

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.  
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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.

## Remembrance 5K walk/run planned

On March 17, Friends Helping Friends will commemorate Heppner's 30th annual St. Patrick's Day celebration with a Remembrance Walk/5K Run fundraiser event.

The morning of the event will start off at 8:30 a.m. with a wee bit o' fun. Friends Helping Friends will host a social hour and registration at Heppner United Methodist Church. Beginning at 9:30 a.m., the Remembrance Walk/Run will proceed following a route of green shamrocks and pink hearts. The committee once again will make Remembrance Shamrocks for loved ones. With a \$5 donation to Pioneer Memorial Home Health, an optional Remembrance Shamrock will be added to the walk route. Last year, 155 shamrocks were made with 202 names remembered. Each walk/run participant also will receive a 2012 remembrance wristband the morning of registration.

Everyone is encouraged and invited everyone to join the event. The morning always proves to be fun for those who participate, and it's a great opportunity to visit with family and friends while supporting local home health.

"As committee members, we feel it's important we support our community while giving

back to health care in memory of loved ones," said a walk/run coordinator.

For four years, Friends Helping Friends has honored the memory of home health nurse, Donna Schonbachler. The yearly St. Patrick's fundraiser supports the group's mission, which is to give financial assistance to local health-care programs. The funds from this year's event will focus on aid to individuals and families who endure health-care hardships. All proceeds stay within the community; to date, nearly \$12,000 has been raised for health care through contributions to Pioneer Memorial Hospital, PMH Home Health, Hospice, and Willow Creek Terrace. In a joint community effort, Heppner's Pioneer Memorial Hospital Emergency Room recently received a GlideScope, which was made possible in part from contributions through Friends Helping Friends.

Donations and checks can be made payable to Pioneer Memorial Home Health and mailed to: Kathi Dickenson, PO Box 566, Heppner, OR 97836. Those wishing to have a personalized shamrock can mail their photo and honoree to Susan Hisler at 56504 Little Butter Creek Road, Heppner, OR 97836.

## Community lunch menu

United Methodist Church members will be serving lunch on Wednesday, February 8 at St. Patrick's Senior Center. The meal will include navy beans and ham, broccoli salad, corn bread, brownies and tomato juice. Milk is served at each meal. Suggested donation is \$3.50 per meal. Menu is subject to change.

## Day care kids learn good cents



The children of Heppner Day Care, under the leadership of day care employee Ann Jones (right) visited Community Bank last week to learn about pennies. Bank employees Jenelle Von Gunten (left) and Nicole Skillings (center) explained the importance of saving and the value of a penny. Each child then received a piggy bank with a gold dollar and a penny to take back to the day care to continue to discuss the letter "P."  
-Contributed photo

## First Friday session this week

The next session of First Friday Friends of Jesus will be held at All Saints Episcopal Church in Heppner this Friday, February 3 from 8 a.m. until noon. Children ages four through 12 are invited to attend a morning filled with Bible stories, crafts, games and songs. Lunch is included, and there is no cost to attend. Newcomers are always welcome.

This monthly program is sponsored by the Shared Ministry of All Saints and Hope Lutheran churches. For more information, call the Shared Ministry office at 541-676-9970.

## Nordic club skis Martin Prairie



Ten members of the Arbuckle Nordic Ski Club met Saturday, January 28 and skied into Martin Prairie. The group found warm temperatures, overcast skies and plenty of snow on the trail. They stopped for a break with a good lunch and fire at the cabin. A new member joined the group for the day. "Normally, we have our assortment of hound dogs but we have never had an actual Yeti. The dogs kept their distance. He was quiet on the trail and seemed to have a real liking of Little Smokies at lunchtime," said club member Bill Ewing. Joining in the day's exercise were (L-R): Steve Brownfield, Dave Fowler, Kay Fowler, Brian Fowler (Yeti), Luanne Brownfield, Kristi Crowell, Sherry Ewing, Dan VanLiew and Bill Ewing.  
-Contributed photo

## Missionaries to speak at Nazarene church

Missionaries Bob and Rosa McCroskey will be speaking at the Heppner Nazarene Church on Saturday, February 18.

The public is invited to fellowship time and a meal of pizza, spaghetti, salad and bread from 5:30 and 6:30 p.m. that evening. The service with the McCroskeys will begin at 7 p.m.

Their program is geared toward young children as well as adults, so all children and families are encouraged to attend.

## Holly Rebekah card party

Holly Rebekah Lodge will hold their February card party on Saturday, February 4 at 7 p.m. The cost is \$5 per person and includes snacks throughout the evening.

## ~ 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.

## Say no to wind turbines

I'm opposed to any wind turbine generating facility with in a two-nautical-mile radius of Ione or the Willow Creek Valley or any affected home owner/property owner who doesn't want them.

I feel the process in which a proposed wind-turbine facility is publicly announced is too short. One date in a newspaper is too little time for people to respond or even know about the project. The project I speak of is the Ella Butte project that the planning department approved last month. Anyone living within a two-mile radius of any wind turbine project should have been notified by mail of the projects.

I myself was too late in getting a letter of opposition to the planning department because of it only being published in a local paper on November 16; I was not notified by mail as a land owner affected by this project. I live within 3800 feet of the project and will have these turbines in view from my home.

I urge the county court to rethink putting these wind turbine facilities within at least two nautical miles of Ione for the sake of the residents living there. These wind turbines are an eyesore to those of us who enjoy our scenic views of the Willow Creek valley and the surrounding hills. There are lots of studies and testimonials about the decreased market values that wind turbines have on homes within close view of the wind turbines. The study that was submitted to the county by the lawyer of the applicant talked about the assessed value but not about the market value, which is a huge difference. Assessed value is what the county thinks your home is worth; market value is what someone will pay you for it. Their study showed no change in assessed value from the county tax assessors offices, but it said nothing about the declined market value of 15-40% or more in some areas in the US that have wind turbines.

My question to the county is: why are we the ones who suffer from these wind turbines? Why isn't the assessed value dropping with the market value

to lower the taxes of the home owner? If the wind turbine facilities are getting tax breaks, why aren't we, as well? Why aren't the wind turbine facilities being held accountable for this loss to the affected home owners? Their study shows that real-estate sales have increased but say nothing about the declining value of the homes.

We live in Ione because of the simple, peaceful, quite life; the beautiful scenic views and the abundant wildlife. This will all change once these wind turbines are in place and operating. Our quality of life will change for the worse unless we move from here, but why should I or anybody else move? This is our home and our way of life. Why should we have to change or suffer because of greed?

Wind turbines have proven to be unsustainable and not cost-effective. They wouldn't be going in if there were no subsidies. So my next question is: what happens when the subsidy money runs out and the wind turbine company can no longer afford to keep operating them? What then? Will we be stuck with all of these iron giants for good? They supposedly will have a salvage fund to dismantle them, but who is going to enforce that? The County Court? Or will it just be another "Whoops, so sorry"?

I have submitted two binders [of information] and this letter to the planning department. One binder is about real estate values; it contains studies, testimonials from real estate agents from around the USA, and various articles about wind turbines. The other binder is all about the health affects of living around wind turbines; it contains studies and testimonials from affected people.

Again, I hope the Morrow County Court and Planning Commission rethink their CUP process to better suit the residents who are affected by the wind turbines. I applaud Umatilla County for requiring a two-mile set-back for wind turbines, and hope Morrow County will do the same, especially around the towns where most of the people will be affected.

Also, what about the golden eagles in the area? Why haven't they been mentioned or addressed? Are they expendable? Is any of the wildlife being considered? What good is a limited post-construction mortality monitoring plan? You can't bring back the dead. ODFW won't shut the wind turbines down after they're all up and running and have killed many of the birds and run off all the other animals.

Do you really think that the wind turbine facilities are going to report every bird that has been killed? I don't think so. Sincerely,  
Richard Sandford III  
Ione, Oregon



Join the Heppner Mustangs as they compete at the

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Scheduled to compete:  
Adrian - Crane - Culver  
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Heppner - Imbler - Irrigon  
Joseph - MacHiJV  
Riverside - Union - Wallowa

Saturday, February 4, 2012

Member **FDIC** @ Heppner High School,  
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Competition begins at 10:00 a.m.

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