

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

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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 \$4.90 per column inch. Cost for classified ad is 55¢ per word. Cost for Card of Thanks is \$10 up to 100 words. Cost for a classified display ad is \$5.50 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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**Ione elects prom king and queen**



(L-R): Arthur Ekstrom and Kasie Peterson were chosen as Ione's Prom King and Queen on April 23 at the Heppner Elks Lodge.

**HJHS track team to hold car wash, pop can drive**

The Heppner Junior High track team is holding a combined car wash-pop can drive, this Saturday, April 30, at the Les Schwab parking lot from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. All proceeds will go to the new Heppner track renovation project.

The school is in the process of finishing a six-lane rubber asphalt track for the community. It is believed that the kids need to contribute financially, as well as athletically, in giving back to the track program.

The team also hopes of selling each lane for \$5000 and pooling all the money

from supportive donors to possibly name these lanes from various areas. In the planning stages are lanes named for Heppner, Lexington, Sandhollow/Buttercreek, Rhea/Ruggs, for example. We would also like to honor our state champions and are open for suggestions.

The car wash is a way for the kids to work for obtaining something they will use and it's a great team bonding activity. Please bring in your cars to wash. Donations will be appreciated.

*Join us for an 'Elegant Evening of Fine Dining & Entertainment As a Benefit for Darcy Coil & her Family*

Friday, May 6th at the Heppner Elks Club  
~ Two seatings available ~

Two Ticket Options:

1) Dinner, Dessert & Entertainment at 5:30 p.m.  
~ or ~

2) Dinner, Dessert & Entertainment at 7:30 p.m.  
(Dinner is Tuscan-style pork chops with a penne pasta in a putenesca sauce, Italian-style vegetables, mixed green salad, and herb and garlic bread)  
\$25 for adults / \$15 for children 12 and under

3) Dessert & Entertainment Only at 7 p.m.  
\$10 per ticket

*Purchase tickets at Murray Drugs or Bank of Eastern Oregon in Heppner*

*Limited Seating Available*

*Inquiries - contact Marianne Smith, Carri Grieb, Ann Murray or Missy Lindsay*

**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.)*

**Russell has right age, right experience for Port**

To the Editor:

We are writing in support of Don Russell for commissioner for the Port of Morrow.

Don is a lifelong resident of Morrow County. He has a proven track record as a successful businessman. Don's accounting and business experience would be a valuable addition to the Port Commission.

Don has been active in the community and has served on the Port budget

committee the last few years.

We feel that Don has the experience and is the right age to make a positive impact on Port efforts to grow the business community in Morrow County so that jobs will be available for the young people that now have to leave the county.

Please join us in voting for Don Russell for Commissioner for the Port of Morrow.  
(s) Larry and Betty Mills  
Heppner

**Cattle producer supports resolution**

To the Editor:

I am writing as a cattle producer, R-CALF USA member, member of the Oregon Cattlemen's Association and Morrow County Livestock Growers, to ask Representative Greg Walden (R-OR-2) to co-sponsor and convince the House leadership to allow a vote on H.J. Res. 23, a Resolution of Disapproval of the USDA rule that would prematurely open the U.S. border to Canadian beef and cattle. Cattle producers in Morrow County are counting on our representative signing onto this bill.

So far, to my knowledge, 42 U.S. representatives have signed on as co-sponsors. The livelihood of ranch families depends on this being a top priority in the House. This resolution passed on March 3 in the U.S. Senate and we are hoping for a House floor vote on the issue prior to May 7.

Please call your representative, Greg Walden, this week at (202)

225-6730 or fax him at (202) 225-5774 and urge him to sign on as a co-sponsor to H.J. Res. 23 and also have him ask House leadership for the full House vote on the resolution.

People I have talked to in the cattle business also feel that the U.S. would be closer to getting Japan and other important export markets to resume trade with us if they didn't feel we were about to jeopardize ourselves and others by too quickly opening the border to Canada, when Canada is not complying with world standards for BSE. Taiwan, Egypt, The Philippines and Tahiti recently re-opened their markets to U.S. beef, but prohibited shipping them any Canadian beef imported into the United States.

At present, U.S. beef is the safest beef in the world. We have a separate high standard in the United States and must not be forced to lower those standards. Cattlemen and consumers deserve to be protected now.  
(s) Pamela Wunderlich  
Heppner

**Consider Port representation carefully**

To the Editor:

Voters will receive ballots in the mail this week that include a slate of candidates for the Port of Morrow board of directors.

As most people know, the Port offices are located in Boardman (which is where most of the port's development is located). However, since the closing of the Kinzua sawmill in 1998 the Port has owned and operated the former mill site now called the South Morrow Industrial Park.

As president of the Willow Creek Valley Economic Development Group (WCVEDG), I have had the opportunity to work with the Port on various business recruitment efforts in the past several years at the industrial park. The Port has also leased four acres to the city of Heppner, which

we hope to use for future industrial development.

WCVEDG has had a good relationship with the Port and its board of directors, and as president of WCVEDG, I urge South Morrow County residents to open their ballots and consider carefully their choices for the Port of Morrow board. We need continued strong representation to back up the many people in our area working hard to better the economy of South Morrow County. Your choice of board members is very important to these continued efforts and I urge your care and consideration when choosing candidates to the Port of Morrow.

(s) David Sykes  
Heppner  
President  
Willow Creek Valley  
Economic Development  
Group

**City Council members should express disagreements**

To the Editor:

It was refreshing to read the letter from Glenn Baker and realize that not all City Council members are toadies or rubber stamps. Not everyone can attend all of the Council meetings to observe first hand what is taking place. Being able to receive this information from the local newspaper is a definite plus.

It has been suggested that all City Council members should agree on everything, but if they don't, should not submit such letters to the media, but instead compose these letters and have another party sign and submit them. That does not strike me as being quite ethical. I believe in calling a spade a spade and that this political correctness stuff is just so much unadulterated bovine byproduct.

To Glenn Baker I say, keep up the good work and continue to keep your fellow taxpayers informed.  
(s) Gene Sonstegard  
Heppner

**Ione church to hold annual auction**

Bargains and barbeque will abound at the 43rd Ione Community Church auction, to be held Saturday, June 4 at the Willows Grange Hall in Ione. This annual fundraiser supports the mission and outreach of the small church and donations of auction items are now being accepted.

The live outdoor auction and indoor "Country Store" historically offer antiques, furniture, farm equipment, household goods, arts and crafts, toys, books, baked goods, a custom-made quilt and a wide variety of services. The auction does not include clothing. Church members will gladly pick up large or bulk donations. Call Jerry Rietmann at 422-7181 for arrangements.

Ione Community Church is affiliated with the United Church of Christ, the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and the National Association of Congregational Christian Churches.

**Heppner Chamber to hold Candidates' Forum**

Thursday, April 28 and Thursday, May 5, the Heppner Chamber will be holding Candidates' Forums for the Port of Morrow, Morrow County Health District and Morrow County School Board positions.

Interested persons are invited to join Chamber members at 11:30 a.m., both days, at John's Place, for a no-host luncheon and the forums. Guests are asked to RSVP to 676-5536 if they plan to attend.

**MCHD approves proposed \$5.8 million budget**

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learned a portion of the roof over the hospital solarium needs replacement.

reviewed the March profit/loss statement, which shows \$339,966 in gross patient revenues; a \$34,566 loss for the month and a \$22,747 average monthly year-to-date loss.

reviewed the following reports: PMC had 463 patient visits with 15 new patients and an additional 40 patients seen by a nurse; Irrigon Clinic had 254 patient visits with 39 new patients and 46 additional patients seen by a nurse; PMH had three admissions in March, 472 outpatients, 65 emergency room encounters, 1303 lab tests, 117 x-ray procedures, 28 CT scans, 25 EKG tests and 28 respiratory therapy procedures; Home Health had 174 visits; and the pharmacy provided 671 drug doses for \$36,743 in drug revenue.

**Embezzlement pre-trial conference continued**

The pre-trial conference in the embezzlement case against Sandi Day originally set for April 21 was continued until May 12 so that medical records could be reviewed, said Morrow County District Attorney David Allen.

Allen said he has to review the medical records to determine whether Day would be medically able to serve a jail sentence. After he has time to consider the records he will contact Day's attorney, Ann Spicer, to work on negotiations.

At the May 12 conference, Allen said that either an agreement will be made or a trial date will be set, unless there is another continuance.

**Grant-writing workshop set**

The Union County Cultural Coalition and Eastern Oregon Regional Arts Council will sponsor a free grant-writing workshop for arts organizations on Saturday, May 7, in La Grande. Organizations from all 10 counties in Eastern Oregon are invited to attend.

The workshop will take place from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on the campus of Eastern Oregon University in Hoke Hall, Room 301. Lunch is provided.

Attendees are asked to bring a project for which they are seeking funds. J.D. Smith, grant writer for Oregon East Symphony and Pendleton Center for the Arts, will present the workshop. Smith has been a grant writer for non-profit arts organizations for more than 25 years.

Call EORAC at (541) 962-3624 for more information and/or to register for the workshop. Please register no later than May 6.

**ELECT  
CHRIS  
RAUCH  
Port of Morrow  
Commissioner**  
*Paid for by Chris Rauch*

**RE-ELECT  
DAN CREAMER  
to the  
PORT OF MORROW**  
**-Experienced Port Commissioner-  
While Dan has been Commissioner,  
the Port has created 900 jobs**  
*Paid for by Dan Creamer*