

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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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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**Albany museum hires former
Morrow County resident**

Former curatorial assistant at the Morrow County Museum in Heppner was named administrative coordinator of the Albany Regional Museum on January 9, 2007.

Tami L. Sneddon, a resident of rural Linn County, succeeds Bill Maddy who resigned November 13.

Sneddon comes to the Albany position with five years of experience in small museum operations. Her work experience includes being a technology/maintenance secretary with the Morrow County School District, office manager of a church and a legal secretary. She worked at the museum from 1995 to 2000 until it lost county funding.

She attended Eastern Oregon University in La Grande and Oregon State University in Corvallis. She is married and the mother of three adult children. A daughter lives in Albany.

Chairman John Buchner, in announcing the appointment, said the museum's board was especially

impressed with Sneddon's operational experience with similar organizations. References described her as having exceptional organizational skills, being computer literate, with good people skills and enthusiasm for museum work.

Sneddon began work January 10, 2007

The Albany Regional Museum is open from noon until 4 p.m., Monday through Saturday. There is no admission charge, but donations are accepted. The museum is administered by a 12-member volunteer board of directors. The museum is principally funded with private monies. Its memberships total 400 which represents nearly 600 individuals. The mission statement of the museum: To preserve, display and encourage knowledge of the history and culture of Albany, Oregon and its immediate surroundings through collection of artifacts, documents and photographs.

**Edmundson
appointed
secretary**

Carol A. Beckley of Elkton, OR joined the Board of the Oregon State Parks Trust in January. A longtime parks enthusiast, Ms. Beckley is Director of the Elkton Community Education Center in Elkton, Oregon and is a professional organizational management consultant.

The Trust also elected its 2007 leadership: Theodore G. "Ted" Herzog (Portland) as Chair, Lee Jimerson (Portland) as Vice Chair, John Edmundson (Heppner) as Secretary, Daniel H. Skerritt (Portland) as Treasurer, and Mary Jane Guyer (Baker City) as an at large member of the Executive Committee.

Herzog, elected to his second term as Chair, is an attorney with Tonkon Torp LLP. Jimerson is Manager of Manufacturing Accounts for the Collins Companies and is active with Salmon Safe, Arlington Club, Mary Rieke Elementary Green Schools, Toastmasters, and Western Wood Products Association.

Edmundson, who will be serving his third term as Secretary, is a retired school administrator, and serves on the Eastern Oregon Byway Coalition, Heppner Chamber of Commerce, and Morrow County Parks Advisory Committee. Skerritt, likewise serving his third term as Treasurer, is an attorney with Tonkon Torp LLP and active with American College of Trail Lawyers, Rigas Maja, and Volunteers Lawyers Project.

Founded in 1995, the Trust mission is to help safeguard Oregon's state parks and protect, cherish, and celebrate Oregon's great places. The organization has raised over \$6.2 million to preserve Oregon's state parks for present and future generations.

The Trust's 2007 priority projects include: completing the third and final phase of the Willamette River Water Trail, updating interpretive displays at Champoeg State Park in preparation for the Oregon sesquicentennial, restoring and maintaining the seven publicly-accessible Oregon lighthouses, and developing model sustainable practices for Oregon state parks.

For more information about Oregon State Parks Trust, call 503-227-0479 or 800-497-2757 or visit www.oregonstateparkstrust.org.

**Stargazing
program**

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patron check-out at the library. Those attending will then move outside the library for viewing the night sky. Duke will bring several telescopes and a portable observatory.

The program is sponsored by the nonprofit Libraries of Eastern Oregon (LEO) through NASA funding provided to LEO by The Oregon Museum of Science and Industry. LEO provided the library with its new telescope. LEO serves 46 public libraries in 14 eastern Oregon counties. Together LEO and OMSI are bringing science programs to libraries and schools in eastern Oregon through a program they have named STARS - Science, Technology and Rural Students.

The stargazing program will be held regardless of weather. For further information, please contact Lyn Craig, LEO exec. director at 541-763-2355 or Kristy Crowell of Ione at the local library.

Obituaries

Albert J. Lewis

Albert J. Lewis, for whom the Lewis Addition in Irrigon is named, died Monday, January 1, of complications from diabetes and heart disease. He was 73.

A service was held at 2 p.m. Friday, January 12, at Mueller's Tri-Cities Funeral Home, 1401 S. Union Street in Kennewick, with a private family burial to follow at Desert Lawn Memorial Park.

He was born March 8, 1933 in Mankato, Kan., the youngest of seven children to Albert P. and Serena K. Lewis.

On March 28, 1953, he married Arlene A. Cox.

In 1953 he was drafted in the U.S. Army. He served in Germany where he drove a munitions truck. After his honorable discharge, he and his family lived in Idaho, Oregon and Washington where he worked as a cement mason.

In 1975, they moved to Kennewick. He worked at the Hanford site and in Hawaii as a foreman until his retirement. After retiring, he set up manufactured homes in Irrigon.

He enjoyed his annual rafting trips on the Grande Ronde River as well as fishing and camping.

He is survived by: his wife; daughter, Katherine McQuown of Grand Coulee, Wash.; sons Michael Lewis of Graham, Wash., Edward Lewis of Federal Way, Wash., and Rich Lewis of Kennewick; seven granddaughters; two grandsons; eight great-grandchildren; and numerous nieces and nephews.

To sign their online guest book, log on to www.muellersfuneralhomes.com. Mueller's Tri-Cities Funeral Home, 1401 S. Union St., Kennewick, Wash., 99337, is in charge of the arrangements.

~ 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.

**Oregon Transportation Safety Plan
is anti-growth, anti-environment**

To the Editor, City of Boardman and Citizens of Morrow County:

I currently represent the Turners in the sale of their property at the corner of Front and South Main adjacent to the existing main off ramp to I-84.

We are speaking against the Cities adoption of the Oregon Transportation Safety Plan. The plan is really anti-growth, anti-environment, illogical, and condemnation without compensation. This plan is an antigrowth planners dream come true. No curb cuts within 1320 feet of a freeway off ramp, no intersections within 250 feet of another, no freeway off ramps closer than 3 miles apart etc. etc... The State is trying to bribe you into accepting this failed system.

No one is against proper traffic design for safety reasons. This plan does not take natural barriers, topography, traffic counts, retail trade area sizes, or existing businesses into consideration.

Umatilla County was the first County in Oregon to sign onto this one size fits all nonsense. Can you visualize The Dalles, Biggs, Arlington, Boardman, and Pendleton without any curbs cuts within one quarter mile of their off ramps? That's what this does. Let's look at what it's done for Umatilla County.

1) It delayed the construction start on the 200 + jobs truck stop at Westland Road for one year because the plans had to be totally changed. The County pulled the access permits and demanded that Petro go 1/4 mile vs. about 800 feet to their first curb cut. They are also closing the access into the Livestock sales yard. They wanted us to move to a blind corner location with a canal on the east side of the road. The turn radius for trucks into the sales yard would have been impossible. This would have been acceptable because it matched the State plan. Petro had to do traffic studies and spend many months of time and a lot of money to get the access point moved back to the best line of site and turning radius location.

2) The new overpass behind the Wal-Mart Store was restricted to only have one curb cut in its entire radius. No Businesses have located there since its completion because it is not business friendly. There is very little traffic count on it because there is no reason to go there. No consideration was even given to designing it to fit the business community. It was designed to never "fail". Traffic systems only fail when they are used.

3) The Medians placed in the highway between Hermiston and Stanfield should be considered by the traffic planners to be a complete success. No businesses have located there since they restricted the access points.

4) The median in Umatilla and proposed medians in Milton-Freewater are huge economic roadblocks that may ultimately kill those struggling commercial districts.

5) I am currently completing a plat where the County restricted me to have access on the East side of the Railroad tracks because Sparks Road was within 250 feet on the West side of the tracks. This road has about 10 cars per day on it. People slow down to cross the tracks; the visibility is unrestricted in every direction. Moving the access point 170 feet requires eliminating wheel line irrigation on several acres of good farm land, creates two 60 feet roads adjacent to each other that will both produce dust pollution. The only reason to do this is because Umatilla County signed onto the States plan. Common sense cannot be considered.

When you look at what will happen to my client's property if you are bribed by the State you will find.

A potential customer will have to drive 1320 feet south, 250 minimum East, 1320 feet north, 250 feet west to get to the site. This is a total of 3140 feet each way or 6280 roundtrip feet= 1.18 miles.

1.18 miles with a stop light each way will require a potential customer to drive for approximately 5-6 more minutes at a 20 mile per hour average to purchase a taco or soda. How does this extra driving time improve traffic safety or air quality? How does the extra 3140 feet of road surface affect water quality? The number one stream pollution contributor in the United States is from asphalt streets with curbs and gutters into storm drains.

I think it's interesting that the government's rest stops are directly adjacent to the freeway but the public sector creates traffic failure problems if anything is within a quarter mile. You may remember what Troutdale was like before O.D.O.T. put Krueger's Truck Stop on the north side of the freeway out of business. O.D.O.T. created the Troutdale nightmare. They forced all the traffic to the south side of I-84.

Please don't be fooled by those bearing false promises. They are trying to buy you off vs. pay condemnation claims to those damaged.

(s) Calvin B. Garton
Pendleton

Creative Arts and Crafts Club will meet on Thursday

The Morrow County Creative Arts and Crafts Club will meet on Thursday, January 25, at 1 p.m. at GD's banquet room. This will be the last day to sign up to take Sandra Haynes workshops on Saturday and Sunday, January 27 and 28. Registra-

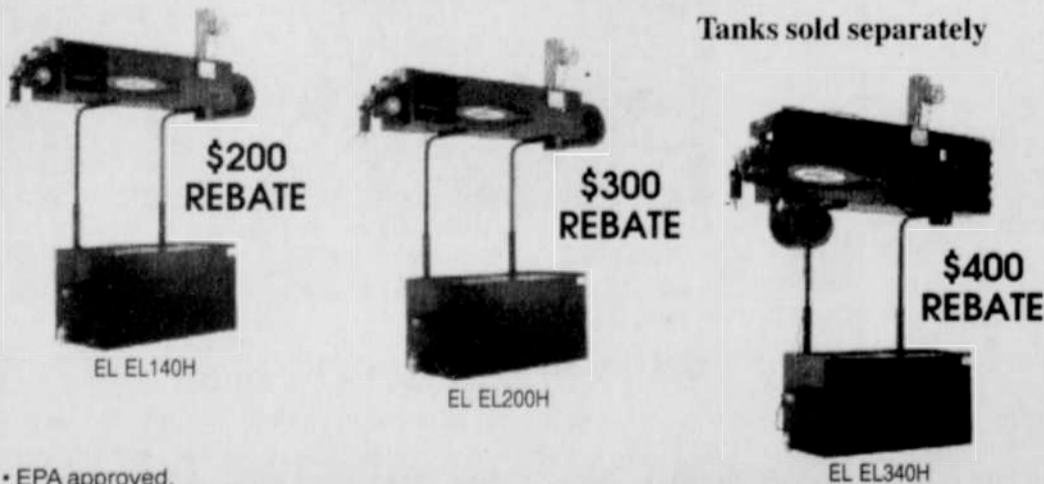
tion must be a week before need a day to finish, you may class. To register, call 676-8000. do so at this time.

Also on the agenda will be St. Pat's sale and teaching colored pencil and workshops with Betty Crosswhite and Robert Walton. Anyone interested in these are asked to attend.

**Happy Birthday
GARY OSTERHOLM
01 / 21 / ??**

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Morrow County Grain Growers

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