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Gazette Times

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TREO branches out to bike tours

By David Sykes

Known mainly as a bird-hunting business, Tours and Recreation of Eastern Oregon (TREO) has now branched out to offer bicycle tours on the roads of South Morrow County, company owner and founder Phil Carlson told the Heppner Chamber of Commerce last week.

For the past 25 years Carlson and his wife Kathy have offered visitors to his hunting lodge top-quality bird hunting and accommodations. However, with the fee-hunting bird season lasting only six months of the year, the business went looking for ways to expand, and they hit upon the idea of offering guided and supported bike-riding tours around the roads of Eastern Oregon.

But first Phil had to find some customers. So, he did what worked when building his bird hunting business; he went to where



Phil Carlson speaks to the Chamber of Commerce about his latest venture, hosting bike riding tours. He is holding a picture of a group of bicyclists at his lodge near Heppner. —Photo by David Sykes

the customers are. "In June and July of 2012 we went to Portland and, in one day, went to eight different companies, bike stores and bike pubs," he says in promoting his new business.

Carlson admits he didn't know much about the bird-hunting business when he got into that, nor much

about bike tours when he launched his new venture.

"I didn't even hunt when I started TREO, and there was a steep learning curve," he explains.

In preparation for the bike riders, he took a class in bike repair, a bit of a switch from the diesel

—See BICYCLE TOURS/
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Driver dies in crash attempting to elude police



A crumpled car and crumpled newspapers were all that remained of Byron Kincade's deadly attempt to elude police last week. Kincade, of Ephrata, WA, died when the vehicle he had stolen rolled off Hwy. 207 in Morrow County. —Photo by OSP

A 37-year old Washington man died early Thursday morning when he crashed a stolen vehicle as he attempted to elude a Stanfield Police Officer along Highway 207 southbound near Pine City in Morrow County. The

victim had stolen the car about an hour earlier when it was temporarily parked at the Pilot Truck Stop in Stanfield while the driver was delivering newspapers. Oregon State Police (OSP) is investigating the fatal traffic crash at the

request of Stanfield Police Department and Morrow County Sheriff's Office.

According to OSP Sergeant Sterling Hall, on July 18 around 4:13 a.m., a newspaper delivery person stopped at the Pilot Truck Stop in Stanfield, leaving the car unlocked with keys inside as he dropped off USA Today newspapers. While he was away from the vehicle, someone stole it and drove away.

A Stanfield police officer was called out from his residence to take a report. Shortly after arriving at the truck stop and while taking the report, the stolen vehicle was spotted driving past the truck stop. Officer Mike Elwood got into his patrol car and attempted to stop the stolen vehicle. The driver failed to yield and attempted to elude the

—SEE CAR CHASE ENDS IN FATAL CRASH/PAGE FOUR

Fair edition deadline July 31

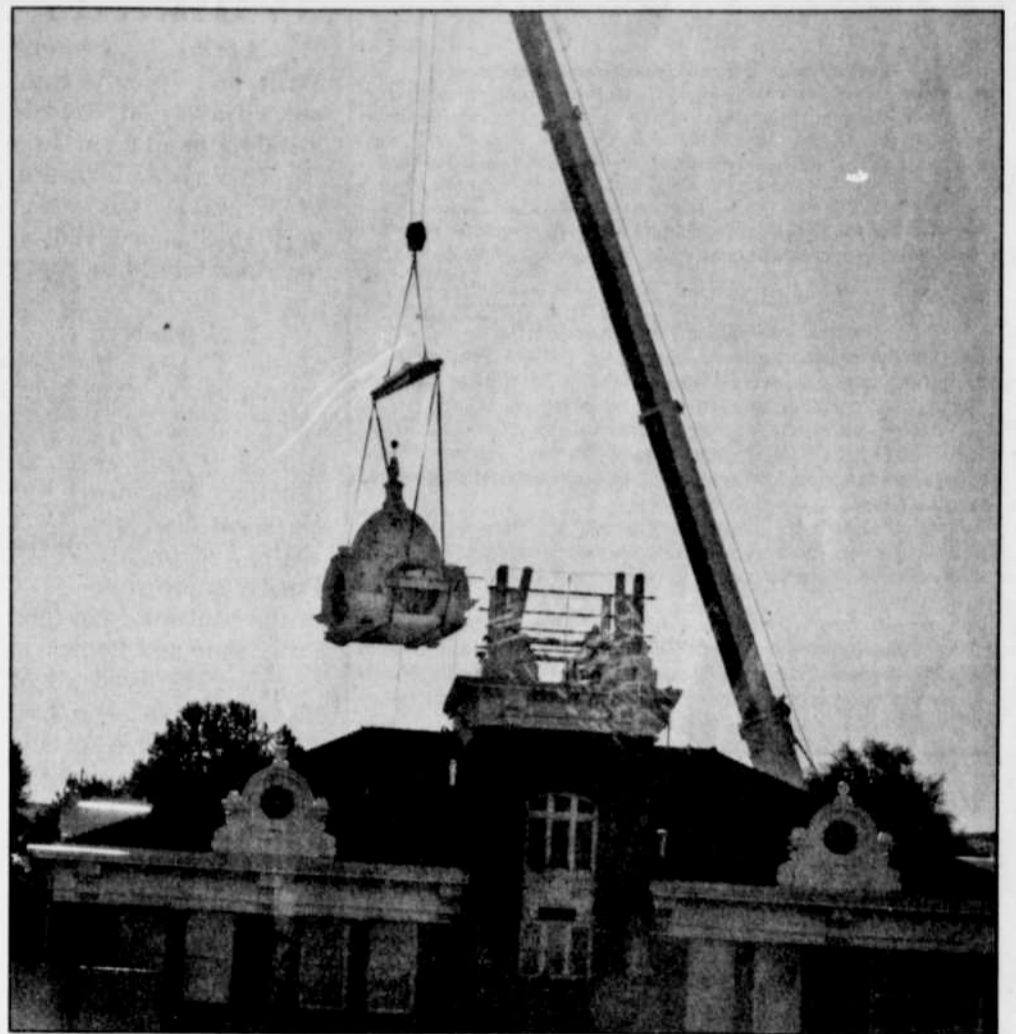
The Morrow County Fair and Oregon Trail Pro Rodeo are coming up. That means the yearly fair edi-

tion of the Gazette-Times is also upon us.

The G-T would like to remind everyone that

the article and advertising deadline for the annual fair edition is July 31 at 5 p.m.

Clock tower removed for renovation



Top: A large crane pulls the clock tower off the historic Morrow County Courthouse Tuesday morning. Earlier in the morning, despite upward pressure of 4,200 lbs. by the large crane, the clock refused to break free. Contractors worked to free it up, however, and it later came off. The clock will be taken to the former Kinzua Mill site near Heppner, where it will be rehabilitated and then put back onto the courthouse. Right: Spectators got up early Tuesday morning, some bringing lawn chairs, to



watch the clock tower on the courthouse being removed for renovation. —Photos by David Sykes

G-T receives investigative journalism award

The Heppner Gazette-Times won first-place for investigative journalism at the Oregon Newspaper Publishers Association (ONPA) awards convention held last week at Gleneden Beach.

The state-wide award was given for a series of articles run last September about the federal government's construction shut down of a Buttercreek wind farm. The articles were written by publisher

David Sykes, and detailed the actions of a little-known government agency called The Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States (CFIUS), which stopped construction of the wind farm following its purchase by a Chinese company.

"It is very satisfying to see the work of our newspaper recognized by the state's professional

organization and our peers in the journalism business," Sykes said following announcement of the award.

Founded in 1887, the ONPA is a professional association of the state's daily and nondaily paid-circulation newspapers. The Gazette-Times, which was founded in 1883, was judged among other newspapers of its circulation size.



David Sykes

Heppner church reaches out with helping hand

By Andrea Di Salvo

Heppner residents will have no trouble remembering the storm that blew through the area last December, ripping apart roofs and felling trees, including the trees in front of Sue Mecham's home on Court Street. Most won't know what Paul Harvey would have called, "...the rest of the story."

Last Friday, volunteers from the Heppner Church of the Nazarene showed up with tools in hand to clear away what was left of the wreckage at 260 Court Street. Two of Mecham's trees had blown down in the December storm, taking out part of Mecham's fence and her neighbor's; the trees also felled phone lines and blocked part of Court Street. CenturyTel and the City of Heppner showed up almost immediately to clear



Sue Mecham (center) with Pastor Norman Lee and Wanda Lee of the Nazarene church. —Contributed photo

the street and fix broken phone lines, but that still left wreckage in Mecham's yard. That problem was partly solved when two local men, both members of the Wenberg family, offered to cut up the trees and

remove them for firewood. "They took the beginning of the mess. I couldn't even get out of my driveway until they took it away," Mecham says,

—See CHURCH LENDS A HAND/PAGE FIVE

HARVEST HOURS-

MONDAY - FRIDAY - 7 am - 6 pm

SATURDAY - 7 am - 5 pm

CLOSED SUNDAY

Morrow County Grain Growers

Lexington 989-8221 • 1-800-452-7396 For farm equipment, visit our web site at www.mcgg.net