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of the City of Heppner and the County of Morrow

Heppner
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Autumn Morgan Editor

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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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Obituaries

Vern Batty

A funeral service for longtime Morrow County resident, Vern Batty, will be held 11 a.m. Saturday, August 9, 2008, at the United Methodist Church in Heppner.



Vern Batty

Concluding service and burial will follow at the Heppner Masonic Cemetery.

Mrs. Batty, 84, died Saturday, August 2, in Portland where she had been living in recent years.

She was born December 13, 1923 in Hardman, the daughter of Elmer and Ethel Allen McDaniel. She was raised and attended school at Burton Valley near Hardman. She then attended high school at Hardman where she graduated in 1941. Following high school she attended a secretarial college.

On October 31, 1942 she married Kenneth G. Batty at Weiser, ID. The couple lived at Hardman and Monument before settling in Heppner in 1970.

She enjoyed flowers, gardening, cooking, sewing and golfing. She was a member of the Heppner United Methodist Church and the Willow Creek Country Club, also in Heppner.

Survivors include: her daughter, Gayle Renne of Portland; sister, Vera Cline of Salt Lake City, UT; grandson, Ryan Renne; and great-grandsons, Cole

Renne and Luke Renne all of Greensboro, NC.

She was preceded in death by her husband Kenneth Batty and a brother Cecil McDaniel.

Contributions for those who wish may be made to Pioneer Memorial Hospice, PO Box 9, Heppner, Oregon 97836 or to Alzheimer's Association, 1650 N. W. Naito Parkway, Suite 190, Portland, Oregon 97209.

Sweeney Mortuary of Heppner is in charge of arrangements.

Timothy Hunter Monahan-Rollis

A celebration of life for family and friends will be held for Timothy Hunter Monahan - Rollis at 4 p.m. on Sunday, August 10, 2008 at the Heppner City Park. A private inurnment will be held at the Heppner Masonic Cemetery.

Timothy Monahan - Rollis, one year old died Tuesday, July 29, 2008, of an accidental drowning at his home in Heppner.

He was born July 25, 2007 at Pendleton the son of Sarah Monahan and Steven Rollis.

Survivors include: his parents; sister, Larissa Monahan - Rollis; brothers, Chase Monahan - Rollis, and Aaron Rollis; grandparents, Russell and Ellen Rollis and Marcella Monahan; and numerous aunts, uncles and cousins.

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

Sweeney Mortuary of Heppner is in charge of arrangements.

~ 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.

Thoughts on proposed Secure Residential Treatment Facility

To the editor:

Heppner City Council appears ready to approve the eight-bed, Secure Residential Treatment Facility (SRTF) for Heppner. The facility promises added jobs, annual revenue spent, and a \$1.6 construction project in Heppner, and supplemental mental health services and collateral benefits for the community and schools. Maybe this is great economic development for Heppner, maybe not, depending on public concerns and support.

My concerns are as much with the attitude of the council and the prime movers in the background as with the facility. The publicized meeting on July 30, 2008 was not, in my opinion, a certifiable public meeting, but rather a way of not having one.

The city administrator chaired the meeting and laid down the ground rules. The rules I heard were, "Listen to the presentations, ask questions (to be answered by those promoting the facility), no public comments, if you have comments speak to a council person privately, write to the Editor, or go to the next city council meeting (where, I understand, questions and comments may or may not be taken)." I verified meeting facts with others, as I left the meeting after those rules were repeated a second time.

I cannot consider this representative government. Projects like this one, good or not, force-fed to the public by those "who know better" are the reason public opinion of elected representatives in America is at rock bottom. American citizens have the right to be included in decisions affecting them.

Today many citizens of Heppner still have serious unanswered questions and concerns about this SRTF. Those concerns should be addressed. Intentional or not, disallowing public discourse can create divisions in Heppner like we have recently seen in Arlington and Fossil. If the majority of people are not satisfied before approval is made, and feel they have been shut-out, it doesn't matter if the decision was correct or not.

It's not often the Senior Center is that full of citizens concerning a council decision. It indicated the citizenry are not yet comfortable with the project. In my opinion the Heppner City Council needs to seek the will of the people, not shut them off. To approve the SRTF at the current point of conflict with the citizens may well divide friends, families, and the community. That is not elective representative government at its best, regardless of "good intentions."

Ray Grace
Heppner

Support for proposed Secure Residential Treatment Facility

To the editor:

I am writing this letter to encourage support for the "Secure Residential Treatment Facility" proposed for placement in Heppner by Community Counseling Solutions.

As a health care professional practicing pharmacy in Morrow and Gilliam Counties for that past 20 years, I have seen first hand the tremendous benefit that well designed treatment plans involving today's medications can have on a person's life. We have an opportunity to extend a welcome to and indeed provide this important care to people who need it. Not only this, but also at the same time gain a service that is lacking at this time and costing the citizens of Morrow County money and availability of local care. That service would be the availability of "respite beds" for citizens in a mental health crisis. Currently they are transported by the Morrow County Sheriff's Office to facilities in such places as Bend and Grants Pass.

We are very fortunate to already have in place a very good spectrum of health care with our mental health services, public health services, Morrow County Health District, hospital and clinic services, and the levels of housing care available for our senior citizens. The facility's respite care would provide one more service that is already needed locally.

Facilities such as the one proposed have a good track record nationally, in Oregon and indeed "locally" meaning the facility opened about one year ago in Umatilla.

Several tours of local concerned citizens have visited this facility and found it to be modern, secure and a good neighbor. The addition of about 15 jobs with a payroll of \$720,000 per year hasn't hurt either.

There are legitimate concerns that must be addressed, such as the type of person to be accepted into the facility. However, we do have control of this through the locally administered Behavioral Health Board. We can and should ask that our concerns be addressed. I feel that they have been.

This is a unique opportunity to add services and jobs needed in South Morrow County. Please join me in showing support for this project.

John Murray, Heppner

FFA students commended for incredible job

To the Editor:

The weekend of July 12, 2008, (Heppner High School vo-ag teacher and FFA advisor) Beth Dickenson, the Heppner High School FFA students and parents provided serving and cleanup assistance at our daughter's wedding

These outstanding young people deserve to be commended for doing an incredible job. Each and every one of them worked tirelessly to make our event successful. A number of our guests commented on how polite and efficient the kids were. We would highly recommend this group of FFA students to any organization.

Bruce and Vicki Coe
Milwaukie

NOAA issues monthly climate summary for Heppner

According to preliminary data received by NOAA's National Weather Service in Pendleton, temperatures in Heppner averaged slightly warmer than normal during the month of July.

The average temperature was 70.8 degrees which was 1.4 degrees above normal. High temperatures averaged 86.9 degrees, which was 1.2 degrees above normal. The highest was 96 degrees on the 1st. Low temperatures averaged 54.7 degrees, which was 1.6 degrees above normal. The lowest was 46 degrees, on

the 11th. On eight days, the temperature exceeded 90 degrees.

Precipitation totaled 0.00 inches during July, which was 0.35 inches below normal.

The outlook for August from NOAA's Climate Prediction Center calls for near normal temperatures and below normal precipitation. Normal highs for Heppner during August are 85.2 degrees and normal lows are 53.1 degrees. The 30 year normal precipitation is 0.54 inches.

The National Weather

Service is an office of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, an agency of the U.S. Commerce Department.

"Just Us" team places second for money raised in Relay for Life

There's No Place Like Hope was the theme for this year's Relay for Life in Prineville.

The team "Just Us" came in second place out of 25 teams for raising \$3,966.02, a little over a thousand dollars more than last year thanks to the generous donations from people in the community.

The team consisted of: Co-chair Rebecca Swearingen, Brenda Comni, Chera Elliott and Michael Boyd, all of Prineville, Cheryl Parker of Bend, Jeff and Kathie Maben of Mt. Vernon, Treston Maben, Josh, Jessica and Coley Roy, Celita Strouse, Ruth Mabe and Tom, and Shannon and Jered Wicklund of Heppner.

The team also took Best Decorated Campsite for the relay, the second time in five years the team has taken part.

The "Just Us" team never wants to give up hope that some day, in the very near future, a cure for cancer will be found.

2008 Morrow County Chronicles introduced at MC Fair

What kind of medical emergency did a neighbor's hacksaw resolve? What happened to the mysterious keepsake quilt that disappeared from 1942 to 2007? Who was the country girl from Lexington who went to the big city, but came back to her roots to be Morrow County Public Health Nurse? Who were really the earliest residents of Morrow County? What Irrigon youth left his mark on the rodeo world?

These questions and more will be answered when you read the 2008 issue of the Morrow County Chronicles. Morrow County Historical Society publishes The Chronicles to preserve local heritage, and as a fundraising project for restoration and preservation projects.

The new 2008 edition includes 11 new short stories and will be introduced at the 2008 Morrow County Fair. "These small books of interesting stories, photographs, and maps should be in your personal book collection and they make great gifts for new comers and long time residents. Plan to pick up the 2008 edition at the Morrow County Historical Society Booth at Morrow County Fair," said Carol Michael. The price for each copy is around \$10.

Blue Basin hike offered

John Day Fossil Beds National Monument will offer a ranger-conducted hikes into the spectacular Blue Basin fossil beds. This two-hour hike will feature the geologic landscape and fossil history of the basin.

The hike will begin at 10 a.m. on Saturday, August 9. It will begin at the Blue Basin trailhead, located three miles north of the Sheep Rock Unit visitor center which is located nine miles west of Dayville, Oregon, on Route 19. Participants should bring good hiking shoes, a sun hat, jacket, water bottle, and a camera.

For further information please call 541-987-2333.

Morrow County Public Works

Household Hazardous Waste Event
(541) 989-9500 for Details
September 20th South end Road Dept. Parking lot
September 21st North end Transfer Station.
Times at both sites 10:00 - 2:00



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