

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  
Sarah Collier ..... Editor

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**Bank of EO promotes two employees**



Sherry Walters

The board of directors of the Bank of Eastern Oregon has announced the following promotions. Sherry Walters, branch manager of the Arlington Branch, has been named assistant vice president of the Bank of Eastern Oregon. Walters began her banking career in January of 1983 at the Arlington Branch as a secretary/receptionist.

She has held positions including new accounts, loan secretary, operations supervisor, and most recently, branch manager. She and her husband, Don, have lived in Arlington all of



Fran Barnett

their married lives. They have two grown children and one grandson. They reside on the family farm where they are wheat farmers.

Fran Barnett, branch manager of the Ione Branch of the Bank of Eastern Oregon, has also been named an assistant vice president. Barnett began working for the bank in 1972. Barnett has served in all operations positions at the bank and also is a consumer loan officer. She was most recently named branch manager at the Ione Branch. She and her husband, Dave, who owns the service station in Ione, have three children and nine grandchildren.

**Gem and mineral show slated**

The Hatrockhounds Gem and Mineral Society, Inc. will host the 16th annual rock and gem show, Nature's Treasures Under Foot, May 18 and 19 at the Umatilla County Fairgrounds Senior Center Building in Hermiston.

From 10 a.m.-5 p.m. on Saturday and 10 a.m.-4 p.m. on Sunday, everyone is invited to view demonstrations such as rock and gem carving and goldsmithing; visit with dealers and buy books and equipment; participate in a silent auction, and win door prizes.

Events and prizes will be presented for children as well and the senior citizens will provide lunch. Admission is free and the public is invited to bring their own rock and have it identified and cut.

For more information, contact Juanita Ross, chairperson, at 567-2542 or Don Horneck, president, at 567-9312.

**Boardman flea market, June 7-9**

Boardman's eighth annual flea market will be held June 7-9 along NE Front Street in Boardman. The event begins at dawn and lasts until dusk. The public is invited to bring the whole family for "hours of unique shopping."

For further information, or to be a vendor, contact Judy Scott at 481-7606. She will be taking vendor applications until Saturday, May 25.

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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 \$7.)

**Thoughts about Heppner**

To the Editor:

Good Morning,

I just want to share with you a paper that my son, Colton, wrote for a third grade class assignment about one of his favorite places ... Heppner.

"Hi, I am Colton Hill. I want to tell you about Heppner, the Heppner mountains, and Lexington. These three locations are very cool. Heppner is very modern and very nice. Also, it has a very low amount of litter.

The Heppner mountains are a very good place to four-wheel and have good hunting. Lexington has great food at RJ's and it also has a very good Polaris dealership."

While I grew up in Heppner, and have my own special feelings about the town and the people that make up the community, it makes me smile at the special bond that Colton has created with this wonderful place.

(s) Shelley Stroeber-Hill  
Walla Walla, Wa.

**Disappointed with small audiences**

To the Editor:

This past weekend, Heppner High School presented "The Magician's Nephew," a play based on the book of the same name by C.S. Lewis.

The actors had worked hard and presented a fine play. I would like to especially commend Colton Helfrecht for doing so well in his first lead role, Tylonn Smith for being a wonderfully wicked queen, and Tyler Henderson for playing Aslan with dignity. And Claire, if you were an animal, you would surely be a rabbit!

However, I must also express my great disappointment with the small audiences. Drama at Heppner is self-supporting, and there are no "pay to play" fees for actors. We did not meet our expenses on this one, and I cannot understand why quality family theater was not supported by the community. My children loved it.

I am also upset at our robbery, of course: too bad the thieves didn't listen to the play, which taught that happiness comes from choosing good, not evil.

(s) Lea Mathieu  
Heppner

**Don't cut early intervention**

To the Editor:

My mother and I are jointly raising my autistic son. When he was two and a half, she mentioned that there was something different about him. He was not talking yet, nor was he affectionate, and he cried if we dressed him. I got angry with her for it. She got help through the ESD.

Soon the ESD people flooded our house and began tests on him. Sure enough, he was autistic. We began educating ourselves with books and things while he began speech, play and tactile therapy. My anger soon subsided as I learned that with early intervention, Chantz could be okay. And in mere months of therapy he was now talking in five to six word sentences, wearing clothes all day, and passing out hugs and kisses left and right. When pre-school started, my mother and the ESD insisted that he have an aide who would help him stay focused. I again objected, but mother stuck to her guns. I am now so glad she did. Melissa

is his aide's name and he always asks for her before school. With her help he concentrates, participates and enjoys school. One Wednesday she was gone and the difference was apparent. The following week he didn't want to go because he thought she'd be gone.

My basic point is that I was set in the old mind set that he shouldn't have all this special attention. And I was wrong; it's not even about special attention. It's about early intervention. If budget cuts are allowed to end this type of help, we will definitely pay more, when someone has to spend twice as much time trying to teach an autistic adult how to adjust. And those of our children who have the help now, and could lose it, may regress, or even become self-abusive, when that oh so important part of their daily ritual is changed so drastically.

(s) Deana and  
Tracey Hendricks  
Heppner

**Pinochle and social benefit to be held May 18**

A pinochle and social benefit for Dean Connor will take place on Saturday, May 18, at 2 p.m. at the Elks Lodge in Heppner.

The cost to play pinochle will be \$3.50 and homemade desserts are \$1.00. Tickets for a raffle are \$1 each.

Everyone is invited to attend.



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**Bicycle rodeo set for this Saturday**

The Morrow County Sheriff's department is sponsoring the second annual Bicycle Rodeo to be held on Saturday, May 11, at 2 p.m. in the Bank of Eastern Oregon parking lot.

Children from toddler to junior high school age are welcome to participate. Area businesses have donated funds to purchase bicycle helmets, which will be given away at the event to those who may not be able to otherwise afford one.

All participants will receive a ticket in a drawing for numerous prizes, including Barbies, remote-controlled cars, and a bicycle as grand prize. All prizes were donated by Wal-Mart.

The National Red Line Freestyle team will perform as well.

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**Centennial students visit Heppner**

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Tim Kamp, 14, lives in Portland with his mom, Grace, an RN; dad, Keith, who works for the Postal Service; and his 17-year-old brother, Josh, a senior at Centennial High School. Tim also stayed with the Lovgren family and went four-wheeling, hiking and to the Wranglers rodeo. "They're really fun," he said of his host family. "I like staying out there. I miss my friends and communication and I miss home, but I like getting away from all the troubles back there." He especially noticed the smaller classes at Heppner Junior High. "The clothes are different," he says. "Not the girls, but the guys wear totally different clothes. They live different here. They're friendly. The girls here are different, not all preppy and everything. No offense (to the Centennial girls standing nearby)."

Phil Markel, 14, lives in Gresham with his dad, Dan, who works in the Safeway dairy department; his mom, Liz, who works in a school kitchen; brother, Jeff, 17, a junior at Centennial High School; and sister, Jessica, 12, who is in the sixth grade. Phil, who stayed with the Tom and Laura McElligott family in Heppner, went bike riding and bowling during his visit. He says he misses having a TV and cable, but likes the idea that the bowling alley is so close to his host family's home. "I like that everyone knows everyone else, but it's really small, there aren't many stores and it's, like, in the middle of nowhere," says Phil. "The girls, like, don't dress up as much, but the guys are pretty much the same, except, like, they wear similar cowboy-like clothes. Some people don't think we know about country life."

Travis Knedel, 12, lives in Portland with his mom, Sheri, who works at VSR Graphics; dad, Joel, who works at Laser Quick; and brother Troy, 12. Travis says he liked staying with his hosts, the Mary and Kelwayne Haguewood family. During the week, he went four-wheeling, and fishing with his family. "got attacked by their dog" and showed the McElligotts his website, www.geocities.com/sk8rspanky13. Travis made up his own website, which, he says, is "a bunch of pointless stuff in general, music and flashclips." He enjoys "anything" on the computer and playing with his cat. The thing he liked most about the week in Heppner was getting away from the city and his brother. His least favorite was "all the animal waste" and "dirt."

"Dirt's okay," he says, "but I don't like getting dirty." The difference in city and rural kids? "Their sense of humor and fighting." "They (Heppner kids) don't have as much a sense of humor as the kids in the city," says Travis. "Also, here in fights, they push each other and the other pushes back and it's over. Back home, they push each other and then they wrestle on the ground and then they punch each other and then they get up and push each other some more and then cuss while being broken up." "There's actually fresh air here," he adds. "In the city you go (sniff, cough)."

Kayla Wegleitner, 14, lives in Portland with her mom, Denise, who works at Liberty Northwest Insurance. In Heppner, she stayed with the Lori and Wayne Seitz family and went to the Wranglers rodeo, horseback riding, jumped on the trampoline and even drove a car. "Reggie (the Seitz daughter) taught us how to drive," laughs Kayla. They also had a barbecue and played games at the Seitz home. "It's nice here," says Kayla. "It just seems more clean, not all the cars and fumes. It all looks the same-hills with brown and green." "Kids here are nicer than a lot of kids at our school," she says. "There is a big difference in attitude. At our school, they're snotty, really snotty. Here they're more welcoming." "I miss the stores, my friends and my family," adds Kayla, who likes going to the mall with her friends, relaxing, going to movies, eating junk food and playing outside. Kayla says the first thing she is going to do when she gets back home is "take a shower-I really like my shower at

home" and then go to a friend's birthday party.

Heather Schermerhorn, 14, lives in Portland with her mom, Susan, who works at Providence; her dad, Bob, who works at an airport in the cargo side of the operation; her twin sister, Holly; sister Ashley, 18, a senior in high school and sister, Samantha, 11. She also stayed with the Seitz family, went horseback riding, jumped on the trampoline and was looking forward to a party on Saturday. "I'm having a good time," says Heather. "My favorite thing is being out in the middle of nowhere. It's nice and peaceful and you don't have to be quiet because of the neighbors. It's just really hilly and not the same (as Portland). I'm used to the rain and trees. I was surprised when Lori told me there wasn't a McDonalds here. Lori cooks really good food and so does the dad-really nice homemade meals." "I miss my family," she says, "but mostly my twin sister." Heather says that the boys here are the same as in Portland "all immature." "The boys here wear tight pants and tuck their shirts in. Back home their pants sag down to their ankles." "They (the girls in Heppner) separate each other out. You're either really, really cool or you're not," says Heather. "Back home, some people think they're Mr. Cool or Mrs. Cool, and other people are friends with everyone." When she gets home, Heather plans to be "lazy all day." "All these field trips are exciting and all, but they're tiring."

Accompanying the Centennial students this year was Bret Larson, Centennial seventh-grade social studies teacher, who stayed with the Steve and Luanne Brownfield family. While this is his first full-week in Heppner during the Centennial exchange, he visited during the exchange four years ago. Larson, who has taught for five years, says he really has enjoyed the experience. "I love it," he said. "The kids have been phenomenal. They've learned a lot and it's a neat thing for me too. I grew up in Bend, so it's a great way to get back to this side of the mountain. It's great weather-wise, too."

Other families who hosted Centennial students are Russ and Betty Hickerson, Mark and Janice Huddleston, Andrew and Tammy McCool, Sheryl Delveaux, Keith and Angie Hanson, Sid and Cindy Kennedy, Bob and Sheree Smith, Mike and Kay Proctor, Martha and Gary Munkers, Paul and Phyllis Danielson and Jason and Donna Maben.

**County Court news**

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co-discussion of a meeting with the Department of the Navy at Whidbey Island about the road across the bombing range and the easement along the present Bombing Range Road;

- approval of a permit to Kinzua Resources LLC for a temporary approach to Blake Ranch Road;

- approval of the drilling and blasting agreement with Pilot Knob Construction, contingent upon the signature of county counsel;

- approval of a replacement fax machine for the Boardman office of Behavioral Health and a computer and Palm Pilot for the Wheeler department;

- approval of a laser fax machine for the sheriff's department from 911 funds and the department budget;

- approval of \$500 to the Jodi Waite Daycare through the Commission on Children and Families;

- approval of new job titles in the Emergency Management Department: systems administration/network manager and program manager

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