

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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David Sykes Publisher
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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Elks Americanism contest

As the Elks plan for the implementation of the new Grand Lodge program, it is necessary for lodges to incorporate the new Americanism Essay Contest into that plan. By distributing the new theme, "Why I am proud to be an American," at this Spring time of year, lodges will have plenty of opportunity to get into area schools early, let teachers know about the program and solicit their participation in this most worthy program for the fall school term. Every exalted ruler and

Lodge Americanism Committee chairman is being asked to follow through with this contest and let students in their community express their feelings regarding our country and the flag.

To help facilitate the program, the Elks are working with the schools to help the children participate. They are giving the teachers the new rules and deadlines. Anyone wishing to participate in the contest should contact their teachers or an Elks member. The contest is open to students in grades 5 through 8.

~ 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.

Irrigon school problems should be addressed, not swept under the rug

To the Editor:

Those of us who took the time to find out what is really happening at our school, reported our findings to Superintendent Burrows in late summer 2005, hoping the problem could be solved with little publicity. As you know, that has not happened. Business as usual is ongoing at Irrigon Junior/Senior High School. Personally, I would much rather talk directly to the Board members than air our dirty laundry in public. Since we have seen no improvement in the quality of administration at our school, I have decided to answer the unfair personal charges that have been leveled against me.

Twice Samu Griffin has attempted to vilify me at public meetings. The first time was during the March Irrigon High School Booster Club meeting. Although she never said my name, the majority of the people in attendance knew who she was talking about. She said I had talked to Mark Burrows, e-mailed the MCSD Board and called a reporter. The first two charges are accurate but I did not call a reporter. At the MCSD board meeting in April she changed her

diatribe. This time she said I had written a letter to the editor. Actually, this is the first letter I have written.

In view of the fact that I did nothing illegal, immoral or unethical, I find it absolutely abhorrent that at a time when young men, including her grandson, are risking their lives to bring freedom to the people of Iraq, she would deny a citizen of the United States her Constitutional right to free speech. Even more disturbing is the fact that Ron Anthony's supporters applauded her effort. I guess they do not believe in democracy either.

What have I done to earn Ms. Griffin's disdain? I have helped to expose some of the problems within the schools administration. Some people believe that by exposing the problems at our school I have brought shame to it. I believe the shame is in harboring the people who are guilty of misdeeds. As an old friend once told me, "It is not a sin for a rat to come into your house. The sin is to let it live there."

When parents attempted to air their concerns at the December school board meeting, the board told them they could not talk about personalities at a public meeting. (This apparently does not apply to private citizens.) They were told they would have to ask for an executive meeting. For the parents, this meant that the board did not want to listen to them.

Following an article in the East Oregonian addressing some of their concerns, a mean spirited letter, comprised of mostly fiction, appeared in every paper in the county. These people were ridiculed and called names because they dared to attempt to expose serious offences against their children, each of which has happened in the past two years. Only two of the people that signed that bit of nonsense attended the meeting. Even the author was not in attendance. Most of the signatures were elicited by pure misrepresentation of the facts. The "negative nellys" are the few people in Irrigon that are supporting the abuse of "other peoples" kids in our schools.

Parents whose children have had unresolved problems at school should contact Teachers Standards and Practices. This organization is investigating IJSHS problems at this time. Their web site is TSPC. They need your help.

(s) Meredith De Haven
Irrigon

**CUSTOM
BANNERS**

Gazette-Times
676-9228

Obituaries

**Richard E.
"Dick" Ruhl**

Richard E. "Dick" Ruhl, 65, died Friday, May 19, 2006 at his home near Lexington.

At his request no service will be held. Disposition was by cremation.

He was born Dec. 1, 1940 at Heppner, the son of Laurel E. "Buck" and Viola Faye Gray Ruhl. He grew up on the Ruhl family ranch in Black Horse Canyon near Lexington. He attended school in Lexington and then Heppner High School where he graduated. He went on to play football for Oregon State University and played in the 1965 Rose Bowl.

Ruhl married Susan McQuarry also from Heppner and they had two children, Dana and Rich. He received his master's degree in physical education, starting a teaching and coaching career in Henely. After two years, he moved to Roseburg where he continued his career for 27 years. Dick and Susan divorced in 1978.

Ruhl returned to the Ruhl ranch every summer for harvest, returning permanently after he retired in 1991. In 1993, his companion, Lyn Reuteler, joined him on the ranch where they have lived happily for the past 13 years.

Eva Griffith

Eva Griffith, 97, of Heppner, died Tuesday, May 16, at Willow Creek Terrace Assisted Living in Heppner.

A graveside service was held May 20 at the Heppner Masonic Cemetery. A potluck gathering followed at the Heppner City Park.

She was born Jan. 30, 1909 at Lexington, the daughter of William H. and Mary Blake Padberg. She lived all of her younger years in Clarks Canyon and attended the Social Ridge Schoolhouse. She then attended high school in Lexington. At the age of 13, Griffith was queen of the Morrow County Fair and Rodeo. She attended Monmouth Normal School and after receiving her teaching degree, taught at Ione.

On Dec. 22, 1928 she married J.J. Griffith at Vancouver, WA. The couple was parents to seven children. They lived in the Kahler Basin area near Spray and at Enterprise for a short time. They moved to Heppner in 1953. She started cooking at the new Heppner High School where she worked up until the time of her retirement. She remained active after her retirement working at Heppner Day Care.

In 1975, she was named Grand Marshall for the Morrow County Fair and Rodeo. She enjoyed bowling, gardening, fair and rodeos, her dog Missy and spending time with her family.

Survivors include daughters, Beverly of

Wallowa, Rene of Heppner and Sue of Cheney, WA; son, Don of Spray; 23 grandchildren, 44 great-grandchildren and 16 great-great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her husband, J.J.; children, Mac, Faye and Shirley; and three grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

Memorial contributions may be made to Pioneer Memorial Hospice, P.O. Box 9, Heppner, OR 97836 or to Willow Creek Terrace, 400 Frank Gilliam Dr., Heppner, OR 97836.

Sweeney Mortuary of Heppner is in charge of arrangements.

Births

Brandon Jesus Galvez- a son, Brandon Jesus, was born May 9, 2006 at St. Anthony Hospital in Pendleton to Lidia Magallon and Aaron Galvez-Angolo of Boardman.

Jasmine Arahi Navarro Lemus- a daughter, Jasmine Arahi, was born May 14, 2006 at Good Shepherd Medical Center in Hermiston to Rosalba Lemus Carillo and Luis Navarro of Irrigon.

Physician prospect visits community

continued from page 1

25 total runs with 12 transports for \$10,947 in revenue; Irrigon Ambulance had 11 total runs with five transports for \$4,005 in revenue; there were three flights; Pioneer Memorial Hospital had 12 admissions, 401 outpatients, 1,454 lab tests, 83 x-ray procedures, 31 CT scans, 37 EKG tests and two respiratory therapy procedures; Home Health had 140 visits; Hospice had two admissions; the pharmacy administered 677 drug doses for \$40,574 in revenue; the hospital had \$21,800 in revenue for hospital encounters.

-discussed a possible wellness outreach program for students as young as preschool through high school.

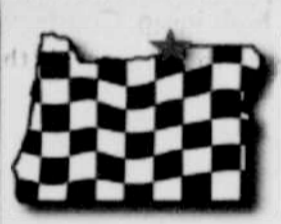
-learned of a community goodbye scheduled for Dr. Sam Datta on Tuesday, May 30, from 3-6 p.m. Everyone is invited to attend. Dr. Datta is leaving the district for employment in Hermiston.

-learned that Tom Wicklund is serving as courier between the Irrigon Clinic and Pioneer Memorial. Wicklund is also working as a yard maintenance person at PMH.

-appointed board members John Gochnauer and Larry Mills to the district's review committee to review credentials.

-learned that Vander Does went to Salem to testify concerning Medicare funding for swing-bed patients. "I think we have a shot," said Vander Does, who volunteered for a sub-committee. "This is more progress than I've seen."

-learned from Vander Does that the district has received no audit information from the Boardman Community Health Care clinic.



**Oregon
International
Speedway**

**Thank You
Morrow County voters
for your support!**

Your trust in Oregon International Speedway to bring jobs and economic development to Morrow County is greatly appreciated.


Through your support of Measure 25-45 Morrow County now has a Speedway Activity District and the ability to collect an excise tax on ticket sales and certain retail goods and services sold only within the Speedway Activity District. Revenue from this tax will pay for the infrastructure - roads, sewers, waste treatment, utilities - required to support this project.

Special thanks to those who wrote letters to the editor, put signs in business windows, made phone calls, wrote postal cards, and talked to neighbors and friends encouraging them to support this measure.

Now it's up to OIS to secure sanctioned race date commitments and build a world class motor sports complex.

OIS will keep Morrow County residents informed as we move into the speedway's development and construction phases.

Stay tuned! This will be an exciting adventure for all of us!



YES MCS Steering Committee (standing, left to right) Bob Okeson, Dean Kegler, BillieJean Morris and Karen Pettigrew, celebrate the win with Bill Gardner, left, and Steve Brucker.

Bill Gardner
Managing Partner
Oregon International Speedway

Steve Brucker
Senior Vice President
Oregon International Speedway

Bill Gardner is the founder of DiGard Racing, one of the legendary names in NASCAR. See www.digardracing.com

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