

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 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.)

There is a time and a place for free expression

To the Editor:

I just have to put my two cents worth in on the topic of a really nice young girl who is a very good student but chooses to dress in such a manner that offends an elderly man that comes from a generation that has a lot more common sense than we do. Mel Piper's daddy was obviously wise. "Sweep off your own back porch, not the porch of someone else." I remember that old saying myself and it is good sound advice. Unfortunately and obviously not advice that the small towns around here choose to heed. The gossip that flies around here is like mosquitoes around a swamp. Thick... very thick. But that's another story.

You see, what everyone here is missing is that you are all right. The trick is to know "when" it is right. Hence, the attorney who rides off into the sunset on his Harley. A tattoo on his upper right arm of dear old mom that he loves to show off. His hair dyed orange to match his bike, and several piercings that he takes in and out as often as we take out the garbage. I shouldn't have to point out that he doesn't go to court to represent his clients in the aforementioned attire or do I?

Then there is the company president who loves to wear women's underwear, but chooses (because it is a choice... we live in America) to do what he loves only on the weekends so he can keep his position and continue to be respected by his peers.

So, you see... it is not about who is right... it is about "when" it is right.

Personally, I would like the schools to be more involved in teaching social skills to our children that will head out into the attorney's world and not know which direction to go because they don't know "when" it is right or are too stubborn to agree to be "mainstream" for sake of expanding their options and opportunities. I think school is their link to the real outside world and they need to be prepared how to handle themselves. They need to learn "when" it is right.

I had a personal experience when I attended school with my daughter because at 16 years old she was choosing not to attend all of her classes. (Hey, it's a free country, right? Wrong!) The teacher decided to have a discussion about young peoples' attire and what kind of a statement designer clothes make. This young boy, who appeared to be very bright and obviously loved the color black (his clothes were black, his hair was dyed jet black, and he wore black lipstick and fingernail polish, as did his girlfriend), was very puzzled because when he went to different businesses to apply for a job everyone was judging him by his appearance. "They don't even give me a chance," he said. "They don't even know me." Well, I couldn't help but respond. I tried to explain to this young boy that his appearance "is" an expression of who he is. If the

way he dresses doesn't really portray his true self that he might want to consider changing his appearance, at least when he is going on a job interviews. Again, knowing "when" it is right. This young man limited his opportunities. Every person has value and it's a shame to see them limit their options.

With every choice comes a consequence. We need to help the young people understand the consequences so they can make good choices and expand their horizons.

Tolerance, boy we all could use a lot more of that. However, I don't think the judge would be very tolerant, and rightfully so, if the aforementioned attorney would show up in his courtroom wearing his weekend attire. I would guess the judge would issue a contempt of court order along with a fine and maybe even a few hours in jail to think about his choice. Welcome to the "real world".

The company president, well I would guess if he showed up to work in women's underwear, he would be asked to resign. Then maybe an audit of the books to make sure he did not charge the silky red bra and panties to his business account before his final check was issued. Just a little humor here... we need that too, you know.

We are talking extremes here. To compare a woman who dyes her gray hair to look younger and a young girl who has blue hair and facial piercings is like comparing apples and oranges. I think Mr. Mewhinney was just trying to point out "when" it is right... acceptable... tolerant, etc. I do not know him nor do I know the young girl. I am just thinking that maybe I can help everyone see the bigger picture.

Our schools are not just a place for academics. It is a place to help our young people to be successful when they become

In need of a room

To the Editor:

I'm in trouble and I need your help. The Northwestern Motel can only guarantee a room from March 12-15. No room for me on Saturday, March 16. I know you have a lot of contacts in town through your paper.

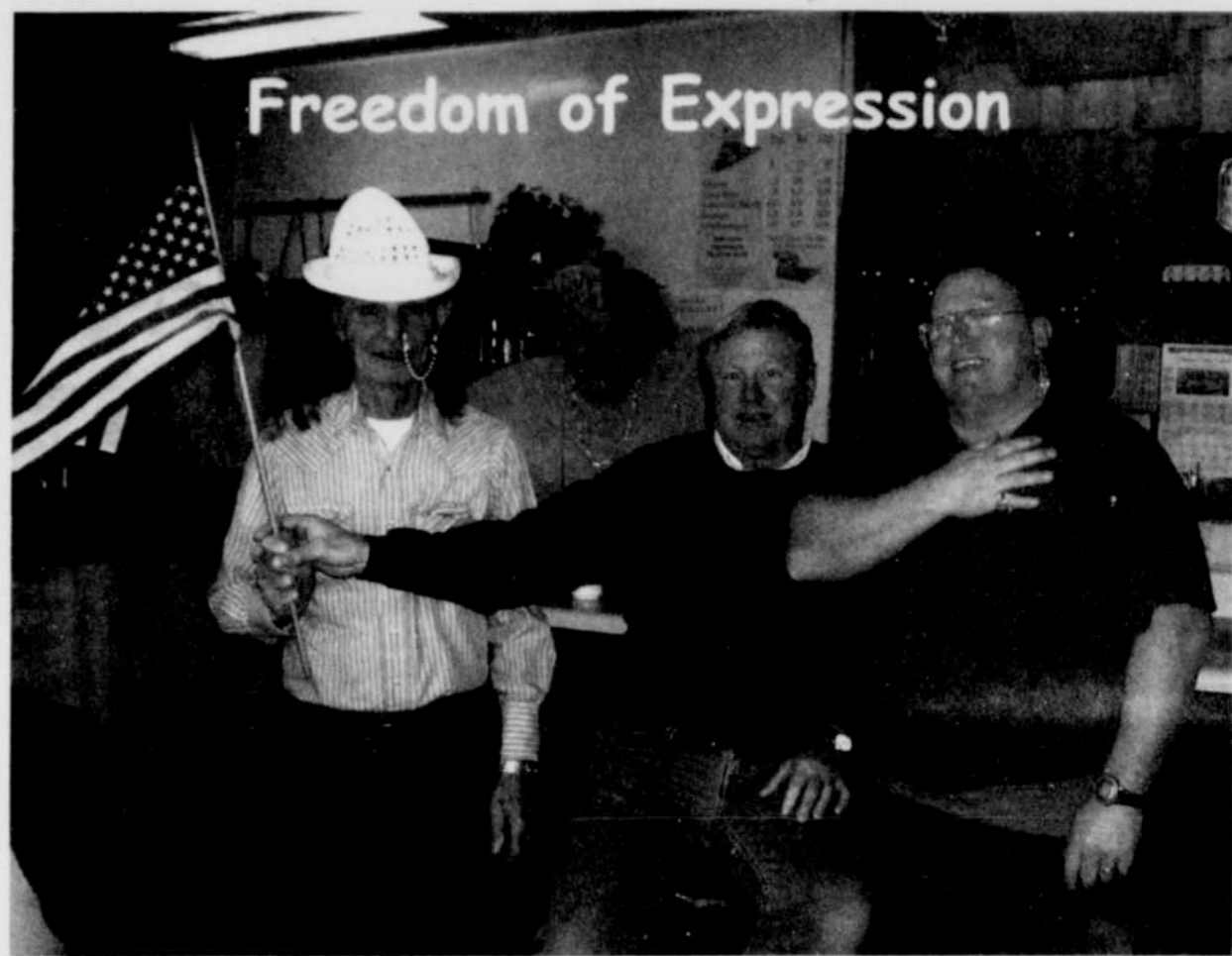
Please try to rustle up me a room. Don't want to sleep in my car. Get back to me as soon as possible.

(s)Bill Mitchell

61 Forest Grove Drive

Daly City, CA 94015-1228

(Editor's note: If anyone has a room for Bill please call the Gazette-Times, 676-9228. Bill, who is a native of Ireland and has numerous relatives in the Heppner area and in Ireland, has traveled from California each year for 17 years to attend the Heppner St. Patrick's celebration. Big Willie, as he is affectionately called, was featured in the 1998 Heppner Gazette-Times and has been pictured in the paper numerous times.)



Left to right: front-Archie McArthur, Terry Mewhinney, Howard Mullins; back-Dick Allen.

To the Editor:

In response to the letter some two weeks ago from Mr. Terry Mewhinney, here's a few local lone citizens showing their need

Appreciates "yes"

To the Editor:

I want give my appreciation, in as personal way as I am able, the 70-plus individuals who registered an unequivocal "yes" to the Heppner library-city hall project, the subject of the recent by mail survey, conducted in the community. The work of the committee, appointed to create and send out the questions, was exceedingly intense. I believe it was respectful and honest in the deliberations among its members. The task of this group, of which I was one, brought me as close to the heart of the matter as possible. I remain convinced that the plan was a valid plan, carefully put together and comprehensive in its scope. I will not deny that I am sad that the outcome was not different. However, I do not intend to sit very long in my sadness and grief. Seventy people out there, willing to express trust in a vision, is a formidable group in a town this size. I do not think these 70 have quenchable spirits - they are people full of life and desire for the blossoming of the spirit of the Heppner community. I want you 70 to know what I, one person, understand from your willingness to vote against the tide, and that I recognize you, and appreciate you as a vibrant entity in this town and the surrounding community.

(s) Grace Drake Heppner

adults and have to survive in the outside world and mainly with their careers. Another old saying that comes to mind is, "You have to look successful to be successful." I like that one too.

I personally agree with Mr. Mewhinney. The old school dress codes were a necessary implement to teach us how to look - how to carry ourselves - and to be socially acceptable. Going to school was our job and we had to dress appropriately. I think by changing that we have cheated our children out of the best education they could get. When you look your best and feel your best, you do your best work.

I also know the schools' hands are tied. If you try to enforce any "real" dress code, some parent will sue for the child's first amendment rights and they will be able to "express" themselves however they deem "cool".

And to those parents I say, "If you choose not to teach your child when it is okay to display free expression of one's self, then hey, you can still be proud of your adult child that works at... uh... Tower Records. Or maybe a high paying... rock band." Some people do get lucky.

(s) Linda Corbin Heppner

(Transplanted from the big city of Portland)

Food handler's class planned

A Food Handler's Class has been planned for Tuesday, March 12, from 6:30-9:30 p.m. at the Heppner High School cafeteria. Cost is \$10 and participants will leave with a food handler's license. Those who already have one in hand should check to see if it's time to renew.

All organizations involved in concessions and meals during community events such as the Wee Bit O' Ireland celebration on

March 14-17, are required to have one or more persons on site with a license. For more information about the class and requirements, call Chuck Stahl at 276-7880.

In addition to the license, the Oregon Health Division requires temporary "restaurant" license applications. These applications may be picked up at the Heppner Chamber of Commerce.

was tentative at publication and the website for a March schedule.

The Schools' Sports Schedule deadline. Watch the paper, baseball and track.

MARCH 2002

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Get out your GREEN THINGS - Heppner is "greening up" on the hills, in our yards, on our streets - It's the Irish thing to do!!!				Child Care Training Class	1 Rhen Ck. So. Club Benefit Bake Sale Sym. Rehears. Sr. Cen. Cards State BB	2
3 GUN CLUB *****	4 Garden Club City Planning Fair Board HES Site Coun. HES PTA "SPRUCIN"	5 Retailers Chamber SWCD Awards Matons Nite SC Bingo UP	6 WCVEDG Co. Court Sch. Advisory Elks Bingo	7 Serv. Club BPOE	8 Sym. Rehears. Sr. Cen. Cards	9 HS State Bowling Tourney *****
10 HS State Bowling Tourney GUN CLUB Singspiration	11 Red Cross Blood Drawing School Board Rodeo Comm. City Council	12 HCC Chamber Bookworms Child/Fam Co. Food Hand. Class Sr.C Bingo	13 Co. Court Oddfell. HHS Site Co. Port of Morrow	14 Serv. Club BPOE Ladies Nite Drama: "St. Patrick, Apostle of Ireland"	15 Symphony Rehearsal Sr. Cen. Cards "A WEEK OF IRELAND" AUCTION	16 "A WEEK OF IRELAND"
17 "A WEEK OF IRELAND" Willow Creek Symphony and Singers	18	19 Chamber Museum Comm Neighb. Center Sr.C Bingo	20 County Court WCVEDG Lions Elks Bingo	21 END OF NINE WEEKS Serv. Club BPOE	22 Sr. Cen. Cards	23
24 GUN CLUB *****	25 Am. Legion Am. Red Cross Housing Auth. Medical Dist. S P R I N G	26 HCC Chamber Bookworms Sr.C. Bingo	27 Co. Court Chamber Bnd. Elks Bingo	28 Art Guild BPOE	29 Sym. Rehears. Sr. Cen. Cards	30 *****
31	Call 676-5382 to add or change informaton. Find the updated internet calendar at www.heppner.net . NEW TO HEPPNER? VOLUNTEERS ARE APPRECIATED! CALL THE CHAMBER OFFICE TO INQUIRE OR GET HELPFUL IDEAS. 676-5536.					

to express their individuality though dress and adornments. The enclosed picture was taken at the Office Cafe in lone with Mr. Mewhinney expressing our

opinion. As you may note these citizens do not agree with Mr. Mewhinney's editorial and opinions.

(s) Archie McArthur lone

Bike program seeks donations

To the Editor

May of 2001 marked the beginning of the first annual Morrow County Bicycle Safety Program. Many of the businesses in Morrow County contributed to the program through cash donations, merchandise donations (prizes for the bike rodeos), and certificates for free merchandise to be given to children seen wearing their helmets.

It was a very successful year for us. We distributed over 400 helmets in the entire Morrow County area and held four bicycle rodeos that were well attended. People in the communities of Morrow County have seen children wearing the helmets frequently and the helmet law has been enforced giving an added incentive to wear the helmets.

It is now time to begin planning for the second year of the program. As with most programs, we have noticed some things that we would like to improve on as the program grows. One of the requests from some of the contributing businesses was to have a certificate given for the contribution. This year we will send a "Thanks for Your Support" certificate for each contribution. We will also be attempting to find more advertisement for the program and the rodeos. Last year was a great start but we want this program to continue to grow and service the communities in Morrow County.

We are asking again this year for donations to this very important safety program. Many of the helmets distributed last year will need to be re-issued because of wear or size changes in the children. We will also be purchasing prizes for the rodeos again this year. Any donation received will go directly to these purchases and therefore to benefit the communities of Morrow County, including Heppner, Lone, Boardman and Irrigon. A rodeo will be held again in each of these communities during May, which is National Bicycle Safety Month.

You might ask, why is this program so important? Well...

We have noticed that there are a great number of young children riding their bicycles each year without helmets. Studies show that about 800 Americans die each year in bicycle crashes and using a helmet could save about 680 of them. 400 of these fatalities are children. Studies also show that over 500,000 people visit a doctor after a bicycle crash. Only about five percent of all serious bicycling injuries involve cars and most of the accidents happen on quiet neighborhood streets. Merely falling off of a bicycle onto a hard surface such as asphalt or concrete can cause a serious head injury. Bicycle helmets can prevent these injuries.

Our highest goal is to provide a helmet for each child in the primary education area. We

realize that Morrow County consists of many families that do not have the finances to purchase helmets for each of the children. Many families have many children and will purchase only one helmet, which all the children share. Research shows that a helmet must be correctly fitted to the child's head to protect them. Therefore, helmets that are shared are not effective protection. We realize the need for helmets in Morrow County and would like to meet that need.

We have a three-part program that consists of:

1. Education: Educating parents and children of the need for bicycle helmets.

We will be educating parents and children through school activities, poster contests, and bicycle rodeos teaching the need for helmets as well as the techniques of safe bicycling.

2. Availability: Making helmets available to each child. We will use donations to purchase helmets to distribute to the children in Morrow County.

3. Enforcement: Enforcing the current state of Oregon helmet law requires all youth under the age of 16 to wear a helmet with riding a bicycle. Law enforcement officers will be watching bicycle riders to ensure that they are using their helmets correctly. Warnings/citations will be issued to riders without helmets. We would also like to reward riders with helmets with gift certificates donated by local establishments.

We need your assistance in making these helmets available to the children. We have found a company that will provide helmets for \$5 each. So for each \$5 donated, a child will receive a helmet. There are over 1,100 children in primary education in Morrow County. We realize that distributing to each child is a lofty and expensive goal, but we believe that with your help we will make it happen.

In closing, we appreciate your consideration and any donation to the campaign would be greatly appreciated by the children of Morrow County. Any donations can be made payable to the Morrow County Bicycle Safety Program, c/o Morrow County Sheriff's Office, P.O. Box 159, Heppner, Oregon, 97836. Should you have any questions or comments, please feel free to contact me at 541-676-5317.

SWCD, Weed Board to meet

A regular board meeting of the Morrow SWCD/Weed Advisory Board will be held Tuesday, March 5, at 1 p.m. at the Pettyjohn Office building in Heppner. Agenda and discussion items include: manager's report, Local Action Committee Report, weed report and agency reports.

The meeting is open to the public.