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HEPPNER 50¢
Gazette Times

VOL. 128 NO. 1 10 Pages Wednesday, January 7, 2009 Morrow County, Heppner, Oregon

Heppner Gazette-Times welcomes new staff member

The Heppner Gazette-Times has a new face in the office. Megan Futter joined the Gazette-Times staff on November 19, 2008 as the new graphics designer.

Born and raised in Heppner, Futter moved to Pendleton approximately seven years ago. It was during this time that she married. She and her husband, Andrew, have three children, Sabashtian (7), Gaige (5), and Faith (2).

While in Pendleton, Futter received her Associate of Arts Oregon Transfer Degree from Blue Mountain Community College with an emphasis in computer graphics design. Her current job entails working on the Heppner Gazette-Times newspaper, printing jobs, ad design and web design.

She and her family moved from Pendleton to Heppner when Futter took the job at the Gazette. Her husband works for JVB Dairy in Ione.

"We are excited about being back in Heppner," said Futter. "The kids really like it. It's nice to be around all of my family again."

Megan Futter is the new graphic designer for the Heppner Gazette-Times. *-Photo by Autumn Morgan*

City of Lexington loses mayor

The City of Lexington lost its mayor on Wednesday, December 31. Valerie Doherty died at Kadlec Medical Center from complications suffered from two strokes.

Doherty's family moved to Lexington in 1963. She graduated from Heppner High School in 1971. In 1975 she graduated from the University of Oregon and in 1979 from Willamette University School of Law..

She later returned to Heppner and practiced law with the Winter and Sweeney Law Firm. She later went into private practice for herself.

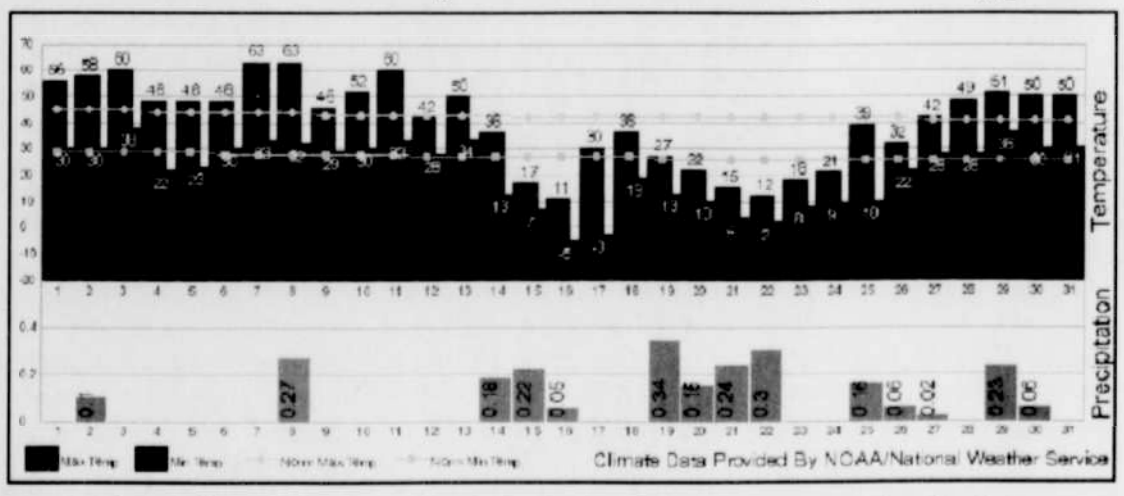
Doherty also served as a former council member for the City of Lexington. After being appointed as mayor of Lexington to finish an existing four year term, Doherty decided to run for the same position during a general election in 2006. With two years left in her term, the Lexington City Council will appoint a mayor to fill the position until the next general election in 2010.

City Clerk Dee Burch (right) presented Lexington Mayor Val Doherty with a plaque of appreciation from Jim and Yung Nelson early last December. *-Photo by David Sykes*

Morrow County elected officials sworn into office

Back Row (L to R) Count Assessor Greg Sweek and Sheriff Kenneth Matlack, Front Row (L to R) County Surveyor Judson Coppock, County Clerk Bobbi Childers, County Treasurer Gayle Gutierrez, and County Commissioner Leann Rea were sworn into office on Monday, January 5, at the Morrow County Courthouse. *-Photo by Autumn Morgan*

NOAA issues monthly climate summary for Heppner



According to preliminary data received by NOAA's National Weather Service in Pendleton Oregon, temperatures at Heppner averaged colder than normal during the month of December.

The average temperature was 30.7 degrees which was 3.7 degrees below normal. High temperatures averaged 40.4 degrees, which was 1.8 degrees below normal. The highest was 63 degrees on the 7th. Low temperatures averaged 21.1 degrees, which was 5.6 degrees below normal. The lowest was -5 degrees, on the 16th.

There were 25 days with the low temperature below 32 degrees. There were nine days when the high temperature stayed below 32 degrees.

Precipitation totaled 2.38 inches during December, which was 1.03 inches above normal. Measurable precipitation -at least .01 inch- was received on 14 days with the heaviest, 0.34 inches reported on the 19th.

Snowfall totaled 17.6 inches with at least one inch of snow reported on five days. The heaviest snowfall was 5.0 inches reported on the 19th. The greatest depth of snow on the ground was 27 inches on the 26th.

The outlook for January from NOAA's Climate Prediction Center calls for near normal temperatures and above normal precipitation. Normal highs for Heppner during January are 42.3 degrees and normal lows are 26.3 degrees. The 30 year normal precipitation is 1.46 inches.

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

City of Irrigon to hold public open house

The City of Irrigon will hold a public open house on Thursday, January 15, at Stokes Landing Senior Center from 6:30-8:30 p.m. The open house is to establish a vision for downtown Irrigon and US 730.

The City of Irrigon has teamed with the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) and a team of transportation, urban design and economic specialists to create a Downtown Plan and US 730 Streetscape Plan for Downtown Irrigon. The Project Team will be spending the two days touring Downtown Irrigon and meeting with various property and business owners. On Thursday night, the public will have the chance to tell us your ideas about the downtown plan and US 730 streetscape.

Comment forms can be picked up at City Hall and throughout the community after the meeting, or contact City Manager Jerry Breazeale at (541) 922-3047 or irrigon@oregontrail.net for more information.

Items damaged at MC Museum

Top Photo (left to right): Jo Burt, Sherry Clark, and Peggy Fishburn sort through various clothing items that were damaged at the Morrow County Museum when a portion of the roof in the storage room collapsed last week from the weight of the snow. Bottom Photo: Jo Burt examines a dress damaged by the roof collapse. *–Photo by David Sykes*

Tom Wicklund Memorial Fund set up at BEO

The Tom Wicklund Memorial Fund account has been set up at the Bank of Eastern Oregon. Anyone wishing to make a donation may stop by and do so.

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