

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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High school student joins Army by delayed entry program

James H. Grieve has joined the United States Army under the Delayed Entry Program. The program gives young men and women the opportunity to delay entering active duty for up to one year.

The enlistment gives the new soldier the option to learn a new skill, travel and become eligible to receive as much as \$50,000 toward a college education. After completion of basic military

training, soldiers receive advanced individual training in their career job specialty prior to being assigned to their first permanent duty station.

Grieve, currently attending Butte Falls High School in Oregon, will report to Fort Jackson, Columbia, S.C., for active duty on June 24, 2004.

He is the son of James W. Grieve of Butte Fall and Laurie L. Ellis of Irrigon.

Health District to hold special meeting

The Morrow County Health District Board of Directors will hold a special

Board meeting, 7 p.m., Monday, Oct. 20, at the Home Health and Hospice Office in Heppner. This meeting is open to the public for anyone who wishes to participate.

The agenda for the meeting is as follows: Call to Order, Audit/Cost Report 2002-03, Levy Scenarios, Other and Adjournment.

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~ In Memory ~

"The Missing Rose"

By Anna Mae Steagall

One beautiful day in June, God sent down to me a rose in bloom. I never knew why God chose me, cause I'm not anyone special you see.

But oh! How sweet and soft was that special rose that I took home to love, not knowing that God had sent it down from Heaven above.

How did I know this rose was special? By its stem that could not stand straight, its leaves that were faltering slightly and its petals that could not hold their weight.

It was easy to see this special rose needed more than just plain love, but a special type of love to survive in the garden on Earth, that is so unlike the garden above.

Then one day I had a vision! The heavens opened up so wide I could see a rose was missing from God's bouquet in the sky!

That special rose is my dear son whom God sent to me when I was young, to love and protect 'til day is done. Then God will come and take him home, to complete that beautiful bouquet on God's throne.

Love you Tommy,
Mom



IN LOVING MEMORY OF
TOMMY STEAGALL

June 5, 1947 October 17, 2002

Tommy would be thrilled to dedicate this poem to the loving and compassionate community of Morrow County, which he loved dearly, and particularly to families everywhere blessed with a special "Rose".

It would be an honor for him to share with his precious community the Truth that he knew and understood...

Jesus declares, "Believe in God; believe also in me. In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also."

John 14:1-3 (ESV)

From Tommy's Dad, George; his Mom, Anna Mae; and his Brother and Sisters, George, Brenda and Vicki

If you would like a gift copy of this poem, or gentle words of support, please write:

"Tommy's Mom and Dad"
74638 Hwy 74 - Lena
Heppner, OR 97836

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.)

MCHD Administrator announces closure of nursing home

To the Editor:

To the residents of Morrow County,

Pioneer Memorial Nursing Home has proudly served our communities as an intermediate nursing facility for nearly 50 years. However, after careful consideration and evaluation of the changing long term care environment and economic forces, we regretfully announce the closing of the nursing home effective Nov. 10, 2003.

Pioneer Memorial Nursing Home was the sole long-term care provider of our elderly in Morrow County for many years. In the early 1980's the facility was full. There were 32 residents with both floors utilized and a waiting list. During that decade, the State of Oregon encouraged the development of Adult Foster Homes as an option to care for the elderly. In the 1990's, the State encouraged the building of Assisted Living Facilities as another level of care. Also, the

expanded Home Health programs were greatly promoted as another option. In 1998, residents were moved to a single floor with a maximum capacity of 20 beds. Current census is 12 and falling. The loss of \$200,000+ in State pro-share money and the significantly below cost reimbursement from the State combined with the continuing low census have made closure inevitable.

The decision to close Pioneer Memorial Nursing Home has been a very difficult one. Some of our residents have called the facility their "home" for many years. Our employees have been the most important facility asset. Several of them have served our residents for over 20 years. We will continue to work diligently to reduce the impact on our residents and employees as our facility closes.

(s) Victor Vander Does,
Administrator
Board of Directors Morrow County Health District

Chamber Chatter

By Claudia Hughes, Exec. Dir.

The Heppner Chamber of Commerce welcomes new members Kathy Clark of Simmons Insurance and Randal Wee Way of Northwestern Mutual Financial Network. We wish these members continued success in their businesses. Chamber members for 2003 number 87 strong.

Seventeen scarecrow entries have been registered with the Heppner Chamber. Take an autumn stroll to view these creations, then vote for People's Choice in one of the scarecrow boxes around town. Winners in the six categories will be announced in the Heppner Gazette and on Channel 3 at the end of October.

As a result of the recent ad in the Portland Oregonian, the Chamber has so far received three hundred plus inquiries for information about Heppner. Pitching in with the Chamber to make the Oregonian marketing ad possible were: Central Red Apple Market, Heppner Hardware, Osmin Century Welding, Morrow County Grain Growers, Morrow County Parks, Jay Wheelhouse, Murrays, Columbia Basin Electric, Peterson's, Les Schwab, Bucknum's, John's Place, the Bank of Eastern Oregon, and WCVED. Copies of the Travel NW Escapes are available at the Chamber office.

The request responses will be out in the mail this week, thanks to the great volunteer help of Gail Burkenbine, who will soon be heading south for the winter. Needed: volunteers who would like to help a few hours a day at the Chamber office. Please call 676-5536 if interested. It might become a paying job.

The Chamber Christmas Auction Committee has been meeting in preparation for the second annual tree auction. This is one of the Chamber non-dues projects. Chambers across Oregon depend on non-dues income to enable them to fulfill goals for their communities, marketing, Christmas lights, annual awards banquets, staffing, brochures, websites, etc. Your Chamber tries to make these non-dues projects fun for the community and a way to bring people together. Start thinking now about donating a tree for the tree auction. The trees will be viewed during the Dec. 4 "Stroll Heppner and Light Parade," with the auction scheduled for Dec. 5. There were some unique and beautiful trees for auction last year and rumor has it the 2003 trees will be even more spectacular and creative. Who will receive the Best of Show plaque this year?

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK: "Today is the tomorrow you worried about yesterday. Was it worth using up time to worry?"

Ione balloon makes it way to New Zealand

Last year at Ione's Fourth of July celebration a balloon race was held with numerous balloons being released from Ione. Attached to the balloons were bags that included a postcard with a return address and beads.

One of those balloons, released by 2-1/2-year-old Carter Atkins, of Portland, was found in New Zealand.

Suspicion has been raised on how the balloon reached New Zealand. According to the Weather Bureau in Pendleton, balloons from the Northern Hemisphere cannot possibly travel to the Southern Hemisphere by air. However, the woman who

found the balloons in her yard, actually sent the card, balloon and beads back from New Zealand. So, one way or another, the balloons made it from Ione to New Zealand and back.

Balloon race organizers are considering giving Carter and his family some sort of prize. The mystery of the balloons is still under investigation.

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School Board

himself and MCSD Superintendent Dr. Jack Crippen did not have any effect on his decision and added that he would not hesitate to work with Dr. Crippen again.

-heard concerns about swales at the newly constructed Windy River Elementary in Boardman, designed to prevent run-off from entering the street as per Boardman City regulations. The swales had retained so much water that they had turned into ponds. Eric Manus, project manager for Heery International, replacing Nan Hall, told the board that the contractors said that the problem would be resolved when excessive watering to establish a new playing field was discontinued. However, Dr. Crippen and the board told Manus that the problem must be resolved prior to MCSD signing off on the construction project.

-approved a request for an exchange student to be released from MCSD to attend Umatilla High School.

-denied a request for a waiver for the children of a family residing in Lexington to attend school in Ione.

-approved funding to add playground fencing at Windy River and Sam Boardman Elementary.

-approved funding to fix a flagpole at the district office in Lexington.

-approved the 2004-05 budget calendar, with the first budget committee work session set for Dec. 10, the first budget meeting and budget message on April 19 and the deadline for budget approval on May 10.

-approved a resolution authorizing the establishment of a medical savings account, the Voluntary Employees' Beneficiary Association. The plan provides a tax-free account for employees to pay for medical, dental, vision and tax qualified long term care expenses that are not paid by any other insurance plans. The plan will be funded by employer contributions.

-reviewed a list of classes now attended by students at Riverside High School and Columbia Middle School. The list was separated into numbers attended by Boardman and Irrigon students, resulting in the number of Boardman and Irrigon class sections that may be possible at Riverside and the Irrigon Junior/Senior High School after the new school is opened.

-learned that plans to move into Irrigon Elementary School may have to be postponed. The school was scheduled to open Thursday, Oct. 16.

Deer hunter injured in ATV accident in the Umatilla National Forest

An Eagle Creek, OR man was injured Thursday morning when his ATV traveled off a small rock cliff and rolled down a steep, rocky hillside. The accident took place off of Forest Road 1003-130, northeast of Dale in the Desolation Hunting Unit.

Raymond Linkous, 53, was airlifted from Long Creek to St. Charles Medical Center in Bend. His condition is unknown at this time.

"Apparently Mr. Linkous traveled into an area closed to motorized vehicles and accidentally drove his ATV off of a small outcropping of rocks," said Mark Ditzel, Investigating Officer with the U.S. Forest Service. "He fell

continued from page one

- accepted resignations/retirements from: Bobbi Angell, Heppner Elementary School head cook; Jennifer Stafford, Windy River Elementary Title I educational assistant; Katie Dawson, Sam Boardman Elementary teacher to retire Dec. 1, requesting an interim contract for the remainder of the 2003-04 school year; Chris Coon, Columbia Middle School teacher to retire Dec. 31, requesting an interim contract for the remainder of the 2003-04 school year.

- approved employment for: Chuck Matteson, Heppner Elementary School half-time temporary teacher for the third/fourth grade; Rick Drake, Riverside High School/Windy River Elementary music teacher, replacing Nic Budge; increasing Sharon Morris' contract from three-fourths time to full time at Heppner Elementary School kindergarten teacher; increasing Wendy Appleton's contract from .67 time to full-time at Heppner High School and Heppner Elementary School.

-approved transfers/promotions for: Patti Rill, from Sam Boardman Elementary English as a second language assistant to Heppner Elementary head cook.

-approved extra duty contracts for: Rick Drake, RHS band and chorus; Greg Lyons, Columbia Middle School assistant football coach and assistant boys' basketball coach; Brooke Spencer, CMS assistant volleyball coach; Angela Dixon, CMS assistant girls' basketball coach; Shane Matheny, HHS assistant football coach; Marilyn Post-Ornelas, A.C. Houghton Elementary Talented and Gifted program coordinator; Tana Jons, ACH DART coordinator; Benn Houk, CMS athletic director; Lori Monaco, CMS assistant volleyball coach, assistant girls' basketball coach and assistant track coach; Rick Paullus, Heppner Junior High head football coach; Chris Rauch, HJH assistant football coach; Molly Rhea, HJH head girls' basketball coach; John Flaherty, HHS DART coordinator; Dieter Waite, HHS assistant boys' basketball coach; Donna Barton, RHS DART coordinator; Anne Orcutt, SBE computer trainer; Betsy Shane, SBE half time DART coordinator.

-heard the following announcements: Oregon School Boards Association regional meeting, Oct. 21, Pendleton; next board meeting, Heppner Elementary School, Nov. 10, 7:30 p.m.; OSBA convention, Nov. 14-16, Portland.

vertically 10 feet and then rolled down the steep hillside another 50 yards," said Ditzel. The ATV was located an additional 50 yards farther down the hill.

Mr. Linkous was found later that afternoon by another hunter who happened upon the accident and heard him yelling. The hunter then went for help. Emergency services from Long Creek and John Day responded, along with U.S. Forest Service Law Enforcement Officers. Mr. Linkous was transported by ambulance to Long Creek and then flown to Bend.

The accident is still under investigation.