

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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**Ione School** *continued from page one*

increasing available housing in the area; encouraging home schoolers to enroll in the Ione Schools; encouraging Lexington students to attend school in Ione; promoting construction of the road between Ione and Boardman; building a relationship with a matching funds organization; obtaining grants; instituting school tuition; seeking lottery money; promoting a change in the state school funding formula; establishing a charter school; lobbying for passage of Measure 28 to increase taxes; increasing lunch prices; soliciting area businesses; asking the city to reduce water costs or donate water to the school; seeking out students who qualify for free and reduced school lunches and assisting those families in filling out the forms; siting a local cell tower and charging rent; promoting good will between Ione and Heppner; shortening the school year; seeking corporate sponsorship; testing home schoolers to verify that they are meeting state standards; encouraging early teacher retirement; spending the school district cash carryover; seeking Nature Conservancy financial support of schools; getting "mileage out of the media";

shipping students from the north end of the county; approaching Morrow County for reparation monies for the Ione-north end road; petitioning the state to reward excellent schools with tangible support; repealing Ballot Measure 5; and withdrawing from the Morrow County School District. The evening was not without humor as one person suggested, "kicking our legislators in the rear" as a way to resolve the state budget crisis. "On our own personal note, us young people need to keep having babies," added an obviously pregnant Darcy Padberg Mitchell, prompting laughter from the crowd.

Each revenue suggestion was then assigned to a local organization or committee to work on such as Booster Club, School Board Liaison, Site Council, Self Determination, Advisory Board, City of Ione, Teachers, Local Funding Foundation, Ione Community Agri-Business Organization (ICABO), State School Lobby and Student Recruitment.

Another Ione community meeting is scheduled for Jan. 22 at 6:30 p.m. at the Ione School.

**Lexington announces 2002 lighting contest winners**

Lexington announced the winners of this year's light contest winners as:

- "Best Overall Lighting"- Roger Ehrmantraut.
- "Best Use of Lights"- Bob Montgomery.
- "Mini But Bright"- John Ripple.
- "Judges Choice"- Mike Orwick.

Columbia Basin Electric, Morrow County Grain Growers and the City of Lexington donated prizes. Out of town judges were used for the contest.

"There were many, many participants and all were beautiful," said a spokesperson.

**Benefit auction, dinner set for Olex burn victims**

A traditional holiday community party featured at the former Rock Creek School in Gilliam County the past few years will become a benefit for burn victims Kevin Johnson and his son Waylon this year. The event, a benefit auction, potluck dinner and dance, will be held Saturday, Dec. 28, starting at 2:00 p.m. at the Rock Creek Community Center, 13181 Middle Rock Creek Lane, Gilliam County, Oregon.

Auction items are being donated from region-wide. Some of the donations received to date are: 30.06 rifle; a working ranch horse; Raft Trips; Two night stay at a beach home on the Oregon Coast; 1 week at a studio Condo w/kitchen facilities on Kauai, Hawaii; Ocean fishing trips and/or sturgeon fishing on the Columbia; dinner and night at Shaniko Hotel; Wilson Ranches Bed and Breakfast retreat; Dinner for two at the Hotel Condon; Hair style and manicure; handmade baby quilts; handmade quilts and afghans, one year's supply of dog food; 2 men and 3 days for a construction project; Sheep Pelts; Brass Trundle Bed; Hide a Bed; Roll top desk; baked goods; homemade preserves; art work by local artists; horseshoeing, trim and sets; New Year's Eve package dinner, room and breakfast at Hotel Condon; One-ton alfalfa hay; 4 tickets to New Year's Eve Bull Riding and

Boogie in Redmond; collectibles, etc. Cash donations are being accepted as well.

Due to tight budgets and the sometimes heavy financial load at Christmas time, auction organizers are allowing credit for 60 days before paying for items purchased at the benefit.

Several friends and neighbors of the Johnson family are helping to organize the event, including Gerry and Rene Durfey of Condon; Mike and Vicki McKinney, Rod and Lori McGuire, Kent and Judy Misener, Darrell and April Aamodt, all of Arlington; and Brent Johnson of Fossil. Contact any of these people for more information on how to help with the effort.

A memorial service was held to celebrate the life of Kevin Johnson, 46, at the Condon Elks Lodge on Saturday, Dec. 21. Kevin and his son, Waylon, 19, were burning trash Thanksgiving Day and fuel was added to the blaze, which exploded, dousing both in fuel and flames. Their burns were extensive and severe, and it is anticipated Waylon will be hospitalized for at least five months. After putting up a hard fight, Kevin lost his battle for life, to a lung infection on Dec. 12. Waylon continues to fight, is gaining strength and healing.

You may send get-well wishes to Waylon at Oregon Burn Center, 3001 N. Gantenbein Ave., Portland, OR 97227.

**Chamber Chatter**

By Claudia Hughes  
Chamber Executive Director

As I write this, Christmas is three days away. Why aren't my cards written? Why isn't my shopping done? Among other things, I stopped and went ice skating with my grandchildren. It had been twenty-five years! At first it was a comedy of errors, but someone up there kept me from broken bones and after a few shaky rounds, this grandmother was enjoying the lights and music and only touching the rail one or two times! It was great fun!

For some reading this, Christmas is already "over." My wish for all is that pause be taken to truly savor the twelve days of Christmas (Dec. 25 to Jan. 6) so that the mad rush doesn't end Christmas Day, but becomes the beginning of feeling the reason for the season. It's not too late to do for others what you didn't have time to do before. So much of the world rushes madly along letting deadlines and pressures build, becoming overscheduled, running, running as fast as we can! What are we running for or from? Rushing certainly doesn't extend our lives; it may even shorten them! We're writing our own "story" as we go. What do we want our story to be?

Give yourself and your family a gift. Invite them to sit quietly by the tree, watch feel-good Christmas movies with a message, read stories of the season, share moments with children, turn off the boxes (because by now they've returned to repetitive sensationalism five times a day); listen to music, send the cards you didn't have time to do, visit people who are alone or have lost family, enjoy your work, take a walk, look up at the stars, think about the true meaning of Christmas. And while we're reflecting, we might give thought to how our community can work together to address the issues facing our small town. Often we find problems are easier solved when we take time to breathe, slow down and listen to our hearts!

May the Christmas season be a time of balance, caring and reflection with good friends, family, food, empathy, understand, looking inwards and a bit of "spice" (like ice skating) stirred in. May it continue for you and yours.

**A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ONE AND ALL  
from THE HEPNER CHAMBER OF COMMERCE!**

**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.)

**One view on Kulongoski's comments to but out farms**

To the Editor:

I was astonished but unsurprised at Governor-elect Ted Kulongoski's recent paradoxical comments on Oregon's economic recovery plans and his desire to buy out farmers in the Klamath Basin. At a time when he can talk of increasing tourism, encouraging new light industry, creating new jobs and potentially raising taxes he recommends buying out farmers and ranchers in the Klamath Basin. What part of taking productive property off the tax roles doesn't he understand? Of course, the pat answers to this move and the drivers behind it are the mandates under Endangered Species Act (ESA).

The enforcement of the ESA is most often tied to the indicator of the survival of the "most sensitive species." I say here that the most sensitive species is and should always be people. The most sensitive issue is our right to pursue our choice of life, liberty and happiness.

The broad-spectrum move to relocate farmers and ranchers to controllable space within the urban spheres is the bigger picture here. (I can already hear the moans about another conspiracy ranting). One has only to get and read the torturous book, "Water Resource Management, A World Bank Policy Paper," published by the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, 1993, to see that the global control of land use is an agenda that will be

accomplished by the control of water. This plan is essentially (and not very covertly) being placed throughout the West today.

The socialization and government control of farming, ranching and resource management has already been proven to be a bankrupt system, (e.g. the former Soviet Union failure, the management of the U.S. National Forests) so that doesn't need to be revisited here.

We also know that ones don't need to remove each farmer, rancher, logger or miner from the land, but just remove (by seductive or other means) sufficient numbers of them to emasculate the targeted group and the remaining are left voiceless and easy pickings for future control, buyouts and/or relocations. It is really very simple and effective.

At a time when we should be encouraging entrepreneurship and generating private revenue that can be legitimately taxed, our Governor-to-be and our Senator Ron Wyden seem to think that taking tax dollars to buy out productive agricultural businesses is consistent with economic recovery. I don't like government subsidies, but if we are to have them as a last resort, let them be directed at keeping private industry in business and on the tax roles. That is the only way we as taxpayers, can get back some of our invested tax dollars. That is a positive beginning for economic recovery.

(s) Tim Smith  
Hamey County

**Lexington resident offers ideas on school cuts**

To the Editor:

I perceive the school district as a forest and it appears you are trying to cut one tree. The largest part of the forest is the administrative cost; this is where substantial amounts can be reduced.

Lay off all building principals - have one in the district office to deal with personnel then each building counselor would be in charge of student discipline and order.

A large savings: Lay off all athletic directors - have one in the district office and allow each head coach to administer their area.

A large savings: Do not move the district office - the cable and installation has been completed. A move would create more cost in relocation (cable/office supply address changes) than the present maintenance.

Lexington is (almost) the geographic center of Morrow County. Reduce the vehicles to

one car and one pickup to be dispatched from the district.

Savings on insurance and maintenance: Keep the "Excellence" in education by busing the Heppner High School students to Ione, leave the other students where they are; in so doing every community is still maintaining an active school. In keeping "Excellence", do not eliminate the kitchens - it's been proven a hungry child is handicapped in learning.

Generate income by selling real estate the district owns.

Utilize the satellite system for extra classes (students and teachers) and meetings (teachers and administrative staff).

Survey the graduated seniors as to what basic education classes they fell short in at college.

Possibly, a last resort maneuver would be to freeze salaries for one year.

We need basic education; let's dig down and get back to it.  
(s) Betty Christman  
Lexington

**Heppner Little League and Youth Baseball set meeting**

Heppner Little League and Youth Baseball will hold a meeting at 6:30 p.m., Tuesday, Jan. 14, 2003, at GDs Restaurant in Heppner. The purpose of the meeting is to elect new board members and discuss the upcoming 2003 season.

All interested is welcome to attend. Your help is needed and appreciated. For more information please call Doug Holland 676-5067 or Dave Pranger 676-9767.

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