

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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Big Cluck Grill-Off to be held at MC Fair

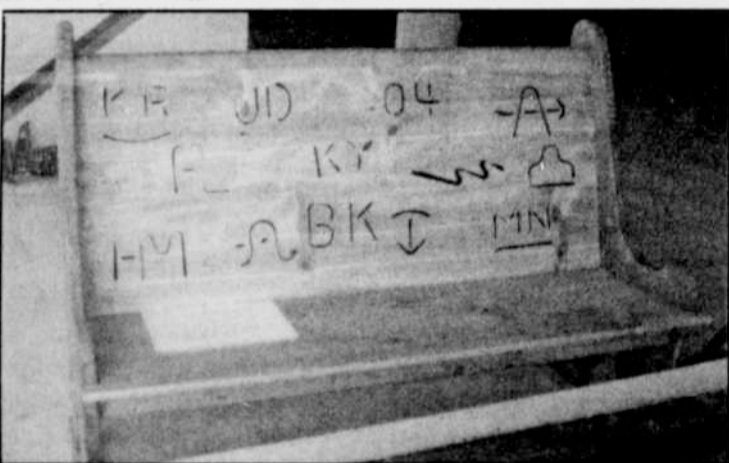
The Oregon Fryer Commission's Big Cluck Grill-Off will be held this year on Thursday, August 14, at the Morrow County Fair.

Amateur backyard grill masters please apply. The top placing contestant will advance to compete in the Grand Champion Big Cluck Grill-Off Competition during the Oregon State Fair on Saturday, August 23.

Anyone interested in participating can enter on the Oregon Fryer Commission's website at www.oregon-chickens.com or fax an entry form to 503-537-6224.

Prizes include: 1st place, Traeger Lil Tex Wood Pellet Grill and ribbon; 2nd place, Traeger Junior Wood Pellet Grill and ribbon; 3rd place, grill accessory set and ribbon.

Wrangler's Riding Club holding raffle



This bench is being raffled off by the Wrangler's Riding Club. -Photo by Autumn Morgan

The Wrangler's Riding Club will be raffling a bench decorated with brands of past and present members. The bench is on display at Les Schwab Tire in Heppner. Tickets are \$5 each or six for \$25. Tickets are available at Les Schwab Tire or from any Wrangler member.

The bench was made by Bob Hager of Wood and Wood. This will be the primary fundraiser for the Wranglers for expenses and year end awards.

The Wranglers will not be putting on the Sunday morning breakfast at the Morrow County Fair this year.



Irrigon Watermelon Festival

Saturday, July 26th
at the Irrigon Marina Park

Events include:
Breakfast starting at 6:30 a.m. • Parade at 10 a.m.
Saturday/Sunday Baseball Tournament at 7 a.m.
Street Dance at 9 p.m. by Dan Burns 3D Productions

Entertainment starts at 11 a.m.!
Food Booths all day • Games for the kids
Pie and Watermelon Booth
Steve Haberman and Mary Lou
Tony Madrigal • Shannon Wahner
Polynesian Youth Group • Round-Up City Cloggers
Les Vaughn and Fender Benders • Too Tall Papa
Fun and Entertainment for the whole family!
Entertainment and Advertising funded by
Morrow County Unified Recreation District

~ 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.

CRP acres not accomplishing the goals of the original or new program

To the Editor:

I, Robert (Bob) Mahoney have owned and managed HM Ranch (a partnership) for 46 years. I am 66 years old and have lived in Heppner, county of Morrow for 66 years. I graduated from Heppner HS in 1959 and graduated from Pacific University in 1964 with BS degrees in Biology and Business.

In the past 46 years, I have seen many changes in farming and conservation practices. Some changes were good and some were not beneficial to everyone. The CRP has been one of these changes. It has helped with the erosion factor we faced in the 50's and 60's and also the Clean Water Act was very beneficial. The program was designed to be beneficial to our wildlife, but today on our ranch, which includes 19,000 deeded acres and over 20,000 leased acres, the deer and elk herds have decreased and the upland game bird population has fallen off. Why?

With over 4,000 acres of CRP (which is dying), there is no new growth because the old growth is smothering out any chance of new growth. A very unhealthy plant situation, as well as an extreme fire hazard danger.

I have been told we can burn our CRP, and we would like to do this, but for us it is not an option because of the liability factor and likelihood of fencing damage. Burning would also burn the nests for our birds and after a field is burned, there is no cover or protection for the birds to safely build new ones. Also, if you put in plow lines for control, the weed factor becomes an issue. I have also been told we can mow these acres, but fuel and equipment costs make this an unreasonable option as well.

It seems to me a grazing or haying program would be a viable solution to help stimulate new growth within the CRP boundaries and would restore some new growth in the marginable acres that surround our CRP fields. This could be done on a rational basis.

Grazing and haying has been allowed at different times, but the timing and 25% reduction in your annual payment would not be beneficial to most farmers and ranchers. Personally, it does not make sense. Even though it would be good for the land and our wildlife, cost wise, we could not afford to do this.

Again, I believe grazing would definitely help stimulate new growth. Actually, just having livestock on this CRP ground could help. Ground where animals or wildlife roam helps knock down old unpalatable growth and also helps stimulate new growth by putting seeds back into the ground within the CRP boundaries and help restore some new growth in the riparian buffer and marginal areas that surround our CRP fields. This could be done on a rotational basis and the animals would have to be off before the nesting season. In our area the nesting season usually is from mid-April to the middle of July. We often have snow on the ground in March, so our nesting season is much later than in other parts of Oregon.

How many AUM's could you run on this ground? As stewards of the land, I believe most landowners would be prudent. If they weren't prudent, they would be defeating the purpose and the ground would be overgrazed and they would not be able to graze on the ground in future years. In the beginning, I think there should be a minimal amount of animals on the CRP acres, however, after the new growth has been started, more animals within reason could be added. The facts are that because most CRP acres grasses are old and not palatable, most CRP in the state of Oregon would make very poor pasture, but once the new grasses start to grow, both wildlife and other animals could utilize the CRP acres.

I understand grazing and haying has been allowed at different times during the years of CRP has been in effect, but as it is written now the timing (nesting period) make it impossible for anyone in our area or farther east to participate. The 25% reduction in payments also are something most participants could not afford.

Something needs to be done. My CRP acres are not accomplishing the goals of the original or new program which targeted soil, water quality and to protect and feed our wildlife. I feel my hands are tied as I comply with the rules and guidelines that are now in place and it is frustrating to watch this land deteriorate when it could be a win-win situation for everyone, especially our wildlife and animals.

Bob Mahoney
Heppner

Free tax preparations available for those who have not filed

The IRS recently announced that 61 people in the Heppner zip code area have not filed a 2007 tax return to get their stimulus payment.

Leann Rea will make arrangements to come to Heppner and provide free tax preparation for those who have not yet filed their 2007 tax return. To make an appointment call 541-481-5922.



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Montalto, Pence announce engagement



Michelle Montalto and Ryan Pence

The parents of Michelle Montalto and Ryan Pence are pleased to announce the couple's engagement to be married.

Michelle Montalto is the daughter of Janice Fratzke or Merrillville, IN. She received her bachelor of science degree from Purdue University in 1995. She currently works in the field of clinical research in Portland.

Ryan Pence is the step-son and son, respectively, of Frank and Cara Osmin of Heppner, and John Pence (deceased). He is a 1993 graduate of Heppner High School and a 1997 graduate of Linfield College. He currently works in the field of industrial supply distribution in Portland.

They are planning an August 8, 2008 wedding at Camp Colton in Molalla.

BEO's Mortgage Division knows there's no place like home



Pictured is BEO's mortgage team.

Anyone who has had to make do in temporary quarters knows the joy of being able to return to home base. Bank of Eastern Oregon's mortgage division shifted gears and set up a temporary office in the bank's multi-purpose room for approximately five months while the mortgage office underwent some necessary construction and repairs.

The mortgage lending team moved back to its own office and plans an open house celebration on July 31 from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. Everyone is invited to stop in and say hello to BEO's dynamic mortgage lending team.

Melissa Lindsay, BEO's mortgage manager, is more than ready to return to a beautifully reconstructed office and looks forward to receiving her customers at 269 N. Main Street in Heppner. Melissa graduated from San Diego State University with a degree in business management. She has 18 years of mortgage lending experience and has been with Bank of Eastern Oregon since 1996.

"The Mortgage Division has had excellent results and these are in no small measure due to Melissa's hard work and dedica-

tion. The repeat business we enjoy is a testament to the quality of her work," said CEO, E. George Koffler.

Rejoining the Mortgage team after a short hiatus is Tobey Garrett, mortgage loan supervisor. "Tobey provides great customer service and has a very professional approach," said Koffler.

Arletta Arnsperger, construction account representative, has been with the Mortgage Division for two years. "Arletta provides oversight and monitoring of the construction area and also processes loans. Her attention to detail is very valuable to us," said Koffler.

Christy Wizner, mortgage loan processor, completes the mortgage lending team. She has been in the mortgage division for more than five years. Christy helps us in many areas of the mortgage division, particularly construction draws," said Koffler.

"We are also adding Teresa Bedortha to the mortgage team," said Lindsay. "Teresa is a talented person with a wealth of knowledge through working in the title company arena for more than 20 years. Teresa will be responsible for loan closings and document preparation."

Columbia River Community Health Service to hold barbecue

Columbia River Community Health Services will hold their annual community barbecue on Thursday, August 14. There will be free food, face painting, kid's games and prizes. There will also be a free raffle with over 20 prizes.

Karger elected to Fellowship status by American College of Physicians

Columbia River Community Health Services announces that staff physician Arian Kargar, DO has been elected to Fellowship status by the American College of Physicians.

Fellowship is an honor achieved by those recognized by their peers for personal integrity, superior competence in internal medicine, professional accomplishment, and demonstrated scholarship. The clinic celebrates and commends Dr. Kargar on this achievement milestone.