

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
Katie Wall Editor

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**Engagement
Meacham - Jepsen**



Matthew Jepsen and Erin Meacham

Bill and Nancy Jepsen of Heppner wish to announce the engagement and upcoming wedding of their son, Matthew William Jepsen to Erin Eileen Meacham, daughter of Scott and Terry Meacham of Lewiston, Idaho.

Erin is a graduate of Lewiston High School and a 2000 graduate of the University of Idaho with a major in Music Education. She is currently employed by Moscow Building Supply and plans to teach private music lessons.

Matthew is a 1999 home school graduate from Heppner. He is in his senior year at the University of Idaho with a double major in Music Education and Trumpet Performance and a minor in Computer Science.

The couple is planning a Jan. 4, 2003 wedding at Living Faith Fellowship Church in Pullman, WA.

Child Study Team meeting to be at HES

Those interested in volunteering for the Child Study Team should attend the Wednesday, Dec. 4 meeting at the Heppner Elementary School library. The meeting will begin at 4 p.m.

The Child Study Team at HES is looking for volunteers to work with individual students in their classrooms. Volunteers can be parents (mothers, fathers or guardians), grandparents, other family members, or simply

members of the community who would like to help.

For more information, you can contact Molly Rill at HES by phone at 676-9128.

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**Heppner Gazette-
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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.)

**Harney Co. resident expresses respect for
Smith-Walden decision**

To the Editor:

In light of the recent attacks on U.S. Senator Gordon Smith by the current Oregon Republican Party Chair, executive director and the Oregon Republican National Committeeman, I would like to salute both Senator Smith and Congressman Greg Walden for their effort on behalf of all Republicans in the State of Oregon. These two men recognized problems within the Oregon Republican Party (ORP) and stepped up to help bring reform to a previously ineffective, top-down organization. I do not know if their recent endorsement of Lynn Snodgrass for the new ORP Chair is the definitive answer, but the courage they showed by stepping forward at a time when they had nothing

personal to gain and abundant political capital to lose should be commended. These men again show leadership at a time when other would-be Party leaders choose to sit on the sidelines and watch a damaging family fight unfold, while preparing to step in at the last minute like a white knight and pick up the battered pieces. We all should be proud, as I am, of Senator Smith and Congressman Walden for their insight, guts and leadership as well as their effective legislative efforts. As a Republican, they have given me and the grass roots of our party renewed faith and enthusiasm about being a Republican.

(s) Tim Smith
Harney County

**Grange members
travel to annual
meeting**

Grange members from Morrow and Umatilla counties attended the annual meeting of the National Grange session in the Portland area, Nov. 12-16. This is the first time in seven years that the national meeting has been held on the west coast.

Local grangers were transported to the event by the Wheatland Pomona bus. Bob Allen of Willows Grange drove the bus. Local grange members that attended the session included: Bob and Sylvia Allen, Dot Halverson and Helen Crawford of Willows Grange; Clarence Buchanan, Edith Hendricks and Robin Moran-Bailey of Lexington Grange; Bobbie Peck, Connie Rodriguez, Julie Steinbruck and Natisha Beaver-Steinbruck of Greenfield Grange; Gary and Vi Hartinger of Stanfield Grange; and Margaret Thorpe of Columbia Grange.

Seven members of Wheatland received the sixth degree and 11 members took the seventh degree.

Wheatland Pomona members helping act as hosts in the hospitality room were Bob and Sylvia Allen and Lyle and Virginia Peck. The hospitality room served 2500 people during the session.

Invitation to pastors

Once again, as the Christmas holiday approaches, we would like to extend an invitation to all area pastors who would like to include a Christmas article in the Dec. 24 edition of the Gazette.

Articles may be handwritten or typed, and need to be delivered to the Gazette by Friday, Dec. 20, at 5 p.m. If possible please include a title with your submission.

Items may be emailed to david@heppner.net; faxed to (541) 676-9211; mailed to P.O. Box 337 Heppner, OR 97836; or dropped by the office located at 147 W. Willow St., Heppner.

Obituaries

Homer Schell

Homer Schell, 93, formerly of the Fossil area, died Nov. 25, 2002, at Mt. View Living Center in Madras.

Schell was born Dec. 29, 1908 in Ketchin Creek, KY to Nicholas and Betty Adams Schell. He moved to Wheeler Co. when he was 29 and resided there most of the rest of his life.

Schell worked on ranches, in sawmills, and last, but far from least, he raised game birds in Twickenham. He was once referred to as "The Birdman of Twickenham," a name he really loved. Along with raising birds, and taking care of his cows, chickens and pigs, Schell also made time to do other things he enjoyed like hunting, fishing and gardening.

Some may describe Schell and "unique" or "one of a kind." He touched the lives of many people, and was loved by most of them. Some, however, may have wished they'd never crossed his path; especially some of the river floaters who thought they could help themselves to his garden. He was often thought of as a "one way" man... and of course, that was his way. Though he could be pretty "pig headed" at times, and liked things done his way, he could also be a lot of fun. He loved playing jokes on some of his friends and they always got even.

It seemed as though "Pop" really started living when he moved to Twickenham. There he could have his animals and do what farming he wanted. He raised many, many birds and spent the last 30 years doing exactly what he wanted, and he loved it that way.

A graveside service was held Nov. 30, at Fossil Masonic Cemetery. Memorial contributions may be made to the charity of one's choice.

Driskill Memorial Chapel, of John Day, is in charge of the arrangements.

**Respite Care available at
Willow Creek Terrace**

Individuals who take responsibility for the care of a family member will be interested to know that respite care is available at Willow Creek Terrace, the new assisted living facility in Heppner. Whether for a few hours or a few days, the facility - when it can meet the needs of the individual - provides a furnished room and a 24-hour staff. Arrangements must be made far enough in advance to allow a needs assessment.



Cost is \$100 daily. Inquiries are encouraged. Call 676-0004, or visit the Willow Creek Terrace at 400 Frank Gilliam Drive.

How others see it ...

Gas up Oregon's economic engine

[From the Sunday Oregonian Editorial page, Dec. 1, 2002 edition]

Building new sewers in rural communities won't bring back Oregon's economy or restore state tax revenues. It won't save school days from being cut, or allow state police troopers to keep their jobs.

Only an economic resurgence in the Willamette Valley can do all that.

As former Gov. Neil Goldschmidt recently told the Association of Oregon Counties, Oregon must refocus its economic development efforts where the state can get the most bang for its bucks: in the Willamette Valley.

Gov.-elect Ted Kulongoski has loaded his 23-member transition team with business leaders and charged them to come up with ideas to improve the state's Economic and Community Development Department and help get Oregon's economy moving again.

The first step should be recognizing that it's not 1998 anymore. During Oregon's boom, when the metro area was so flush it was literally turning away new jobs, it made sense to concentrate tens of millions of dollars in economic development money in rural Oregon, building new sewer and water projects and sprucing up downtowns. The metro economy was so hot back then that at one point Intel even had to promise Washington County to limit new job creation in order to get a property tax break.

Some rural development projects made real differences in communities such as Hermiston, Prineville, Redmond and Madras. However, many other investments only demonstrated that rural problems are more fundamentally tied to federal land policies and the collapse of forestry, farming and fishing than to inadequate sewer, and water systems.

The employment numbers tell the story: Even with more than \$100 million directed by Gov. John Kitzhaber and Republican legislators into rural areas over the past decade, the gap in job growth between the valley and the rest of the state hasn't narrowed.

No one should suggest giving up on job creation in rural areas, but if lawmakers and the governor really want to help rural Oregon, they should look for ways to help logging, farming and fishing.

Meanwhile, the state must get back to fueling the engine that drives Oregon's economy and supplies most of the revenue for state services and schools. Seventy-five percent of Oregon's jobs lie in the nine counties of the Willamette Valley - Multnomah, Linn, Clackamas, Washington, Yamhill, Polk, Marion, Benton and Lane.

All the conditions for a powerful surge in economic growth lie in the valley: proximity to suppliers of all kinds, plentiful labor pools, major airports and interstates, and the Port of Portland.

Goldschmidt is worried that the state economic development department has become so fixated with "distressed communities" that the agency no longer has the skills or expertise to lure more businesses to Oregon cities. "We have basically dismantled it," Goldschmidt said of the department. "The momentum is gone. We are paying an ungodly price for this decision."

The risk now is a bitter tug of war over the lottery money that funds economic development in Oregon. Rural communities still are hurting for jobs, and are suffering disproportionately from cutbacks in state services and schools. They and their legislators are likely to fight any redirection of economic development money back to urban areas.

This is a sensitive issue for Kulongoski, who won the governorship only because of his margin of victory in a few Willamette Valley counties. He's eager to broaden his support in rural Oregon, but focusing economic development spending in the valley, however wise that is, won't win him more friends in the rest of the state.

But stoking the state's business core in the Willamette Valley is the surest route to improving the economy, closing the state's deficit and improving the lives of Oregonians.

**CCF to discuss
child care
development funds**

The Morrow County Commission on Children and Families will hold its regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, Dec. 10 in the conference room of the Department of Human Services Building located at 103 S.W. Kinkade, Boardman, from 7-9 p.m.

Agenda items will include discussion of child care development funds, budget, legislative issues, Emergency Food and Shelter Program, and other business as necessary.

The public is encouraged to attend and participate in the discussions. For further information or for special accommodations, call 676-9675.

DA's Report

James Benjamin Murray was found guilty of Contempt of Court for failure to comply with order of the Court, to-wit a Child Support order. Murray was sentenced to three years bench probation with the following terms and conditions: must pay the monthly court ordered child support payment plus an additional 20 percent of the court ordered amount per month so long as his child support case carries an arrearage balance; must notify DA's office of any change in employment, address or telephone number within 10 days of change; and if for any reason he is not able to make his monthly child support payment he shall contact the Morrow County Support Enforcement Officer to provide notice and explanation.

Trinette Raechel Hill was found guilty of Contempt of Court for failure to comply with the child support order. Hill was sentenced to 30 suspended days in jail, five years bench probation with the following conditions: must pay the court ordered amount plus 20 percent of the court ordered amount each month; shall advise of any change in her employment status, address, or phone number within 10 days of any change; and during any period of unemployment, or underemployment which results in her not being able to pay child support as ordered, she shall report a bi-weekly list detailing her employment search and shall continue until gainfully employed.

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a thing of the past...
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