

The Official Newspaper  
of the City of Heppner and the County of Morrow

**Heppner  
GAZETTE-TIMES**

U.S.P.S. 240-420

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David Sykes ..... Publisher  
Katie Wall ..... Editor

**News and Advertising Deadline is Monday at 5 p.m.**  
For Advertising: advertising deadline is Monday at 5 p.m. Cost for a display ad is \$4.75 per column inch. Cost for classified ad is 50¢ per word. Cost for Card of Thanks is \$7 up to 100 words. Cost for a classified display ad is \$5.35 per column inch.  
For Public/Legal Notices: public/legal notices deadline is Monday at 5 p.m. Dates for publication must be specified. Affidavits must be required at the time of submission. Affidavits require three weeks to process after last date of publication (a sooner return date must be specified if required).

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**Walkers bring in over \$6000 for MS research**



(Front L-R) Pauline Matheny and Suzanne Jepsen; (Middle) George Jeffries; (Back) Mayor Bob Jepsen, participated in the 2004 MS Walk in Heppner on Saturday, April 17.

Sixty-seven walkers participated in the 2004 MS Walk for a Cure in Heppner on April 17. The total money raised so far is \$6660, with pledges still being turned in. The walk began at City Park and ended with a breakfast at All Saints Episcopal Church.

Seven teams from throughout the area participated. The teams were:

Ed's Girls, from the Hermiston Veterinary Clinic; Banking on a Cure, from the Bank of Eastern Oregon; All the Saints, from All Saints' Episcopal Church; Team Hope, from Hope/Valby Lutheran churches; Mustang Striders, students from Heppner Elementary and their friends and family; the Hardman Team; and a representative from the Spray Walkers.

**Paragraphs left off of last week's school board story**

*Editor's note:*  
In last week's school board story the last several paragraphs were accidentally left off. Following is the missing last paragraphs.

A report on the ELL district plan was postponed until the May meeting because Chavez was unavailable.

-approved an increase in hours for: Lori McCabe from two-hour to four-hour HHS assistant cook; Jan Coe from HHS two-hour assistant cook to HES four-hour assistant cook, replacing Shelly Key.

-approved extra duty contract for: Jodi Chapa, HHS drama advisor.

-appointed Susan Morelli and Angela Gutierrez

to the Boardman Community Education Committee and Judy Brown, Scott Ross and Kim Townsend to the Irrigon CEC.

-approved the renewal contract between MCSD and Heppner Youth Baseball.

-accepted a donation of \$150 from Mid Columbia Bus to district libraries.

-heard the following announcements: Heppner CEC meeting, HHS, 7 p.m., April 19; Boardman-Irrigon CEC meeting, RHS, 7 p.m. April 21; OSBA spring regional meeting, BMCC Student Union Building, April 22; next board meeting, Irrigon Elementary School, 7 p.m. May 10.

**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.)*

**Hill a judge with hands on experience**

To the Editor:  
I am writing to support Dan Hill's candidacy for Circuit Court Judge in the May Primary.

Recently, Dan handled a real estate transaction in which I was involved. He was very knowledgeable and courteous in the way he handled my legal matter and totally professional in every way. I think it's very important for a judge to have some "hands on" experience in representing clients in private practice handling divorces, contracts and other legal cases. Dan has been a lawyer in Hermiston for the past 15 years.

In addition to his private practice, Dan has a lot of experience as a judge. He was the Hermiston Municipal Judge for six years and a Pro Tem Circuit Court Judge in Umatilla and Morrow counties for three years. He has heard everything from small claims and traffic violations to prison cases and civil cases.

Dan also has a lot of common sense and the ability to get to the root of a problem. He works well with people, which is a good quality in a judge. For these reasons, please join me in electing Dan Hill as our next Circuit Court Judge, Position Three.  
(s) Rose Emerson  
Hermiston

**City Hall proposal should be open to a vote**

To the Editor:  
The best way to obtain a positive response on any issue is to poll only those who agree with you. If our city government is so confident that the majority of residents in Heppner want to spend one-third of a million dollars, they don't have, for something they don't need, why not put the city hall proposal on a ballot to be voted on? Is it because they know a large segment of the population is on a fixed income and can only afford the last water rate increase by not irrigating their lawns?

The older more experienced members of the community know better than to believe a politician, or a government, that promises no new or increased taxes, or raised rates, while at the same time acquiring new debt.

The federal government has the Social Security fund it can raid. The City of Heppner has no such luxury. If the purchase of a building for a city hall were to be on a cash basis, I would vote yes. If not, I would vote no. Hang on to your hats folks, we are being taken for another ride.

Let there be no mistake, I have the highest respect for the office of the President, the office of the Governor, the office of the Mayor, or the office of any official. This does not mean that I automatically respect the person elected or appointed to fill that office, nor should anyone else. Respect does not come with the office, it has to be earned, and earned, and earned.  
(s) Gene Sonstegard  
Heppner

**Make a significant difference, vote for Hill**

To the Editor:  
This year the voters of Umatilla and Morrow County have a chance to make a significant difference for the legal future of the area. Judge Dan Hill, born and raised in Umatilla County, with 10 years of judicial experience, is the best candidate for Umatilla and Morrow counties.

As a lifelong resident, born in Pendleton, Dan is dedicated to the area and its

people. Dan is a former Army prosecutor, former City prosecutor, former Municipal Judge, and along with being a Circuit Judge, pro-tem, has nearly 17 years of private law practice.

In this vote by mail election, I strongly encourage you vote for Daniel J. Hill for Circuit Judge.  
(s) Spike Piersol  
Hermiston

**Vote for a local candidate, vote for Hill**

To the Editor:  
Being a local person may not be the most important reason to vote for Dan Hill for Circuit Judge, but for me it helps a lot. Dan was born and raised here, and his family has farmed here since the 1930s. Dan spent 10 years since before and after high school working at Pendleton Grain Growers. Dan knows hard work and Dan knows Umatilla and Morrow counties and the people.

More than that, though, Dan is the obvious choice for judge with 10 years of judicial experience and with

nearly 17 years of law practice, including the private practice of law in Hermiston since 1990. Dan has three times the experience of the other candidates each, in the actual practice of law in Oregon.

In this election, we can elect a trained professional with the experience, background, judicial temperament, integrity and honor to be our next Circuit Judge. Please vote for Dan Hill for Circuit Judge.  
(s) Frank J. Harkenrider  
Hermiston

**Don't let music at BMCC be laid to rest**

To the Editor:

I am angry - No, I am raging mad. I have just heard through a very reliable source and confirmed by another that the BMCC Board of Directors is intending to close down the Music Department at Blue Mountain Community College. Who are these people anyway? Where do they live? They must live in a cave in the middle of nowhere with no interaction with other human beings. They must not have TVs. They must not listen to radio, let alone have CD players and a set of headphones.

Where would our world be without music? Music is everywhere. I would venture to say it would be hard to go through a day without being affected by music. It is a soothing balm for an agitated mind, it is a wake up call in the morning. It is a call to dinner, it is a call to arms. I could go on for pages on the benefits of music and music study: such things like music helps to raise SAT scores, it helps develop eye-hand coordination, self-esteem, and self-expression. Music helps to raise math, foreign language and reading scores. It develops voice inflection, creativity, imagination and self-discipline. Music helps students learn fractions, problem solving, teamwork, and acoustics, as well as events and cultures throughout history. It helps us learn to deal with emotions and experience that far too often lacking feeling of esprit de corps.

Shall I go on? Plato (one of the great thinkers of all time) said, "Music is a moral law. It gives a soul to the universe, wings to the mind, flight to the imagination, a charm to sadness, gaiety and

life to everything. It is the essence of order, and leads to all that is good, just and beautiful, of which it is invisible, but never the less dazzling, passionate and eternal form." Plato also said, perhaps even more succinctly, "Music is to the mind as air is to the body."

So what influence has BMCC music had on us? I know of at least five music educators in local schools who are direct products of Blue Mountain: Stacey Cooley-Hermiston, Annie Tester-Pilot Rock, George White- Mac Hi, Andy Cary-Umatilla, and Smokey Joe Wightman (retired from teaching)-Boardman. I also know of at least three full-time music teaching positions available within daily commuting distance of Pendleton.

Is it the cost? I would shudder to think of any music program cost compared to the athletic programs in local areas.

So what is the reason for the axe coming out against music at BMCC? Is it just someone's whim or an easy fix? I'm reminded of the words of H.L. Mencken, "For every complex problem, there is a solution that is simple, neat, and wrong." Let us not let this be one of those simple and neat solutions for we will surely live to regret it.

As a music educator in a local school, music at BMCC is a must for my program. It is the perfect stepping-stone for those students coming out of high school desiring to pursue music as a career. Do not - I repeat, do not let this fine institution of BMCC music be laid to rest.  
(s) Richard J. Drake  
AA - BMCC, BA - CWU, Music Director, Riverside High School, Boardman

**Enforcement by signed complaints not the right answer**

To the Editor:

If the new pooper-scooper law is like most of the ordinances, in Heppner, it will favor the lawbreaker. If city officials or law enforcement agencies observe a flagrant violation of a city ordinance, and are unable or unwilling to correct the situation without a signed complaint from a citizen, something is wrong with the system. It appears to me that you can violate an ordinance for as long as you like, as often as you like and it will not become a violation until someone signs a complaint.

Bicycles, skate boards and scooters are used on sidewalks in the business district; dogs run free, bark all day and night, and relieve themselves wherever they please; horses are ridden all over the city and their droppings are not picked up by the rider; properties throughout the city are littered with junk. So much for city ordinances.

Some people are reluctant to sign a complaint due to fear of retaliation. With all the guns and rocks around, I share their concern. If you think these signed complaints will remain confidential, think again. For all we know, the name and address of the person making the complaint is given to the offender. Don't expect to see much of a decrease in dog or horse droppings, or less junk, if signed complaints are required to enforce the law. Signed complaints are not required for the enforcement of city traffic laws, nor should they be required for enforcement of certain other city ordinances.

Of course, if a complaint, signed by a citizen, is required to enforce an ordinance, it lets the officials off the hook. Maybe what we need is some kind of Wyatt Earp with the authority to issue citations to breakers of the law.  
(s) Gene Sonstegard  
Heppner

**Ione son graduates from basic training**

Army Pvt. Brooks S. Rea has graduated from basic combat training at Fort Jackson, Columbia, S.C.

During the nine weeks of training, the soldier studied the Army mission, history, tradition and core values and physical fitness. He also received instruction and practice in basic combat skills, military weapons, chemical warfare and bayonet training, drill and ceremony, marching, rifle marksmanship, armed and unarmed combat, map reading, field tactics, military courtesy, military justice

system, basic first aid, foot marches, and field training exercises.

He is the son of Army Sgt. 1st Class Craig A. and stepson of Barbara Rea of Ione. Rea is a 2001 graduate of Ione High School. Order Magnetic

**Re-elect**



**Charlotte Gray**  
Morrow County  
Justice of the Peace

- 25 Years Judicial Experience
- 25 Years Continuing Legal Education
- Law Trained Judge

**LOCAL BARBECUE EXPERT**  
Lott's Electric  
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(541) 676-5811



**What on Earth am I Here For?**

- Join us in studying and discussing Rick Warren's "The Purpose Driven Life" beginning April 25.
- Discussion and group study times will be made available throughout the week.
- For more information, contact Keith Price, 676-5552, or Dick Sargent, 676-9621.

Sponsored by Willow Creek Baptist Church

**Door Signs HERE**

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676-922