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U of O Newspaper Library  
Eugene, OR 97403

# MERRY CHRISTMAS



## Intruder escapes from Gazette-Times offices

Heppner Gazette-Times publisher David Sykes had an unexpected visitor Monday morning when he opened the newspaper office for business. An intruder had broken in the night before, and was hiding under his desk when he arrived at 8:30 a.m.

Sykes said he noticed something was wrong when he saw office desk drawers had been rifled and other items were scattered around the floor. When he went to check his computer he noticed a foot sticking out from under the desk. Sykes said the suspect was curled up under his desk hiding. He spoke to the intruder for a while and at one point asked her name (which she refused to give), before calling police.

The person escaped by taking out a window in a back room when Sykes went to get the police. Nothing so far has been found to be missing, however, quite a few boxes loaded with office supplies were found around the building, apparently waiting to be removed from the premises. The suspect apparently gained entry through a broken window at the back of the building.

The suspect was last seen heading north on Gale Street at about 8:55 a.m. She was described as white, 5 foot 4 inches tall, slight of build, with long brown hair and in her early twenties. Police are continuing their investigation.

## Heppner girl avoids possible abduction

On Sunday, Dec. 21, around 2:48 p.m., a call came in to the Morrow County Sheriff's Office that a man was harassing a 13-year-old female juvenile in Heppner.

The man, Eddie Meek, 21, of Lyons, was arrested for Menacing. He was lodged at Umatilla County Jail. He was released on his own recognizance on Monday, Dec. 22 per the Morrow County District Attorney.

## Elks announce hoop shoot dates

The Heppner Elks Lodge has scheduled this year's local Hoop Shoot competition for Sunday, Jan. 4 at the Ione School gymnasiums. All area youth who are at least eight years of age, but not more than 13 years of age, as of April 1, 2004, are encouraged to attend and compete. Sign-up for both girls and boys will be at 1:30 p.m. Boys competition will be held in one gym, girls in the other.

Local co-chairs of the event are Marc Orem and Dean Robinson. The Elks have sponsored the annual Hoop Shoot affair for many years. All participants will receive a certificate of accomplishment. Local winners in each age group will go on to compete in the District competition in Hermiston later in January. There are no fees to participate.

## Santa comes to town



Marlee Mitchell sits on Santa's lap during Stroll Heppner, on Dec. 4, with mom, Darcee and brother, Cason close by.



Kael Osmin sits on Santa's lap during Stroll Heppner, on Dec. 4, while mom, Staci and sister, Shayna watch.

*editor's note: last week's picture had incorrect picture caption*

## Devin's announces Christmas stocking winner



Annabelle McDaniel, 1-1/2, with mom, Lela, won the big Christmas stocking at Devin's in Heppner. Presenting the stocking is Daniel DeClue of Devin's. Not pictured is Annabelle's dad, Caleb McDaniel.

## Lexington Airport completes new automation

Morrow County recently completed installation of an Automated Weather Observation System (AWOS) at Lexington Airport. This system will allow pilots to call the airport and receive current weather conditions. The weather information is updated every 20 minutes and is available 24 hours a day. Currently, the information is only available by telephone, but will broadcast on a VHF frequency in the near future. The system provides information on the current temperature, dewpoint, barometric pressure, visibility,

cloud ceiling and lightning. The temperatures are all in Celsius and the time is Zulu Time. To convert the time to local time, simply add 8 hours. One of the greatest benefits to Morrow County will be providing pilot information for our medical flights. The pilots may be able to fly in to Lexington rather than divert to Hermiston or Pendleton. This AWOS system is also necessary for approval of a GPS approach into Lexington Airport. This approach is in the final stages

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## Neighborhood Center prepares Christmas baskets



Janice Skaggs, Ginger Keithley and Jamie McCormack work on preparing Christmas food and gift baskets.

The Neighborhood Center of South Morrow County put together 68 food boxes, 10 more than last year, and 37 gift boxes for low-income families in South Morrow County.

Presents for the Christmas boxes were donated by the Cowboy

Christmas, who adopted 18 wish lists and made sure they were filled. The Ione United Church of Christ, the United Methodist Church, All Saints/Hope/Valby Shared Ministries and the Elks Club also donated new toys. The Heppner High School shop class donated wooden toys.

"I think giving is up this year," said Janice Skaggs, Neighborhood Center coordinator. "Everyone has seemed very good about it. It's quite a job, but it's worth it."

Kids and seniors were included as recipients of the gift boxes.

## Heppner Chamber lighting contest winners announced



Columbia Basin Electric Co-op has awarded utility gift certificates to the following Business and Residential Lighting winners in the annual Heppner Chamber Lighting contest: Reason for the Season: Mike Armato family for displaying the Winchester nativity scene;

Most Spectacular: home of Louis and Betty Carlson;  
Kid's Favorite: Santa's Workshop- Glen and Joyce Ward;  
Business: Northwestern Motel and RV Park;  
Honorable mention goes to Al Riney, Jean Strange, Gary Wight and Larry Mills. Quaid Street was named "Christmas Lane" 2003.

ALL NEWS AND ADVERTISEMENT DEADLINE:  
MONDAYS AT 5:00 P.M.



Merry Christmas from MCGG!

We will close at noon on Wednesday, Dec. 24th

CLOSED CHRISTMAS DAY

Open on Friday and Saturday (regular hours)

Morrow County Grain Growers

Lexington 989-8221 • 1-800-452-7396 For farm equipment, visit our web site at www.mcgg.net