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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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School Board *continued from page one*

retirements from: Mike Stuart, retiring from his position as Ione School principal as of Dec. 31; Betty Rietmann, from her teaching position at Ione Elementary School; Karen Cooley, from her "teacher on special assignment for special education" for 2003-04; Darla Vandever, Riverside High School special ed one-on-one assistant.

-approved interim agreements for: Mike Stuart to continue his administrative position as Ione principal from Jan. 6 through June 30; Betty Rietmann to continue in her teaching position at Ione Elementary from Jan. 1 through June 13.

-approved termination of Daryl Grossman, from his district office position as computer technician I.

-approved employment of Geoff LaPeire as computer technician I.

-approved extra duty contracts for: Jim Swanson, Ione High School assistant boys' basketball coach; Kari Morgan, Ione High School assistant girls' basketball coach.

-approved a policy on temporary and standing school committees and rescinded the

previous policy on advisory committees.

-endorsed passage of Measure 28 which would increase taxes to put more money into the ailing state general fund and thereby benefit state school funding. However, Dr. Crippen told the Heppner Chamber of Commerce, Tuesday, that the cuts facing south end schools are basically equalization cuts and even if Measure 28 passes, the lost south end teaching positions would probably not return.

-approved a change in per diem reimbursements which would reimburse employees for meals on a per diem basis rather than by meal receipts.

-approved the district's audit report which found no significant items of interest.

-awarded a recognition pin to Rhonda Lorenz who has been employed with the district office for 20 years.

-heard the following announcements: MCSB/Oregon School Board Association v-tel meeting, policy review, Dec. 16, 9 a.m.; winter break, Dec. 20-Jan. 5; school resumes, Jan. 6; next board meeting Jan. 13, Heppner Elementary School.

Adoption announcement

Kelly and Laura Sager of Lexington are proud to announce the adoption of their daughter **Nyssa Mae**, born Feb. 18, 2002 and son **Kooper Lee**, born April 15, 2002. Their adoptions took place in Vladivostok, Russia on Nov. 12, 2002. Nyssa and Kooper join

siblings Darby, Brick and Tegan. Grandparents are Harley and Bertha Sager of Hermiston and Jim and Susan Humphrey of Fossil. Great grandparents are Lee and Patsy Hoover and Abbie Humphrey all of Fossil. Great-great grandmother is Evelyn Woods of Southern Oregon.

Willow Creek Baptist has new home

The Willow Creek Baptist Church has recently remodeled the gym/education building of the Seventh Day Adventist Church, at 560 N. Minor, as a place to hold their Sunday services.

Sundays at 9:30 a.m. for adult and children bible studies and at 10:45 a.m. for a worship service. They also provide childcare.

For more information you can contact Pastor Wenzel, at 676-5428.

Willow Creek Baptist, led by Pastor Bud Wenzel, meets

Editorial

A Different Perspective

By Wade A. Smith, Principal, Heppner Schools

It was last week, while sitting through a myriad of different educational speakers at a school law conference, that I heard something so out of the ordinary, unique, and refreshing that I felt that I needed to pass it on to my community. Surrounded by hundreds of school administrators, state educational employees, and other school leaders, we were reminded, speaker after speaker, of the state funding crises, the PERS financial woes, and the dismal outlook of our schools' budgets in the upcoming years. With little light at the end of the tunnel it was difficult not to hang one's head in shame or throw your arms up in the air in disbelief like my wife did when San Diego got stomped 27 to 7 by Oakland last Sunday. However, just when you could hardly swallow another speaker's bleak forecast, up came a gentleman that pulled us out of our wallows of self-pity and truly celebrated public education in Oregon. Instead of focusing on the negative publicity of dwindling budgets, he rejoiced in our achievements. As he relayed, school drop out rates across the state are the lowest ever. Student test performance is the highest it has ever been. SAT scores are up and Oregon kids are competing amongst the nations best for college admittance and winning! Similarly, in Heppner, we are looking to attain another "exceptional" school rating from the state, one of only a handful handed out every year. Our local scores on state tests continue to improve and are above the state averages in most areas. More and more of our students from Heppner are attending four-year colleges and receiving scholarships along the way. Needless to say, despite our budget problems, it is an exciting time to be in education when so many things are going so well.

It is not surprising that many voters and legislators across the state have recently decided against funding our schools adequately. I believe that an integral part of this lack of support is because we tend to dwell on the negative rather than applauding the wonderful accomplishments we have made over the recent years. It is true that we are in a time of economic crises. There is a ballot measure, Measure 28, that will be coming to your homes in January that will help ease our economic "hit" for this and the next two biennium's. However, if we do not celebrate our accomplishments very few people will feel comfortable supporting our public educational program. I believe a lot of our "PR" problem is due to educators inadvertently misleading the community. Often we like to paint our scenario as the "sinking ship" model that must have money to improve. Typically, it takes the creation of such a crises to elicit support from our constituents, whether we are indeed "going down" or not. However, I view this as a poor way to gain support. Who in their right minds would want to "throw" more money at a sinking ship? Let's paint the picture how it really appears: a successful program that is working well and needs the finances to maintain. Remember, we are not "throwing" money at the sinking ship of public education, but rather "allocating" money to a successful, accomplished, proven system that works and works well.

In the Service

Local son graduates from navy training

Navy Seaman Matthew Dezellem, son of Jennie Riggle of Gresham and Raymond Dezellem of Heppner, recently graduated from the MK-41 Vertical Launching System Operation and Maintenance Class "C" School at Fleet Training Center Atlantic, Dam Neck, Va.

For nearly 20 weeks, Dezellem received training on how to operate, isolate and repair the U.S. Navy's most advanced guided missile launching system. Dezellem was also required to study advanced electronics, computer language, hydraulic fundamentals and explosives safety and handling. Dezellem is a 2000 graduate of Reynolds High School of Troutdale and joined the Navy in October 2001.



Matthew Dezellem

4-H News

Public Clique 4-H Photography Club

By Emily Rietmann, reporter
The Public Clique 4-H photography club met at the Fire Hall in Ione on Sunday, Dec. 8. It was the club's second meeting for the new 4-H year.

Members looked through information on taking portraits and went to the park to practice taking pictures with different backdrops and at different angles.

They discussed what they would like to do with the money they have earned selling pumpkins and other fundraisers. Members decided to donate to Kevin and Waylon Johnson of Mikkalo, who were burned severely on Thanksgiving morning and to purchase an animal through Heifer International.

Members discussed field trips they wanted to take through the year and decided to meet again on Jan. 12 at the fire hall.

Emily Rietmann provided snacks. Those present included Emily Rietmann, Kayla LaRue, Aidan Burt, Kim Morris and leader Kristy Crowell.

New members are always invited.

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.)

Businessman offers praise for Sheriff's Office and Fire Dept.

To the Editor:

Most of this community is aware that a rifle was stolen from Heppner Hardware the evening before Thanksgiving. As you would expect, this is a traumatic experience, especially so since the rifle was the Chamber of Commerce raffle gun which helps to fund chamber projects. Needless to say, I had some difficulty being properly thankful the next day. However, the purpose of this letter is to make everyone aware of the good I saw come out of this incident.

I was lucky, in that I discovered the theft within a few minutes of its happening and was thus able to pinpoint the likely suspects. I called 911 and received an immediate answer. An officer was dispatched, and while he was enroute, the dispatcher was gathering information from me and relaying it to the officer. With this information, the officer made a quick sweep of the area looking for the four I suspected, before coming to see me. About this time, a neighboring merchant told me she had seen these four a few minutes before and was able to tell me who they were. (Isn't a small town wonderful?)

At this time, an off-duty officer arrived, and with the new information, the two officers went to the residence of the suspects to question them. I won't go into all the details, but I witnessed some very professional police work. Over the next two days (which included Thanksgiving), the Sheriff's Dept. continued to work the case with diligence and perseverance and an arrest was made.

Although an arrest was made, the rifle had still not been recovered, but they had reason to believe it was hidden on a hillside near the suspect's home. At this point, which was after dark, the Heppner Fire Dept. was asked to help. Using the work lights from a fire truck and combing the area in a coordinated search pattern, the rifle was found.

This is a much better conclusion than I reasonably could have hoped for. I can't say enough good things about the deputies who patrol Heppner and the Heppner Fire Dept. I am in their debt.

(s) Cliff Green
Heppner

P.S.: Tickets for this rifle are still available from many chamber members. Wouldn't you like to have a rifle with a history?

Justice Court Report

The Justice Court office at the courthouse in Heppner reports handling the following business:

- Steven Donald Lane, 45, Bend, Exceeding Bag Limit, \$207 fine.
- Wesley Ryan Martin, 23, Gresham, Unlawful Taking of a Deer, to wit: Closed Season, \$391 fine.
- Jymme Suzanne Canham, 35, Heppner, Maintaining a Dog as a Nuisance (dog barking), \$79 fine; Telephonic Harassment, \$207 fine.
- Paul Anthony Backman, 33, Hermiston, VBR 75/55, \$87 fine.
- Charles Lee Matteson, 50, Heppner, Dog at Large, \$79 fine.
- John Andrew Nelson, 31, Heppner, VBR 70/55, \$87 fine.
- Giselle Lee Schoonover, 28, Heppner, DUII, \$1098 fine, 24 months probation, 80 hours community service, completion of alcohol education program, no alcohol in conjunction with a motor vehicle, and attendance of the Victim's Impact Panel.
- Mindy Lee Binschus, 22, Lexington, Maintaining a Dog as a Public Nuisance, \$79 fine.
- Carol Lynn Daley, 42, Ione, Maintaining a Dog as a Public Nuisance, \$79 fine.
- David Richard Spaulding, 69, Following to Close, \$147 fine.
- Jacquelyn F. Burr, 55, Keizer, VBR 78/55, \$132 fine.
- Jerry D.A. Pishon, 19, Ione, VBR 78/55, Failure to Show/Carry Proof of Insurance, \$132 fine.
- Aaron Thomas Brown, 19, Ione, VBR 75/55, \$87 fine.
- Michael David Peterson, 23, VBR 74/55, \$77 fine.
- David P. Winters, 49, Heppner, VBR 79/55, \$132 fine.
- Harley B. Young, 43, Heppner, Passing in a No Passing Zone, \$157 fine.
- Jeremy Paul Cannon, 20, Portland, EMS 91/65, \$207 fine.
- Lanny Richard Garland, 62, Banks, Recklessly Endangering Another Person, \$393.
- Deborah Lavonne Wells, 39, Heppner, Failure to
- Yield to a Pedestrian in a Crosswalk, \$147 fine.
- Jason T. Lehman, 31, Pendleton, Failure to Immediately Validate Tag (elk), \$157 fine.
- Gary Lee Ward, 51, Springfield, Carrying a Loaded Weapon (firearm) on an ATV, \$111 fine.
- Alvin Lee Dull, 51, Springfield, Carrying a Loaded Weapon (firearm) on an ATV, \$111 fine.
- Vincent J. Ward, 37, Oregon City, Carrying a Loaded Weapon on an ATV, \$77 fine.
- Jason Lee Lane, 23, Boring, Aiding in a Wildlife Violation, \$331 fine.
- Kacy John Childers, 20, Ione, Careless Driving, \$202 and VBR 69/55, \$136 fine.
- Trent B. Moses, 31, Meridian, ID, No Insurance and Failure to Carry Proof of Insurance, \$306 fine.
- Carolyn Faye Rupe, 30, Echo, Failure to Carry Proof of Insurance, \$202 fine.
- Cheryl Lynn Thomas-Alston, 51, Ashland, Dead or Decayed Tree, \$111 fine.
- Robert E. Bailey, 43, Oregon City, Unlawful Taking of a Cow Elk, to wit: Closed Season, \$157 fine.
- Steven Michael Clark, 19, Pendleton, Driving While Suspended and Driving Uninsured, \$474 fine; Driving While Suspended and Unreasonable Sound Amperage, \$376 fine; Failure to Pay Fines, \$688 fine.

Pastor's Christmas article due Dec. 20

Christmas articles written by local pastors are due Friday, Dec. 20 before 5 p.m. Articles can be faxed to: 676-9211; mailed to: P.O. Box 337 Heppner, OR 97836; or emailed to: david@heppner.net.

Articles can be handwritten, if legible, or typewritten. It is recommended that you include a title. All area pastors are invited to submit an article.

Any questions call the Gazette at 676-9228.

Give a Piece of History for Christmas and Help the Mural Project

The mural depicts Heppner's Main Street prior to the 1903 flood.

With a tax-deductible donation of \$300, you will receive a 21"x42" framed print of the mural.

With a tax-deductible donation of \$200, you will receive a 13"x24" framed print of the mural.

Prints are on display at Klamath First Bank.

Call Sharon Harrison, 676-5407, or Betty Mills, 676-5546, for more information or to purchase a print.

Ask about a payment plan if you would like a print held for you.

Ingrown Toenails?

Dr. Donald J. Carlson, Foot Specialist will be at the Pioneer Memorial Clinic on December 18th for the diagnosis of this and other foot problems. Call 676-5504 - Heppner or 567-8750 - Hermiston



HEPPNER ELKS 358
676-9181 "Where Friends Meet" 142 North Main

Thursday, December 12th

TOY DINNER. Bring in a new, unwrapped toy and receive a free spaghetti dinner. The toys will be taken to the Neighborhood Center for distribution in the Heppner and Ione areas for Christmas.

Saturday, December 21st

TOM and JERRY PARTY. Party starts at 6 p.m. The chefs will also be serving Barbecue Steaks and Oysters with all the trimmings. Dinner also starts at 6 p.m. For current Elks members and out-of-town guests.