

The Official Newspaper
of the City of Heppner and the County of Morrow

Heppner
GAZETTE-TIMES

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David Sykes Publisher
Katie Foster Editor

All News and Advertising Deadline is Monday at 5 p.m.
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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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Economic Development Group works to establish E-Commerce Zone

The Willow Creek Valley Economic Development Group (WCVEDG) is working to establish an Electronic Commerce Enterprise Zone for the Heppner, Ione and Lexington area.

Establishment of the Enterprise Zone would help attract new business to South Morrow County.

If a businesses or organization would be willing to write a letter of support for the economic zone please contact David Sykes, WCVEDG board member, at 676-9228, or mail your signed letter to David Sykes at P.O. Box 337, Heppner, OR 97836.

Letters must be in by March 29 to be included with the application.

Irrigon High School principal suspended, athletic director resigns

Ron Anthony, principal at Irrigon Junior/Senior High School, was suspended by Superintendent Mark Burrows for policy violations. Anthony's suspension will last until after Spring Break, which ends April 3. Monday night, March 20, the Morrow County School Board met in executive session to discuss the issue. No action was taken as of yet.

Anthony had earlier been reported to the Oregon Teachers' Standards and Practices committee for a policy violation, said Burrows. An investigation is being conducted by the OTSP to determine what type of sanction or reprimand Anthony will receive for the violation. Currently, Anthony's license is not in jeopardy, said Burrows.

Anthony was recently named Middle School Principal of the Year from the Oregon Middle Level Association. Anthony was nominated for the award by Irrigon community members.

Larry French, Irrigon High School's athletic director, who was in violation of the district's Internet use policy, has resigned, effective immediately. French, who is retired from Riverside High School, had been serving on an extra-duty contract as a coach and athletic director and as a substitute teacher.

Lexington Fire Fund to meet

The quarterly meeting of the Lexington Fire Fund will be held Monday, March 27 at Town Hall at 7 p.m. A discussion concerning the needs of the Fire Department and what the Fire Fund can do for it will be held. Citizens of the Town are encouraged to participate.

City defers log truck decision to committee

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have not been bothered by their truck. "No one complained in the summer," she added. She also said that she believed that many people who signed Bergstrom's letter did not even read it.

Bergstrom countered that everyone who signed the letter had an opportunity to read it.

Ball stressed that the truck owners not only depend on their trucks for their livelihoods, but also put a considerable amount of money back into the Heppner economy, especially for gas and tires. She said her husband worked at the sawmill in Heppner for 25 years before it was shut down and they want to remain in the community, but need to be able to make a living.

"I'm really in favor of the ordinance," said Chuck Holt of Heppner. "I don't think Heppner can afford to run out any small businesses. He also said he spoke to several people in the neighborhood in question who said they also were not bothered by that particular truck.

Kathy Maben, who owns a log trucking business with her husband, Jeff, voiced concern that if the truck owners were forced to park their vehicles away from their homes, they would risk theft and vandalism to their trucks, which would, in turn, threaten their livelihood. "We've got to have them where they would be safe," said Maben. "Our businesses go down, we go down." Of special concern are the thefts by meth users who steal parts, even scrap, to sell for drug money. The truck owners say that even finding a place to park the trucks is another issue.

Kevin and Candy Chick, who live near another truck driver, Jim Rollis, said that their whole household is awakened and household disrupted in the early morning hours by a truck starting up and idling for "an hour." The truck owners, on the other hand, said it is necessary to warm up their vehicles prior to use, but try to reduce the amount of idling time as much as possible. Gary Ball said that the trucks need around 15 minutes of idling time.

The draft ordinance reads as follows:
"An Ordinance Amending Heppner City Code Sections 6-2-1, to allow parking of trucks off street and declaring an emergency.

Whereas the City of Heppner desires to promote the livability of the community for all its citizens; and Whereas truck drivers owning their own trucks need the ability to park and repair their vehicles at their residence; and Whereas with appropriate restrictions, this need can be accommodated without infringing upon neighboring landowner's right of quiet enjoyment of their property. The city of Heppner ordains as follows; 1. Section 6-2-1 C. is amended by the

addition of the following language: "A truck without a load that is not a semi-tractor truck (a truck designed to haul a trailer) or a semi-tractor truck without a trailer may be driven to the residence of the owner of the truck for the purpose of parking or for minor repairs. The truck must be parked off-street. Minor repairs are repairs that can be accomplished without the use of power equipment. No repair work shall be done between 7:30 p.m. and 8 a.m." 2. Inasmuch as enforcement of this ordinance is necessary for the health, safety and welfare of the city of Heppner, and emergency is declared to exist and this ordinance shall be in full force and effect immediately upon passage by the Council and approval of the Mayor."

City attorney Bill Kuhn said that the city had declared an emergency with regard to this ordinance because if they hadn't they would have had to wait 30 days for the ordinance to go into effect, if it had been passed.

In other business, the council:

-adopted an ordinance granting a franchise to David Green, doing business as Heppner Garbage Disposal Service.

-adopted an ordinance granting a franchise to construct, operate and maintain a telecommunications network within the city of Heppner to CenturyTel of Eastern Oregon.

-ratified the appointment of Paul Jones and Angie Hanson to fill positions on the planning commission vacated by Dan Dunnett and Rod Wilson.

-discussed watering of the downtown flower baskets. It was suggested that the task be undertaken by a volunteer group, such as high school cheerleaders, Boy Scouts.

-approved granting use of the Heppner City Park to the class of 1956 for their 50-year reunion on July 15.

-accepted Judith Laughlin's resignation from the city budget committee.

-heard city manager's, public works and law enforcement reports.

-adopted 2006 city goals.

-discussed but took no action on a resolution establishing pay ranges and policy for employee compensation for 2006-07. The city manager's monthly salary would range from \$3885 to \$5050 with a base salary of \$4140 and a maximum of \$4306, including incentives and merit potential. The city treasurer's monthly salary would range from \$2501 to \$3146 with a base salary of \$3146 and a maximum of \$3272, including incentives and merit pay. The treasurer trainee's monthly salary would range from \$2501 to \$3146 with a base salary of \$2730 and no incentive or merit pay. The general clerk would receive \$9.69 per hour with a maximum of \$10.08 per hour. The public works director's monthly

salary would range from \$3171 to \$4132 with a base salary of \$3681 with a maximum of \$3829, including incentives and merit potential. The assistant public works director's salary would range from \$2763 to \$3597 with a base salary of \$3597 and a maximum of \$3790, including incentives and merit potential. Utility worker I's salary would range from \$1826 to \$3216 with a base of \$2444 and a maximum of \$2692; Utility worker II's salary would range from \$1826 to \$3216 with a base of \$2489 and a maximum of \$2614; Utility worker III's salary would range from \$1826 to \$3216 with a base of \$1882 and a maximum of \$2032. The chamber of commerce manager would receive \$1050 and is exempt from incentive and merit pay. Chamber part-time staff would receive \$8.44 per hour with no incentive or merit pay. The mayor would receive a base salary of \$335 with no incentive or merit pay.

Under the merit pay program, non-supervisory positions, depending on a scoring system, would receive either: a two-percent merit increase with two extra vacation days, a three-percent merit increase with three extra vacation days or a four-percent merit increase with four extra vacation days. Supervisory positions, also depending on a scoring system, would receive either: a two-percent merit increase with two extra vacation days; a three-percent merit increase with three extra vacation days; or a four-percent merit increase with four extra vacation days.
-approved the city council goals for 2006.
-approved a proposal to join the Northeast Regional Housing Fund.

Obituaries

Kenneth Deane Graves

Kenneth Deane Graves, 39, of Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, died Friday, March 17, 2006 in a helicopter crash near Dayville, Oregon. A memorial service will be announced at a later date.

Survivors include his mother, Bonnie Paullus of Sumpter; his father, John Deane Graves of Umatilla; three daughters, Kayla and Samantha Lee of Coeur d'Alene, Idaho and Carolyn Whitney of Klamath Falls; his fiancé, Renee' Kuehner; and a sister, Candy of Julietta, ID; by two grandmothers; by uncle and aunts, Kenny and Candy Gates of Lexington and Rita Woolsey of Heppner; and by cousins, Melissa and Mike Towers of Burns and Melanie and Kevin Troxell of Boardman.

Memorial Contributions may be made to Fallen Firefighters through Driskill Memorial Chapel, 241 S. Canyon Blvd., John Day, Oregon, 97845.

Marriage Licenses

March 7: Steven Theodore Evans, 29, Echo and Kimberly Kaye Johansen, 29, Echo.

March 13: Mitchell Jess Tipton, 57, Irrigon and Glenda Myree Cadek, 52, Irrigon.

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ODOT BOOSTS BUSINESS FOR OREGON COMPANIES

Oregon businesses are finding opportunities for growth with the Oregon Department of Transportation's OTIA III State Bridge Delivery Program.

The bridge program is repairing or replacing more than 300 bridges on Oregon's highways. It is also designed to stimulate Oregon's economy. And it's working.

Fought & Company Inc., an Oregon-based steel fabricator, has supplied nearly \$4 million in structural steel for several bridge program projects. Because of this business, the company has hired 10 new employees and plans to hire more in the near future.

Other materials suppliers, design and construction firms, specialty contractors, and local businesses also are benefiting from the increased construction work.

To learn more, visit ODOT's web site at http://egov.oregon.gov/ODOT/HWY/OTIA/bridge_delivery.shtml.

ODOT IS INVESTING IN OREGON'S FUTURE



PUBLIC NOTICE
Heppner Public Works Department Training
March 24, 2006
8 a.m. to 12 p.m.
The Heppner PW Department will be receiving CPR training on Friday, March 24, 2006 from 8 a.m. until noon. Public Works personnel will be unavailable during this time unless there is an emergency.