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Gazette Times

VOL. 126 NO. 42 8 Pages Wednesday, October 17, 2007 Morrow County, Heppner, Oregon

Columbia Basin to begin installing new metering system

During the next few months, Columbia Basin Electric Cooperative, Inc. customers may notice something different about their electric meter. CBEC has begun installing a Hunt Technologies TS2 advanced metering infrastructure system (AMI).

The new AMI system is a power line carrier based system that will send in a daily reading of kilowatt hours, outage or loss of power notification, restoration of power notification, momentary blinks, voltage information at +/- 1% and also will make CBEC aware of possible future equipment failures that can be dealt with on a proactive basis. All of the above information will be sent via the power lines to the CBEC office and incorporated into the utility's computerized operating systems using customized software.

Columbia Basin Electric employees display the new meters that will installed.

The most obvious advantage of this system will be better customer service. Self read customers will no longer need to read their own meters, CBEC meter readers won't have to make special trips to read meters, and their will no longer be a need to estimate usage for billing. CBEC will notify each self read customer when their meter has been changed out and they no longer need to read the meter.

Because CBEC will receive data from each meter daily, billings will be more accurate, and other tasks such as opening and closing of accounts will be more efficient. "We're eager to take every opportunity to provide the benefits of this system to our customers. Installing the TS2 system helps us streamline operations and improve our service to our customers. The opportunity to better monitor our system and provide customer service at an outstanding level is exciting." said Slater Mitchell, Manager of Operations.

CBEC plans to start installing meters in the Heppner area this month and continue to Lexington and Ione areas in the very near future. If there are questions or customers would like more information about the system contact Slater Mitchell at 541-676-9146 or slater@columbiabasin.cc .

Bake sale raises money for cancer patient

A bake sale was held Saturday, October 13, to benefit Wade Matthews, a 14 year old cancer patient. Pictured are Taomi Matthews, Jerry McCallister, Don McCallister, and Bridget Waite. Matthews is scheduled to have his entire thyroid removed at OHSU on Thursday. Approximately $700-800 was raised between the bake sale and the donation jars that were in place at Murray's and the Mini-Mart.

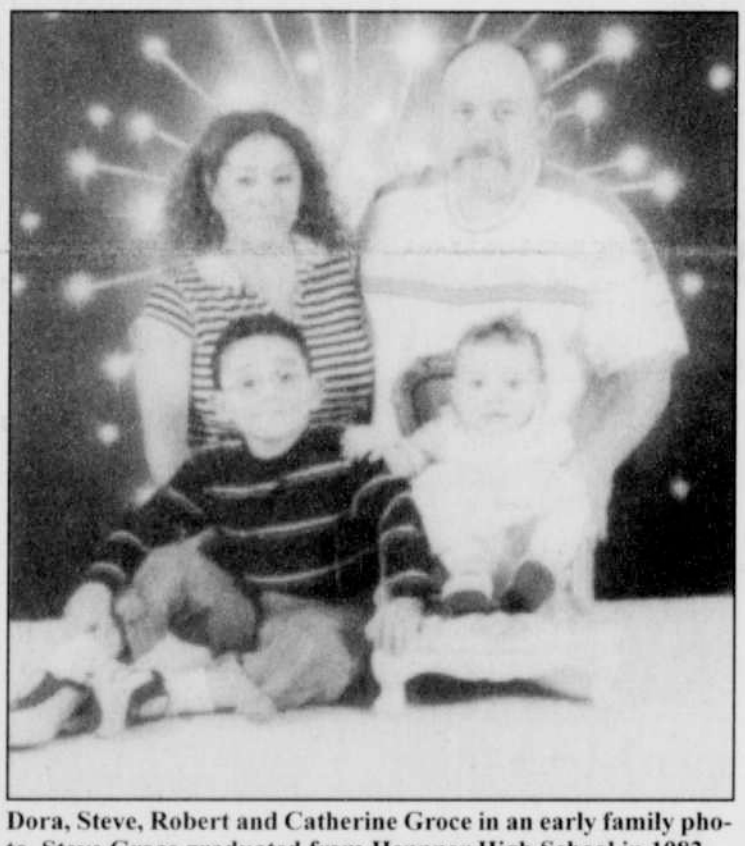
Teen driver charged with murder in crash that killed 3

Robert Canizalez, 19, is suspected of street racing in the accident that left a mother and her children, 8 and 4, dead. A second suspect remains at large.

Editor's Note: The following article was written by Tami Abdollah, a Los Angeles Times staff writer. The article can be found online at LATimes.com.

A teenager suspected of street racing and causing a crash that killed a mother and her two children was charged today with three counts of murder, the district attorney's office said.

Robert Canizalez, 19, is scheduled to be arraigned this afternoon in Los Angeles County Superior Court in El Monte. He is being held on $3-million bail. Canizalez is alleged to have driven a red Ford Mustang that struck the car of Dora Groce, killing the 41-year-old El Monte woman, her son Robert, 8, and daughter Catherine, 4. The Groces were pulling out of the Brookside Mobile Country Club mobile home park onto Elliott Avenue in their Nissan Altima about 5:40 p.m. Monday.


Dora, Steve, Robert and Catherine Groce in an early family photo. Steve Groce graduated from Heppner High School in 1982.

Police said they were still searching for Martin Morones, 21, the driver of a Honda Accord believed to have been racing with Canizalez. Morones was charged Tuesday in absentia with three counts of murder and one felony count of hit and run, authorities said.

The two men and the Groces all lived in the 450-unit mobile home park. If convicted, Canizalez could face life in prison.

(Editor's Note: donations to the family may still be made to the Bank of Eastern Oregon.)

Students enjoy pony cart ride

Kristi Crowell brought her pony cart to Ione on Monday and Tuesday, October 8 and 9, in the morning to give rides to Creative Care Preschool students. Twenty-four students had a wonderful time riding around on the beautiful fall mornings. Crowell provides this activity for community members several times each year.
Pictured are Hailey Heideman, Kristi Crowell, and Faviola Juarez in the front. Tom Rudolf, and Bridgett and Morgan Aldritt are in the back.

City Hall wants to remind you...

City Hall has received complaints of barking dogs in the "Stansbury Original Town" and "Stansbury Addition" areas of town.

This is just a reminder that dogs disturbing people by "frequent or prolonged noises" may be cited for an infraction (City Code 5-2-1 F.)

Be a good neighbor and be considerate of your neighbors by controlling your barking dogs.

BMCC celebrates 45th anniversary

Blue Mountain Community College celebrated its 45th anniversary on October 12, 2007. Activities honored the leaders, board of education members, presidents, faculty, staff, alumni, and community-whose vision made the college grow.

Blue Mountain Community College will be bringing their 45th celebration to Heppner on Thursday, October 18, and will have cake at the Chamber luncheon.

Speakers announced for Chamber luncheon

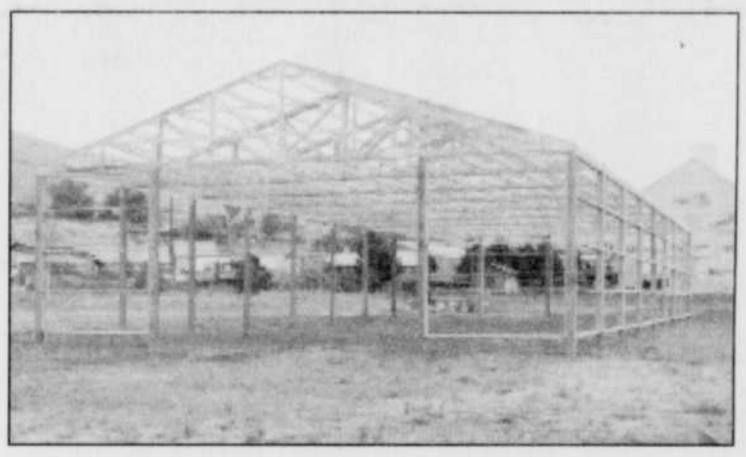
Speakers for the Heppner Chamber Luncheon will be Ann Morter and JoAnn Green Byrd on Thursday, October 18. Next week, Bill Kuhn will be giving an overview of the items coming up on the November ballot.

Chamber After Hours has been moved to Wednesday, October 24, due to a scheduling conflict.

Booster Club officer elections today

The HHS Booster Club will hold elections for new officers today, Wednesday, at 6 p.m. in the Home Ec room at the high school. Membership dues are $5.

Ag Museum adds new building


This new building will be used for the storage and display of antique farm equipment.

The Morrow County Agriculture Collection Museum is adding on. The museum is currently having a new building built by the Farm Foundation for the storage and display of antique farm equipment.

The goal of the museum is to put wood items such as wagons inside the museum to help protect them from the weather. The Farm Foundation hopes to develop displays for the equipment in the new building. Larry Mills stated that the current building "is overflowing" and new place was needed. Mills said the project should be finished by the first of December. Rod Wilson, a local contractor, is in charge of the project.

Rawhide & Rhinestones dance to be held this weekend

Heppner Chamber of Commerce will hold their Rawhide & Rhinestones Dance on Saturday, October 20, from 7-11 p.m. at the Fairgrounds.

Tickets are $8 for singles and $15 for couples. A no host dinner and drinks, beer/wine will be provided by Bucknum's Catering. Tickets can be purchased at Murray Drugs, City Hall, Heppner Chamber, and at the door Saturday night.

There will be a silent auction and the table centerpieces will be raffled off to five lucky people. All ages are welcome, however, ID will be checked for those purchasing alcoholic beverages.

For more information call the Chamber at 676-5536.

ALL NEWS AND ADVERTISEMENT DEADLINE:
MONDAYS AT 5:00 P.M.

At the MCGG GREEN FEED STORE in Heppner:

Durvet Ivermectin Parasiticide Pour-On for Cattle (5 liters)
ON SALE $59.95
Morrow County Grain Growers Green Feed & Seed
242 W. Linden Way, Heppner • 676-9422 • 989-8221 (MCGG main office)