

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

News and Advertising Deadline is Monday at 5 p.m.

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- Place a Classified Ad • Submit a News Story
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- Local Businesses • County Park • Willow Creek Park Reservations, • Free Digital Postcards • Senior Housing • and more!

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.)

Morter and Morrow County deserve apologies

To the Editor:
In regard to the letter written to the editor by Mr. Al Beck of Warrenton, Oregon. I would like to come to the defense of Anne Morter. I have known Anne for about 10 years. She is a dynamic individual that puts intellect and thought into the tasks she takes on. She is rock solid and can stand on her merit. I have known her to be a strong supporter of her community. Anne is a generous person. After our tragic house fire several years ago Anne was the first to arrive not only with sympathy but clothing and other essentials from her own family's closets.

I would be disappointed if those who don't know Anne personally to think of her in the terms that Mr. Beck described. Her comments to The Daily Astorian were clearly taken out of context. It is unfortunate that Mr. Beck feels he needs to stir up trouble in our community. Mr. Beck is trying to weaken what holds our small community together—the people. I take that personally. Shame on you Mr. Beck. Perhaps your apologies should go to Anne Morter and all of us in Morrow County.
(s) Mary West
Lone

Poor sportsmanship

To the Editor:
Last Thursday, June 12, I witnessed some of the worst sportsmanship I have ever seen. And incredibly, it happened at a summer league girls' basketball game. The young woman coach from Riverside acted like it was the NBA finals. There was only one referee, but she complained loudly about almost every call and soon had the girls on her team chipping in. It was truly a pathetic scene. I've been a big fan of high school sports for decades, but the behavior of this "coach" made me wonder

what the future holds. If that's the kind of example our young athletes are receiving, high school sports will soon have as many examples of poor sportsmanship and childish behavior as college and the pros. I have nothing against Riverside; I have friends there. But they should be seriously concerned about the message they are sending by allowing such a childish woman to coach a team, even if it's just a summer league game. It was embarrassing.
(s) Phil Jergins
Echo

Days of Sorrow book now for sale

For more than a thousand people living in the northeast Oregon town of Heppner in the year 1903, the end of the world began with a gathering of clouds in the southern sky. "Days of Sorrow in Heppner," proclaimed the headline of the Heppner Gazette, which carried the story of the flood that roared through town on a summer Sunday evening, "leaving only death and destruction in its

wake." Now, 100 years after the flood almost destroyed this community, the new book Days of Sorrow describes what has been called Oregon's most deadly natural disaster. "The place that best captures the devastation Heppner endured is the town's cemetery," says author Mark Highberger. "So many of the gravestones share the same date of death and hold the same dark message: lost in the flood, perished in the flood, drowned in the flood."

This century-old tragedy struck without warning on a hot Sunday evening in June, when a cloudburst in the hills above town sent a torrent of water roaring toward Heppner. As it cut a swath through the community, the flood swept away the lives of more than 200 people as well as 140 homes and 30 businesses.

Yet even though the story of the flood is a tale of death and loss and heartbreak, it's also one of courage, as two men raced their horses against the water, galloping downstream to warn other towns; of compassion, as people from around the Northwest donated food, medicine, and labor to the rescue; and of endurance, as the survivors buried their dead, restored their town, and rebuilt their lives.

"Perhaps the most dramatic elements of the disaster were the sacrifice and the resilience of the people who survived it," Highberger says. "In this way, the story of the Heppner flood, more than anything else, is a testament to the human spirit."

The first edition of Days of Sorrow is available for \$19.95 at local bookstores or from Bear Creek Press at 1-800-355-2554 or www.eoni.com/~highberg/bear_creek_press.html.

St. Pat's Senior Center news

Three apartments are being readied for new occupancy at St. Patrick's Senior Center. Two will have new carpet; all will be thoroughly cleaned and painted before the new residents move in. Other improvements are four new frost-free refrigerators for those apartments not yet equipped with the newer model.

While noting these changes, being reminded of some brief historical facts seems appropriate. The building was dedicated and first occupied in 1988 (date on the plaque). The building was originally the historic Heppner Hotel. To purchase and renovate the hotel was a million dollar project. Funds came from a block grant from the federal government (about half), a loan initiated by the City, a generous donation from the Odd Fellows Lodge, the senior citizen organization who had provided the weekly meal for a number of years, and the massive efforts of volunteers who helped with much of the interior work.

According to Bill Kuhn, who has been legal counsel from the beginning, as many as seventy people would spend time on the weekends tearing out what needed to be changed to ready the interior for creating the apartments. The first step, however, and most costly, was to re-roof the whole building.

The Heppner Housing Authority (HHA) owns and manages the building; the City of Heppner holds the mortgage for the loan necessary to finance its development. HHA is a duly formed government entity, appointed by the city council to provide housing rehabilitation—an inhabitable environment for the people it serves; in Heppner those are the seniors. It consists of seven members, appointed by the city council and who are representatives of the people whom it serves: The mayor, Bob Jepsen and one council member, Kay Robinson, additionally, an apartment residents, George Jeffries, two members of the Senior Center Board of Directors, Archie Padberg and Judy Buschke, and two citizens at large, Barbara Watkins and Karen Dubuque; these persons are the required number and makeup the HHA. Judy Buschke is a member of both the City Council and the Senior Center Board. More about the HHA will come in later articles. Any questions may be given to a member of the City Council, HHA, or Senior Center Board of Directors.

Cara Kennedy is the new maintenance person covering the dining room and kitchen on the first floor. The Heppner Christian Church will provide the volunteers for serving the noon meal at the Center on July 2. The menu has not been announced at this time.

MCHD to hold meeting
The Morrow County Health District will be holding its regular board meeting, Monday, June 30, at 7 p.m., at the Morrow County Annex in Irrigon.

On the agenda are the CEO's report, the 2003-04 budget amendments and adoption and the Boardman District, the May 20 election results, trauma designation/CAH, and the May financials.

WE MAKE POSTERS
Heppner Gazette-Time

Obituaries

LaVerne Manford "Pete" Peterson

LaVerne Manford "Pete" Peterson, 80, of Boardman, died Thursday, June 12, 2003, at Good Shepherd Medical Center in Hermiston.

A funeral was held June 19 at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Boardman with burial at Boardman's Riverview Cemetery.

Peterson was born April 30, 1923, at Choteau, MT, to Casper A. and Clara Anderson Peterson.

On July 21, 1946, he married Lois G. Gronberg at Choteau.

He was employed as a heavy equipment operator in construction for more than 50 years, working throughout the Northwest and Montana. After he retired from Rogers Construction he served as an EMT for a few years.

Peterson was a Mason, a member of the Lutheran Church and a life member of the National Rifle Association.

Survivors include his wife, Lois, at the home; daughter, Lorrie Phillips of Boardman; son, Larry Peterson of Gresham; grandsons, Dean Phillips and Terry Phillips; one great-grandson; brother, Rex Peterson of Choteau, MT; sister, Maxine Edwards of Sheridan, MT; and many nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Boardman Senior Center or Alzheimer's Association through Burns Mortuary of Hermiston, P.O. Box 289, Hermiston, OR 97838.

Burns Mortuary of Hermiston is in charge of arrangements.

SWCD reminds everyone to fight puncturevine

The Morrow Soil and Water Conservation District/Weed Control Advisory Board is reminding residents of Morrow County, "It's time again to check for and control puncturevine in the area."

It is up and flowering along roadsides and gravel areas. Spray it, pull it, bag it and burn it now before the seed ripens and falls off. Puncturevine or Goathead is very painful if stepped on by people or pets. It is easy to control, but it does take persistence. If you are unsure of the identity of a weed or need a chemical recommendation, call Morrow County Weed Supervisor, Dave Pranger at 989-9502.

City of Heppner mails water reports

The City of Heppner's 2002 water quality report has been mailed to residents.

The report describes the quality of the city's drinking water and explains health information, monitoring data and the sources of water.

The report also provides updates on the progress of the city's water supply development projects.

Anyone who did not receive a copy of the report in the mail can pick one up at City Hall or call 676-9618 to receive one.

Order Magnetic Door Signs HERE
Heppner Gazette-Times

HHS alumni golf tournament scheduled

The Heppner High School Alumni Committee will again sponsor a golf tournament on Saturday and Sunday, July 5-6, at Willow Creek Country Club in Heppner. The event is the committee's annual fundraiser and is open to everyone who is out of high school.

"Teams compete in a scramble format so even inexperienced golfers can take part and have fun," said Dave Allstott of the committee. Mulligans, or second chance

shots, can be purchased for those wanting to improve their score. "This tournament is a lot of fun and we've been able to raise funds for a lot of worthy youth activities," Allstott said.

A steak barbecue is held at the clubhouse following play on Saturday. Cost for the tournament is \$40 and includes dinner. Extra dinner tickets can be purchased for \$10 each.

The tournament winners will have a team photo and their names engraved on a plaque which is on display in the high school trophy case. Other prizes include Mustang golf balls, and a few lucky golfers will take home a club made by HHS golf coach, Greg Grant.

For more information or an entry form, contact Dave or Patti Allstott at 676-5216, or John and Sonja McCabe, 676-5231.

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676-9228

FIRE EXTINGUISHER SERVICE DAY at MCGG
Tuesday, July 1st from 9 a.m.-12 noon

A fire extinguisher technician will be on hand to service your fire extinguishers.

Morrow County Grain Growers
Lexington 989-8221 • 1-800-452-7396

For farm equipment, visit our web site at www.mcgg.net

ONE FOURTH OF JULY BLUES CELEBRATION
Friday, July 4th ~ Music starting at 3 p.m.

Featuring...

Michael Burks

and Eddie Kirkland

plus **The Joanna Connor Band** and **Jimmy Lloyd Rea with Doug Rowell**

FIREWORKS at DUSK

* Local Musical Talent Show Thursday, July 3
* FUN FOR THE KIDS
* Volleyball Tournament (Teams Welcome!)

Call **Ione City Hall** for more information at (541) 422-7414

HAVE A BLAST

Music sponsored by the Morrow County Unified Recreation District