

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](mailto:gt@heppner.net) or [gt@rapidserve.net](mailto:gt@rapidserve.net). Web site: [www.heppner.net](http://www.heppner.net). Postmaster send address changes to the Heppner Gazette-Times, P.O. Box 337, Heppner, Oregon 97836. Subscriptions: \$24 in Morrow County; \$18 senior rate (in Morrow County only; 62 years or older); \$30 elsewhere.

David Sykes ..... Publisher  
Sarah Collier ..... Editor

News deadline is Monday at 5 p.m.

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## Heppner city council *continued from page one*

consider why Heppner has the highest tax rate in the state of Oregon." If we have the highest tax rate in the state we must justify it to people who ask us why. Sly told the council. "High tax rates are discussed a lot around town, but not by the council. I think it should be," he said. He said high tax rates are a deterrent to people moving here.

Was told by Fire Chief Rusty Estes that the department had been approached by contractors working on the new school

building in Heppner about burring down the old middle school and gymnasium down. The contractor would then have less debris to haul away after the burning. Estes said the fire marshal would be in town soon to see if it was feasible.

Voted to apply for grants from the USDA and other agencies for Heppner's proposed \$2,400,000 water project. The project is needed to replace much of the deteriorating water system in Heppner.

## Teachers honored with Crystal Apple Awards

34 educators from the 11 school districts in Umatilla and Morrow Counties will receive the Crystal Apple Excellence in Education Award. For the third year the Umatilla-Morrow ESD, Banner Bank, the East Oregonian, and the Pendleton Red Lion will sponsor this event.

District employees and any community member can nominate a certified or a classified educator for the award. The individuals are nominated and chosen based on exemplary leadership, innovation, outstanding performance, exceptional service or contributions to the school district(s), excellence in instruction and outstanding dedication.

There will be a presentation banquet at the Pendleton Red Lion for the Crystal Apple recipients on Thursday, May 16, at 4:30 p.m. For more information, please contact Courtney Stenson at the Umatilla-Morrow ESD at 966-3210.

Local winners include:

Morrow County School District:

Katie Dawson—2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Teacher for Sam Boardman Elementary School

Shane Fritz—Spanish/Japanese Teacher for Riverside High School

Samie Griffin—Head Cook for Columbia Middle School

Linda Padberg—Secretary for Heppner Elementary School

Umatilla-Morrow ESD:

Pablo Garay—Migrant/Bilingual Classroom Assistant at Sandstone Middle School

Marcella Cate—Migrant/Bilingual Classroom Assistant at Hermiston High School

Dorrie Morris—Early Childhood Special Education Assistant

Eric Wade—Physical Therapist

## Meeting to discuss goals for Heppner

A revised "Strategic Plan" for Heppner continues to take form at the Heppner Coordinating Council meetings. Representatives from local organizations and citizens who have demonstrated notable interest in the community's decision-making efforts are invited to participate in the work. As the participants examine the previous plan, and they work to update the information and rethink goals for the local area, they wish to do so with the help of input from a majority of area citizens.

Individuals interested in the community's plan but unable to attend the meetings may participate by offering written comments on the drafts of material as they appear in the paper. Also, two public hearings for discussion of the work are planned for June 25.

To date, the HCC has produced the following "Vision Statement," which is intended to serve as a generalized positive image of Heppner's future. "The 21<sup>st</sup> Century will bring continued revitalization to Heppner, with a secure job base, an infrastructure that has kept pace with the needs of a projected population of 2,000 people, community support for local improvement projects, development of human capital, and economic growth that is in balance with the small-town character currently in place."

The recently proposed "Mission Statement" for the strategic plan reads, "Given the strengths and challenges facing our community, an environment will be created that allows for continuous enhancement. Emphasis will be placed on the existing friendly atmosphere and positive spirit of community that includes supporting each other, feeling safe during all hours of the day, and welcoming visitors and newcomers. The local economy will be diversified in order to offset large fluctuations in natural resource-based occupations and stabilize family incomes. Infrastructure such as sewer, water, and streets/sidewalks will be further developed and upgraded to meet the needs of a

population of 2,000, while quality health services, schools, and public safety will be maintained to keep pace with growth. Community projects will be financially supported in a variety of ways including our continued partnership with local businesses, receipt of state and federal grants, and the establishment of a not-for-profit community foundation."

Compiled as guidelines on which to base community goals, the framers of the strategic plan have included "Principle Statements" that try to capture the philosophy that drives the goals: 1) Heppner's quality of life must be preserved. 2) Heppner must remain a community with an emphasis on feeling safe and secure. 3) Landscape and beautification projects enhance the aesthetics of our community. 4) Awareness of drug and alcohol abuse and zero tolerance for child abuse are necessary to the health of our community. 5) Local, high quality, affordable health care remains an essential ingredient in Heppner's livability. 6) Local access to higher education and quality job training enhances citizens' lives and Heppner's workforce base.

7) Successful schools require community support and involvement. 8) Public understanding of and confidence in community and economic development activities are essential to Heppner's viability. 9) Local high quality, diverse childcare opportunities must be available.

10) Involvement of the public, including our youth and young adults, in community planning and decision making is critical to a balanced, cohesive present and future.

The next meeting of the Heppner Coordinating Council will be on Tuesday, May 21, at 7:30 a.m., in the US Forest Service building. Written comments on the materials so far drafted may be taken to the front desk of the forest service building or mailed to: HCC, Box 1231, Heppner. Another opportunity for input will be on June 25, at the public meetings.

## Adkins family reunion

To the Editor:

The Adkins family will be in Heppner on Saturday, May 25, and Sunday, May 26, as part of their reunion. We are the descendants of James Adkins and Lucy Morgan of Chesterfield County, Virginia and later, Kirksville, Missouri.

Our family has a long history in Umatilla and Morrow Counties. Oregon became the

home for ten of James and Lucy's 13 children. James A. Adkins and his wife Susan Ann Kirk, Virginia Ann Adkins and her husband James Travis Kirk, and Clark R. Adkins and his wife Louisa Cain settled in Umatilla and Morrow counties.

We will be gathering in Pendleton at the Oxford Suites on May 24-27. The reunion is open to all branches of James Adkins and Lucy Morgan's family, as well as friends and related families. (Some local family surnames descending from our family are Kirk, Saling, Cain, Crawford, Spencer, Sperry, Rhea, Jones, McClure, McKinney, Dennis, Brown, Ayers, McConnel, and Ewing.)

There will be a Saturday evening banquet at the Pendleton Convention Center. We maintain a website at [www.adkinsfamily.org](http://www.adkinsfamily.org)

We are looking forward to being in Heppner.

(s) Willis A. Adkins,  
President  
AdkinsFamily  
Organization  
Langley, Washington

## Health Director terminated

The Morrow County Court has fired Laura McElligott, former Morrow County Health Department director. Judge Terry Tallman could not be reached for comment.

The Health Department hours for May are:

Thursday, May 16-Heppner clinic, 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

Monday, May 20-Boardman clinic, 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

Tuesday, May 21-Boardman clinic, 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

Thursday, May 23-Heppner clinic, 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

The Morrow County Health Department offices will be closed from Tuesday, May 28, through Sunday, June 30.

## Letters to the Editor

Editor's note: Letters to the Editor must be signed. The Gazette reserves the right to edit. The G-T reserves the right to edit. The G-T is not responsible for statements made in letters. (Any letters expressing thanks will be under "Card of Thanks" at a cost of \$7.)

## Henry Heppner was Jewish

To the Editor:

Preserving our local history is a responsibility and privilege we all can share. In response to Mr. Mel Piper's letter of May 1, 2002, I would like to offer him the use of our Genealogy Library at the museum, and also the great number of family files, family letters, and newspaper articles written about and by members of the Cohn, Goldstone, and Heppner family members who are very proud of their Jewish ancestry, and who emigrated to the United States in 1849. These families were all related by marriage. Elinor Cohn Shank, whose aunt and uncle were the Henry Blackman's, Peter Cohn was her paternal grandfather, and her father Phill Cohn was the son of Peter Cohn and Elizabeth Heppner. Henry was the eldest, (born in Pleschen, the province of Posen, Prussia on March 25, 1831), then Flora, Mary, Kaskel, Phill, Fanny, and Elizabeth. Elias stayed in Europe and died at Pleschen, (now known as Germany in 1911. When the district court convened at Shasta, CA in 1856, seven men from the Cohn, Goldstone, and Heppner families received their final citizenship papers. Henry Heppner arrived from San Francisco to the John Day gold fields in 1862 and operated a pack-train for a few years. By July 4, 1872 he was standing on George Stansbury's land, which is now the City of Heppner. He formed a partnership with Jackson Lee Morrow and together they built a store, as Heppner (then Stansbury Flats) was located on the main route to the gold mining country. Blackman's, Cohn's, and other family members came to the area and opened businesses from Heppner to Arlington.

To quote Elinor Cohn Shank (Henry's niece): "I learned the precepts of Judaism, and the meaning of the holidays that illustrate and express those beliefs. I understood that Judaism is more than a religion, and that deference in another house of worship does not make one less Jewish. In my 14th year, I met the requirements for confirmation by Rabbi Jonah Wise, at Temple Beth Israel, where my parents had been members or years before my birth."

## Let us think for ourselves

To the Editor:

There are so many wonderful people in Heppner it is a shame that one person that is a rotten apple can spoil the rest of the barrel. The victim this time is a wonderful man that just wanted to help people he doesn't even know. He is a master gardener. Reference Rurality magazine pages four and five for May 2002.

One person lit into him with all barrels loaded that he couldn't donate his time to our community. Surely this man had to be doing something illegal or immoral. Yes he was guilty of being a good person doing a good deed. Nobody should do something for someone else just because it needed to be done. A kindness in Heppner is not allowed, so says our welcome lady. This wonderful kind man was helping stake and rake the community garden for those that plan on using the garden.

As a Heppner Garden Club member, I understood part of our lives is to use resources available and plant to beautify and make Heppner a better place to live. She yelled at him that

## Barnett will bring balance

To the Editor:

I do not very often cross party lines, but as I listened to the persons running for the office of County Commissioner at the meeting of Lexington Grange, I thought one person stood out as the best person to view the county business as a whole, not one area over the other in this widely diverse county.

I believe Dave Barnett will

There was not a temple in Eastern Oregon. The Jewish people worshipped in their homes with other families of their faith. But equally as important: they are the Jewish people who practice Judaism. A race and religion to be proud of no matter how remote their travels take them. Henry Heppner died in his apartments at the Palace Hotel in Heppner on February 16, 1905. His body was embalmed and transported by train to Portland. He was laid to rest in Beth Israel (Jewish) Cemetery in Portland, Oregon. A memorial stone was placed in the Heppner Masonic Cemetery.

Henry Heppner's will was filed with the Morrow County Clerk on February 28, 1905. He appointed Phill Cohn, Henry Blackman, and Charles Goldstone to be executors of "this my last will." He left real property in excess of \$140,000. To share and share alike: to-wit: Haskel Heppner, Elias Heppner, Dora Buckholz, Mary Barnert, Jenny Hasinberg, and Fanny Blackman, all of said persons being brothers and sisters and half-sisters to me." Henry Heppner never married. His generosity to the town was frequent. In the Indian uprising of 1878 he donated all the materials to build Fort Heppner, and provided the supplies. Though the fort was never used, his willingness to provide and protect was apparent.

Yes, Heppner has many residents with German heritage. As time goes on, there are few people anywhere that are not a mix of different heritages. My own family was originally from Germany. I was bowl Robin Ottenbacher. My maternal grandfather was French-Canadian and Shoshone Indian. My paternal grandmother was a Kilbourne, her grandfather a McAfee, and my half-sister is a Wilhelm, German and Jewish. Two of my grandchildren are a quarter Cherokee. Two grandsons are a quarter Hispanic. My husband's family is from Switzerland and England. I rather think at this late date in history we can pretty much concentrate on being very proud Americans, honoring all heritages.

(s) Robin Krebs  
Morrow County Museum

Heppner should not donate the property or pay someone to work in the garden. He was donating his time and effort. What has this town become? I wonder that any effort to make someone else's life better isn't permitted by some people. Why does one person have a right to tell others how to live? I am amazed why this person has been allowed to continue the belittling and harassment for so many years.

If we all thought the same, wouldn't it be an exciting world? One person would do all the thinking for everyone else. Scary isn't it?

We are individuals that want and need to think for ourselves.

(s) Marj and Sherrill Spangler  
Heppner

## Marriage Licenses

May 6: Jose Antonio Pena, 34, Boardman; and Maria Guadalupe Ruiz, 33, Boardman.

May 10: Douglas Fredrick Hanson, 31, Hermiston; and Tara Marie Smith, 21, Hermiston.

## Barnett will bring balance

be a very good balance to the county court

(s) Barbara Gilbert

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*It's not enough that we have three good Republicans running in the primary. What we need is for one of them to win in November.*

Here are three good reasons why we believe that **RON SAXTON** is the right choice for both the primary and the general elections:

**RON SAXTON IS A BRIDGE PERSON.**  
He bridges from his rural roots in Albany to his urban business in Portland; from problems to solutions; and from private sector to public sector. We think that he will be the right person to bridge from Western Oregon to Eastern Oregon; and from the present to the future, for all of Oregon.

**RON SAXTON IS ELECTABLE.**  
He has no baggage; addresses issues, on point; and has a vision for Oregon that includes us in.

**RON SAXTON BRINGS PEOPLE TOGETHER.**  
He has the endorsement of many East Oregonians, including former Congressman Bob Smith. Fourteen out of fifteen newspapers from all over the state have also endorsed **RON SAXTON**, including The Oregonian, The East Oregonian, The Dalles Chronicle and the Capital Press.

Now is the time for Eastern Oregon Republicans to come together and support **RON SAXTON's** efforts to put a new face on governance in Oregon. His campaign slogan: Building One Oregon! Call one of us if you want more information.

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