

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

Heppner
GAZETTE-TIMES
U.S.P.S. 240-420

Morrow County's Home-Owned Weekly Newspaper
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David Sykes, Publisher
Andrea Di Salvo, 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 \$5 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 \$5.75 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.

~ 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.

Statement concerning death penalty

The state's district attorneys are responsible for ensuring that we are, in fact, a society that observes the rule of law. For that reason, many of us are profoundly disturbed by Gov. John Kitzhaber's abrupt pronouncement that no jury's verdict of death will be carried out during his term.

Kitzhaber's personal opposition to capital punishment has never been a secret, and yet when he ran for governor, some of us who are in favor of the death penalty as the ultimate punishment endorsed him. That was in part because the governor had respected the rule of law when it came to the execution of Douglas Franklin Wright in 1996, saying he (the governor) was "sworn to uphold the law and could not and would not intervene." That was the right decision legally and morally, and it respected the will of Oregonians, who twice in the past 30 years—in 1978 (by 64 percent of the vote) and then again in 1984 (by 75 percent of the vote)—have voted to reinstate capital punishment.

Gary Haugen, who was hoping for just this act by the governor, is not on death row for his first murder, but for his second murder, that of an inmate Haugen killed while doing a life sentence. Sentencing someone to prison should not mean a sentence to

"gladiatorial combat," and, yet, surely there are other sociopaths in prison who now have little to fear from committing another murder, of a corrections officer or inmate.

The governor cited a "broken system" that he called a "perversion of justice." No one on Oregon's death row has ever made a credible claim of actual innocence. No one has ever been removed from death row for police or prosecutorial misconduct. He cited a U.S. Supreme Court decision a few years ago that banned the execution of murderers who committed their crimes before the age of 18. Oregon has never allowed such executions. The governor cited problems in other states that have functionally abolished capital punishment without any input from voters. In 2006 voters in Wisconsin approved an advisory measure to bring back the death penalty, which had not existed there since before the Civil War. The legislature ignored their vote. In fact, the last time voters abolished the death penalty was in 1964—here in Oregon.

Oregon voters made very clear their support of the death penalty in 1978 and, after the state Supreme Court overturned that vote, again in 1984. Since then, polls have shown even greater support for the option of death for certain killers who commit

the worst kind of murder.

Look at the people who populate Oregon's death row and you'll understand why the editorial board of The Oregonian has distinguished Oregon from other states. We host Jesse Caleb Compton, who in 1997 sexually assaulted and murdered 3-year-old Tesslyn O'Cull. Conan Hale tortured and killed three young teenagers. Dayton LeRoy Rogers is a serial killer of women. All of those killers, and everyone else on death row, received excellent representation, often two or even three lawyers as well as a team of investigators, mitigation specialists and psychologists.

Evidence-based studies referenced by former University of Chicago law professor Cass Sunstein, now in President Barack Obama's administration, show that there is both a specific deterrent to capital punishment (Ted Bundy will never again kill a young woman) and also a general deterrent. Statistics from the federal Bureau of Justice Statistics show that while use of the death penalty increased by 26 percent in the first decade of the new millennium, the murder rate went down 22 percent in the same time period over the previous decade.

Oregonians are entrusted to make the most important decisions about their laws, from sentencing

to end-of-life issues, and Oregon has a long tradition of listening to the voters when they make their will clear, so long as it does not violate the state or federal constitution. Both state and federal courts have ruled that Oregon's capital punishment laws pass constitutional muster.

Oregon prosecutors rarely ask for the death penalty, and jurors even more rarely impose it. The "conversation" about the death penalty that the governor now wants has been ongoing for years. It can and should continue without casting aside the extraordinarily difficult decisions made by jurors, such as those who voted for death for Joshua and Bruce Turnidge, who intentionally exploded a bomb that murdered two police officers and grievously crippled a third. Or for Angela McAnulty, the first woman sent to Oregon's death row in half a century, for the horrific torture murder of her own daughter. Or, for the fourth time in 22 years, for Randy Guzek, for the 1987 execution of Lois and Rod Houser.

The unique intersection of democracy and justice that is the death penalty must be respected.

Signed:
Justin Nelson, Morrow County DA
Oregon District Attorney Association

Justice Court Report

Morrow County Justice of the Peace Ann Spicer has released the following Justice Court Report.

-Wilbur Lynn Beard, Jr., 52, of Lexington was found guilty of DUII-alcohol. He was given a DUII diversion with alcohol assessment/treatment to be completed at Community Counseling Services.

-Nathan Lawrence Slocum, 39, of Corvallis, pled guilty to Criminal Trespass II. He was sentenced to one year bench probation to be reduced to a violation at the end of the year. Total fines, fees and assessments were \$740.

**Blondee Salon's
Holiday Happy Hour**

Wednesday, December 14th 3-7 pm
(Open house style)

- UP TO 50% OFF
- ALL PRODUCTS, PURSES, TANS AND JEWELRY ON SALE!
- GREAT DOOR PRIZES
- GIFT CERTIFICATES AVAILABLE



MORROW COUNTY PARKS
BOARD WILL MEET ON
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 8TH 2011
AT 1:00 PM AT THE COLUMBIA
BASIN ELECTRIC CO-OP ROOM
AT 171 WEST LINDEN WAY
HEPPNER, OREGON
AGENDA ITEMS INCLUDE
ANNOUNCEMENTS, EVENTS,
REVIEW OF PARKS, GRANTS, AND
PROJECTS.
THE PUBLIC IS
INVITED TO ATTEND

Snoring and sleep apnea



The following was submitted by the Morrow County Health District.

Sleep apnea occurs when a person fails to breathe for periods of 10 seconds or longer during his sleep. While an occasional episode of sleep apnea can happen to anyone, a person who has spells of apnea every couple minutes during the night will not get a good night's sleep; it prevents a person from getting to the deeper stages of sleep.

Often, the steps a person takes to improve his sleep will only make it worse. Using sleeping aids—such as sleeping pills, tranquilizers and alcohol—usually makes the problem worse by relaxing the tone of the muscles in the throat region.

This muscle relaxation allows the airways to collapse and close off, making the typical snoring sound. It becomes difficult to inhale as the tissue around the airway caves in, especially in certain positions such as sleeping on

your back. The results are snoring, sleep apnea and poor sleep.

Sleep apnea can often be improved, although the right steps to take are not easy. It is important to lose weight so there is no unnecessary compression of the airways. One should also avoid alcohol and sedatives, and stay physically fit.

Anyone can evaluate sleep apnea at home by using a tape recorder at night, then listening to the sleep pattern. If there is excessive snoring or frequent

pauses in breathing of 10 seconds or more, discuss it with a doctor and consider a formal sleep study.

If simple measures, such as sleeping on the side and avoiding sedatives, do not help, there are c-pap devices to help keep the airways open during sleep. If necessary, a surgical reconstruction of the soft palate and surrounding tissues may be helpful. Medical providers may be able to recommend an appropriate treatment plan to help decrease problems caused by sleep apnea.

**Don't Miss our.... CHRISTMAS
OPEN HOUSE! DECEMBER 15 8AM-7PM**

Wedding Tables
Blake Knowles &
Whitney
Machado-Ching

Saturday, December 17th

Brooke Rust &
Randy Carnine

Saturday, January 7th

Luke Murray &
Kathleen Dierkes

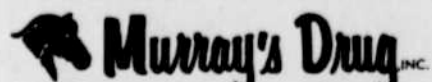
Saturday, January 7th

- HOURLY DOOR PRIZES
 - TREASURE HUNT DRAWING
- CHECK OUR OUR LIGHTS AND ORNAMENTS!



Don't Forget to fill out your treasure hunt wish list!

Russel Stover boxed candy 20% off



217 North Main St., Heppner • Phone 676-9158 • Floral 676-9426
Serving Morrow, Wheeler & Gilliam counties Since 1959

- Drink Specials- Caramel Hazelnut Latte \$3.25
- Toasted Marshmallow Hot Chocolate \$2.50

Knowles competes at NFR

Heppner man Blake Knowles threw his steer in 4.3 seconds to place fifth in the opening round of steer wrestling last Thursday at the Wrangler National Finals Rodeo in Las Vegas.

Knowles dropped back in round two, his time of 4.9 seconds giving him a tie for tenth place with Mickey Gee of Wichita Falls, TX.

Cousin Trevor Knowles of Mount Vernon, OR fared better, tying for

first place in steer wrestling against with Jason Miller from Lance Creek, WY during round one of the rodeo. His tying time of 3.0 earned him \$16,010 and a move from seventh to fifth in the Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association world standings.

Trevor went on to down his steer in 3.3 seconds for a round two win and a move to second place behind Luke Branquinho.

Community lunch menu

St. Patrick's Catholic Church members will be serving lunch on Wednesday, December 14 at St. Patrick's Senior Center.

The meal will include scrambled eggs with ham, bacon or sausage, hash browns, tomato juice, applesauce, gravy and cinnamon rolls. Milk is served at each meal.

Suggested donation is \$3.50 per meal. Menu is subject to change.

MORROW COUNTY TRANSFER STATIONS. SOUTH END 57185 HWY 74, LEXINGTON AND NORTH END 69900 FRONTAGE LN,

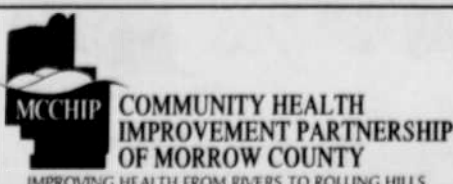
BOARDMAN. WILL BE CLOSED FOR THE FOLLOWING HOLIDAYS

SAT. AND SUN. DECEMBER 24 AND 25, 2011

SUNDAY JANUARY 1, 2012

THANK YOU FOR YOUR COOPERATION IT ALLOWS OUR ATTENDANTS TO BE WITH THEIR FAMILIES THIS HOLIDAY SEASON.

MORROW COUNTY PUBLIC WORKS 541-989-9500.



HEALTHY WEIGHT - IT'S NOT A DIET, IT'S A LIFESTYLE!