

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

**Heppner  
GAZETTE-TIMES**

U.S.P.S. 240-420

Morrow County's Home-Owned Weekly Newspaper

Published weekly and entered as periodical matter at the Post Office at Heppner, Oregon under the Act of March 3, 1879. Periodical postage paid at Heppner, Oregon. Office at 147 W. Willow Street. Telephone (541) 676-9228. Fax (541) 676-9211. E-mail: [gt@heppner.net](mailto:gt@heppner.net) or [gt@rapidsolve.net](mailto:gt@rapidsolve.net). Web site: [www.heppner.net](http://www.heppner.net). Postmaster send address changes to the Heppner Gazette-Times, P.O. Box 337, Heppner, Oregon 97836. Subscriptions: \$24 in Morrow County; \$18 senior rate (in Morrow County only, 62 years or older); \$30 elsewhere.

David Sykes Publisher  
Katie Foster 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).

On the HEPPNER WEBSITE: [www.heppner.net](http://www.heppner.net)

- Start or Change a Subscription
- Place a Classified Ad • Submit a News Story
- View Real Estate for Sale • City Council & Planning Minutes
- Local Businesses • County Park • Willow Creek Park Reservations
- Free Digital Postcards • Senior Housing • and more!

**Error in Irrigator candidate ads**

To the Editor:

There is an error in the October issue of the Irrigon Irrigator, regarding the two candidates, Cyde Marie Estes and Bobbi Childers, who are running for the office of Morrow County Clerk. The ads, which were e-mailed to me, were forwarded to the Hermiston Herald office, where our paper is formatted. Bobbi e-mailed her initial ad and later in the week e-mailed a supplement that reads: "experienced in

all elections, election laws and land records." When I went to the Hermiston Herald office to proof-read the paper, I realized that Bobbi's supplement had not been included, so I e-mailed the supplement a second time and it was inadvertently included with Cyde Marie's ad instead of with Bobbi's. We are deeply sorry for this error and our apologies to both ladies.

(s) LaVelle Partlow  
Irrigon Irrigator  
Irrigon

**Meth Lab located and dismantled in Irrigon**

On Sept. 29 members of the Morrow County Sheriff's Office discovered a methamphetamine laboratory in the residence located at 250 SE 3<sup>rd</sup> in Irrigon. Morrow County Sheriff's Deputy Mark Pratt, acting on information from a concerned person, responded to the residence of Sherill Garrett to investigate a report of a suspicious odor and containers.

On arrival at the residence, Deputy Pratt observed a propane tank, which contained a quantity of anhydrous ammonia. Deputy Pratt conducted a consent search of the residence and located a quantity of precursor chemicals, including anhydrous ammonia and pseudoephedrine. Deputy Pratt also found a trace amount of suspected methamphetamine and approximately one ounce of marijuana.

A total of six subjects were arrested, one of which was a juvenile male, age 16. The adults, Sherill Garrett, 48, of Irrigon, Maria Montez, 36, of Irrigon, Jacob Kinsey, 25, of Irrigon, Robert Gordon, 40, of Pendleton and Bonnie Talbot, 49, of Irrigon, were all charged with Manufacturing a Schedule II Controlled Substance, according to Morrow County Sheriff Verlin Denton. All except for Gordon were issued citations to appear in court, as the jail facility was over capacity. Gordon was lodged at the Umatilla County Jail facility on an outstanding arrest warrant.

The chemicals were sampled by Morrow County Sheriff's Deputy Jeff Lambier and Umatilla County Sergeant Dave Williamson, who are trained as Lab Site Safety Officers. A clean-up crew was dispatched out of Portland to remove the hazardous chemicals from the residents.

**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.)

**Measure 35 will not improve patient safety, vote no**

To the Editor:

Did you know it is easier to check the background on a contractor remodeling your kitchen than it is to find out if your surgeon has a history of negligence? Well, it's true.

It is almost impossible to find out if your doctor has a history of reckless or negligent behavior. If we want to improve patient safety, we should crack down on reckless and negligent doctors.

Measure 35 won't do anything to improve patient safety and it will hurt Oregonians. Before we amend the constitution we should try something less drastic. Voters should reject Measure 35.

(s) Malinda Fislser  
Hermiston

**VanCleave displays excellent leadership skills**

To the Editor:

For the first time in several years we have a contested race for mayor of Heppner. We commend both candidates for filing for a job that requires a lot of volunteer time and effort.

Our choice for mayor is Tim VanCleave. Tim has several years experience on the city council and has displayed sound judgment and excellent leadership skills.

Tim and his wife Myrna have a great young family and they can all be seen volunteering in various capacities in the community.

Please join us in voting for Tim VanCleave for mayor.

(s) Larry and Betty Mills  
Heppner

**Support quality of life, support the health district levy**

To the Editor:

I would like to take a minute to express my support of the bond measure for the Morrow County Health District. Many people may not realize how important and vital the care these facilities can be.

My daughter Faith Healy moved back to Heppner after fighting cancers for many years. She chose to move back to enjoy her last years with the support of her family and friends. And we could not have given her the quality of life she desired at the end without the caring and knowledgeable help of the Home Health and Hospice group. Faith also received excellent care whenever she stayed or used the services in the hospital. With the help of home health and our local physicians, she was able to stay at home in an environment she cherished. There was never a time, day or night, they were not there when we needed them. For this, my family and I will be forever grateful.

I again needed this facility when my new husband Tom became suddenly ill at our home five miles out of town. All I could think of was the help that would be waiting for us in town. The ER was quick in getting him stable and in the ambulance to Hermiston. There is always a crew on call or at the hospital to respond to our medical needs. The time it would have taken to drive all the way to another facility would have been frightening.

I am not normally political, but to not write in support of this important bond could not be overlooked. I pray most of you will never need this type of support and if you do we are lucky to have it.

Please join me and my family in expressing our gratitude to the many people that are always there for us by voting in support of those excellent medical facilities.

(s) Faye Seitz Wilson  
Heppner

**Bring a change in leadership, vote for Matlack**

To the Editor:

Ken Matlack has our support for Sheriff of Morrow County.

We operate in both Morrow County and Gilliam County. The service and attention from the Gilliam County police so far outpaces what we have witnessed and heard tell of the Morrow County Police that we think it is time for a change of leadership.

We urge you to elect Ken Matlack as Morrow County Sheriff.

(s) Eric and Marnie Anderson Ione

**Levy small price to pay for valuable services**

To the Editor:

The Morrow County Health District has a small 39-cent per thousand three-year levy on the November ballot.

The passage of the levy will mean continued support for ambulance service, Irrigon Medical Clinic and Home Health and Hospice.

In Boardman, the passage of the levy will provide continued support for the Boardman Health Care Clinic, ambulance service and Home Health and Hospice.

In the communities of Ione, Lexington and Heppner, the passage will provide continued support for ambulance service, first responders, Home Health and Hospice and Pioneer Memorial Hospital and Clinic.

The district has not had an increase in tax support in over 10 years. The district is faced with increase malpractice insurance costs and reductions in reimbursements from insurance companies, Medicare and Medicaid, plus increases in free care demands because of state reductions in the Oregon Health Plan.

Currently, the district is in a position that it cannot replace vital equipment such as ambulances.

The levy is 39 cents per thousand of taxable valuation. If you own property with an assessed value of \$100,000, the levy will cost you \$39 per year or \$3.25 per month. Which is less than a six pick of your favorite beverage. This is a small amount to pay for readily available health care and emergency services.

It is important to remember that quality health care services are a critical issue when businesses and their employees look at moving into the county. As we strive to improve our economic opportunities, so some of our people can stay in the area, we need to maintain these services.

We invite you to join us in supporting the passage of the Health District Levy. (s) Larry and Betty Mills Heppner

**Don't lose our medical services, vote yes on levy**

To the Editor:

I recently had an episode of kidney malfunction. It hurt badly and I was really sick.

I can't imagine driving an hour to Hermiston, plus waiting for

admission and treatment in the emergency room.

I don't want us to lose our medical clinics and the local health care they provide. We need to vote for the Health District levy.

Please vote yes for the Health District Levy. (s) John Edmundson Heppner

**Maintaining quality services means quality doctors**

To the Editor:

I urge you to vote yes on the upcoming Health District tax levy. We need to keep the medical services and professionals we now have. I have had my own experiences with the medical staff and have been very satisfied. This last August, my family became very aware of what wonderful, caring, professional doctors we have- we don't want to lose them.

All of the staff are professional caring people, but I want to tell you about our personal experience with Dr. Datta. My daughter from Idaho was visiting with her young son (15 months old). When my grandson showed signs of an ear infection my daughter was able to get an appointment with Dr. Datta and while he was examining Blake, he discovered a heart murmur, which had not been discovered previously.

You can imagine how alarming this could be for a young mother who has just learned her baby has a heart murmur. Dr. Datta handled my daughter and grandson in a very calm, professional manner, explaining exactly what he heard. He was reassuring to Amy, relaying he was not a pediatrician, but that he felt it would be best to see one when she returned to her home for an accurate assessment.

Having Amy feel comfortable about the visit was great. What we learned when she took Blake to the pediatrician is how fortunate we in Morrow County are to have Dr. Datta. The pediatrician was very impressed in Amy's ability to relay exactly what Dr. Datta had heard and that he had correctly diagnosed Blake. Thank goodness, the heart murmur isn't at a serious level.

My purpose in relaying this story is to urge everyone to think about and realize just how important it is to maintain the level of medical care we have. We need to keep our doctors and facilities in order to do this. To keep our doctors and facilities, we must vote yes on the upcoming levy. (s) Nancy Snider Ione



Join Us For Our  
**OKTOBERFEST  
SIDEWALK SALE**  
on Saturday,  
October 9th!



Member  
Jewelers of America, Inc.  
**Peterson's Jewellers**  
Heppner 676-9200



**Elect  
Cyde  
Marie  
Estes  
Morrow  
County  
Clerk**

**"A History of Service"**

I will represent you efficiently, effectively and cheerfully providing the accountability that is critical to sustain trust in local government.

*I hope you will allow me the opportunity to serve you.*

Paid for by the Committee to Elect Cyde Marie Estes

**COME JOIN THE FUN  
for Heppner's First  
OKTOBERFEST**  
Saturday, Oct. 9th



*Murray's Wine Tasting from 2-6 p.m. at the Beer Garden!  
We will be open until 7 p.m. for espresso and shopping!*



**COMING SOON...**

**Watch for our REMODELED  
and EXPANDED ESPRESSO BAR!**

**Murray's Drug** **Murray's Country Rose**  
217 North Main • Heppner 676-9158  
233 N. Main • Heppner 676-9425  
Serving Heppner, Lexington & Ione