannie Allen, Whitney Matthews; front-Spencer Palmer, Eddie Ramirez, Maggie Armato, Sherilyn Peck

Students in grades five-six at Heppner Elementary School have been very busy this past month as they bounced from one book to another in the annual "Time Out For Reading" program. This incentive program has been held for at least 10 years and always takes place during the month of January.

The grand total this year was 114,362 minutes, which was 11,652 more minutes than was accumulated in 2001, said teacher Jannie Allen. One of the positive aspects of "Time Out For Reading" is that all students have an equal opportunity to earn points as the program is based on minutes rather than pages. Literally hundreds of books were read and enjoyed by the students. "Readers were loaning and borrowing books, recommending titles and discussing plots ...it was great," commented one of the fifth-sixth grade teachers.

Ben McCarl, 4,459; Spencer Palmer, 3,819; Eddie Ramirez, 3,593; Katie Moore, 3,355; Cyde Coil, 3,257; and Sherilyn Peck, 3,099.

"It's always appropriate to take time out of our busy lives to read, but in January at HES, it was a whole lot of fun," said Allen.

St. Paddy Cruz-In entries invited

St. Paddy Cruz-In participants are reminded to fill out their entry form and send to Dick Sargent, P.O. Box 98, Heppner, Oregon 97836 or call (541) 676-9621. Pre-registration of \$10 received by Friday, Feb. 15 will have five free raffle tickets waiting for them at check-in on March 16. Entries received after Feb. 15 will be \$15 and include one free raffle ticket. Dash plaques will be awarded for each vehicle entry. Categories include vintage, foreign, classic

and modified cars and pickups. Larger plaques will be awarded to winners of each class. Additional awards will be given for Leprechaun's Choice, People's Choice, County Judges' Choice, Period Dress awards for men and women and Car Club Award. Participation in the St. Patrick's Parade will be optional. Check-in begins at 10 a.m. on Saturday, March 16.

Everyone is invited to view the cars and vote for a favorite entry.

Historical Society schoolhouse project underway

The Morrow County Historical Society project for putting up identification signs at old country schoolhouses is underway. Board member Mildred Baker and her husband, Harold, are making the signs and they will be set in place as soon as possible.

The resetting and straightening of markers in the cemeteries is another project the society has in progress. The group voted to give \$500 to each of the cemeteries in Heppner, Lexington, Ione, Irrigon and Boardman to help get needed materials. The Heppner Cemetery has taken up this job and is nearing completion. They plan to have it all done before the centennial commemoration of the Heppner flood in 2003. The work is being done by volunteer labor. Anyone who would like to help with the Heppner project is asked to contact Bob Jepsen.

Don Eppenbach, coordinator for the celebration of the Lewis and Clark Expedition to the Pacific Northwest, reported that the signs would be put in place on the Heritage Trail along the Columbia River by April 2002.

Robin Baker Krebs, the volunteer who is working in the Mor-

row County Museum, told the group that the museum will be opened on Friday, March 1, with the usual hours of 1-5 p.m. Tuesday through Friday, and Saturday from 11 a.m.-3 p.m. The operation of the museum depends upon volunteers who can commit themselves to specific days. Training will be given to anyone who would like to do this to help preserve the county's history.

Note cards have been ordered with the sketch of the Morrow County Courthouse on the front and will be available at the courthouse, museum and from various board members. This is in cooperation with the people planning the centennial celebration of the completion of the courthouse this year.

The MCHS board meets quarterly in various towns in the county. Don and Donna Eppenbach hosted the meeting on Jan. 6 at the Stokes Landing Community Hall in Irrigon. The annual meeting of the complete membership is held the first Sunday in October. The historical society encourages anyone interested in saving the county history to join the organization. Dues are \$5.

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www.heppner.net

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