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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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**Chamber Chatter**

By Claudia Hughes, Exec. Dir.

"The trail is the thing, not the end of the trail. Travel too fast and you miss all you are traveling for." This quote by Louis L'Amour seemed a good one to kick off 2006. Maybe only those of us over 60 get it because the younger generation with all their ever-changing technology and fast speed devices seem to be in a huge impatient hurry. We welcome their lessons in technology as we hope they welcome ours in traveling a bit slower. There are definitely choices of many trails to follow and different ways in which to follow them.

With that, I continue to follow the Chamber Trail for a few more months. First on the agenda is the Chamber annual luncheon, Tuesday, Jan. 10, at 11:30 a.m., at All Saints Parish Hall. Spouses are welcome. Newly elected board members, Jack Thompson and Alvin Liu, as well as ongoing members, John Murray, Barb Hayes, Bert Houweling, Nancy Snider, Brenda Sherrell, Jeff Bailey, and Tim Van Cleave, will be installed. President Nancy Gochnauer will turn over the gavel to Nancy Snider. The Chamber recognizes Dave Sykes for his dedication the past years as a board member. Please call the Chamber office, 676-5536 for reservations for the luncheon.

Immediately on the horizon is Heppner's annual Town and Country Awards Banquet. "Volunteers are Top Hat" is the theme for this year's prime rib dinner at the Heppner Elks, Thursday, Jan. 12. Jonathan Nicholas, Portland Oregonian columnist, will be the keynote speaker. Nicholas has some interesting stories to tell, including how the first Cycle Oregon came to be. He is from Wales, obvious from his delightful accent. CenturyTel is again helping to sponsor our banquet and there are some surprises in store for attendees, including the drawing for the jewelry donated by Randal and Marlene Peterson. Social hour begins at 6 p.m., followed by the banquet at 7 p.m. Tickets are on sale at Bank of Eastern Oregon, Murray's, and the Heppner Chamber of Commerce.

The above events and Chamber goal setting will keep us busy as we travel the January Trail and right around the corner is the wearing o' the green. Past event chairpersons are asked to give a call immediately if their organization plans to continue their respective annual events or would like to serve in some capacity as "the road rises up to meet us and the sun shines warm upon our backs for A Wee Bit O' Ireland 2006."

Thought for the New Year: May each of you in this New Year find the trail that best suits you, take the ruts in stride, and enjoy mountaintop experiences along the way, as we care for our community and each other.

**Singspiration planned**

The Christian Life Center will host Singspiration this Sunday, Jan. 8, at 7 p.m. This is an opportunity for people to sing their favorite inspirational selections. Everyone in the community is invited to attend.

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**Morrow County School District, superintendent recognize board**

Morrow County School District is joining the other 14,885 school districts throughout the United States in celebrating January as "School Board Recognition Month." Serving on the local school board are: Craig Miles, board chair, two years, Barney Lindsay, board vice-chair, six years, Berto Hernandez, one year, Bill Kuhn, two years, Ken Matlack, two years, Pat McNamee, six years, and Nancy Vander Does, six months.

"These men and women volunteer countless hours of unpaid time not only providing the best possible education for our nearly 2300 students, but also serving as the corporate board of directors for one of our county's largest employers," said MCS D Superintendent Mark Burrows. "As your elected leaders, they represent you in their continuing

commitment to local citizen control and decision-making for our public schools. Too often the efforts of school board members go unrecognized and unrewarded."

"The key work of our school board is to support student achievement by:

• Creating a vision for what we want our school district to become and how we will focus on student achievement as our top priority;

• Establishing standards for what we want our students to learn and to be able to do;

• Being accountable for the outcomes of their decisions and actions by continually tracking progress and reporting results;

• Creating safe and conducive climates where students can learn and teachers can teach;

Forming collaborative relationships with others in our community to solve common problems and to support common successes; and

Focusing attention on continuous improvement by questioning, examining, revising, refining and revisiting issues related to student achievement.

"Even though we are making a special effort during January to show appreciation for our school board members, we recognize their contributions reflect a year-round effort on their part. They are dedicated individuals who are committed to improving student achievement and providing a comprehensive education for all students," he said.

**Food, shelter MCCC topic**

The regular monthly meeting of the Morrow County Commission on Children and Families will be held on Jan. 10 at 6 p.m., in the conference room at the Department of Human Services building, which is located at 103 S.W. Kinkade, Boardman.

Items for discussion include federal emergency food and shelter, waiver to increase commission staffing to full time, Boardman Preschool contract, election of officers for 2006.

The public is invited to attend and participate in the discussions. For further information or for special accommodations call 676-9675.

**Death Notice**

Richard Cox, Lexington, died December 28, 2005, in Scappoose, Oregon. Services will be held Saturday, January 14, at 11 a.m. at the Heppner Elks Lodge.

A complete obituary will follow at a later date.

**Health Department clinic schedule**

Morrow County Health Department announces its clinic schedule for January. The schedule is as follows:

Thursday, January 5 - Heppner Clinic, 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. (Closed 12-1)

Monday, January 9 - Boardman Clinic, 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. (Closed 12:30-1)

Tuesday, January 10 - Boardman Clinic, 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. (Closed 12:30-1)

Wednesday, January 11 - Boardman Clinic, 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. (Closed 12:30-1)

Thursday, January 12 - Heppner Clinic, 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. (Closed 12-1)

Monday, January 16 - Martin Luther King's Birthday (Office Closed)

Tuesday, January 17 - Boardman Clinic, 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. (Closed 12:30-1)

Wednesday, January 18 - Family Planning Clinic 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. (Closed 12-1)

Thursday, January 19 - Heppner Clinic, 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. (Closed 12-1)

Monday, January 23 - Boardman Clinic, 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. (Closed 12:30-1)

Tuesday, January 24 - Boardman Clinic, 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. (Closed 12:30-1)

Wednesday, January 25 - Offices closed for staff meeting

Thursday, January 26 - Heppner Clinic, 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. (Closed 12-1)

Monday, January 30 - Boardman Clinic, 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. (Closed 12:30-1)

Tuesday, January 31 - Boardman Clinic, 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. (Closed 12:30-1) WIC at Heppner.

**Ione Cardinal JVs end preseason**

The Ione Cardinal JV boys' team finished a challenging preseason with a 2-5 record. Coach Jim Swanson said he found many positives in his young team. "The kids have improved every game and have not gotten discouraged at all with the defeats."

The Cardinals recorded their first win of the season against Sherman County at home on Dec. 6. A tight game swung Ione's way in the third quarter when the Cards opened up a 20-point lead on the opponents. Good rebounding led to a 51-25 board advantage for Ione. The final score was 62-40.

The other win was over Christmas break against Irrigon. The Cards outscored the Knights, 36-

24, and again rebounded well, edging the opponents' 34-22 on the boards.

Losses this season have come at the hands of Enterprise twice, Umatilla and the Hermiston sophomores.

Leading scorers for the JVs after seven games include Clay Mortor with 61 points, Justin Archer with 46, William Bergstrom and Derek Davidson with 38 each, Cory Peterson with 24, Kevin Fowler with 22, William Wehrli with 16, Kip Krebs with 15, Matt Coleman with eight and Dalton Campbell with three.

Archer leads the team in assists with 16, followed by Morter with 10. Morter leads the team in rebounds with 42, followed by Peterson with 27, Fowler with 24, Archer with 20 and Wehrli with 18.

Archer leads the team in steals with 17, along with Davidson and Peterson with 16 each and Fowler with 12.

Coach Swanson noted that the JV team misses Kip Krebs who was moved up to varsity full-time after just three games. He commended the play of William Wehrli who has improved his play in the key tremendously and also commented that Archer and

Davidson are becoming a great twosome.

"Like the varsity, we have been playing 2A, 3A and 4A schools so it has been a very hard start for the JVs," said Swanson. However he was pleased that the team was continuing to work hard and improve despite sometimes being overmatched.

"Our best game was against Sherman County. We beat a very good JV team. We were really hot on offense and played some good tight defense," he added.

Swanson and the young Cardinals look forward to a schedule of mostly 1A opponents for the rest of the season. Ione plays at Helix on Friday and hosts Central Christian on Saturday.

**School Board meeting changed**

The Morrow County School Board meeting will be moved from Monday, Jan. 9, to Monday, Jan. 16. It will be held at 7:30 p.m. instead of the usual 7 p.m. at Heppner Elementary School.

A work session will be held prior to the regular meeting. Both the work session and the meeting are open to the public.

**Former Rhea Creek rancher**

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cattle and 5000 head of sheep. That's a lot of work.

But ranch life is more than just work. The West children attend school an hour north of the ranch. There are 14 students in grades one through eight - a one-room schoolhouse. The baseball field runs right out into the sagebrush and juniper trees. All the students are from nearby ranches. Their parents hold similar values, and "if somebody's kid is getting out of line, the parent will hear about it, and the problem will be resolved. The people here are very close as a community and respectful of each other." The school has computers, art class - many of the amenities found in larger schools.

The nearest medical facility is in Elko. The West family subscribes to Life Flight, a helicopter ambulance service. The nearest vet is in Elko too, but like most ranchers, the Wests have many veterinarian supplies on hand and are fairly knowledgeable on the subject.

What does West think of Nevada? "The Ruby Mountains are wonderful. I can honestly say that the fulfillment of our hopes and dreams has far exceeded our expectations. The potential here in Nevada is endless."

Morrow County neighbors are sorry the West family has left the area. Nancy Jepsen, West's closest neighbor in Morrow County says, "Our family really misses having Mary and all of the West family as neighbors. Mary is a very special person. She has a pioneering spirit that is rare in our society today. To pick up and leave behind relatives, friends and many of the conveniences of life to live in such a remote area is something very few modern American women could do. Yet Mary has the gift of being content wherever she is - as long as she has her husband and children with her."

Clay and Mary West and their children proudly display their Oregon pride by riding good Jim West horses and using Severd saddles. Mary is so proud when people say she reminds them of her dad, Pete French, a man known as very generous and gentle, soft spoken and a loyal friend.

The kitchen full of cowboys West remembers from her childhood is still a reality in her life. The spring of 2005 brought this comment: "We just had the busiest weekend ever. Yesterday, as it snowed sideways, I had 20 hungry, wet, cowboys dripping on my kitchen floor waiting for lunch. We were branding calves and got rained/snowed out."

This ranch in Nevada is the continuation of a legacy. And West loves it all, the hungry, dripping cowboys, the one room school and the wide-open spaces. Her kids are learning the same skills that cowboys and ranchers for generations have used. And she wouldn't have it any other way.

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