

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

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David Sykes ..... Publisher  
Katie Wall ..... Editor

News deadline is Monday at 5 p.m.

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For Public/Legal Notices: public/legal notices deadline is Monday at 5 p.m. Dates for publication must be specified. Affidavits must be required at the time of submission. Affidavits require three weeks to process after last date of publication (a sooner return date must be specified if required).

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**Heppner High School Academic Letter**

Wade A. Smith, Principal Heppner Schools

The collaboration and hard work among parents, faculty, and administration in the Heppner High School Site Council has produced a new *Heppner High School Academic Letter Policy*. I am proud to announce that students in grades nine through twelve now have the chance to earn an academic letter and recognition for their hard work scholastically. I feel that it is important that we recognize our students who not only excel scholastically, but do so while enrolled in a rigorous academic schedule. In drafting this academic policy the site council researched what other schools were doing in our area and across the state. With the help of teacher and parent input, rigorous criteria were spelled out. We will be awarding the first-ever academic letters this spring to students who qualify. The guidelines for academic letter recognition are as follows:

To earn an academic letter at Heppner High School, students (grades 9-12) must earn a minimum, non-weighted high school GPA of 3.5 on a year-to-year basis. First and second semester grades will be averaged every academic school year to determine eligibility. For example, a student may earn an averaged 3.4 GPA for the first two semesters of their freshman year and not receive an academic letter. However, the same student may receive a letter if the average of their two semester grades of their sophomore year is 3.5 or above.

The student must be a full-time student enrolled in seven credited classes. Five of these seven classes must consist of core classes as noted: High School/College credit Math class; High School/College credit English class; High School/College credit Social Studies class; High School/College credit Science class; High School/College credit Technology class; High School/College credit Foreign Language class; High School/College credit Business Education class; High School/College credit web-based/video-based core class falling under the above curriculum; or High School Fine Arts class in Music or Art (dual enrollment counts as one core class).

For every consecutive year that the student fulfills the GPA and class enrollment requirements they will earn continued recognition with bar and pin medallions. If, at any time, an academic letter recipient's averaged GPA falls below the 3.5 requirement, they forfeit the right to earn their pin/bar medallion for that school year.

The principal has the ability to waive certain requirements on a case-to-case basis due to medical hardships or other qualifying circumstances.

**Food Handler's Class to be offered in March**

A Food Handler's Class will be offered by Blue Mountain Community College and the State Health Division on Wednesday, March 12 from 6:30-9:30 p.m., at the Heppner High School cafeteria. Anyone planning to handle food at the St. Patrick's celebration is encouraged to attend the class.

A Food Handler's card is required by the State of Oregon for all employees who handle or prepare food in food

service facilities in Oregon. This includes dishwasher, waiters, staff and business persons. Additionally, the card is also now required of all day care workers.

The cost of the class is a \$10 licensing fee, payable to the State Health Department after successful completion of the written test. Registration will be done at the class.

For further information, contact Anne Morter, BMCC South Morrow County coordinator, at 422-7040.

**DA's Report**

Christopher Dewayne Schneider pled guilty to Possession of a Controlled Substance-Methamphetamine, a Class-C felony. Schneider was sentenced to 18 months formal probation, 80 hours of community service, completion of a drug treatment package with Morrow County Behavior Health and \$914 in fines.

Frank D. Battaglia admitted to violation of probation. Battaglia's probation was revoked and reinstated on the same terms and conditions as previously imposed.

Hank E. Wetzel admitted to violation of probation. Wetzel was sentenced to 30 suspended days in jail with the conditions that he pay a \$100 fine, make weekly contact with Morrow County Support Enforcement Officer regarding employment state and comply with all previously imposed terms and conditions of probation.

Rodney Bryce Virgil admitted to violation of probation allegations for Delivery and Possession of a Controlled Substance. Virgil's probation was revoked and reinstated and he was sentenced to 30 days in jail and a one-year probation extension as of the date of the current order.

Michael S. Moore pled guilty to Unauthorized Use of a Motor Vehicle, a Class-C felony. Moore was sentenced to 18 months formal probation, 80 hours of community service and payment of \$664 in fines.

Robert James Harvey admitted to violation of probation allegation for Burglary I and Theft I. Harvey's probations was revoked and reinstated and he was sentenced to 20 days in jail.

Lacey Sherri Jacobs pled guilty to Possession of a Controlled Substance-Methamphetamine, a Class-C felony. Jacobs was sentenced to 18 months formal probation, 40 hours of community service, completion of a drug treatment package with Morrow County Behavioral Health and payment of \$664 in fines.

**Marriage Licenses**

**Feb. 14:** Hermenegildo Sanchez, 22, Boardman and Lorena Rodriguez, 18, Irrigon; James Keith Ellis, 35, Irrigon and Laurie Lynn Grieve, 37, Irrigon.

**Feb. 18:** Rafael Jose Flores, 26, Hermiston and Neli Mariana Davila, 21, Irrigon.

**Feb. 21:** David Greg Durfey, 33, Irrigon and Kathleen Ann Haves, 30, Irrigon; David Allen Richardson, 35, Irrigon and Elizabeth Guerrero, 38, Irrigon.

**We Print  
Business Cards**

Heppner Gazette-Times  
676-9228

**Justice Court  
Report**

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

Kristie Joleen Taylor, 28, Heppner, Offensive Littering-violation, fine \$111.

Dennis C. Lindner, 56, Pendleton, VBR 78/55, fine \$177.

Brenda K. Worden, 41, Heppner, DUII, fine \$1298, 24 month probation and 80 hours of community service.

Michael Travis Alldritt, 25, Lexington, DUII, fine \$1798, 24 months probation and 80 hours of community service.

Michael J. Hammons, 30, Heppner, VBR 78/55, fine \$177.

D. Lea Mathieu, 45, Ione, VBR 72/55, fine \$87.

James E. Roy, 44, Heppner, VBR 74/55, fine \$87.

Daniel Duane Doyle, 39, Heppner, VBR 63/45 and Driving while Suspended-violation, fine \$468.

Shanon Marie Oliver, 40, Heppner, Endangering the Welfare of a Minor-tobacco, fine \$157.

Geoffrey B. LaPeire, 45, Heppner, VBR 88/55, fine \$207.

Curtis Allen Graham, 37, Richland, WA, VBR 73/45, fine \$132.

Cheryle A. Rietmann, 44, Ione, VBR 82/55, fine \$132.

Ronna Rae Hayden, 36, Lowell, VBR 74/55, fine \$111.

Michael Duane Kindle, 54, Heppner, VBR 83/55, fine \$147.

Donald Wayne Taylor, 39, Pendleton, VBR 71/55 and Driving while Suspended, fine \$318.

Michael Moore, 20, Irrigon, Forgery I, fine \$281, 40 hours of community service and 24 months probation.

Harley Brandon Young, 19, Heppner, VBR 82/55, fine \$127.

Matthew S. Howard, 36, Heppner, VBR 75/55, fine \$77.

Harry C. Nash, 57, Heppner, VBR 53/35, fine \$77.

John Walton Dima, 40, Heppner, Operating a Vehicle without Required Lighting (tail lights), fine \$79.

Samuel Hal Edwards, 56, Boardman, VBR 73/55, fine \$77.

Misty Raye Bennett, 29, Heppner, VBR 72/55, fine \$111.

**BEO sponsors Ag/  
Bus scholarships**

The Bank of Eastern is again sponsoring agriculture/business scholarships for graduating seniors at Heppner, Ione, Arlington, Condon, Riverside, Spray and Wheeler County high schools. This marks the eighth year the bank has sponsored the \$500 scholarships to Morrow, Gilliam and Wheeler County students. This year, the awards total \$3,000.

Applicants must plan to enroll in college in either agriculture or business. Selection will be based on scholarship, leadership and citizenship.

Applications can be picked up from school counselors. The deadline to submit applications is May 2.

**UC Cattleman's  
Assoc. sets up  
reward fund**

An account has been set up to provide resources to fund a reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the person or persons involved in the shooting of nine cows last Tuesday or Wednesday in the Hermiston area.

The fund has been established in the name of Umatilla County Cattleman's Association Reward Fund. Donations can be made at the Hermiston branch of Columbia River Bank.

**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.)

**Missed Heppner's pep band at Pilot Rock**

To the Editor:  
Wow. Heppner had a "pep" band at the Umatilla game. They played, they cheered and

had an exotic male dancer. It was great fun.

How come no band at the Pilot Rock game?  
(s) Mary Jean McCabe Heppner

**We need the district's best interests at heart**

To the Editor:  
I, as the director of nursing services at Pioneer Memorial Hospital and Nursing Home would like to make several points very clear.

First, I believe that as members of the board of directors for the Morrow County Health District you should have the "district's" best interests at heart. Apparently, as demonstrated by an article in the Feb. 7, 2003 edition of the North Morrow Times, not all board members are of this opinion.

The demise of Measure 28 a month ago was disheartening. The article written for the No. Morrow Times the following week was, to say the least, heart breaking. This was the ultimate betrayal.

The Health District Board has supported my staff and myself to the fullest. When I lobbied the board for an increase in nursing staff wages, you were there without reservation. How then, can a member of the board so deliberately sabotage the Health District?

Second, I feel the need to set the record straight regarding services provided, nursing care and staffing information, since the reporter for the No. Morrow Times so egregiously and maliciously neglected to verify this information.

The hospital does indeed "set broken bones." In fact, if a fracture can be reduced without surgery, our providers accomplish this quite well.

The reporter needs to define for this long time RN what "traditional hospital services" may be. There is no difference in the "nursing care for patients recovering from injury or disease" provided at Pioneer Memorial Hospital than there is at St. Charles Medical Center or Legacy Emanuel in Portland. Actually, there are several differences, at PMH you will see your physician on a regular basis, you will know his name and he will know yours (and probably those of your family) and the nursing staff will not refer to you by your room number or diagnosis.

Of course our hospital and nursing home are seen as a single entity, this is also true for the other eight hospital/nursing home combinations in the special districts.

Let's make it clear that Dr. Boss receives an exorbitant amount of money from the Health District. For this, the Health District hopefully receives political good will and blue sky. There is one board member who is attempting to jeopardize both. It should also be noted that at the last contract renewal with Dr. Boss, this same board member was the only dissenting vote, holding out for more money for the good doctor.

I feel the need to make this point very clear. There are state and federal regulations requiring minimum staffing for the hospital and nursing home. These requirements refer to the administrator, director of nursing and nursing staff, and these levels are met or exceeded without exception. Understand, clinics have no staffing requirements. There are NO nursing staff shared between the hospital/nursing home staff and the clinic.

In 1998, our nursing home voluntarily reduced our bed

capacity from 32 to 20; (we are still licensed for 32 beds should we ever be able to recapture the space). This was based as much on staffing as it was on census. Since that time, our census has NEVER been below 14 residents and was frequently 19. Our bed capacity was again recently reduced to 19, with board approval, to accommodate a private room request. Our current census is 15, that's an 80 percent occupancy rate.

Last year, more than 250 patients were admitted to Pioneer Memorial Hospital for "nursing care while recovering from injury or disease". We also served patients receiving outpatient, dressing changes, injections, IV, therapies and education.

Our emergency room treated more than 750 patients. This included patients from Boardman, Irrigon, Lexington, Ione, Seattle, Vancouver, BC, Missoula, MT, Sheridan, WY, Condon and Fossil; ranging in age from several weeks to 93 years old. Presenting complaints ranged from simple ear aches and sore throats to fractures, burns, strokes, heart attacks, traumas and respiratory and cardiac arrests. Pioneer Memorial Hospital has the potential to see the same type of ER patients as seen at Emanuel.

Now, let me make a few points that can easily be verified not only through the Health District, but through state and federal agencies as well:

On 12/28/02, the hospital received a three-year full status Level IV trauma hospital designation by the Department of Human Services, Health Services. Stating "We commend hospitals such as yours for your continued participation in the trauma system through your verified capability to meet the standards required."

In 2001 and 2002, the nursing home was deficiency free in the nursing department.

The Critical Access Survey conducted in the spring of 2002, also found the facility deficiency free.

We, as employees of the Health District often joke about needing to improvise, adapt and overcome in providing health care in a rural setting. This is usually in reference to not having state of the art equipment or supplies, but apparently we have to overcome an ill directed board member as well.

Please note, that I am a member of the administration of the Morrow County Health District. I regularly encourage my staff to support the Health District and to be loyal to our patients, residents and administration. This is difficult to do when the article written by a board member, questions the honesty and integrity of not only his peers on the board, and the administration, but also that of all of the employees of the district and myself. Before you start making innuendoes and insinuations, take a look in your own back yard, you are not qualified medically or fiscally to play in ours.

(s) Tammy Henderson, PMH Director of Nursing Heppner

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**St. Patrick's Auction Committee wishes to thank our 2002 donors, and invites everyone to support this year's auction on Friday, March 14 at 7 p.m. at the Heppner Elks Club.**

**Arlington:** Steve and Mary Anderson • **Boardman:** Boardman Pharmacy • Carson City, NV: Range Magazine • Ceres, CA: Jay Casey • **Condon:** Hotel Condon-Condon Times-Journal-Murray's Condon Pharmacy-Country Cafe-Country Flowers-Sweeney Mortuary-Condon Chamber of Commerce • **Heppner:** Green Feed and Seed-Murray's Drug Store-Columbia Basin-Klamath First Federal-Bank of Eastern Oregon-Hair Expressions-Country Shears-Hair I Am- Judy's Therapeutic Massage-Mary Kay Cosmetics- Sweeney Mortuary-Shoe Box-Peterson's Jewelry-Les Schwab-Central Red Apple-Pony Express-O-Heppner Hardware-Pettyjohn's Building Supply-Brannon's Auto Repair-Shamrock Lanes & Pot of Gold Cafe-Wheatland/Van Marter and Kahl-Lott's Electric-Heppner Video-NW Motel-Heppner High School-Wood on Wood-Heppner Day Care-Heppner Gazette-Artisan Village-Willow Creek Clinic-Gardner's Men's Wear-Rolen Eye Health and Vision-GD's Linger Longer-Harper's Holsters-Rebecca Cannon-Maryann Elguezabal-Leann Wright-Rhonda Helfrecht-Phil and Kathy Carlson-Ken and Jean Ann Turner-Devin Oil/Chevron-Drake Ranch-John Gochbauer-Lindsay Ranch Feedlot-Wilkinson's Ranch-Ruggs Ranch-Pioneer Memorial Hospital-Doris Brosnan-Wayne and Judy Davis-Luane Hurl-Nancy Snider-Sue Thompson-Pat Gentry-Rick Drake-Joe Lindsay "Somebody Else"-Pauline Matheny-Heppner Garden Club-Kuhn and Spicer-John and Pat Edmundson-R&W Drive-In-Cork Norene-Bob and Suzanne Jepsen-Winnie Flynn-Gene Heliker-Bob and Aloha Despain-Claudia Hughes-Huddleston Paper • **Hermiston:** Sherrill Chevrolet-Wilcox Furniture-NW Farm Supply-Hermiston Drug-Walmart-Hale's Restaurant-United Rentals-Hermiston Herald-Hermiston New Holland-60 Minute Photo-Hermiston Chamber of Commerce-Gems and Friends-IJ Gems-El Cazador-Village Antiques and Gifts-Las Mananita's-Dority Auto-Roemark's-Papa Murphy's-Oxford Suites-Subway-Dairy Queen-Main Street Bakery-PGG-Oregon Trail Vet Clinic-Eastern Oregon Mobile Slaughter-Walmart Distribution Center-WSI • **Hood River:** Mt. Hood Railroad-Timberline Ski Lodge • **Kennebec:** Sundance Grill • **Lexington:** Lexington Polaris-MCGG-RJ's SteakHouse-Temple's Veterinary Clinic • **Pendleton:** Pendleton Ford Lincoln Mercury-Red Lion Hotel-Raphael's-Wild Horse Casino and Resort-A Gathering Place-Blue Hawk Beads-Pendleton Athletic-Fraziers-Pendleton Round Up-Zollman-Hodgen Distributing-Blue Mt. Sports-The Face and Body Shop-Working Girls Hotel-Pendleton Underground-Zimmerman's-Zigman's Flowers-Como's Italian Cafe-Huckleberry Junction-Rainbow Cafe-Scrapbook Station-PGG-Oxford Suites-Practically Magical-Calico Country-RMS Sound-Gordon's Electrical-Country Sunshine Hallmark-Emporium-Sunshine Gourmet-Peddler's Place-Clough's on Main-Once Upon a Time-Blue Horizon Arts and Crafts-Wind Song Gallery-The Bread Board-Woman to Woman-Armchair Books-The Cookie Tree-Western Auto-Pepsi Cola Bottling Co.-Pendleton Chamber of Commerce-Pendleton Athletic-Bob and Mary O'Rourke • **Lincoln City:** Mo's-Chinook Winds Casino-Shilo Inn • **Portland:** Portland Winter Hawks

**Our sincere appreciation to these businesses and individuals and to all the volunteers and buyers who helped make the auction a success. Your generosity ensures the continuation of Heppner's St. Patrick's Day Celebration and funds many worthwhile community projects.**

For information on making donations or helping with the 2003 auction, please contact:  
Kay Fowler - 676-9109 - P.O. Box 694, Heppner • Ann Murray - 676-9158 - P.O. Box 427, Heppner