

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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Katie Foster Editor

All 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.

For Letters to the Editor: Letters to the Editor MUST be signed by the author. The Heppner GT will not publish unsigned letters. All letters MUST include the author's address and phone number for use by the GT office. The GT reserves the right to edit letters. The GT 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.

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~ Letters to the Editor ~

The Heppner Gazette Times will print all letters to the Editor with the following criteria met: letters submitted to the newspaper will need to have the name of the sender along with a legible signature. We are also requesting that you provide your address and a phone number where you can be reached. The address and phone number will only be used for verification and will not be printed in the newspaper. Letters may not be libelous. The GT reserves the right to edit. The GT 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.

Will not run for second term

To the Editor:
To the voters and citizens of Morrow County:

In the fall of 2002 I was greatly honored when you elected me to the Office of Morrow County Commissioner. During the past several years I have worked diligently to represent you in a manner worthy of the trust, which you placed in me.

This position requires knowledge across a broad range of areas, including federal, state and local laws, rules and programs. It requires skills in general management, budgeting, labor relations, personnel matter and what we call "people skills." Sometimes it requires engaging in "political combat" to be certain the people you represent receive a fair share of the (never sufficient) funding essential to perform mandates steadily emanating from both the state and federal governments. Additionally, in Morrow County, the

ongoing Chemical Weapons Disposal Program requires constant monitoring, to be certain your public safety is both adequate, and adequately funded. As your Commission, I have enjoyed these challenges, and am gratified to have been of service to the citizens of Morrow County in these areas.

Because of my satisfaction in serving, and because of the steep learning curve necessary for a new Commissioner, I fully intended to run for a second term. However, as I began taking stock to enter a re-election campaign, I realized that increased personal obligations may interfere with my ability to provide the time and attention you, the citizens, deserve from your elected official.

For this reason, I have regretfully decided not to seek a second term as your Commissioner.

(s) Ray Grace
Morrow County
Commissioner

Creative Arts to meet

The meeting of Morrow County Creative Arts and Crafts will be held Feb. 23 at 1 p.m. at GD's banquet room.

Plans for St. Patrick's are on the agenda, with discussion of the sale and show at the Les Schwab showroom. Everyone taking part is asked to attend the meeting so organizers know what is available and how much space is needed. Also needed is a list of the types of items to be displayed so descriptions can be given for advertising. All members are urged to bring in their arts and crafts to St. Patrick's, so there is a great variety, thus making a great display. If

you are unable to be at the St. Patrick's Sale and Show the entire time, arrangements will be made. If you are unable to attend the Feb. 23 meeting, contact Betty Christman at 989-8534.

Sign-ups for Betty Crosswhite's workshop on April 21 and 22 are being held. A choice of seascapes or flowers is available, with the possibility of an English cottage. The workshop must be paid for by March 17. To sign-up, contact Betty Mills at 676-5546.

New members are welcome and may attend the Feb. 23 meeting to become informed on the group agenda for 2006.

Obituaries

Lester S. Grasser

Lester S. Grasser, 91, of Heppner, died Tuesday, Jan. 24, 2006, at the Hermiston Good Samaritan Center.



Lester Grasser

A memorial service will be held at 2 p.m., on Saturday, Feb. 18 at the Seventh Day Adventist Church in Heppner.

Memorial contributions may be made to the donors' charity of choice.

Sweeney Mortuary of Heppner is in charge of arrangements.

Sherry Ann Carmack Deponty

Sherry Ann Carmack Deponty, 41, of Spokane, WA and formerly of Heppner, died Feb. 8, 2006 at Valley Hospital in Spokane.

She was born July 2, 1964 in Grants Pass.

Survivors include husband, Ernest Deponty; daughter, Ashley Carmack; son, Teddy Peckham, III; two brothers, George Locust of Grants Pass and Bill Malotte of Spokane; sister, Andrea Shaw of Roseburg; and her mother and stepfather, Karron and Gib Gibson of Ione.

Joe Bourrie wins game maker award

Joe Bourrie, a 2000 Heppner High graduate, recently won this year's award for innovation in programming at the 2006 Slamdance Guerrilla Gamemaker Competition held in Park City, UT. The game he helped create during his senior year at Digipen is also a finalist at the seventh annual Independent Game Festival. Bourrie is currently employed with Rainbow Studios in Phoenix, AZ (a game production company).

Those interested may visit the game's website to learn more information about the game and the competitions. You can also download a free copy of the game. The game's website is phackett.com/rumblebox.

DA's report

Rachelle Freda admitted to violation of probation allegations for Interfering with a Police Officer. Her probation was revoked and reinstated, with an extension of one year from the original expiration date and she was sentenced to 30 suspended days in jail and payment of all financial obligations.

Donald Ray Wright admitted to violation of probation allegations for Harassment. His probation was continued with an extension of 12 months from the original expiration date.

Poker and Bingo fundraiser to be held

The second annual Texas Hold 'em Poker and Bingo Fundraiser will be held on Sunday, March 12 from 4 to 10 p.m. at the Ione American Legion Hall.

Bounty prizes will be awarded for the Texas Hold 'em Poker. This was a hit with all the players last year.

The gun raffle has been a very popular item for those who enjoy guns. Willard French and John Jepsen have donated this year's model. It's a limited edition Ruger 22-caliber, semi-automatic long rifle. Tickets are \$1 each or 6 for \$5 and are available at MCGG, Collier's Market, Bank of Eastern Oregon - Ione branch, or Legion and Auxiliary members. The drawing will be held at the Texas Hold 'em Poker night at 7 p.m.

A sub sandwich and salad buffet will be served. Taylor's Restaurant will be serving a no-host bar with beer, wine, wine coolers, pop and non-alcoholic beer.

Other card and board games will be available for any one who would like to try their hand at other games. A Mexican Train Dominoes table will also be set up for those who enjoy playing dominoes.

A minimum-bid Silent Auction will be held. Anyone who has items they would like to donate can contact Irene Holtz or Jean Jepsen.

The Legion and Auxiliary have made many improvements to the Century old building in a six-year project. The painting of the ceiling and the wiring and lighting project in the main ballroom has been paid for with funds from last year's event. This year's event will help with ongoing projects and general maintenance. We want to keep this building up-to-date and accessible to everyone in Ione and the surrounding area.

Please plan to attend. We'd love to see you. Whether it's to play poker, bingo, have a sandwich and visit or just come to watch the fun. Everyone is welcome.

Heppner UGB expansion hearings postponed

Due to the need to review some transportation/traffic issues at the Kinzua industrial park (at ODOT's request) the Heppner UGB expansion hearings have been put on hold until further notice. On Wednesday, Feb. 16, at 2 p.m., a meeting will be held at Heppner City Hall with the state agencies involved to determine if there are other unresolved issues and procedural processes that yet have to be addressed. This meeting is open to the public.

School district

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at the Port of Morrow. The Irrigon meeting is planned for Wednesday, March 8, at 12:45 p.m. at the Irrigon Community Center.

-approved a resolution for the Umatilla Morrow Education Service District to provide services for the district for 2006-07. Burrows said that ESDs, through tax monies, provide a large variety of services which are often too expensive or too difficult for the schools to provide themselves, including services to English as a second language students, and autistic, learning disabled, emotionally disturbed or physically handicapped children.

-learned that the district received a clean audit in its annual audit report, which reflected the district's strong financial status. Burrows said, however, the district did receive a management letter which indicated that the district needed to do a better job of reconciling accounts, which the district has already addressed.

-heard a report from Heppner Jr./Sr. High School Principal Daye Stone concerning a proposed ag/FFA program for Heppner High School. He said that if the community wants such a program, the district could bring it back. He said that the bent of the program is largely determined by the person who is hired, but it could also include classes which would satisfy graduation requirements, such as a freshman careers class, a personal finance class and possibly a biology, animal science or life science class in addition to three or four ag classes. "We think we can make it work," said Stone. "I'm excited about having the opportunity to build a staff. I'm looking at it as an opportunity to offer more opportunities for kids. Hiring the right person is the key." The board postponed action on reinstating the program for a month until more input is received. Burrows said that funding for the new ag program would be from within the school's budget.

-accepted a resignation from Toni Baker, from her positions as alternative ed assistant at the Morrow Education Center, effective Feb. 2.

-approved retirement for Kay Ceton, Riverside High School library tech, retiring from PERS, effective Feb. 28, but continuing through the end of the 2005-06 school year; Sharon Sample, Irrigon High School library tech, retiring from PERS effective March 1, but continuing through the end of the 2005-06 school year.

-approved employment for Tamera Lien, Heppner Elementary School special ed one-on-one assistant for a high needs student.

-approved extra duty contracts for Robin Graff, RHS assistant softball coach; Dawn Dyer, RHS assistant tennis coach; and Brian

Frazier and Brian Jones, for a shared position as Riverside Junior High assistant wrestling coaches.

-discussed 2006-07 school calendar options as follows: Option A-pre-Labor Day start with teachers beginning Aug. 21, students beginning Aug. 28, one-plus weeks at Christmas with the last work day Dec. 19, school resuming Jan. 3, students ending June 5 and teachers ending June 7; Option B-post Labor Day start with teachers beginning Aug. 28, students beginning Sept. 5, one-plus weeks at Christmas with the last work day Dec. 19, school resuming Jan. 3, students ending June 12 and teachers ending June 14; Option C-pre-Labor Day start with teachers beginning Aug. 21, students beginning Aug. 28, two-plus weeks at Christmas with the last work day Dec. 21, school resuming Jan. 8, students ending June 6 and teachers ending June 8; Option D-post Labor Day start with teachers beginning Aug. 28, students beginning Sept. 5, two-plus weeks at Christmas with the last work day Dec. 21, school resuming Jan. 8, students ending on June 13 and teachers ending June 15. A.C. Houghton Elementary School Principal John Sebastian told the board that a longer Christmas break allows more students to return from extended family vacations in Mexico. He said that it not only aids students and their families, but also is financially beneficial to the district by creating fewer absentees. Each day a student is not in attendance costs the district in state funding. The options will now go the staff for their preference.

-heard the following announcements: Bridges Project community meeting, Heppner Elementary School, Feb. 23, 7 p.m.; Bridges Project community meeting, Port of Morrow, Feb. 28, 7 p.m.; Bridges Project community meeting, Stokes Landing, March 8, 12:45 p.m.; next board meeting district office Monday, March 13, 7 p.m.

Baseball camp and clinic to be held

A baseball camp for students in grades 4-12 will be held in Heppner on Feb. 25 and 26. The camp will be conducted by Grays Harbor Community College and Heppner High School's coaching staff.

The cost is \$10 per player. Forms and registration fees need to be returned by Wednesday, Feb. 22.

The camp will be held from 8:30-11 a.m., Saturday and Sunday for grades 4-8 and 12-4 p.m., Saturday and 12-3 p.m., Sunday for grades 9-12. There will also be a coaching clinic on Saturday, Feb. 25 at 6:30 p.m. There is no cost for the clinic.

For more information, contact Terri Gentry or Greg Grant at HHS, 676-9138, or Rick Johnston at 676-5562. Registration forms can be picked up at the TV office in Heppner or at either Heppner school.

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of
Oliver J. Devin
November 18, 1936 - February 16, 2005
Mo and Terrance



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