

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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Autumn Morgan ..... 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.

On the HEPPNER WEBSITE: www.heppner.net

- Start or Change a Subscription
- Place a Classified Ad • Submit a News Story
- View Real Estate for Sale • City Council & Planning Minutes
- Local Businesses • County Park • Willow Creek Park Reservations
- Free Digital Postcards • Senior Housing • and more!

~ 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.

To the Editor,

With the recent passing of Gene Pierce, I have been reflecting on the impact Gene had on Gilliam and Morrow Counties and particularly Heppner and the surrounding area.

Gene worked at the Bank of Eastern Oregon for almost three decades and was the president of the bank for more than 20 years. He grew the bank with a watchful eye at a sustainable rate and built the capital to a point where the bank was able to withstand a downturn in the agricultural community in the 1980's, when many small rural banks closed their doors.

In the years I worked with Gene, I heard so many stories from customers

about how Gene had faith in them and started them in business, people that are still in business today. He was a great judge of character and a customer's ability and willingness to repay debts. Gene had a very well defined moral compass, in his personal life and in his business life. He did the right thing because it was the right thing to do. He set the tone that the bank still follows today.

Heppner prospered under the watchful eye and with the encouragement of Gene's business skills and affection for the community. I miss people like Jim Farley, LeRoy Gardner, Jack Van Winkle, Bill Collins and especially Gene Pierce.

(s) George Koffler  
Heppner

**Morrow Soil and Water Conservation District to meet**

A regular meeting of the Morrow SWCD Board is scheduled for Tuesday, March 6, at 5 p.m. at the Pettyjohn Office Building.

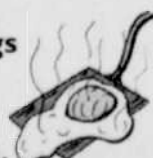
Agenda items include: board/staff training; manager/staff report; February treasurer report; Contribution Agreement review; 07-08 budget report; and partner agency reports.

Meetings of the Morrow SWCD are open to the public.

**Open House 2007**



Join us for  
pancakes, eggs  
& sausage  
from  
9 am - 1 p.m.



**NEW HOLLAND**

- March 1st HERMISTON
- 2nd Pasco
- 5th Quincy
- 6th Othello
- 7th Walla Walla
- 8th La Grande, OR

**No payments  
No interest  
until  
May 2007**  
On your NH/CNH card only

**Open House Specials !**

**20% off**  
of all NH parts  
in stock not al-  
ready discounted  
March 1-16

- Twine Special
- 5000-210.....\$18.02
- 6500-210.....\$23.41
- 6500-240.....\$25.44
- 6500-280.....\$28.51
- 4000-450.....\$28.25

Pasco ..... 509-547-1795  
Othello ..... 509-488-9606  
Quincy ..... 509-787-3595

Hermiston ..... 541-567-3001  
Walla Walla ..... 509-522-9800  
LaGrande ..... 541-963-8144

**Obituaries**

**Michael James Armato**

Michael James Armato, 51, of Heppner, passed away of natural causes on Monday, February 19, 2007.

Burial services will be held on Saturday, March 3, 2007, at the Pioneer Masonic Cemetery in Heppner. A rosary will follow at the regular 5 p.m. mass at St Patrick's Catholic Church, Heppner.

A memorial service will be held Sunday, March 4, at 1 p.m. at the Heppner Elks Club.

Mike was born in San Francisco, California, to Frank and Catherine Armato on June 27, 1955.

He grew up in San Rafael, California, graduated from San Rafael High School in 1973 and attended the University of California, Berkley.

He married Pamela Waterhouse in 1978. They had two children, Phillip and Gail Armato. In 1990, Mike married Kim Cutsforth, of Heppner. They had two children, Maggie and Joe Armato.

He was most recently employed as a conductor for the Union Pacific Railroad.

Mike was a member of the Heppner community for the past 12 years. He was a member of the Heppner Elks Club and Saint Patrick's Parish, where he directed religious education and taught first communion classes.

An avid chess player, Mike taught "Chess for Success" at Heppner Elementary. He served on the Budget Committee for the Morrow County School District and was a member of the Morrow County Board of Property Tax Appeal. Mike was a volunteer for Hospice. He had also been a little league umpire.

Mike was known for his culinary skills and occasionally taught classes sharing his recipes. Mike loved history and followed current events with great interest.

He is survived by Kim, his children Joe and Maggie of Heppner, and Phillip and Gail of Danville, California; his brother Peter and his wife Kathy of Seward, Alaska, brother John and his wife Laura of Santa Rosa, California, sister Cathy and her husband Bill Silva of Novato, California, sister Elizabeth and her husband Robert Price of San Francisco, California; stepmother Frances Armato of Petaluma, California; and many nieces and nephews.

Memorial contributions may be made to Pioneer Memorial Hospice, PO Box 9, Heppner, OR 97836.

Sweeney Mortuary of Heppner is in charge of arrangements.

**Death Notice**

**Dean Hunt**

Dean Hunt, 79, of Lexington, died Sunday at Kadlec Medical Center in Richland, WA. Arrangements are pending at Sweeney Mortuary of Heppner.

**Ronald James McCullough**

Ronald James McCullough, 75, of Hermiston, died Tuesday, February 20, 2007, at Evergreen Health and Rehabilitation Center in Milton-Freewater.

Memorial graveside service will be held on Wednesday, February 28, 2007 at 2 p.m. at the Heppner Masonic Cemetery.

Mr. McCullough was born October 20, 1931 at San Jose, California, where he was raised and attended school.

He owned and operated a gas station in California for several years.

In 1970 he moved to Nampa, Idaho where he met his future wife. He married Bette Elaine Ames at Nampa on April 15, 1972.

He worked at a glass shop until he was injured and permanently disabled in 1982.

His wife preceded him in death in 1992.

In 2000 he moved to Hermiston to be near his family. He loved to go on day trips to the mountains or lake for picnics with his family. In his free time he enjoyed helping a friend deliver a paper route.

He is survived by daughters Sharon Baker of Hermiston, Teresa Williams of Umatilla, and adopted daughter Dixie Jones of Montana; son David Ames of Hermiston; eight grandsons; a brother; and three sisters. He was preceded in death by his parents, a brother and a sister.

Memorial contributions may be made to the donor's favorite charity of choice.

Sweeney Mortuary of Heppner is in charge of arrangements.

**Oregon Trail Library District receives grant**

The Oregon Trail Library District is the recipient of a \$2800 grant from the Cycle Oregon Fund of The Oregon Community Foundation.

The funds will be used in conjunction with funds raised by the Heppner Friends of the Library group to bring the Missoula Children's Theater to Heppner.

The Missoula Children's Theater has been touring for more than 30 years in all 50 states.

The tour directors provide a one-week residency to work with 50-60 local children to put on a play. The costumes, scenery, and props are provided by the Missoula Children's Theater.

After auditions, the children participate in daily rehearsals. At the end of the week there will be two public performances of the play.

Those who would like to contribute toward the Heppner Friends of the Library fund raising for this project may mail contributions to Heppner Friends of the Library, P.O. Box 428, Heppner, OR 97836.

**New doctor bails**

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has use of an on-line program to diagnose skin ailments. The district received the program through a bio-terrorism grant.

-learned that the district had a \$69,087 gain for the month of January and a \$2,938 average monthly year-to-date gain.

-heard the following report: Pioneer Memorial Clinic had 434 patient visits in January with 24 new patients and 53 seen by a nurse; Irrigon Clinic had 185 patients with 33 new patients, 39 seen by a nurse and 13 no shows; Heppner Ambulance had 14 page-outs with eight transports for \$11,106 in revenue; Boardman Ambulance had 23 page-outs with 12

transports for \$12,150 in revenue; Irrigon Ambulance had 11 page-outs with five transports for \$4,128 in revenue; there was one flight; PMH had seven inpatient admissions and 12 admissions for observation, 445 outpatients, 78 emergency room encounters, 1463 lab tests, 104 x-ray procedures, 28 CT scans, 24 EKG tests and 12 respiratory therapy procedures; Home Health had 209 visits; Hospice had two admissions; pharmacy had 881 drug doses for \$85,242 in revenue.

-learned of several items to be surplus-a dictation machine, two Christmas trees, two file cabinets, an x-ray view box and the district's old phone system.

**Ione School Board**

-Continued from page one

-approved the calendar option B for the 2007-08 school year which calls for employee inservice to begin August 28; school to begin September 4, after Labor Day; no school on graduation day, May 30, and the last day of school to be Friday, June 6. Inservice/work days with no school for students are scheduled as follows: four-hours-September 21, December 7, January 11, January 25, February 8, April 4 and April

25; full day-October 12, November 2, March 7, April 11 and May 9. Holidays include: Labor Day-September 3, Veteran's Day-November 12; Thanksgiving-November 22-23; winter break-December 21-31; Martin Luther King Day-January 11, Presidents' Day-February 18; spring break-March 24-28; and Memorial Day-May 26.

-learned that the next school board meeting will be Monday, March 19.

**UMESD superintendent**

-Continued from page one

Umatilla and Morrow Counties, and serves as a trustee of the Foundation of Washington State University.

He and his wife, Donna, have three married

children and four grandchildren.

The Board of Directors for the UMESD will meet next week in an executive session to decide what steps it will take to fill Murdock's void.

**OSU student from Heppner scores at ASC Reno competition**

Brandon Young, part of a six-person team, won first place at the ASC Reno Competition in Reno, NV.

Eight teams with a total of 40 undergraduates and four graduate students represented OSU at the Associated Schools of Construction (ASC) Construction Management Competition on February 7-10 in Reno. Six teams brought home trophies. The Competition was for the Far West Region, Region VII, including all of California, Hawaii, Oregon and Washington.

Young will go on to compete at the national level in San Antonio, TX, March 22-24.

These teams each competed against 8-11 other teams analyzing real projects provided by industry leaders. Over an 18-hour period they completed a full bid and the next day made a presentation to a mock owner or upper management

panel. All eight teams were coached by Director of Outreach and Construction Education Foundation Chair Greg Baker, and supported by numerous Oregon contractors and CEM and CE alumni. The teams were also supported by (Emeritus Professor) Hal and Ann Pritchett.

Since 1988, OSU CEM (Construction Engineering Management) students have competed in an annual competition. OSU CEM students initially competed in the regional Heavy Civil, Commercial, and Residential Divisions. They began fielding a Graduate Team in the national competition in 2003, added a Mechanical Team in the 2004 national competition, added Design/Build Teams in 2005, and added Marine and LEEDS team in 2007.

Young is the son of Bruce and Debbie Young of Heppner.

**Cattlemen's Scholarships available**

Applications for the 2007-2008 Oregon Cattlemen's Stewardship Fund scholarships are available and due May 1.

The scholarships, totaling up to \$3,000, are awarded to current members of Oregon Cattlemen's Association (OCA) or their family. Sophomore, junior,

senior, or graduate level students who will be enrolled full time in a 2 or 4-year program in Oregon are eligible. All majors may apply, however some relevance to the livestock industry must be demonstrated.

Last year's winners were Cayle Krebs from Walla, Beth McClaran from Joseph, and Jeff Sherman from Baker City.

For a scholarship application, contact the OCA office at 503-361-8941 or email to katiegoff@orcattle.com. A printable version of the application is also available online at www.orcattle.com

**POLARIS SNOWMOBILES**  
**BLOW OUT SALE**  
New & Used!  
**ALL SNOWMOBILES MUST GO!**  
**POLARIS**  
The Way Out.  
**Morrow County Grain Growers**  
Lexington 989-8221 • 1-800-452-7396 For farm equipment, visit our web site at www.mcgg.net