

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

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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Children's Fishing Derby to be held at Cutsforth Park

Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife along with Morrow County Parks are sponsoring a Fishing Derby on May 6 at Cutsforth Park Fishing Pond. The fishing derby is for children up to 14 years old. It is free. There will be prizes for the biggest fish contest for age categories of 6 and under; 7 to 9; 10 to 12; and 13 and 14. The derby will be held from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The Elks Lodge of Heppner #358 is providing lunch for the derby, good hot dogs and hamburgers.

Cutsforth Park is located 22 miles southeast of Heppner on the Blue Mountain Scenic By-Way. The physical address is Cutsforth Park, 58430 Willow Creek Road, Heppner.

ODFW will have bait and tackle for this event. Also some donor fishing rods will be available for kids that need them. Volunteers will be available to help the kids clean and care for their catch. We hope to provide a fun day of fishing for kids, one that will encourage them to enter into the sport of fishing. Tim Bailey of ODFW, Umatilla District Fish Biologist and the Morrow County Parks Board are sponsoring this event. If you have any questions please contact Betty Gray at the Morrow County Public Works Department, 650 Highway 74, Lexington, OR 97839- phone, 989-9500; or email: bgray@co.morrow.or.us.



HEPPNER ELKS 358

676-9181 "Where Friends Meet" 142 North Main

**- Thursday, April 20th -
Fisherman's Night**

**Dinner by Rick Smith
Fried Oysters, Catfish, Coleslaw, Ham
Prizes and Lots of Fun!**

*Please Note: Ladies Night will be Thursday, May 11,
with the Mother's Day Observance*

~ 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.

Common sense and tenacity will make Elizabeth Ballard good as DA

To the Editor:

I write this letter in support of Elizabeth Ballard for Morrow County District Attorney. We have been members of the same team for almost two years and prior to that I had the pleasure of working with her through a different position within the county system.

Elizabeth is the best candidate for district attorney. She continues to prove her dedication and professionalism in the position as deputy district attorney. She works for the victims of crime and is dedicated to protecting their rights. I witness this daily. Elizabeth is goal oriented and believes in the process.

We as a community must understand that it gets

harder and harder everyday to prosecute criminals, but Elizabeth continues to educate herself on how to combat defense attorneys and their tactics. This is not a position that makes everyone happy, but it is necessary and we need someone in this position that cares about the end result. Protecting the innocent is as much a concern as "throwing the book" at everyone. This position needs the right combination of caring, common sense and tenacity. I have witnessed these three qualities in Elizabeth Ballard and therefore am certain she is the best candidate for Morrow County District Attorney.

(s) Samarra D. Van Doorn
Heppner

Speedway will help bring in young families to brighten future

To the Editor:

We are voting yes on May 16 for the Morrow County Speedway Activity District and the proposed excise tax that will be collected on certain goods and services sold only within the speedway activity district boundaries. There will be no cost or risk to us as county taxpayers. We see this endeavor only as a benefit to Morrow County and a positive direction for our diminishing economy. The project will bring 100-200 full-time family wage jobs as well as 750 construction jobs for three years. This would in turn raise opportunities for new and existing businesses.

We are very passionate about Morrow County and its future. Without a sustainable economy that future looks

very dim. We have excellent "curb appeal," now we just need employment opportunities to bring people here and keep them here. When we look around our community for young adults raising families, there's really not many. Why would they come here? (Other than for our excellent schools.) Where can they work? How can they support a family? We need these types of people here and the speedway activity district can bring them.

Please join us in voting yes for the excise tax. And remember- it will be collected only within the speedway activity district boundaries and won't raise your taxes one penny.

(s) Slater and Darcee Mitchell
Heppner

Speedway will provide economic lift

To the Editor:

The voters of Morrow County will have an excellent opportunity to assist in providing an economic lift for the area-

the speedway activity district tax.

The passage of this tax will not cost local taxpayers any money unless they chose to attend speedway events or purchase goods and services in the tax district. This tax will enable the developers to finance large infrastructure improvements to the site at no cost to the county and with no future risk.

The county needs economic diversity and this project will provide good family wage jobs and other opportunities that will benefit the entire area.

Please join us in voting yes for the speedway activity district excise tax.

(s) Larry and Betty Mills
Heppner

Speedway spin-offs will help south county communities

To the Editor:

In the beginning, the Oregon International Speedway seemed like a very remote possibility. I regarded the project as an "I'll believe it when I see it" type of project.

Then, as the project moved forward, I changed from regarding it with disbelief to thinking about it with skepticism as to whether it would, in fact, be a good thing for Morrow County.

A lot of my doubt was prompted by my incorrect perception that the project would involve only one large race track with one two or three races a year. I did not see how this could translate into permanent, full time, family wage jobs.

Then, I learned that the project would include a variety of activity centers with a multitude of events taking place throughout the year. Thus, the employees of the speedway project would have regular, good paying jobs.

Consequently, my feelings about the speedway project changed to enthusiastic and unqualified support. This position was further reinforced by the state of the Morrow County economy, especially the south county and the communities of Ione, Lexington and Heppner. These communities are hurting and the spin-offs from the speedway will be a significant benefit to the well being of the south county communities.

So, I encourage all registered voters in Morrow County to rally to the support of the speedway project and vote in favor of the excise tax in May.

(s) John Edmundson
Heppner

Lexington Baptist to host guest singer and speaker

Pacific Northwest Country Gospel recording artist Jeff Colson will perform songs from his current CDs entitled "From a Tavern to a Temple" and "The Narrow Trail" this Sunday, April 23, during the morning worship service at Lexington Baptist Church.

Fred Coahu from Valley Life Baptist Church at Grandview, WA will give a message entitled "Sound Salvation." The public is invited and encouraged to attend. The service begins at 11 a.m.

Free copies of a new CD entitled "Living Water" that Colson and Coahu were featured on will be made available to those who attend. Hope to see you there.

Speedway discussion in Ione

An Ione community meeting will be held Thursday, April 20 to discuss the speedway activity district and the proposed excise tax, which will be on the May 16 ballot. The meeting will begin at 7 p.m. at the Ione Legion Hall.

Anyone with questions or a desire for more information on the subject is welcome to attend the meeting.

Ione School Board declines support

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at the OSBA's annual business meeting.

-learned that Sarah Stillman was the Elks state winner for division 2 (eighth grade) for the contest, "What I feel when I look up at the American Flag." The national contest is in July.

-learned from Browning that several students placed in the business and engineering technologies day at Blue Mountain Community College as follows: Tiana Camarillo-first place, geometry, second place, office multi-media; Cody Hollis-second, metric car race; Josie Miller, third, office multi-media, third, design a dish; Brenna Rietmann, second, office multi-media; Kristal Temple, first place, office multi-media, third place, design a dish; Teonna Vandever, third place, office multi media; and Kip Krebs, third place, metric car race.

-received the data from the Ione Community School parent survey.

-heard the following announcements: Oregon School Boards Association spring regional meeting, Monday, May 1, BMCC; school spring musical, Wednesday, May 3, 6:30 p.m.; budget committee meeting, Thursday, May 11, 5 p.m.; board meeting, Monday, May 15.

Lexington Council

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for city employees as of July 1, 2006.

-approved the town audit for the 2004-05 year.

-tabled the town's personnel policy until the next meeting.

-learned that the state will not agree to the removal of trees from the creek because it could harm fish habitat. Council members were concerned that the trees and other debris could create a flood hazard.

-learned that the town's fire hydrant project has been completed. Funding included grant monies.

Last chance to join ballroom dancing

This is your last chance before the summer break to jump in on the ballroom dancing classes being offered at the Morrow County Fairgrounds Annex in Heppner. Classes are being taught by Jodi Chapa. The classes include instruction in rumba, tango, waltz, cha cha, salsa, jitterbug and East Coast swing (jive). Classes are held at 7 p.m. on May 3, 6, 11, 13, 18, 20, 25, 27 and June 1.

Cost of lessons is \$10 per lesson or \$45 for five lessons. Couple discounts are available.

Please contact Jodi Chapa at 676-8161 for more information.

*Inland Northwest Musicians
present the
Willow Creek
Symphony and Singers
performing with the
Wallowa Valley Orchestra
Two FREE Concerts
Saturday, April 22nd at 7 p.m.
at Ione High School
and Sunday, April 23rd at 4 p.m.
at Elgin High School
Everyone is invited to attend!*

Sponsored by:

MCGG GREEN FEED STORE in Heppner

It's Spring! Time To Work In The Yard...
**ROTOTILLERS FOR RENT
LAWN THATCHERS FOR RENT**

Morrow County Grain Growers
 Lexington 989-8221 • 1-800-452-7396 For farm equipment, visit our web site at www.mcgg.net