

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
Published weekly and entered as periodical matter at the Post Office at Heppner, Oregon under the Act of March 3, 1879. Periodical postage paid at Heppner, Ore-gon. Office at 147 W. Willow Street. Telephone (541) 676-9228. Fax (541) 676-9211. E-mail: gt@heppner.net or gt@rapidsolve.net. Web site: www.heppner.net. Postmaster send address changes to the Heppner Gazette-Times, P.O. Box 337, Heppner, Oregon 97836. Subscriptions: \$24 in Morrow County; \$18 senior rate (in Morrow County only; 62 years or older); \$30 elsewhere.
David Sykes Publisher
Katie Wall Editor

News deadline is Monday at 5 p.m.
For Advertising: advertising deadline is Monday at 5 p.m. Cost for a display ad is \$4.75 per column inch. Cost for classified ad is 50¢ per word. Cost for Card of Thanks is \$7 up to 100 words. Cost for a classified display ad is \$5.35 per column inch.
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).

On the HEPNER WEBSITE: www.heppner.net

- Start or Change a Subscription
- Place a Classified Ad • Submit a News Story
- View Real Estate for Sale • City Council & Planning Minutes
- Local Businesses • County Park • Willow Creek Park Reservations
- Free Digital Postcards • Senior Housing • and more!

Diners gathered to meet the mural artist

Fine dining, art, and heritage brought together thirty-eight people at John's Place on Tuesday, April 22. The evening was an opportunity to "Meet the Artist" who is working on the second mural on the agricultural collection building and to hear more about the next stage of the project. Robert Walton, with the assistance of his wife, Robin, is now bringing to life on the building his interpretation of Main Street Heppner and has agreed to create the next mural, the one that will depict the sheep industry of Morrow County.

Complimentary hors d'oeuvres by Chef John Gochbauer included lamb kabobs watched over by a round and woolly centerpiece. The no-host dinner featured three main selections that would have delighted many shepherders who faced long, mostly isolated, summer months: salmon, beef, and chicken. The talk among the diners often focused on yesteryear and their families' experiences in the sheep industry.

Betty Mills welcomed the guests, introduced the Waltons, and drew everyone's attention to the pencil sketch of Mr. Walton's vision for the next mural. As planned, it will provide a continuation of the Main Street mural, into the interpretative countryside that will feature landmark buildings of some of the early sheep ranches in the area. With the addition of this next part of the mural, the completed project, comprising 60,000 square feet, will be the largest single-artist mural in the United States.

Order
Magnetic Door Signs
HERE
Heppner Gazette-Times



**VOTE
BARNEY LINDSAY
for
MORROW COUNTY
SCHOOL BOARD**

Graduate of Morrow County School District, BMCC, University of Idaho
Taught in Morrow and Umatilla County Schools
Previous Morrow County School Board Member
Currently serving on Board of Directors for MCGG and Morrow County Soil and Water Conservation District

**PARENT FARMER TAXPAYER
EXPERIENCED DEDICATED DEPENDABLE HONEST**

Paid for by Committee to Elect BARNEY LINDSAY - Ann Murray, Treas.

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.)

Yes, Crippen, you belong in the North... Alaska

To the Editor:
When the School District Office was first located in Lexington, it was done so each town in the county would have some sort of ties to the district. Now it seems as this is not necessary; anyhow this is what the school board seems to be thinking. When the district office first opened, the building was kept in good repair and was taken care of, now it seems to be a junkyard. When I last toured the building in February or March of 2003, the upstairs was filled with empty boxes and other stuff being stored there. Mr. Renfro was there giving some of the citizens of Lexington a tour of the building and was trying to impress them on how good the building was, but he also said it was not good enough for him and Dr. Crippen.

What will the cost be to move the district office to Irrigon? What will the cost be to remodel the school in Irrigon twice? Once when the

offices move in and then again when they move out; so that building can be used for what it was voted and bonded for. If that building is not needed, as the school that it was to be; did the School Board members commit fraud on the bond issues or what would it be called?

The School Board should publish a letter showing the savings that would take place if the District Office is moved. They should also inform the public on why we can afford what appear to be personal desires on their behalf, but we are short of funds when it comes to the benefit of our children.

Mr. Renfro what is your explanation for voting jobs out of the south end of Morrow County? We need more jobs, not less. Perhaps you would be interested in leading Dr. Crippen to the North.
(s) John Edwards
Lexington

Convince, don't kill

To the Editor:
Okay, I was mistaken; it's not my last comment on war.

Wars and killing are caused, in large part, by the total breakdown of reasonable communication skills.

Both Presidents Bush tried to promote the idea of legalized assassination. If we, as humans, really must be that "down and dirty", then there is truly very little hope for social progress. We haven't learned anything, except how to play more war games on computers, including those rascally aliens that nobody knows about. Or is that another diversion tactic to cover up manmade spacecraft research? But that's old hat; it's been said before, so why bother thinking about it? After all, it could be a lie, or maybe the truth that nobody knows.

I've mentioned "assassination" without too much mind-bending thought. That idea could be set aside and replaced with "legalized kidnapping". Under those circumstances, the Bin Ladens and Husseins of the world could be surrounded by 10,000 screaming American-Iraqis who could convince them, in their own language, that their attitude is doing nothing more than getting people dead.

"Kidnapping" was, at the very least, tolerated by the legal system back in the late

'70s and early '80s, back when parents had to literally kidnap their kids from those "severely" radical religious groups.

How many readers remember Jim Jones? A quick recap: Jonestown, Guyana, South America, Nov. 18, 1978. Jones, a cult leader who confiscated passports, along with millions of dollars from his followers under threats of blackmail, beatings and death, installed himself as "Ruler". The media, after being notified by defectors, went to Jonestown to investigate. By Jones' orders, U.S. Representative Leo Ryan and four others were killed when leaving to board a plane with 14 other defectors. Jones ordered a pre-rehearsed suicide plan of cyanide-laced punch. Total dead: 913, including 276 children.

Having been raised as a free-thinking American citizen, I have to ask myself, is there much of a difference between Bin Laden, Hussein, Bush and Blair, when the only alternative they can think of is killing? Killing, the ultimate in radical behavior.

Convince. Don't kill.
(s) Phillip L. Kight
Heppner

Justice Court report

Gary B. Rea, 33, Ione, VBR 76/55, fine \$77.

DA's report

Leobardo Rodriguez-Hernandez was convicted of Assault-4, a Class-A misdemeanor and Harassment, a Class-B misdemeanor. He was sentenced to 185 suspended days in jail, two years bench probation, 80 hours of community service and \$1124 in fines.

Rolland Pichall pled guilty to Harassment, a Class-B misdemeanor. Pichall was sentenced to 90 suspended days in jail, 40 hours of community service, 18 months bench probation, completion of a domestic violation package and battery impact panel to be administered by an approved provider in the Portland area and \$368 in fines.

secession fever *continued from page 1*

Morrow County, I propose that this Board allow the withdrawal of the area within the limits of the City of Boardman from the District on the following conditions:

1. All withdrawn property would continue to be taxed at the same rate as all other property in the District at a rate necessary to discharge present long term debt. Exact numbers are beyond this proposal but for example, it appears that long term debt payments require \$250,000 per year and total assessed value of the County is about \$1 billion. That means a tax rate of about \$.25 is required to retire the long term debt. While long-term debt is not by way of a general obligation bond levy, making the continued taxation of the withdrawn area as simple as in the case of the proposed withdrawal of the Ione area from Morrow County School District, the same effect could be achieved through an intergovernmental agreement.

2. At the same time as the area of Boardman withdraws from the District, a petition for formation of a Boardman Health Care District would be filed. Both the District's request to allow the withdrawal and the petition for formation of the new district would be addressed to the Morrow County Court. The two should be contingent upon the granting of the other.

3. The two requests might be acted upon effective July 1, 2003, to coincide with the beginning of usual fiscal years. That date would be too late to effect the District's tax levy for 2003-04 on the withdrawn area, so by intergovernmental agreement the District should agree to refund to the new district the balance of taxes collected from the area withdrawn. For example, the District's tax rate is about \$.60 per thousand, less the \$.25 for long term debt service, making the transfer to the new district about \$.35 per thousand times the estimated value of withdrawn area (estimated to be \$255,596,500 or a tax amount of \$89,458.77)

4. The new district could not be created by the County Court with a tax rate, so would have to ask its voters for a new tax rate, perhaps at

the earliest election in September, 2003, or at the Primary election in 2004. If the new district is unable to establish a permanent tax rate by the last date to do so, it would agree to reannex to the District and again be subject to the District full tax rate for 2004-05.

5. Upon establishment of the new district's tax rate, the District would transfer the Boardman Clinic building and land to the new district and the Boardman Ambulance service (land, building, ambulances and equipment) to the Boardman Rural Fire District.

6. The District would cancel its contract with the Boardman Health Care Center effective July 1, 2003, and the new district would be responsible for contracting with Dr. Boss or otherwise providing clinic services in the City of Boardman. The new district would also be responsible for operation of the Boardman Ambulance service during 2003-04.

7. The Boardman representative on the District's Board would resign effective July 1, 2003, and the District Board would appoint a new director from the remaining area of the District.

Using the approximate numbers mentioned herein, the District would benefit considerably by this proposal. All property in the County would continue to be taxed at the same rate to discharge present long term debt, including property within the City of Boardman. The District would no longer be responsible for maintaining clinic services in Boardman nor for providing ambulance services. The savings for those two services (estimated in excess of \$80,000) could help considerably in providing health care services elsewhere in the County.

As to the City of Boardman, obviously a higher tax rate will be required to provide the same services at the same cost as is now the case. In the worst case scenario, if the voters fail to approve a satisfactory tax rate, the withdrawn area would be reannexed to the District, but without a contract with Dr. Boss and without a Boardman representative on the District's Board.

Bank elects board chairman, vice chairman

The Bank of Eastern Oregon Board of Directors elected Gary Neal to serve as board chairman and Ned Clark to serve as vice chairman for the next year.

Neal is the General Manager of the Port of Morrow and has served on the bank board since 1999. Neal also serves on several state and national trade group panels.

Neal and his wife, Kathy, a realtor in Boardman, have two grown children.

Clark has been on board since 1992. He is both owner and manager of Horseshoe Hereford Ranch Inc., a century ranch in South

Morrow County. Clark also is a director on the United Heritage Insurance Board.

Clark and his wife, Kathy, an insurance agent, have four grown children.

The Bank of Eastern Oregon is a state chartered, community bank with assets of \$78,000,000. Branches are located in Gilliam and Morrow Counties in

Boardman, Irrigon, Ione, Heppner, Arlington and Condon.



Ned Clark



Gary Neal

We Print Business Cards
Heppner Gazette-Times

Garden Club to hold Plant Exchange

The annual Heppner Garden Club Plant Exchange will be held Saturday, May 3, from 8 a.m. until 1 p.m. The Exchange will be held at St. Patrick's Senior Center in Heppner.

Exchange plants are appreciated, but are not required. It is asked that you please put plants in plastic bags, boxes or containers. The Heppner Master Gardeners will also be available for a question and answer session.