

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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Katie Wall Editor

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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.)

Keep the state afloat and vote yes on 28

To the Editor:

Measure 28 is a temporary three-year tax increase, the kind that kept our state afloat during the recession of the early '80s. Measure 28 will

cost the average Oregon taxpayer less than \$10 a month. Please vote yes on Measure 28 and turn in your ballots by Jan. 28.

(s) Jan Schott
Fossil

Don't let the cuts happen, vote Yes on 28

To the Editor:

Did you know that in 1981 Oregonians paid an income tax of 10 percent? Did you know that in 1982 Oregon had a budget crisis? Here is the information that I acquired from the Oregon Department of Revenue. In 1981, our income tax was 10 percent. In 1982, '83 and '84, the surtax raised it to 10.8 percent. In '85 and '86, it went back to 10 percent. In 1987, it went to nine percent, where we are currently. Yes, the 1982 Legislative Assembly had the intestinal fortitude backed by the Governor to implement a surtax for three years.

Did you know that in overall taxes we pay less than 43

other states? Did you know that on Jan. 1, 1996, PERS state employees went to a Tier 2? That is 41 percent of the current work force that have earned only 0.82 percent of the money going into PERS in the last six years. That is less than one percent and these folks will never receive the lavish retirements that Oregonians are upset about.

My spouse and I will be voting for Measure 28 and hope the cuts to so many programs and jobs will not happen. We also hope the Legislative Assembly will finally step forward and do their job.

(s) Keith Jordan
Burns

School district office never offered

To the Editor:

The Town of Lexington was not offered the option of taking over the Morrow County School District Office Building located in Lexington. It was rumored that this was one of the options being considered but the town council has yet to receive any notice or options concerning this. Since the town council was meeting the same night as the school district to discuss their options, it would have been speculation on the town's part to assume this rumor was true. In addition, the agenda for this meeting was set and full. The town council took no action on this rumor since it had received no official contact (and still has not). To take action on something that was never offered would be presumptuous.

I cannot speculate what action the Town Council of Lexington would take if they were offered the School District Building. The reason stated in the Gazette-Times, claiming why the Town of Lexington did not want

the School District office is definitely a consideration the town council would have to look at. But let us let the truth be known. The Town Council of Lexington never said, "They did not want the District Office." They did not take any action because they were never given the option to take action.

(s) Glenn Anderson
Ione

DA's Report

On Jan. 16, Cynthia Olson, 42, Boardman, was convicted of the Class C Felony, Unlawful Use of a Weapon. Morrow County District Attorney, David C. Allen, dismissed the charge of Attempted Murder after an extensive investigation revealed a history of domestic violence between Olson and the alleged victim, her husband, Walter Olson. Olson was given 36 months of formal probation and will be required to undergo alcohol treatment and mental health counseling as part of her sentence.

town and country *continued from page 1*

Market, Heppner, purchased the business about two years ago from Forrest and Gail Burkenbine. Houwelings came down from the vicinity of Gig Harbor, WA, along with their two children, Charlene, a ninth grader and Jason, a seventh grader. The have become an active part of the community not only at the store but in many other aspects of community life.

They give back one percent of receipts collected by local non-profits and provide discounts for many local groups. The help arrange for and provide a trailer from soft drink distributors for events. The store also helps as corporate sponsors of the Oregon Trail Pro Rodeo, and has provided space and help with the Chamber of Commerce reindeer and Santa project.

Kim helped to set up pictures with Santa this past year and both helped with the Heppner Light Parade. Kim has also organized flea markets for St. Pat's Celebration. She works behind the scenes at the store, helping out when needed and devotes much of her time to being a full-time mom. She works with her church and is active in many other community activities.

Bert was born in Holland and came to the U.S. at age six. He started with Fred Meyer's while still in high school and worked his way up to become their youngest ever store manager. He later went to Associated Grocers in management. In the community he is part of the Chamber of Commerce board and a supporting officer of Odd Fellows.

Bert enjoys spending time with his horses when not at the store or with his family and Kim enjoys golfing. According to Cliff Green, who "heard from reliable sources," Bert's long time dream has finally come true, he has a new barn where he spends a lot of his free time. "So when he gets in trouble, he is not in the dog house, but in the barn," joked Green.

Educator of the Year, Cherry Webber, who retired in June of 2002, taught for 22 years in Heppner, starting with kindergarten and moving to first grade, with a few blended first and second grade classes.

Webber graduated from Pasco High School in 1963, and was voted "Best Dressed." She then went on to Washington State University where she graduated in 1967 and began her teaching career in Port Hueneme, CA.

She moved back to the Pullman area in 1969 and spent two years with family members in northern Idaho, living the rustic life, but finally decided she was "sick and tired" of it and came back to the civilization of Issaquah, WA.

She was teaching preschool and class called "Walkabouts", for 18-month olds when she received a call from Don Cole, inviting her for an interview in Heppner. She decided to come to Heppner because she thought it was a "cute" little town.

Although she has retired from teaching, many other things are still floating around HES in

different teacher's classrooms. Webber's daughter, Laurel, who took after her mom and joined the teaching profession, also adorns her classroom with many of her mother's things.

Cara Osmin, presenter of the award, shared memories of many of Webber's former students who remembered how she taught them their numbers, letters and created a fun environment in which to learn.

Due to a recent surgery, Webber could not be at the banquet, but her husband, Tim Gray, accepted the award for her.

Youth of the Year, Diana McElligott, a senior at Lone High School has been extremely active both in school and community. She has many accomplishments, almost too numerous to name. She is the daughter of Paul and Charity McElligott of Ione.

McElligott has helped with Ione's 4th of July celebration, gathered food for the Heppner Neighborhood Center, delivered Christmas tree to local residents, coached and refereed Ione's Pee-Wee basketball program, and has helped lay sod at the Morrow County fairgrounds, painted bleachers and helped with set-up, and she has volunteered with the 4-H snack shack.

She is part of the STARS and OSSOM programs, has served as class officer in a variety of capacities and clubs, including National Honor Society and the Letterman's club. McElligott has represented Ione at Girls State. She also serves as assistant athletic direct for both Lone Middle and High schools and is a tutor to many students in the athletic programs.

She is active in her church and the Lone youth group. She has worked with the group gathering baby clothes for needy infants that come through Good Shepherd Medical Center in Hermiston and has gone along on the youth group trips to Burnside Street in Portland.

This fall, McElligott was honored as the Wendy's Heisman winner for the State of Oregon. Not only is she active in her sports, but maintains a 3.85 GPA, is an active member of the National Honor Society and Future Business Leaders of America.

She has been on many first-team all-star teams, participating in volleyball, basketball and track. She was also selected as one of the nation's top junior girl athletes last spring.

McElligott is also active in numerous other organizations and activities.

Finally, but certainly not least, this year's Lifetime Achievement award went to Ione resident, Bill Rietmann. According to Jannie Allen, who presented the award, he is an individual who believes in being positive.

Rietmann and brother Bob farmed the family wheat farm with pride, energy and honesty for 40 years. He was a dedicated farmer who served as an example for many others in Morrow County. While not in the field, he found an amazing amount of time to serve his community.

Rietmann was mayor of Ione for eight years and served on the Ione City Council for 20 years. He currently serves on the South Morrow County Scholarship Committee. He is a lifetime member of the Oregon Wheat League, American Legion Post #95, and the BPOE #358.

He was instrumental in formed and maintaining the Ione

Rural Fire Protection Board and currently serves as chairman.

Rietmann is an active member of his church, Ione United Church of Christ, having served as a moderator, deacon, trustee, served on the search committee, the building committee, which orchestrated the new church building, and served as a conference representative. "And he rarely misses a Sunday," added Allen.

Rietmann and brother, Bob, organized and coached farm team baseball for their boys and other children in the area before Little League.

He is "a shining example of the perfect family man," commented Allen. Son, brother, husband, father and grandfather are honors he has worn well over the years. His children, Mark and Tami, Brian and Sharon and Gregg and Shelly have made his life a busy one with nine grandchildren. Rietmann does not miss an event and can be seen at both Ione and Heppner sporting events in his "Papa" shirt with both a Mustang and a Cardinal on the chest.

nursing home cuts

continued from page one

Vander Does said that small nursing homes would suffer most, because they don't have the numbers to compensate for the losses. He said he has learned that the Wallowa nursing home is considering shutting down.

He feels that one of the problems is that federal monies earmarked for health care through the Pro Share program have been used by the Oregon legislature to balance their budget. "One hundred thirty million went into the general fund last year that was supposed to go into health care," he said. And, since the state is not spending the money as was designated, the feds are contemplating whether to discontinue the program. What's the solution? "The idea of major subsidies would go a long way," Vander Does said.

He said he has also heard that suits against the state are being prepared to be filed on behalf of some residents in danger of losing their benefits.

Obituaries

Josie L. Peck

Josie L. Peck, 92, of Heppner, died Sunday, Jan. 12, 2003, at Pioneer Memorial Hospital in Heppner.

A memorial service was held Jan. 18.

Peck was born May 30, 1910, at Molalla, to William and Martha Bonge Rowell. She grew up in the Ione area and attended area schools, graduating from Ione High School in 1928.

On Nov. 25, 1928, she married Henry Glover Peck at Ione. The couple lived at Ione and later at Hermiston before moving to the Hood River Valley where they operated an orchard. They moved to Condon for a time before returning to Hermiston.

In 1976, they retired to the family ranch between Heppner and Lexington.

Peck was a member of the Rebekah Lodge and Lexington Grange.

Survivors include daughters, Dorothy Tucker of Salem, Jeanette Henkins of Douglas, Alaska, and Martha Corcoran of Juneau, Alaska; sons, Ronald Peck of Moro, Lyle Peck and Richard Peck, both of Heppner, Burton Peck of Hermiston, William Peck of Nebo, N.C., and Raymond Peck of Lexington; 30 grandchildren; 35 great-grandchildren; and four great-great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her husband, Henry; a son, James Peck; and 11 brothers and sisters.

Memorial contributions may be made to Pioneer Memorial Hospital, or Pioneer Memorial Home Health, P.O. Box 9, Heppner, OR 97836.

Sweeny Mortuary of Heppner is in charge of arrangements.

Racine Mae Jensen

Racine Mae Jensen, 75, of Irrigon died Sunday, Jan. 12, 2003 at her home.

A memorial service was held Jan. 18.

Jensen was born April 15, 1927, at Pawnee, OK, to Raymond and Bertha Barnes Hornaday. She was raised and attended schools in Oklahoma and later moved to Twin Falls, ID.

On Feb. 25, 1947, she married Clinton G. Jensen at Elko, NV. They lived at Twin Falls where they owned and operated Norge Village Laundry and Dry Cleaning until their retirement in 1992. They recently moved to Irrigon to be with family.

Jensen was a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and was a volunteer at the Irrigon-Boardman Emergency Assistance Center in Irrigon.

She enjoyed archery and competition shooting, the outdoors and spending time with her grandchildren.

Survivors include her husband, Clinton of Irrigon; son, Clinton, Jr. of Firth, ID; daughters, Beverlee Franson of Twin Falls, ID, and Barbara Hulse of Irrigon; 15 grandchildren; and many great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her parents and by her sister, Madine LeForce.

Burns Mortuary of Hermiston is in charge of arrangements.

2003 Fair and Rodeo Court gearing up for busy year

The 2003 Fair and Rodeo Court is getting ready for a fun-filled year representing Morrow County. After being selected in November, Princesses Megan McCabe and Lexi Kennedy have been busy getting their official outfits ordered. They were in the Heppner Starlight Parade in December, and were officially introduced at the Heppner Town and Country Banquet on Jan. 16. Their next public appearance will be at the MCGG customer breakfast on Saturday, Feb. 15.

The court is doing fundraisers this year to help offset some of the traveling and clothing expenses that they will endure this year. They are collecting Red Apple Grocery receipts, with drop sites at Murray Drugs, Bank of Easter Oregon in Heppner and Ione, and the MCGG Food Mart in Lexington. The court is also selling raffle tickets for a gift basket with gift certificates from Morrow County businesses, and two drawings for half a hog each, with cutting and wrapping donated by Mike's Mobile Slaughter of Stanfield.

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Ty Zeller, Service Technician Sales

Ty, a member of EHC, has been in the HVAC industry for the past 10 years and holds many certifications and licenses.