

HEPPNER

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### G-T moving to new building

The Gazette-Times will be moving to its new home, the former Heppner City Hall building, this Friday, Oct. 22. The new office will open for business Monday morning, Oct. 25.

### Daylight Savings Time to end

With the changing color of the leaves, it is also nearing time to change our clocks. The end of Daylight Saving Time is Sunday, Oct. 31. Clocks need to be turned back one hour Saturday night, Oct. 30.

### Heppner Booster Club to meet

The Heppner Booster Club will meet on Oct. 27 at 7:30 p.m. at the Heppner High School. The club will be discussing the steak feed and auction as well as an upcoming tailgate feed.

## Morrow County School District opposes Ione School District charter school move

The Morrow County School Board has submitted a resolution to the Oregon School Boards Association to prevent charter schools from

accepting students from another districts without inter-district transfer agreements, the Ione School Board revealed at their regular meeting Monday

night. According to the resolution, the MCSD Board asks OSBA to change "the current charter school law that would prohibit students

from attending a charter school outside the student's resident school district without the permission of the student's resident school district."

The Ione School District, which recently broke from the Morrow County School District, is working toward becoming a charter school, which, according to current regulations, could accept any student, even those students outside their residence area, and receive state funding for those students. Ione currently has accepted out-of-district students, but does not receive state reimbursement for them. Students in question generally live in the Lexington/Pine City area within the Morrow County School District. Prior to Ione's secession from MCSD, those students could choose whether to attend Heppner or Ione schools.

ISD has drafted a letter to OSBA and to the other charter schools in the state opposing the resolution. In the letter to OSBA, the ISD Board said that Bill Kuhn, a Morrow County School Board member, had told them that if Ione tried to become a charter school, he had "the authority of the MCSD to pursue any means legally or legislatively to fight it."

The ISD letter also stated that if "MCSD claims hardship for the loss of funds generated by students who have chosen to attend Ione Schools", "the facts do not support that." ISD maintains that the students in dispute "never did attend any schools currently in the MCSD. Funds they never had cannot be counted as a loss."

ISD's letter maintains that MCSD's "resolution was submitted to deal with a local issue without considering the nearly 50 other charter schools statewide." ISD says that it "believes the issue can be resolved without involving the other charter schools in the state and the general membership of the OSBA" and requests the OSBA resolution committee to consider rejecting the resolution.

Kuhn told the Gazette-Times Tuesday that MCSD's resolution would apply only to "charter school districts" and he believes only around two exist in the state, and would not affect the majority of charter schools around the state. According to the Oregon Department of Education website, there are 56 charter schools in Oregon. An ODE representative said that the term "charter districts" was a misnomer. She said, for

example, that a k-12 school located on one campus could become a charter school and that there is no such term as "charter district." Two other districts fit these criteria-Paisley and Camas Valley. The ODE rep said that while Paisley calls itself a charter district, that term was technically incorrect.

If OSBA does pass MCSD's resolution, it would still not become state law. OSBA acts as a lobbying group and, if it approves the resolution, could lobby the state legislature and submit bills to change the Oregon statutes concerning charter school regulations. Changes in the state laws pertaining to charter schools would still have to be approved by the Oregon Legislature.

The MCSD has also appealed a ruling by the Big Sky League, of which Ione is a member, to allow a student outside of the Ione District to play sports in Ione. According to Morrow County School Superintendent Mark Burrows, the student in question attended Heppner High School last year and is attending school in Ione this year without a release from MCSD. Burrows said that the Big Sky League granted the waiver and allowed the student to play sports in Ione "in violation of OSAA rules." OSAA rules prohibit

## OHV Park brings over 60 people to the area



X-Class racers.



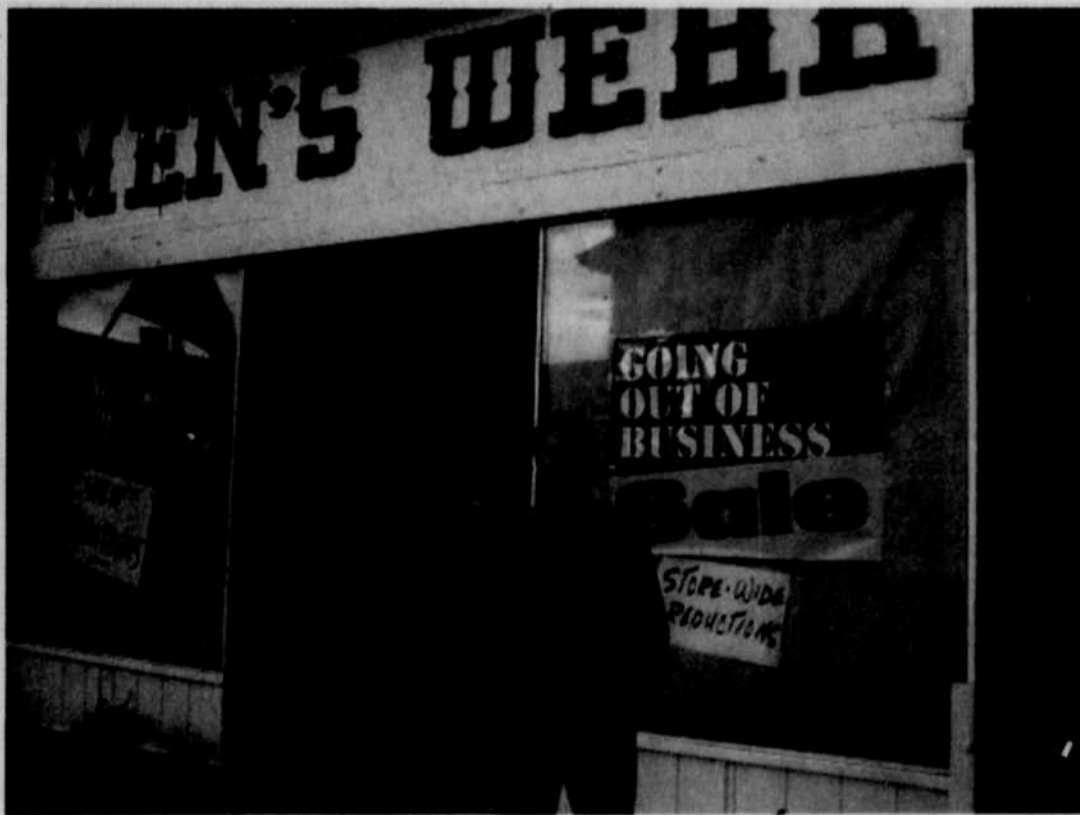
Women Racers, including local racer Heather Rill (back left).

Sixty-eight racers descended on the OHV Park outside of Heppner this weekend. Included in the

group of racers were "X-Class" racers who compete for points in the race circuit and are considered serious

racers. The group consisted of both local and out of town racers.

### Gardner's closing shop after 40 years



Roe Gardner in front of Gardner's Men's Wear.

Gardner's Men's Wear is closing after 40 years of business in Heppner.

LeRoy Gardner purchased the business in 1964 from Bill Blake after leasing the propane company for many years. Gardner had no experience in the clothing business but wanted a change from propane. Much of his clientele came from contacts he had made during the propane business days, bringing in customers from Spray, Fossil, Condon and other area towns.

Roe, Gardner's son,

purchased the business in 1983 from his father, who wanted to retire, as a way to expand his business. Roe had opened Roemark's in Hermiston in 1973.

Gardner's closure is coming after much thought and the desire of Roe to prepare for retirement in the future. "It was a tough decision," said Roe, who after a recent birthday decided to try to cut back his workload.

Another factor in the closure was that he "didn't want to wait too long and

lose touch with the business." When looking towards retirement, he thought trying to sell two businesses at once would be difficult and decided he had to start somewhere.

No set closure date has been established yet, but the store has already begun its going out of business sales, with prices being regularly marked down.

Roe says he appreciates all the support Heppner has given the business over the course of the many years.

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

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