

The Official Newspaper
of the City of Heppner and the County of Morrow

Heppner
GAZETTE-TIMES
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David Sykes.....Publisher
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.

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Allyn to celebrate birthday

A birthday celebration for Lois Allyn will be held Sunday, May 11, at Lexington Baptist Church after the Sunday services. The public is invited to have birthday cake and celebrate.

Smith to celebrate 80th birthday

An 80th birthday party will be held for Bill Smith on Saturday, May 10. The party will be held from noon to 5 p.m. at the ARC building at 215 W. Orchard Avenue in Hermiston. Refreshments and entertainment will be provided. No gifts, please.

HHS plant sale to be held this week


Heppner High School will be holding a plant sale May 7-9 from 3-6 p.m. and May 10 from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. The plants were raised by the HHS horticulture class.

Plant selections include: Pansies, Petunias, Portulaca, Guara, Tick Seed, Geraniums (zonal and ivy), veggies (tomatoes, squash, cucumbers, jalapeño peppers), herbs (dill, basil, oregano, rosemary), herb gardens, hanging baskets, flower bags, coleus, marigolds and much more.

Senior Center Menu

United Methodist Church members will be serving lunch on Wednesday, May 14. The menu will include cheeseburgers, oven backed French fries, tomatoes, onions, lettuce, pineapple and flat apple pie.

Pioneer Memorial Clinic has expanded its telephone hours to provide greater service to our patients. Appointments can now be scheduled Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. until 5 p.m. Regular clinic office hours remain unchanged from 9 a.m. to 12 noon and 1:30 to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.
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from 11 a.m. - 7 p.m.
Special: Chicken or Shrimp Fettucine Salad Bar & Regular Menu also available
TAYLOR'S RESTAURANT
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~ 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.

Vandals strike cross on hill

Letter to the editor:

I stood there and looked, not believing what I saw, at the destruction of something that was dear to me and many others.

I remember, it was about 20 years ago when several of us guys and our wives, with a lot of equipment and a considerable amount of funds, put in a lot of time and expense to build something that we thought would be appreciated by many, not counting those of us that worked so hard, and here I was standing here looking at a totally destructed part of my life. How could anyone do such a thing?

It was in the early 30's when I understand the first cross went on the hill. It was wooden and lasted for many years. A new wooden cross went up when the first one, because of many years of snow and rain and wind and sun, just got tired and laid down.

A new cross went on the hill at the same spot, I believe, and it lasted for many more years but finally gave up and it fell down.

Bob Jepsen came to me one day and asked for help to put up a new cross. My first thought was wood. The people at Kinzua said "Okay, what do you want." They cut some special timbers but in the mean time we decided on metal because it would last longer.

Somehow it came to mind that the reach or tongue of a log truck trailer would be just the thing. I called many owners and drivers and came up with 66 feet. Joe Miller spent 16 hours at no charge welding and painting it making a cross 20 feet high and 13 feet wide and when you look on the hill today that is what you see.

A hole was dug with a backhoe in that rocky old hill. Forty-four sacks of cement mix were used to hold the cross in place and thanks to Columbia Basin Electric. A boom truck held it in place until the cement set. About this time the telephone company put a building and tower close by and gave us electricity to light the cross.

We have had our troubles off and on but nothing like what has happened this time. The heavy metal box that housed the electrical system's wiring, light fixture and the mount were completely crushed by rocks large and small. To do this damage took a lot of effort and time.

The people involved in putting up this cross were Bob and Suzanne Jepsen, Bob and Aloha DeSpain, George Jefferies, John Edmundson and Bill and Merilee McDowell.

Also, contributions were made by Pettyjohn's Building Supply, Horseshoe Hereford Ranch, Jay Coil, John Britt and Guy Van Arsdale.

The light has been repaired and will shine day and night again.

Law enforcement has been asked to keep an eye for vandalism and we are asking the public to keep watch also, but we would especially ask those responsible for the vandalism to re-think what they have done and find a better way to spend their time.

Bob DeSpain
Heppner

Appreciation for community help

Letter to the editor:

We live in one of the best communities I have ever known. We appreciate all the donations of food and money that were given on behalf of Heeyoung's dental bill. We raised \$1,500 at the bake sales.

All the donations from people Heeyoung did not know personally really moved him emotionally. He was very appreciative of everyone. He comes from a city of four million people and yet you can feel like a stranger. He has really enjoyed the small town community feeling. He is amazed at how friendly everyone is.

It also surprises the kids how fast moms find things out. We just smile and say moms have their ways.

Heppner continually amazes us at how quickly we can join together and come to one another's aide. Being on the receiving end is very humbling. Again we appreciate and are so grateful for everyone who gave of their time and money to come to a young man's aide.

John and Kathy Marick (Heeyoung's host parents)
Heppner

Encouragement to vote for Leann Rea

Letter to the editor:

We encourage you to vote for Leann Rea in the upcoming election for Morrow County commissioner. Leann is dedicated to Morrow County and will bring new energy to our area.

We met Leann as a young mother. She was an active volunteer supporting youth groups throughout the county. She helped many young 4-H members and continues to assist Morrow County senior citizens. Leann has served on numerous county and state committees. Morrow County is her priority and she wants to make sure we move forward as a strong unified county.

Please vote for Leann Rea as Morrow County commissioner.

Vern and Francine Evans
Irrigon

Justice Court

Morrow County Justice Court Judge Charlotte Gray has released the following report:

- Tyler Bradfield, 22, two counts of furnishing alcohol to minors, \$945 fine.
- Alora D. Henderson, 18, no operator's license, \$244 fine.

Leann Rea for Morrow County

Letter to the editor:

We believe Leann Rea will best serve the residents of Morrow County as our next county commissioner.

The current conflict over the disbursement of the tippage fees still remains a divisive issue. The cities of Morrow County were motivated, in part, by the fact that their tax base is almost entirely derived from single family households, with almost no taxes from the industries or businesses where they work. Most surrounding cities have a large industrial tax base. This puts our bedroom communities at a definite disadvantage. These communities are left to their own devices or to go begging for money from the county commissioners.

On the other side, we-the voters-voted no on the tippage measure after realizing that the cities were requesting too large of a percentage of the tippage fees. After reviewing the way the money was currently being spent we feared losing funding for OSU Extension, the Irrigon-Boardman Emergency Assistance Center, the Neighborhood Center, the County Fair, Soil & Water Conservation, etc. One possible solution is to form a committee, with equal representation from throughout the county, to work out a new method of distribution of the tippage fees. This committee would operate similar to the county planning commission.

Having been a Morrow County resident all her life, Leann can remember years where snow removal and flooding put real pressure on the county road budget requiring emergency funding. This came at the price of reducing funding for other important services. If the newly formed tippage fee committee should decide to allocate a percentage of these fees to the communities, the county should retain the ability to override allocated percentages in case of such emergencies. But under normal circumstances, the cities would receive an allotted percentage of the fees, so they have the ability to plan their own budgets using those funds.

Other issues of concern for Morrow County as well as the State of Oregon include pollution, global warming, and the high cost of fossil fuels. As a result we have turned to alternative energy sources such as bio diesel and ethanol. Now, every acre that we devote to fuel crops takes an acre directly out of our food production. While alternate fuel production is a necessary and noble endeavor the direct results are higher food prices and ultimately food shortages. If you don't believe this, check the price of eggs, milk, and soon your choice beef. Check your grocery stores to see how many foreign items are on your shelves—our pickles came from India, seafood from China, asparagus from Peru, just to mention a few.

It becomes absolutely necessary, if we are going to be successful with the energy projects, we must increase food production acreage. Change is in the air and the solution is increasing acreage under irrigation. The governor has certainly realized this and Umatilla County has been very active in this area. Increased production is directly connected to water and water development. Morrow County has been slow to respond. We believe that Morrow County needs to have a greater presence in this process. Leann Rea's experience as an irrigation district manager, an irrigated farmer, and a paralegal for a water right's attorney gives her an understanding and motivation to work with the issues at hand.

Here's a visionary thought: The bombing range is one of the finest pieces of real estate with the greatest potential for production. We believe that when we realize how much we need the added production, pressures will become great enough that this area will be developed. With the Columbia Irrigation District to the east and RDO Farming to the west, we know what the land could produce. When a large area of the bombing range on the west side sold to RDO, the government sold to one individual with no public input, no public sale. This is why, if development on the bombing range should occur, it would be advantageous to have an irrigation district manage the water delivery. Then sell the land fairly to individual farmers. We realize this is a dream with many hurdles but the end result would certainly be worth the effort. Leann has told us that many years ago she and her husband actually took maps of the bombing range and drew in circles and water delivery systems, with this very dream in mind.

In the past, these hurdles have been dealt with. We can recall when every other section of the Eastern Oregon Farming Corporation east of the bombing range was BLM ground. Through local pressure and good judgment, the BLM had a land sale; and we have the production there we have today.

The problems are not insurmountable. We realize this is visionary. But we believe that we need to take this kind of approach to operate Morrow County. Leann welcomes your ideas. Write her, Leann Rea 79269 Rippee Rd., Boardman, OR 97818; Call her, (541)481-5922; or e-mail her, lnjrea@centurytel.com. Together our visions are the strength of this county. If we want Morrow County to progress, we need your input. Leann Rea wants to work with people to see this county move forward. She wants to work with you to get things done.

Every vote counts. Democrats check the box next to Leann Rea; Republicans check the box and write in Leann Rea on your ballot (spelling is important). Trina Miles, The Irrigon Committee to elect Leann Rea Pasco

-Letters to the editor continued on page Three