

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.

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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**Fire closes Sam Boardman Elementary**

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fire departments for all their hard work."

Burrows said he can't remember there ever being a fire at a Morrow County school in recent history.

There is a significant amount of smoke and water damage to numerous classrooms, the kitchen and gymnasium. The cost of the damage has not yet been determined, as an insurance official was expected to arrive late on Monday for an inspection of the school, said Assistant Superintendent Wade Smith. However, Smith said the damage is "significant," with about 20 percent of the school damaged by fire, and more than 50 percent by water and smoke.

Despite the significant damage, district officials said they're hoping to have the repairs made this summer and have the school up and running by the end of August for the start of the new school year. A contractor out of Hood River - Cooper Construction - that specializes in fire restoration was expected to meet with district officials Tuesday and begin work on repairs as soon as possible, Smith said.

An emergency board meeting set for Wednesday at 5 p.m. at the district office

in Lexington will help create that timeline.

District officials met with Sam Boardman staff Tuesday, Burrows said, and a temporary office for Sam Boardman will be set up at nearby Windy River Elementary with updated information for Sam Boardman parents.

The 318 kindergarten through third grade students at Sam Boardman had already completed the majority of their curriculum for the year, and benchmark tests also are finished, Smith said. Most of the teachers were basically tying up loose ends with school for the year, Burrows said.

The Head Start program housed at Sam Boardman had already finished up their school year, Smith said. However, the migrant program still had a few days left of school and has been cancelled for the rest of the year.

The Migrant Summer School Program that was supposed to be at Sam Boardman this summer will now be held at Windy River Elementary.

Parents and community members can find updates on this incident on the Morrow County School District Web site, www.morrow.k12.or.us, throughout the week.

**Marriage Licenses**

The County Clerk's Office at the Morrow County Courthouse in Heppner released the following marriage license information:

-Jason Douglas Strebin, 25, Irrigon and Alicia Renae Hickman, 24, Irrigon.

**Obituaries**

**Herbert R. Ekstrom Jr.**

Herbert R. Ekstrom Jr., 73, of Ione died Thursday, May 10 at his home, surrounded by his family. At his request no service will be held at this time. Disposition was by cremation.

He was born April 19, 1934 at Portland, Oregon the son of Herbert and May McClain Ekstrom. He was raised and attended school in Ione where he graduated from high school.

In 1953 he married Nancy Ball. They lived in The Dalles for the first couple of years and operated a service station. They moved back to Ione in 1958 and started Ekstrom Farm Chemicals, a fertilizer business. He was involved in the business for over 30 years, winning several awards and trips as a top salesman of the year.

Mr. Ekstrom had been a member of the Lions Club serving a term as president, the Masonic Lodge serving a term as Master, and the Eastern Star serving as Worthy Patron,

Heppner Elks Lodge and a 4-H livestock leader for over ten years before Multiple Sclerosis took over his ability to participate in community activities.

He loved spending time with his family and friends at McNary Yacht Club on the Columbia River. He also loved hunting and deep sea fishing.

Survivors include his wife of 53 years; sons Herb Ekstrom III of Elson, MO., John Ekstrom of Ione; daughters Cindy Greenup of Lexington, and Jan Gridley of The Dalles; nine grandchildren; 16 great grandchildren; brothers; Richard Ekstrom of Enumclaw, WA, Roland Ekstrom of The Dalles; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Memorial contributions for those who wish may be made to Valby Lutheran Church, 60492 Valby Road, Ione, Oregon 97843, or to MS Society, Oregon Chapter, 104 SW Clay St., Portland, OR 97201.

Sweeney Mortuary of Heppner is in charge of arrangements.

**Road levy goes down; school board incumbents handily beat opponents**

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were pretty even in garnering votes for three positions on the Willow Creek Park District, with 605, 679 and 683 votes respectively.

Krista Price, Blair Purcell and Raymond Michael were also fairly even with 236, 225 and 241 votes, respectively, for three positions on the Boardman Park and Recreation District.

Andrew Reid, who was unopposed, received 374 votes for Irrigon Park and Recreation District Director 2 and John Sebastian, also unopposed, received 317 votes for Irrigon Park and Recreation District Position 3.

All Morrow County Unified Recreation District Director positions were unopposed with Barry Turner receiving 334 votes for Zone 3; Del LaRue receiving 321 votes for Zone 4; and Cyde Marie Estes receiving 547 votes for Zone 5.

**New venue for June 16 Dinner at the Cemetery**

Saturday, June 16, denotes the return of the Heppner Dinner at the Cemetery players. With a bit of a twist on the traditional dinner, the venue, "Moonshine and Murder," co-produced by Doris Brosnan and Sharon Harrison denotes a courtroom setting with carefully research trials of 1907 historic Heppner. "Judge" Green will be presiding.

Spectators will view a cast of 35, including the return of favorite performers: strolling musician Joe Lindsay, orator Dan Van Schoiack, and Janet Greenup, one of the few women of that period who was both seen and heard. At

Oregon Trail Library District positions were also unopposed with Sally Walker receiving 1180 votes for Position 1; Blaine Ganvoa receiving 1062 votes for Position 2; and Alice Ellis receiving 1032 votes for Position 3.

Molly Rill was unopposed with 1558 votes for Blue Mountain Community College Director Zone 1.

Three candidates, Albert Osmin with 358 votes, Bill Gentry with 372 votes and Archie Ball with 386 votes, were elected to three director positions on the Heppner Water Control District.

Thomas Wolff received 513 votes for an unopposed director position on the Heppner Cemetery District and Grant Chapman received 307 votes in an unopposed director position on the Boardman Cemetery District.

this writing, there are a few walk-on parts still available for interested persons. To be a part of this historic event, call Harrison at 676-9125.

The production will occur at 6:30 p.m. at Heppner Masonic Cemetery during Celebrate Historic Heppner weekend. Tickets are \$10 per person and are available at the Bank of Eastern Oregon, Murray's Drug, Heppner Chamber of Commerce, and the June 15 BBQ, pie auction, and talent show at the Heppner City Park.

Attendees are encouraged, but not required to wear period costumes and to bring along nickels and dimes for 1907 concessions to be enjoyed during the court trial breaks.

**The Heppner High School baseball team won their game against Nestucca on Tuesday, and will play Friday, May 25 at 4 p.m. in Heppner (team TBA).**

**~ 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.

**At a crossroads/pondering**

To the editor:  
Recently you have read of how expensive it was to clean out our "digester" at the Heppner Sewage Treatment Plant. No major work has occurred at the sewer plant since 1994 and time has begun to take its toll. Metal parts have become rusted, seals and valves leak. Plastic parts, especially those exposed to the sun, become brittle and crack, etc, etc. As you already know, our "grinder" (communitor) is broken (cost \$60,000+ installation). Our propane driven power generator which keeps the plant running in the event of an electrical power outage, has been rusting/corroding away from being exposed to the plant vapors inside the pump house/office (replacement cost \$42,000). The trickling filter has a major leak (cost \$7-8,000 to fix). Our chlorine system is made largely of plastic. It needs an overhaul/replacement (cost \$7,500). We have a safety walk that needs to be weatherized and installed in our "contact basin" (cost \$4,000) etc. And "to add insult to injury," we still owe \$150,000 on the repairs made in 1994. The Utility Commission is grappling with these issues and how to best address these issues (among others). At this point no decisions have been made but we felt it necessary to let you know some of the issues. If anyone wishes to visit our sewage treatment plant and see these items first hand, call us at City Hall at 676-9618.

Dave DeMayo, City Manager  
Heppner

**Apology to the citizens of the community for a bad decision**

Letter to the Editor:  
Hi, my name is Tayler Hodges and a few weeks ago I had made a bad decision.

I chose to drive my pick-up across the corner of the grass at the Willow Creek Dam. I realize now that it was not the right thing to do and I am sorry that I disrespected the citizens of my community by doing this. My personal apology goes out to Mr. Keithley, the gentleman that works so hard to maintain the grounds for everyone to enjoy.

It was inconsiderate of me to damage something that all individuals and families locally and afar enjoy throughout the year. I also enjoy to go fishing at the dam myself.

In the future, I give you my promise that I will never disrespect nor damage any property. I am also very sorry that I made myself and my family look bad by doing this.

I am in hopes that the community will accept my apology and I will deal with my punishment as they see fit.

Tayler Hodges  
Heppner

**Heppner city governments should be prevented from spending large sums without voter approval**

To the Editor:  
The new mayor and city manager have taken a novel approach. That is, if you don't have any money, don't spend it. That just might work. Too bad some previous managers placed the city so far in debt, by borrowing and spending, that there are no funds left for the present administration to work with. But then, it's no longer their problem is it? Whatever time of day I visit the new City Hall building there seems to be only two city employees working there. If I remember correctly there were only six persons, other than city employees, present at the city council meeting when the new mayor was sworn in. There would have more than ample space in the old city hall for any of this. I think there should be something on the books to prevent future Heppner city governments from spending, or borrowing, large sums of money without voter approval. The limit should be set at well below a third of a million dollars. Would I have voted yes on the purchase of the old bank building for the new city hall? No way!

Gene Sonstegard  
Heppner

**Ehrmantraut retires from city**

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help them with some odd jobs. He says his mom has already made out a list for when he arrives. He also plans on helping his brother, who is wheelchair bound, restore a 1969 Ford Mustang.

One other specific job Ehrmantraut wants to finish once he is retired involves completing a miniature golf course that he has been working on the past two years at his home. He plans to open it up for kids to play on, at a reasonable

price. "Hopefully it won't take too much longer, but it might take another two years," Ehrmantraut said.

Saturday, June 30, is the day Ehrmantraut will officially retire. "After having a heart attack I decided to retire because life was too short," stated Ehrmantraut. He plans on staying in the Heppner area and do odd jobs for people. "I enjoyed working with city. If they ever need my help, they can call me, if I'm home," said Ehrmantraut.

**Senior Center lunch menu**

United Methodist Church members will be serving lunch on Wednesday, May 30. The menu will consist of chicken, red potatoes and gravy, green beans, waldorf salad, rolls, and brownies.

**TAYLOR'S RESTAURANT & LOUNGE**  
presents...  
"Just Another Hangover" Comedy Tour  
on Friday, June 8th  
Dinner 7 p.m. • Comedy Show 8 p.m.  
Sandwich and Salad Bar included in ticket price!  
21 years and older only  
Call for info, 422-9800  
**TAYLOR'S RESTAURANT, IONE • 422-9800**

**At the MCGG GREEN FEED STORE in Heppner:**  
**Rototillers and Lawn Thatchers for rent**  
**Firewood permits now available!**  
-- Spring hours through June: 8-5:30 Mon-Fri / 8-4 Sat --  
**Morrow County Grain Growers Green Feed & Seed**  
242 W. Linden Way, Heppner • 676-9422 • 989-8221 (MCGG main office)