

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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Morrow County receives monies for bridge repair

The Oregon Department of Transportation released the distribution of the \$2 billion package authorized by the Oregon Transportation Investment Act of 2003. This landmark transportation package is the largest road financing plan Oregon has seen in the past 20 years.

"The Oregon Transportation Investment Act of 2003 is going to help jump start our economy," said Rep. Smith. "The public projects that will be created as a result of this bonding will go a long way toward getting Oregonians back to work. I am proud to vote for this package."

Morrow County will receive \$4.204 million for bridge repairs as part of this project.

The Oregon Transportation Investment Act of 2003 is also designed to create approximately 4750 family-wage jobs in road construction and maintenance sustained annually for the next 10 years.

"This package isn't just about fixing Oregon's

broken transportation system," Rep. Smith stated. "It's about getting Oregonians back to work. Our state needs to fix our roads and bridges, and we need to get our citizens working again."

DA's Report

Roberta Lynnette Brown pled guilty to Selling Alcohol without a Service Permit-as a violation. Brown had to pay \$95 in fines.

Jennifer Rene Jimenez pled guilty to Harassment, a Class-B misdemeanor. Jimenez was sentenced to 180 suspended days in jail, 20 hours of community service, 12 months bench probation, completion of a domestic violence package with battery impact panel and payment of \$374 in fines and fees.

Luanne Flanagan was convicted of Theft-I, a Class-C felony. Flanagan was sentenced to two years supervised probation, 60 days in jail, 80 hours of community service and payment of \$6521 in fees and restitution.

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.)

A-76/Competitive Sourcing bad for community

To the Editor:
A very serious situation is taking place in this country and it will have a detrimental impact to communities like yours and mine and its residents as well as to the State of Oregon. What I am talking about is the current Administration in Washington DC's mandate of implementing A-76/Competitive Sourcing on the Forest Service. If you are not familiar with A-76/Competitive Sourcing, it involves the elimination of Forest Service jobs in Oregon and turning over that work to private contractors.

If you are wondering how is this going to cause detrimental impacts to the community and its residents, think about these key points. If the Forest Service employees (both permanent and seasonal) that live and work in your community or neighboring communities lose their jobs to contractors, you and your neighbors could lose the following items:

Seasonal employment opportunities for your residents at their current wage will no longer exist.

You will no longer have the revenue coming in from the billing of Forest Service employees for utilities such as water and sewer that they use in their homes in your community.

The small businesses in your community will no longer have the revenue coming in from the purchases of goods and services by Forest Service employees. Contractors are not going to provide long-term revenue for your community's small businesses.

The school and churches in your community will suffer due to reduced numbers of students enrolled and church attendance. Contractors are not going to provide revenue and support

We need to support growth

To the Editor:
Heppner currently has a reasonably viable downtown business district which contributes greatly to the livability of South Morrow. It is unique among small rural towns, many of which have rundown building standing vacant.

Heppner's fortunate state is due to the volunteer efforts of community members, coupled with small businesses that have consistently upgraded their stores. However, many citizens do not realize the necessity for growth to merely maintain what we now enjoy.

Costs for all business constantly escalate; utilities, personnel, taxes, merchandise, remodeling, government mandates, etc., etc. To meet the constant need for more capital your small businesses must have growth from somewhere.

If we wait for manufacturing jobs to come here we have much to lose. We need to continue encouraging tourism as we are currently doing and to actively encourage more retirees. The ones that are already here have contributed vastly to the community.

However, continued growth depends on infrastructure and no infrastructure is more

important than an adequate water system for years to come. Towns that do not adequately address this type of problem practice deliberate downsizing of their communities. And with any further downsizing the business district could vanish.

The cost of fixing the water system for growth will not get any better in the future. I cannot envision anyone leaving the area due to a slight rise in water prices. I can, however, envision them leaving if we have no health care system or any business district. Currently, people have been moving here, purchasing one of our own homes, but working elsewhere. A really good community attracts people.

People from Ione as well as Heppner work in the banks, stores, offices, etc., in Heppner. Please support growth for Heppner to continue to make this a reality. (s) Meg Murray Ione

There is a chance that the Forest Service office located in your community or neighboring community could be closed, if enough Forest Service employee jobs are eliminated that work at that office.

If Forest Service employees lose their jobs to contractors, contractors are not going to provide long-term revenue and support that Forest Service employees provide for your community.

Contractors are not going to buy homes and property and probably very limited amounts of goods and services in your community, so you have a lost of revenue for your community supported/provided utilities.

As you can see A-76/Competitive Sourcing is wrong and bad for the communities like yours, bad for the Forest Service, and bad for the country. I hope you will join with me in the fight to eliminate A-76/Competitive Sourcing by contacting your Senators and Representatives and tell them this mandate by the Administration is wrong.

(s) Theresa H. Weaver National Federation of Federal Employees President, Local 271 Umatilla National Forest

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MCHD to meet

A regular board meeting of the Morrow County Health District will be held Monday, July 28, at 7 p.m., at the Ione City Hall.

On the agenda is election of officers, the CEO report (trauma designation/CAH), and the June financials.

Covering ER with Mid-levels

By Molly Rhea

Open up any newspaper, turn on any news report, health care dollars are becoming scarcer and scarcer. The federal government is cutting back wherever they can and the state of Oregon's budget is in shambles. The \$64,000 question - will the Morrow County Health District (MCHD) be able to hold on through these uncertain financial times? According to CEO, Victor Vander Does, and the Board of Directors, the answer is a cautious "Yes", but this survival will only be accomplished by modifying specific services and revenue or tax support.

Which brings me to the subject assigned. At the June 30 Board of Directors meeting, it was decided to drop Pioneer Memorial Hospital's (PMH) Trauma IV certification. Why would we want to drop our Trauma designation? Because, according to Vander Does, this will save the district as much as \$150,000 a year.

How could we save that much money by just by dropping our Trauma designation? First, a few explanations of terms. In 1985, the Oregon Trauma System (OTS) was developed to enhance the training of emergency room personnel and facilitate transfers for victims of trauma. PMH has been a Level IV provider within the OTS since the late 1980s. To be considered as a member of the OTS, the hospital must pass a certification survey, one of the regulations for certification is that a physician is immediately available to the emergency room (ER) at all times. The designation "Physician" does not include Mid-Level Providers, meaning Physician Assistants, such as Sheridan Tarnasky, P.A., or Nurse Practitioners, which was former Heppner clinician, Wendy Haack's, title, are not able to provide emergency room coverage without a physician being immediately available.

To comply with the OTS regulations, when one of our PAs or NPs are "on-call" for the emergency room, PMH has had to have a physician in town and available. And if you require a physician to be in town, then you must pay them for complying with this requirement.

So, how will the discontinuation of this designation affect the quality of the emergency health care available to the citizens of southern Morrow County? "We will continue to care for victims of trauma the same way we are now," states Tammy Henderson, PMH director of nursing. "When a trauma victim is brought to our ER, we stabilize and transport."

Now let's try to wade through some of the more recent uncertainty and misconceptions. The emergency room at PMH will continue to be staffed by highly qualified providers. Dr.'s Datta and (Ed) Berretta will continue to cover the ER most weekdays, with the on-call duties being shared by the physicians and the mid-level providers, the PAs and NPs, on the weekends.

Additionally, the RNs that work at PMH are required to maintain their certification in Trauma Nursing, as well as being certified in Advanced Cardiac Life Support, which is advanced training in caring for victims of heart attack or stroke. This involved training mirrors that of nurses working in urban emergency rooms.

"When someone presents at our backdoor with an emergency, not only are they quickly assessed by a RN," Henderson assures. "They can start receiving appropriate treatment almost immediately."

CHAMBER CHATTER

By Claudia Hughes, Exec. Dir

Have you noticed the whiff of baking pies drifting through Willow Creek Valley windows of late? These delicious pies will again be up for auction at the second annual Chamber Pie Auction during "Celebrate Historic Heppner" this Friday, July 25. The pie auction was the brainchild of Chamber Board member Brenda Sherrell. Sherrell Insurance Agency is the event sponsor with assistance from John Gochbauer of John's Other Place. Proceeds go toward Chamber projects, such as Christmas Lighting, Town and Country, marketing, etc.

Chamber member Artisan Village is preparing for the Quilt Show on Sunday, July 27, at the City Park from 8 a.m. until 8 p.m. Check with Bonnie Wenberg for more information.

The weatherman is predicting cooler weather Friday. When you've dunked someone in the dunk tank, shopped the sidewalk sales and enjoyed the "Go Music Group" on Main Street, head for the City Park at 5 p.m. with family, friends and lawn chairs to enjoy the barbecue served by Chamber members and sponsored by the Bank of Eastern Oregon. Entertainment will follow with the Pie auction and Music In The Park. It's another Heppner Happening, one that enables most locals to sit and enjoy instead of volunteering until they're exhausted. Now in this terrific community of volunteers, that is rare.

In another month, school will be back in session. If you're looking for a way to spend quality time, consider the SMART program. SMART stands for "Start Making A Reader Today". Chamber members were introduced to the program during a recent luncheon. This is an opportunity to spend one hour per week reading to or listening to a student read. Businesses and individuals are encouraged to participate. The rewards and results are life lasting. Interested persons may contact Tracy Bunch. Good readers have no limits. A trip to the library and the world is at one's fingertips.

Fair and Rodeo is just around the corner. Stop by the Chamber or call for a parade application. The theme this year is "Morrow County, True to the Red, White and Blue."

Thought for the week: "A community is like the pieces of a quilt, a unique collage coming together to make a masterpiece."

Births

Cynthia Elizabeth Diaz- a daughter, Cynthia Elizabeth, was born July 4, 2003, at Good Shepherd Medical Center in Hermiston, to Ofelia Zavalza and Armando Diaz Perez, of Boardman.
Clayton James Stewart- a son, Clayton James, was born July 7, 2003,

at Good Shepherd Medical Center in Hermiston, to Jamie Raelynn and Troy Michael Stewart, of Irrigon.

Christopher James Tiboni, Jr.- a son, Christopher James, Jr., was born July 10, 2003, at Good Shepherd Medical Center in Hermiston, to Marilyn Ann and Christopher James Tiboni, of Heppner.

Does your partner treat you roughly (grab, push, pinch, hit, call you names)?

Does your partner blame you for how they feel or act?

If so, you may want to attend Domestic Violence Services' Women's Support Group, Morrow County.

FREE! English and Spanish
Tuesdays, from 6-8 p.m.
at the Dept. of Human Services
103 S.W. Kinkade Rd. Room #4, Boardman

*Confidentiality.
Open to victims needing support.
Learn more about domestic violence.*

Wedding Tables

Sara Greenup & Tygh Campbell
Wedding - Saturday, August 2

Jessica Van Winkle & Joseph McHaney
Wedding - Saturday, August 9

Kimberly Becker & Brent Gunderson
Wedding - Saturday, August 23

Stephanie Haquewood & Shaun Hisler
Shower - Sunday, August 24
Wedding - Saturday, September 20

Murray's Drug The Country Store
217 North Main • Heppner 676-9158
Serving Heppner, Lexington & Ione
233 N. Main • Heppner 676-9426