

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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school board hires superintendent

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budget. Previously, acting-superintendent George Murdock had said that Morrow County Unified Recreation District funds would be sufficient for MCSD extracurricular programs.

-postponed raising the junior/senior high school lunch prices from \$1.75 to \$2. Lorenz told the district that while the lunch program was currently self-supporting, additional costs are anticipated in opening a new kitchen and renovating an aging kitchen facility.

-heard a report from Dirksen and Smith concerning the proposed FFA program. They said that a full-time vo-ag teacher would be hired at Irrigon High School and vo-ag classes would be available to Riverside High School and Heppner High School students via two-way V-tel, which will be available in a couple of months. Currently one-way V-tel is available. They said that Ron Anthony, Columbia Middle School principal who will then be principal at Irrigon Junior/Senior High School this fall, was at a job fair to seek applicants for the position. They said that the program's emphasis would largely be determined by the specialty of the teacher selected.

-heard that plaques have been installed at the two new elementary schools and decided that dedications will be left to the schools and communities.

-voted to suspend the teaching license for Jerry Cronin, CMS Spanish teacher. According to the board, Cronin had given only three days notice prior to his resignation because of financial costs incurred in commuting to work and other family issues. According to Murdock, teachers are required to give 60 days notice.

-granted an attendance variance for a student who lives on the "extreme edge" of the district, to attend school in Arlington. Kuhn opposed that motion.

-heard a report from Kuhn concerning Ione. Kuhn said that he and Craig Miles went to Ione to try to work out a cooperative arrangement concerning disputed Pine City students and suggested to Ione representatives that the two districts share funding for the students. "We did not get a very good reception for that idea," said Kuhn. The Ione District has since explored formation of a charter school, which would allow admission to any student. Kuhn said that 25 students, each bringing approximately \$5,200 in state school funding to a district, are at the center of the controversy.

Kuhn proposed that MCSD contact the Oregon School Boards Association to lobby for legislative changes, write the Department of Education and contact legislators, to prohibit charter schools from taking students from outside their districts. Charter schools in Oregon do not have attendance boundaries. Murdock reminded Kuhn that ISD is a member of the Oregon School Boards Association as well as MCSD.

-heard information from Lorenz concerning landscaping. She said that the district plans to hire people for grounds keeping this year and hopes to have grounds keeping and landscaping contracted out for next year, once bidding requirements are established.

-voted to designate a trial attorney as a housekeeping measure. Board member Julie Weikel was the sole "no" vote.

-approved the following resignations: Jerry Cronin, temporary CMS Spanish teacher, effective March 31; Maria Gomez, A.C. Houghton Elementary English as a second language ed assistant; Becky Kindle, Heppner High School assistant volleyball coach; Mark Rouska, Riverside High School head soccer coach.

-rejected contract offers for: Dale Rowekamp, RHS science teacher; Jorja Gunderson, Columbia Middle School social studies teacher.

- a p p r o v e d employment: Tyson Pratt, RHS ESOL teacher; Rick Drake, RHS music teacher; Maria Aguiar, CMS half-time ESOL teacher; Veronica Cortez, RHS ESOL teacher; Joel Chavez, half-time ELL (English as a second language) program director and half-time RHS assistant principal, pending budget adoption; Laetitia Schreier, ACH kindergarten teacher; Joyce Hesla, ACH reading specialist; Jill Milton, Sam Boardman Elementary first grade teacher; Kathleen Spinks, HHS/HES special ed teacher; David Melville, HHS half-time math and half-time PE teacher; Joel Myer, CMS temporary Spanish intern, replacing Jerry Cronin; Elba Cardenas, ACH ESL assistant, replacing Maria Gomez. The board further discussed the Chavez' employment as half-time ESL director/RHS assistant principal. Matlack expressed concern that Chavez' employment as a half-time assistant principal would take away from his crucial job as ELL director. Administrators responded that Chavez' half-time position as assistant principal would also give him the freedom to respond to ESL priorities and free him to be

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.)

Must succeed in Iraq to ensure safety

To the Editor:

I am an 85-year-old farmer and have lived through two terrible attacks on my homeland, those of Pearl Harbor and New York City. Pearl Harbor was an attack against our strongest armed service, but within a few hours our country was unanimous in our desire to respond in kind and avenge those lost. I believe that the attack on New York City was a larger, more heinous crime since it was perpetrated against civilians, unarmed men, women and children. The surprising thing to me is that the nation was not unanimous in demanding retaliation immediately and against Afghanistan, Iraq, Syria and Iran if they did not join us in hunting down the killers.

We have been under criticism from many of our own for not calling on the UN. Of course forgetting that the UN has never taken any action against third world dictators even when they were committing genocide. Some European countries have been afraid of losing their private oil deals with Saddam while others are simply jealous of our power and influence. I do not think that the UN will ever be more than another League of Nations. For you younger readers, the old League was a debating society that existed before WWII.

During that war, I was stationed for most of my active duty time in North and Central Africa and for a good portion of that time lived off base so had more contact than most service men with the natives and European émigrés. Since most of the natives are Moslems we soon became aware of their customs. As a result, I confess to having a sixty-year prejudice against Islam. To me its only relationship to religion as we know it is that it is monotheistic. Otherwise, it seems to be a method of governing without any rights for the individual. Not only do the imams teach a hatred of Jews and Christians, but deny fundamental rights to their women. The wealthy oppress the poor, sometimes holding them in virtual slavery. Our landlady had a maid, a lady in her late forties, who had been purchased as a 6-year-old child from her father, and raised in the landlady's family. Madame G recounted with pride that Zora had been allowed to marry a Moslem boy when she was sixteen "for love." And she had allowed her

own daughter to choose her own husband, an almost unheard of liberty. In many cases, the camels seem to be held in higher regard than wives or daughters.

The world has changed a lot in sixty years and I hope that the Middle East has too, but unless we succeed in establishing some model like we hope to do in Iraq, none of us will probably be alive to see it. I suspect that even today the imam will have his madrassas, the circle of a dozen squatting little boys memorizing the Koran, out in front of the mosque learning to hate the other half of the world. I support the war in Iraq, not because I love war, but because if we leave this battlefield, I believe that neither we nor our children will ever be safe anywhere in this world again. A characterless president and Congress ran from Beirut, Somalia and the Cole disaster so that most of the Middle East is convinced that we will cut and run if we suffer casualties.

Presently, there are about 19 or 20 of these "peace" groups and even a few candidates singing the "Hate Bush, Get Out Now" song. Do you know who is financing this propaganda? If not it is time to start asking questions. But don't expect anything but silence from Dan Rather, Peter Jennings or the New York Times.

(s) Don McElligott Ione

Births

AnnaGrace Olivia Rose Wenberg- a daughter, AnnaGrace Olivia Rose, was born April 12, 2004 at 11:34 a.m. at Kadlec Medical Center in Tri-Cities, WA, to Erik and Cynthia Wenberg of Heppner. AnnaGrace was 5 pounds 3 ounces and 19 inches long. She joins brothers Sebastian, 6, and Noah, 2. Grandparents are Dr. Ken and Bonnie Wenberg, Heppner and Alita Leesburg, Michigan and great-grandparents are Lillian Shaddock, Heppner and P. Kenneth Wenberg, Heppner.

Bailey makes EOU Dean's List

Meghan Bailey, Heppner High School graduate and daughter of Ken and Kaedene Bailey of Heppner, made the Dean's List at Eastern Oregon University in La Grande.

Bailey has a 3.6 GPA and is an Ag-Business major.

Effort and extra work make a great community

To the Editor:

Pat and John Edmundson were right on target with their letter to the editor on April 7, 2004. I think we have the best city council ever. Tom Wolff did a lot of extra effort on the new city water project. For several days I saw Bob Jepsen and Jerry Breazeale with rake and shovel in hand fine grading the ground at Heritage Park. On Arbor Week, I saw Bob Jepsen, Jerry Breazeale, Jack Meligan and Steve Brudevold planting trees that will be a joy to all for years to come. I also want to say Public Works Director Bruce Nelson is a hands on leader. This kind of leadership gets results. I've seen a lot of cleaning up in the last few weeks and other projects getting done in a proper manner. Effort and extra work by all.

We have local merchants on Main Street from Cliff Green down to the City limits and back up to the other side and on several side streets hanging in there making our little town a much better place to live. What more can I say, God bless you all.

(s) Mel Piper Heppner

Willow Creek Symphony and Singers to perform

The Willow Creek Symphony and Singers will perform at A.C. Houghton Elementary School in Irrigon on Sunday, April 18 at 3:15 p.m. The symphony will perform a variety of music including "Moonlight Serenade" by Glenn Miller and a gypsy theme entitled "Rumanian Overture." The choir will sing several selections including "Simple Gifts" and an arrangement of "An Old Irish Blessing."

Conductor of the Willow Creek Symphony and Singers is R. Lee Friese of Athena. Assistant conductors are Wendy Appleton of Heppner and Nolan Frost of Pendleton. The symphony and singers are based in Heppner and are comprised of youth and adults from throughout Morrow and Umatilla counties. Both groups are affiliated with Inland Northwest Musicians at 25 S.E. Court, Pendleton, (541) 966-6649, or email info@inwm.org.

The concert is free to the public. A reception will be held following the concert.

Local Elks Lodge installs officers, announces awards

The Heppner Elks

Lodge recently held an installation ceremony and installed their officers for the 2004-2005 Lodge Year. Installed, as Exalted Ruler, was Burke O'Brien. Other officers installed were: Leading Knight- Anthony Clement, Loyal Knight- Lindsay Kincaid, Lecturing Knight- Colin Anderson, Esquire- Marc Orem, Chaplain- Josh Coiner, Inner Guard- Wade Smith, Secretary- Roger Mortimore, Organist- Ken Turner, Treasurer- Joe Kenny, and Trustee- Thomas Wolff. Installing officers, all Past Exalted Rulers, included past Oregon Elks Assn. President and former Heppner resident Jack Sweek, with local Grand Lodge Officers Gene Hall, Marvin Brannon, Dave Barnett, Joe Kenny, Eddie Gunderson, Jr., Glen Ward, Bob Lovgren, Calvin Sherman and Dick Turrell.

Outgoing Exalted Ruler Thomas Wolff announced the "Officer of the Year" and "Elk of the Year" awards. Esquire Colin Anderson and Chaplain Marc Orem were named as Co-Officers of the Year. Both had taken charge of youth projects, with Marc co-chairing the Elks Hoop-Shoot project, and Colin chairing the Elks Eye Poster Safety Contest project. "Both of these Officers have helped with several projects throughout the year, and I could count on them to come-through for me" said Wolff. The Elk of the Year award was presented to Anthony Clement for his numerous contributions to the local Lodge. "Tony ran our Bingo project for us all winter, along with helping at almost every dinner and social function" said Wolff. "He is always pleasant to work with, and volunteered every time the call for assistance went out," continued Wolff.

A fine Bar-B-Que Ribs and Oyster dinner was enjoyed following the ceremony. Dancing concluded the affair with Matt Howard Productions providing the entertainment.

A full calendar of community and charitable events will occupy the attention of the newly installed officers.

Heppner Prom nearing

The Heppner Prom will be held at the Elks Club, on Friday, April 23. This year's theme is Mardi Gras. Music will be provided by Dan Burns.

We Print Envelopes Heppner Gazette-Times

Speak up for a child.

Each year, nearly 300,000 children end up in court. They have committed no crime, but have been abused and neglected - the forgotten victims of family crisis. It is up to a judge to decide where they will spend their future.

You can help these children have a chance to live in safe, permanent homes. You can volunteer to be a child's voice in court.

There's no pay, no legal background required.

Speak Up For A Child. Give your time and support today.

For information, contact: The Morrow County Juvenile Department / (541) 676-5642

Or write The National Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) Association, 2722 Eastside Ave., E., Suite 220, Seattle, WA 98102 / (206) 328-8588

