

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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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 50¢ 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).

For Obituaries: Obituaries are published in the Heppner GT at no charge and are edited to meet news guidelines. Families wishing to include information not included in the guidelines or who wish to have the obituary written in a certain way must purchase advertising space for the obituary.

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**DA's Report**

Morrow County District Attorney David C. Allen has released the following report:

Stacey Lee Jessen, 36, was convicted of one count of Strangulation, a Class A Misdemeanor, and was sentenced to 180 days in jail and 24 months of bench probation. He was ordered to pay \$626 in fines, fees and assessments, and complete 140 hours of community service. He was ordered to have no offensive physical contact with the victim, enroll and complete an anger management program, submit to an alcohol evaluation, enter into and successfully complete an approved certified alcohol treatment program and submit a written apology to the victim.

Vernon Shad Jeffreys, 37, was convicted of one count of Contempt of Court/Punitive, an Unclassified Misdemeanor, and was sentenced to jail for 30 days, required to pay \$626, and 24 months' bench probation. He was ordered to have no offensive physical contact with the victim.

Ernestor Raynundo Torrez, 19, was convicted of one count of Delivery of Marijuana one ounce-No Pay, a Class A Misdemeanor and was sentenced to jail for 180 days, suspension of driver's license for six months, and is required to pay \$626 in fines, fees and assessments. Defendant shall not use or possess any illegal drugs or narcotics, and shall notify the probation officer of any prescriptions given by doctor, not possess any narcotics paraphernalia, including smoking devices, not associate with any person known to use, sell or possess illegal drugs or narcotics, not frequent places where illegal drugs are kept, used or sold, submit to random monitored drug testing, obtain a substance abuse evaluation and complete 40 hours of community service.

**Artisan Village quilt show seek entrants**

Artisan Village's fourth annual outdoor quilt show will be Sunday, July 31, from 9 a.m. - 8 p.m. Quilts are needed. Those planning to bring quilts in should do so from July 10-24. Quilts will be accepted Friday, July 29, but Artisan Village reminds entrants that it is easiest to make a nice display if quilts are not brought in at the last minute. No quilts will be accepted for the judged competition category after July 24 when the shop closes.

Quilters are also reminded that, like the last three years, there will be three categories to enter quilts: Display Only - the largest category; For Sale; and For Competition. Judged.

Also remember any quilt 50 years old or older may be put in the quilt shows more than once and Artisan Village encourages entrants to do so.

"All old quilts, new quilts, big quilts, little quilts, funky quilts, traditional quilts, quilted wearables, baby quilts and granny quilts will be accepted.

Quilt artist, Laura Estes of Odessa, Washington, will be a special guest at the show. She has been an avid quilter since the early 1980s and owns her own quilt design pattern business and line of quilting stencils.

Interested persons will be able to take mini "make and take" classes at the show. The cost will be \$4 and includes the class and a small kit that can be made during the approximately one hour class.

**G-T NEWS  
& ADVERTISING  
DEADLINE  
MONDAYS AT 5 P.M.**

**COULD IT BE...  
K.T....  
TURNING 70?!?!?**



Please join us for a  
**70th Birthday  
Celebration**  
for  
**Kenny Turner**  
When: July 23, 2005  
Where:  
Heppner Elks Lodge  
Time:  
Cocktails 6:30 p.m.  
Lite Dinner: 7:30 p.m.  
*No Gifts Please*

**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 \$10.)

**Writer mislead, misquoted**

**To the Editor and the Residents of the Town of Lexington:**

Re: The meeting referred to by the letter to the editor as "To set the record straight" in last week's paper.

It appears that the writer has again mislead, misquoted and provided false information to the citizens of the Town of Lexington. This meeting was an executive session for an employee evaluation. According to law, any business, conducted at these sessions, is considered private unless consented for release by the employee or by the entire council. The writer of the letter, did indeed, help the recorder with the report and she was told to clarify the statement regarding "Nothing Being Done", however she also told the recorder that it was her responsibility to sign the report, thus placing the recorder in the position of voicing an opinion and providing false information. Reports of this kind should address the subject only and should not editorialize (state an opinion). That was wrong, as it made the recorder responsible for the entire report, and absolved the writer of any responsibility. As for firing the recorder, that was not even a consideration, however there has been a Lexington recorder terminated in the past for voicing her own opinion and not that of the council.

And now for the rest of the story:

The writer speaks of a Safe Drinking Water Revolving Loan that she has pursued and desires to obtain. The Town of Lexington currently has two (2) outstanding water loans: one that was taken out in the late 1970s and one that has a balance of almost \$100,000. Both these loans are charging a higher rate of interest than what any savings is earning.

She also talks about a survey that she sent out to 123 meter numbers. She stated that she received a 35 percent return. How can that be true when there are quite a few residents who did not receive and probably were not even sent a survey form? She states that she was told by the Secretary of State that her survey was okay, but yet a phone call to the same office stated that surveys are to be sent to all residents and not to just a sample, and that they should not be identifiable on return. Her survey forms were noted with the residents meter numbers.

She speaks of an action that was not approved

by the council, but her actions, outside of and without the knowledge or consent of the council, has resulted in an extra expense of thousands of dollars for the town and probably created a liability of thousands more. She has consistently made contacts and agreements with others without consulting other council members.

She speaks of no engineer. That statement is also untrue, as it has been addressed several times over the years. But, unfortunately some of them are not interested in Lexington. Wal-Mart only certifies a small number of engineers, and Lexington has had more than their share.

A local farmer has stated that he is willing to let the town drill on his property for water. That, too, she has refused to consider, because it is not part of her plan. The town was awarded \$27,000 to find a new water source, but that money had to be used to pay off one of her "screw ups" and to put up a fence. Another farmer had indicated that he was willing to donate land to the town, but when she and a former city employee proceeded to remove his equipment from his property and than told him that he had better get a lawyer, he decided to charge the town \$10,000. The town still does not have clear title to the land.

There are several elderly residents and even some young families in Lexington who are having a hard time making their money stretch. Some of them are doing without medications, and possibly adequate food in order to do so. They are having problems paying for their water now. What would it be like if an additional loan was taken out? The current loans need to be spent down and paid off before any further ones are obtained. If not, Lexington will not survive.

The writer of the prior letter should get her head out of the sand, and take a look at the real world, instead of the one of her fantasy. If she would work with the rest of the council, instead of thinking that she is the expert on everything and that everything needs to be done only her way, much could be accomplished. What will be her next project? Perhaps a local option tax to finance her "screws ups" or maybe a privilege tax for the honor of living in Lexington.

A very concerned citizen, taxpayer and homeowner,

(s) Bob Taylor  
Lexington

**Help our schools; participate in ed committee**

**To the Editor:**

To whom it may concern:

As a newly returned resident to Heppner and a graduate of Heppner High School, I was dismayed to discover, on the election ballot in May of this year, that no one was running for any of the six positions on the Heppner Community Education Committee. Although I have little experience (none) in public service I told myself, "Enthusiastic help is better than none, right?" I filed to run, attended and spoke at the candidates' forum, and was duly elected. A long-time friend and classmate at HHS, Jim Cason, ran as a write in candidate and was also elected. As of July 1, the start of the new term, we are the only committee members.

After talking to a number of members of the district school board, I was better informed but no more pleased; the HCEC had seldom met in the previous year, at least with the minimum of four members needed for a quorum. The Boardman/Irrigon Committee members apparently had no such problems attending meetings; the citizens of those communities must care more about the state of their schools than those of us in the South End. An embarrassing situation, to say the least.

Currently, we are extremely lucky in the quality, enthusiasm, and approachability of our board members and particularly our district superintendent, Mark Burrows, and his staff. By all accounts they have done a great job of working within a limited budget and still delivering the services

they are mandated by the state to provide.

But this is no time for complacency; there are current programs and ongoing issues that require vigorous and diligent attention of the part of the community. We need to evaluate the effectiveness of state and federally mandated testing programs. We need to begin actively lobbying state legislators find a permanent solution to the ongoing school funding crisis. We need more imagination and public participation in academic programs, not just sports programs. We must continue to push for more and better arts and vocational programs at Heppner High School.

As stated in the policy manual, the purpose of the CECs is to "provide input and advice to the board of directors through their principals concerning the district's schools." This includes but is not limited to curricula, programs and facilities; the committee is also encouraged to solicit and present the views of the community at large on issues related to the schools.

Please do your part to help our schools: let us (the members of the HCEC) know what you think of school operations and what issues you would like us to concentrate on.

Better yet, join the committee. We still need four members and at least one alternate in order to ensure that we have a quorum at each meeting. For more information, contact me at the number below or call Julie Ashbeck at the District Office: 989-8202, extension 2010.

(s) Pat Struthers  
Heppner

**Job hirings not fair**

**To the Editor:**

Approximately three weeks ago I applied for a job watering flowers with the City of Heppner. The job closed the 30th of June. When I didn't hear anything about it from the City of Heppner, I realized that it had been given to someone else.

Yesterday I was informed that (a local teenager) got the job. I would like to know why it went to someone who really didn't need it, instead of someone who did. Were politics involved?

I also applied for the

park host position at Cutsforth Park. I don't know who received that position, but whoever it was, wasn't interviewed for it. I know I wasn't. How can the county know who is the best qualified for the job without interviews being conducted? I don't feel that's fair or even wise.

My husband and I are struggling to make ends meet. He is on a fixed income, and can't afford health insurance, or to go to a dentist which is urgently needed.

(s) B. Lisa Cutsforth Carter  
Heppner

**Camille Murray earns degree**

Camille Murray, daughter of Matt and Mary Murray, graduated from La Quinta, Ca., High School June 16. She completed the school's International Baccalaureate Program graduation with a 4.6 grade point.

She has been invited to attend Cambridge University in London for a month this summer and to spend an additional month in Paris to experience their culture. She will be attending Linfield College at

McMinnville, Oregon, this fall.

**Local man receives treatment**

Word has been received that Heppner resident Gary Richards is currently receiving cancer treatment at St. Mary Medical Center. Letters and cards may be sent to Gary Richards, St. Mary Medical Center; c/o Herring Guest House; P.O. Box 1477; Walla Walla, WA 99362; phone 1-800-452-3320 ext. 2882.

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OUR ANNUAL**

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Thanks For Everything!  
Love,  
Baby Brother Bobby