

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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David Sykes Publisher
Katie Foster Editor

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Leonard Foundation reaches \$100,000 mark in total grants awarded

The Red and Gena Leonard Foundation awarded grants totaling \$14,185 for the 2004-05 academic year. The grants were awarded to: New Directions Education Program; SMART program; Armand Larvie Junior High; and the BMCC Nursing Department.

The New Directions Education Program was awarded a \$1,000 grant to help fund college transfer classes at Eastern Oregon Correctional Institution. The New Directions Education Program committee selects the class to be taught within the EOCI walls by a BMCC faculty member. The NDEP committee also chooses the inmates who participate in the program based on: academic background; score on college entrance ASSET test; approval from EOCI counselor; essay on the importance of education; conduct record at EOCI; and job record at EOCI. The goal of the program is to expand job opportunities, increase self-confidence and reduce the chance of the inmates returning to prison.

The Leonard Foundation approved a grant for \$10,000 to the BMCC Nursing program for the 2004-05 academic year. The Leonard Foundation partnered with Good Shepherd Medical Center and St. Anthony Hospital to fund a nursing instructor position. This was the fourth year that the Leonard Foundation donated \$10,000 to this program.

The Leonard Foundation awarded a grant in the amount of \$3,000 to the Oregon Children's Foundation SMART (Start Making a Reader Today) Program. The grant will cover nearly one-fourth the cost of supporting one SMART school in the Umatilla-Morrow Area during the school year. SMART is an early literacy program providing children with books and a caring adult to read to them. The program enlists the help of community volunteers to read to children two times each week.

Armand Larvie Junior High received a donation of \$185 to help supply dictionaries and a moveable book cart to transport dictionaries from classroom to classroom. This gift will allow all students at Armand Larvie Junior High access to dictionaries to improve their writing, word usage and spelling.

During the past four years, the Red and Gena Leonard Foundation has awarded \$104,285 in grants to local schools and educational programs to enhance the learning environment in our community. In addition to grants, the Red and Gena Leonard Foundation offers scholarship opportunities to local students for post secondary education and training. Since the 2000-01 academic year, the Leonard Foundation has awarded 180 scholarships in the amount of \$2,000 for a total of \$360,000.

For more information about the Red and Gena Leonard Foundation, please contact Tracy Gammell, Executive Director at P.O. Box 1024, Hermiston or 564-9177.

Times change. Traditions don't.

Teleflora's Ruby Glass Bouquet

The Ruby Glass Bowl holds more than a beautiful bouquet. It holds a rich piece of American history. Our grandparents cherished ruby glass for the holidays and now you can too, with Teleflora's stylish interpretation of this red-hot collectible. Bridge the generation gap this holiday by sending a perfect present from the past. For nationwide same-day delivery, call or visit our shop.



Murray's Drug INC.

217 North Main, Heppner 676-9158
Serving Heppner, Lexington & Ione



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.)

Concert in Ione appreciated by all

To the Editor:

It was a pleasure to attend the Inland Northwest Musicians Concert in Ione on Dec. 5, 2004. The Willow Creek Symphony and Singers performed a variety of music that was very entertaining. I was pleased to see so many young people involved in performing and bringing good entertainment to our Willow Creek valley. Their time, energy and talent was appreciated by all who attended.

The concert schedule for 2004-2005 includes many of our smaller towns that look forward to seeing you perform again and again. Ione has had the pleasure of several of your performances on our outdoor stage for 4th of July celebrations. Keep up the good work.

(s) Betty Gray
Ione

Tree screen unsuccessful solution to view

To the Editor:

I would like to express my appreciation to the mayor Bob Jepsen and the city manager Gerald Breazeale for their attempt to grow trees on the banks of Willow Creek, to form a barrier between Sperry Street and the City Corporation Yard.

In his letter to me, dated March 15, 2004, the city manager stated: "Because we are concerned with the way the corporation yard may appear when viewed from the residential properties on Sperry Street, we will be planting trees and shrubs along the creek bank. These plants will serve to screen the view and will be environmentally friendly."

Shortly after receiving this letter, I observed the mayor and city manager planting what appeared to be between 10 and 15 trees and shrubs in this area. What with all the trees and shrubs planted on Main Street and in Heritage Park doing so well and the planting/growing expertise of those involved, I thought to see great results. The fact that only a couple of these plants survived and will not act as any kind of screen between Sperry Street and the City Corporation Yard is beside the point. They deserve a lot of credit for trying. I'm sure they did the best they could. Too bad the outcome wasn't more positive.

Screening this view from us is just as important to residential property owners on Sperry Street, as Heritage Park, the downtown area and the new city hall building is to others.

(s) Gene Sonstegard
Heppner

Drug testing, negative experience for local student

To the Editor:

Heppner High School started their random drug testing Thursday, Dec. 9. I understand that the community feels we need to drug test, but if I had known the atmosphere that I was placed in, I would've never signed that sheet.

I was called to the office during third period, where I sat and waited. I then proceeded to go outside where I was led to a Winnebago, a camp trailer, and was left there. No medical van, a camp trailer. I stepped inside by myself and sat on a couch in front of two men that were at a table with the other urine samples. There was no other female, just me, a 15-year-old girl, with two strange men in a camp trailer. They then handed me a cup and I went to a locker size bathroom that was right beside them, it wasn't a very big Winnebago. I shut the door, which had no lock and had to pee while hearing these men's voices right outside. There was no sink or sanitary wipes of any kind for me to wash with after I was done. After I handed them my urine sample, I had to sign my name with a pen that had been touched by every other tester. It was at this point that I wanted to cry and vomit. The two men had gloves on, so obviously they felt it was wrong and unsafe for them to touch everyone's urine, but they didn't seem too concerned that every student was by touching that pen. How they didn't have any sanitation of any kind was unbelievable and disgusted me. There was nothing medical about that camp trailer.

I felt so unsafe and violated, for me to be left alone in a camp trailer with two men I didn't even know was unreal to me. For there not to be a female there was ridiculous.

I hope no one at Heppner High School has to go through that again. Drug Testing is suppose to help the students and school; all Drug Testing did for me was question my trust in the school.

(s) Mahaley Huddleston
Heppner

Former Heppnerite remembers the good old days

To the Editor:

My family lived in Heppner for over a decade in the 1950s and '60s. We were the last family to live in the Union Pacific depot before it was torn down. My father, Elmer Schmidt, was the depot agent and my mother, Grace, a teacher at the high school.

Last summer my mom, then 87, and I returned to Heppner for a nostalgic day's visit. We had so much fun driving around town looking for places we remembered so well and visiting old friends. We were very pleased to see the improvements Heppner has made in recent years; we were especially impressed with the murals on the old grain elevator, which was near our home. We kids would have loved having the swimming pool right down the tracks instead of a long, hot walk away. We went by the Hope Lutheran Church, which my parents helped begin and were happy to see rock work my dad did is still there.

We remembered things like driving to the Wishing Well Drive-In on hot nights for ice cream and how we could buy a 5-cent Coke at Phil's Pharmacy. We finished our visit with a stop at Ken Peck's farm outside Lexington.

This past week my mother passed-away from a sudden stroke. I will carry with me the good memory of our summer day in Heppner and our family's years there will always be with us.

(s) Jill (Schmidt) Liedtke
Eugene (living in Taiwan presently)

HHS drama club gave great performance

To the Editor:

Last Wednesday, we had the pleasure of being entertained by the cast of "Lagooned," a play put on by the Heppner High School drama club. What wonderful talent to have in our community. From the costumes, lighting and sound, directing and scenery, the audience felt as if we were also a part of the play.

Congratulations to the director, Jodi Chapa, and the wonderful cast and crew for a job well done. We really felt like we were in a "tropical paradise."

(s) Mary Haguewood
Heppner

Town Prints still available

The Mural Committee has prints, both framed and unframed, available for a tax-deductible donation to the Farm Foundation. Since the museum is closed for the winter months, you can receive a print by calling Betty Mills at 676-5546 or by stopping at the Bank of Eastern Oregon and seeing Sharon Harrison.

Unframed prints start at \$100 for the small size and \$150 for a large print. Framed prints are \$200 for a small and \$300 for a large.

The committee also has Giclees available on the mural being painted. These prints on canvas start at \$200 for small, \$400 for medium and \$600 for a full size. You can also have a print of the Railroad Depot for only \$400. When doing Giclees, any part of a painting can also be made into a Giclee of its own. The \$600 size is done to scale of one inch equals two feet on the mural wall. This Giclee is a copy of the original painting used for the mural. A few are available now or an order may be placed with Sharon Harrison at the Bank of Eastern Oregon. Giclees can also be seen at the Bank or call Betty Mills for information at 676-5546.

New Miss Oregon USA has local ties



Jessica Carlson

Jessica Carlson, 24, won Miss Oregon USA 2005, on Nov. 28, 2004 at Eagle Crest Resort. She competed with 26 other young women from across Oregon to win this title. Miss Carlson will go on to Miss USA, in Baltimore, MD in April. Miss USA is set to air on NBC.

Jessica Carlson is the daughter of Morrow County Finance Director Fred Carlson, who lives in Heppner during the week and travels back to Portland most weekends, where his wife, Cynthia and family are still living. Carlson, who graduated from Grant High School in Portland in 1999, is a master's student in biology at Portland State University. She is looking forward to becoming a doctor.

Beating the Holiday Blues

By Molly Rhea

With the holidays approaching why do so many of us get down? "It's a very stressful time," says Caroline Willey, Volunteer Chaplain for Pioneer Memorial Hospice. "There's more to do, more to buy. The extra demands on our time, attention, energy and finances can add up to holiday blues." Other culprits? Colder, darker weather takes its toll on mood and energy levels. Those who've lost loved ones may miss them more at this time of togetherness.

Some tips for staying jolly:

-Keep expectations for the holiday season manageable. Set realistic goals for yourself and don't put the entire focus on a one-day celebration.

-Take care of your body. Exercise keeps mood-lifting endorphins pumping and helps you sleep better. Healthy foods offset sweets and stabilize blood sugar.

-Spread some holiday cheer. Volunteer in your community. Organize friends or co-workers to donate toys or clothing to families that could use some help. Perhaps, do some of your holiday baking with friends. Visit folks at an Assisted Living Facility or Nursing Home, or those who are able to remain at home but rarely get out any longer. Make contact with old friends. When you bring joy to others, you inevitably get it back.

-Remember the reason for the season. Focus on your blessings instead of what you lack.



HEPPNER ELKS 358
676-9181 "Where Friends Meet" 142 North Main

~ SATURDAY, DECEMBER 18th ~

TOM & JERRY PARTY

Starts at 6 p.m. Snacks provided!
For Elks and Out-Of-Town Guests