

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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Chamber Chatter

By Claudia Hughes, Executive Director

"Heppner For All Seasons" is the theme for the January 15 Town and Country Annual Chamber Banquet this year. And yes, believe it or not, that's next week! Tickets will be available at Murray's, Bank of Eastern Oregon, in both Heppner and Ione, and at Morrow County Grain Growers.

Heppner is truly experiencing all seasons as 2004 kicks off. . . seasons of the year. . . seasons of change. . . seasons of our lives. Winter is everywhere. One of the good things about weather like this, in addition to much needed moisture, is that we're forced to take things slower. It's an introspective time, and it comes with the realization of how very fortunate we are to be able to meet our needs without leaving Main Street, Heppner, or endangering our lives.

If you have any reading time, you might try "Dakota, A Spiritual Geography" by Kathleen Norris. Among other things, it looks at a shrinking community with a history much like ours where some encourage change, some reject change, and some like their small town just as it is/was. Trouble is, as we well know, if jobs aren't being created to encourage young people to return and grow families, and if changes don't happen, we don't grow, we shrink losing amenities. I encourage you to read part or all of this book in which we find ourselves, Heppner for all seasons. The Chamber and Willow Creek Valley Economic Development are working to grow Heppner. It's a community project for all of us.

Chamber Members, the annual luncheon is Tuesday, January 13, at 11:30 a.m. at All Saints Episcopal Parish. Join us as new board of directors are installed and Victor Vander Does takes the helm as Chamber President 2004. Please RSVP to 676-5536 by Friday, January 9. Let's kick off 2004 together.

Thought for the week: "Disconnecting from change does not recapture the past, it loses the future."

Referral agency recruiting child care providers

Child Care Resource and Referral (CCR&R) is recruiting child care providers for Morrow County. CCR&R is an agency that assists families in finding child care, as well as supporting child care professionals in providing quality care.

CCR&R was awarded a grant from the Morrow County Commission on Children and Families to provide individualized training, assist providers in becoming registered with the Child Care Division, and providing health and safety items for child care homes. This grant is available to any child care provider in Morrow County.


Anyone currently doing child care in Morrow County or interested in becoming a child care provider

and who would like more information on how to benefit from this grant, contact Candy Green in Heppner at (541) 676-9150 or Joan Gray in Hermiston at (541) 564-6878 or 1-800-559-5878.

Class of 2004 service auction set


A Heppner High School Class of 2004 service auction has been planned for this Saturday, January 10, during halftime of the girls' and boys' basketball games.

The boys will be sold during halftime of the girls' game, approximately 4:30 p.m. The girls will be sold during halftime of the boys' game, approximately 6 p.m.



**Not Too Bad For
An Old Man!
HAPPY
BIRTHDAY
From Your
Family & Friends**

Another Heppner Elks Lodge Hoop Shoot has been scheduled for Sunday, Jan. 11th at the Ione gymnasiums, WEATHER PERMITTING! Sign-ups will be at 1:30 p.m.



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.)

Appreciates county road crew

To the Editor:
On Friday, our road out to the highway was drifted in due to the high winds and snow we had last week. I called the Morrow County Road Department to see what help they could offer. By that afternoon they had cleared Stock Drive Road to the highway. We truly appreciate the quick response of the

Morrow County Road Department. They make living in the country possible. Many people in Morrow County depend on the road crews to keep the roads open in all kinds of weather. Much appreciation to all of you!

(s) Sue Jones
Heppner

Medicare plan a good bill

To the Editor:
Have you wondered why, in these days of intense partisan politics, so many members of Congress crossed party lines to join together and vote for the Medicare Bill?

Perhaps it was because senior citizens will now enjoy relief from the outrageous costs of prescription medications, with many low-income seniors qualifying for no monthly premiums for their prescription drug coverage.

Or because Medicare will now recognize the importance of preventive medicine by waiving the deductible for colon cancer screening, authorizing coverage of cholesterol screening and an initial preventative physical exam for all beneficiaries, along with diabetes and cardiovascular disease screening.

Or because the bill enjoyed broad-based constituent support, including that of the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP), the American Medical Association (AMA), and the American Hospital Association (AHA).

This bill is a good bill. Thanks to the efforts of Senators Wyden and Smith, along with Representatives Walden and Wu, senior citizens across Oregon will have better access to doctors, hospitals, and affordable medications. These leaders should be commended for their efforts, not criticized.

(s) Charles E. Hofmann,
MD, FACP
Councilor, Baker City
Past-President, Oregon
Medical Association

DA's report

Morrow County District Attorney David C. Allen has released the following report:

-Jose Joaquin Estrada Arango (AKA Jose Joaquin Arango Estrada), 38, was convicted of Attempted B/Felony Sexual Abuse 1, a Class C felony, and was sentenced to 24 months probation. He was also ordered to pay fees, fines and restitution, not use or possess controlled substances, submit to breath and urine tests, participate in substance abuse evaluation, remain in the state until written permission from the Department of Corrections, find and maintain employment, not change employment or residence without prior permission and numerous other conditions. He was also, as special conditions of probation, ordered to submit a written apology to the victim, register as a sex offender, agree to immediate deportation and not return and if he does return will be arrested immediately.

-Jose Joel Ramirez, 27, was convicted of Attempting to Elude Police, a Class A misdemeanor, and was sentenced to 180 days in jail, suspended, and 24 months probation, with 80 hours of community service and \$1,124 in fines, fees and assessments. His driver's license was also suspended for 90 days. Ramirez was also convicted of Resisting Arrest, a Class A misdemeanor, with 24 months probation.

-Robert Martin Leinweber, 37, was convicted of Assault 4, a Class A misdemeanor, and was sentenced to 180 days in jail, suspended, and 24 months probation. He was ordered to enroll and complete the Northwest Batterer's Intervention program in Hermiston, pay \$126 in assessments, write a letter of apology to the victim and have no further contact with her. Lienweber was also convicted of: Theft 1, a Class C felony, and was sentenced to three years probation, ordered not to use or possess controlled substances, submit to breath or urine tests, remain in the state of Oregon, find full-time employment, not change employment or residence without prior permission and numerous other conditions; Possession of a Controlled Substance 2, and sentenced to three years probation with numerous other conditions; Felon in Possession of a Firearm, a Class C felony, 36 months probation and 20 days in jail, with numerous other conditions and \$164 in assessments. In another charge, Leinweber was convicted of Criminal Mischief 2, a Class A misdemeanor, and was sentenced to 24 months probation and ordered to make \$265.45 in restitution to the victim, with numerous other conditions.

-Joaquin Ledesma Fernandez, 21, was convicted of Giving False Information to Police, a Class A misdemeanor, and was sentenced to 180 days in jail, suspended, with 24 months probation, 40 hours of community service and \$624 in fines and assessments.

-Lyle Kim Taylor, 42, was convicted of: Rape 1, a Class A felony, and was sentenced to 100 months in the Oregon Department of Corrections and post-prison supervision; Sodomy 1, a Class A felony, and was sentenced to 100 months in prison and post prison supervision; and Sexual Abuse 3, a Class A misdemeanor, and was sentenced to 12 months in jail to run concurrently. He was also ordered to register as a sex offender.

-Daniel Joe Hurn, 27, was convicted of Attempting to Elude Police/Vehicle, a Class C felony, was sentenced to 18 months probation, had his driver's license suspended for 90 days, was ordered to pay \$914 in fines and assessments, complete 80 hours of community service and write a letter of apology to the victim, with numerous other conditions.

Sheriff Denton to seek second term

Morrow County Sheriff Verlin Denton has announced that he would seek a second term.

Denton was appointed sheriff in October of 1998 to finish the term of retiring Sheriff Roy Drago. He was elected to the position in 2000.

Denton was born and raised in Eastern Oregon and grew up in Wheeler and Morrow counties. He started his 30-plus year law enforcement career as a patrolman with the Gold Beach Police Department. In 1974 he was hired as a road deputy with the Curry County Sheriff's Office, attaining the ranks of patrol sergeant and detective sergeant. In May of 1983 he was hired as a patrol deputy by the Morrow County Sheriff's Office. Three weeks later he was promoted to detective sergeant. In 1985 he was promoted to undersheriff, a position he held for 13 years until being appointed sheriff in 1998.

Denton holds executive certification with the Oregon Department of Public Safety Standards and Training, the highest certification awarded by DPSST. He is currently executive board chairman for the Blue Mountain Drug Task Force, secretary/treasurer for the Oregon State Sheriff's Association, member of Oregon Judicial Department Citizen Review Board, member of the Morrow and Umatilla Counties Law Enforcement Administrator's Council, Oregon Youth Authority Community Resource Team, Governor's CSEPP Executive Review Panel, Morrow County Local Public Safety Coordinating Council, and several other statewide and local committees and commissions.

"The mission of the Morrow County Sheriff's Office is to consistently and affirmatively promote, preserve and deliver security and safety for our citizens and to provide quality law enforcement services through integrity, fiscal responsibility and professionalism, with respect for human dignity and recognizing the worth of all people."
"Having written this mission statement several years ago, I continue to believe in and promote these ideals and values. I have worked hard during my 20-plus years with Morrow County to build and maintain a quality department of well-equipped, well trained, professional staff to provide the citizens of Morrow County with the best possible law enforcement services and hope to continue to do so in the future," said Sheriff Denton.

Marriage licenses

Marriage licenses have been issued at the Morrow County Clerk's Office for the following:

December 19-Franklin Helmes Haines, 47, Irrigon, and Peggy Sue Haines, 45, Irrigon.

December 19-Rogelio Madrigal Sanguino, 28, Umatilla, and Margaret Anne Reynosa, 24, Umatilla.

December 26-Ben Alan Svaronsky, 37, Stanfield, and Leora Janice Griffin, 40, Irrigon.

December 26-Heriberto Madrigal Madrigal, 29, Hermiston, and Maribel Cervantes Perez, 28, Hermiston.

Obituaries

Betty J. Fulleton

A memorial graveside service for Betty J. Fulleton, a former deputy clerk for the Echo School District, was held Saturday, December 13, 2003, at the Heppner Masonic Cemetery.

Mrs. Fulleton, 82, of Hermiston, a longtime Heppner resident, died Tuesday, December 9, 2003, at Ashley Manor in Hermiston.

She was born Nov. 14, 1921, on the family farm at Broken Bow, Nebraska, to Paul and Jean Marie Bruce Predmore. She grew up and attended school and college in Nebraska and attended Eastern Oregon College in La Grande, majoring in business.

On August 29, 1941, she married Roice Fulleton in Nebraska. Following World War II, the couple lived at Vale until 1952 when they moved to Heppner.

They purchased the Chevrolet dealership, ranched and raised Quarter Horses. They later divorced.

Mrs. Fulleton was later employed at the Umatilla Tribal Office of Land Operations and then as deputy clerk of Echo Schools until her retirement.

Her greatest enjoyment was her family, her children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Survivors include daughters, Diana Ball and her husband, Archie, of Heppner, Ruby Shear and husband, Tom, of Ione, and Becky Cannon, and her husband, Dave, of Heppner; grandchildren, Andrea Fletcher, Duane Ball, Ryan Shear, Ann Shear, Trent Cannon; and four great-grandchildren.

Memorial contributions may be made to Willow Creek Terrace, P.O. Box 610, Heppner, OR 97836, or to Pioneer Memorial Hospice, P.O. Box 9, Heppner, OR 97836, or to Vange John Memorial Hospice, 645 W. Orchard Ave., Hermiston, OR 97838.

Sweeney Mortuary of Heppner was in charge of arrangements.

Additional Hoop Shoot planned

An additional Elks Hoop Shoot will be scheduled this Sunday, January 11, at 1:30 p.m. at the Ione School gym, weather permitting.

The first hoop shoot was held Sunday, January 4, but organizers scheduled an additional contest in case participants weren't able to compete because of the cold and snowy weather conditions.

Snowmobile Club holds first playday

The Four Corners Snowmobile Club held its first play day for the 2003-04 season on Saturday, Jan. 3, at Kelly Prairie.

Those attending report it was a good turnout with approximately 43 present. Snowmobilers enjoyed hotdogs, chili, visiting and the snow. A poker run was also held, with Dan Bolthouse winning first prize, his dad, Doug Bolthouse, collecting second place and Mike Gorman taking third.

The next scheduled meeting for the club is Monday, Jan. 12, at 7 p.m. at Morrow County Grain Growers in Lexington. Everyone is welcome to attend.

For more information about the club or scheduled events, contact Mike Gorman, club president, at 676-9623.