

HEPPNER

50¢



Merkley to hold town hall

Portland, OR— Oregon's Senator Jeff Merkley will hold a town hall for Morrow County in Irrigon on Thursday, Aug. 8, at 5 p.m. The meeting will be held in the Irrigon Junior/Senior High School gymnasium at 315 E. Wyoming in Irrigon.

During the meeting, Merkley plans to update constituents on his work in Washington, D.C. and answer questions and invite

suggestions about how to tackle the challenges facing Oregon and America.

"Talking directly to Oregonians in every county is a great way to hear about the issues folks want me to fight for in Washington," said Merkley, who will hold a Umatilla County town hall in Pilot Rock that same day. "I urge all residents of Umatilla and Morrow Counties to come and share their opinions and

work with me to make our state and nation a stronger place."

In 2008, Merkley pledged to hold town halls in each of Oregon's 36 counties every year. He upheld his pledge in the previous four years and is continuing that commitment in 2013.

Umatilla and Morrow Counties will be his 168th and 169th town halls as a U.S. Senator.

Local teen brings home national title

Lillian Sandford, Miss Oregon High School Rodeo Association, returned from the National High School Rodeo Finals with the coveted title of Miss Congeniality in the Queen Contest. The finals were held in Rock Springs, WY July 12-20. Sandford competed against 40 other contestants from across the

United States, Canada and Australia. She received flowers, a sash and a Gist silver saddle concho as her awards.

During the week-long contest, the young ladies were judged on horsemanship, personal interview, appearance,

-See MISS CONGENIALITY/
PAGE FOUR

100 years for Mary Beamer

Heppner woman celebrates centennial birthday

Contributed Story

Celebrating her 100th birthday, Mary Beamer has lived a modest life as a ranch wife. Her longevity may be due to a healthy lifestyle, never pampering herself, while caring more about family and friends.

She was born July 27, 1913 in Heppner to Robert and LaVonnie Gammell. She attended schools in Heppner. In 1924 she married Ralph Beamer, who had moved to this area from Virginia. They lived in Heppner for a while, where Ralph had the grocery delivery business; he also delivered milk and fuel oil.

After buying the Charles Cox place southwest of Heppner, the Beamers became wheat farmers and Mary began ranch life there without the aid of electricity or

Relay for Life returns this weekend



Last year's Morrow County Relay for Life raised more than \$24,000, earning the event the New Hope award for highest revenue from a rookie event. -Contributed photo

The Morrow County Relay for Life will take place this weekend at the Morrow County Fairgrounds.

A group of Morrow County residents will be coming together to help raise money for cancer research and support this Saturday and Sunday, Aug.

3 and 4. Last year the Morrow County Relay for Life team raised \$24,547 and received the American Cancer Society New Hope award for having the event with the highest revenue from a rookie event.

Although the event

doesn't have a set goal, whatever funds the event raises will go toward finding the cure for cancer.

Anyone is welcome to participate or get involved. See the schedule of events for ways in which individuals and teams can participate.

'Other' taxing districts discuss distribution of CREZ money

By David Sykes

About 18 people representing eight taxing districts met last week to discuss how they would like to see funds collected by the Columbia River Enterprise Zone (CREZ) distributed in the county. Morrow County Unified Recreational District Chair Cyde Estes organized the meeting in response to the large amount of "fees in lieu of taxes" the CREZ will

collect in the coming years. The Enterprise Zone is an economic development tool used to attract businesses to the Port of Morrow at Boardman, and allows businesses to pay fees to the CREZ, which would be less than the property taxes which would be paid without the zone. The businesses

must meet certain wage, investment and employment figures to receive the tax abatements, which can range from the standard three years up to 15 years tax free.



Cyde Estes organized the meeting to discuss distribution of CREZ funds.

Under the CREZ rules, a board of six people made up from the Port of

-See CREZ DISCUSSION/
PAGE FIVE

Relay for Life Schedule of Events

Saturday August 3

- Noon—Teams can start to set up their camp sites
- 5:00 pm—Open Ceremonies *Survivor Lap *Caregiver Lap *Teams state w/Team Banners
- 5:00 pm—Singing of National Anthem - Zechariah Hintz
- 5:00 pm—Silent Auction bidding begins
- 5:30 pm—Survivor Dinner
- 6:30 pm—Limbo Lap (Activity)
- 7:00 pm—Super Hero/Fight Back Lap (Dress-up)
- 7:30 pm—People Mache Start (Activity)
- 8:00 pm—Cut-off bidding for Silent Auction / Cut-off time to make Luminaries
- 8:00 pm—Special entertainment—Joe Lindsay (1 hour)
- 8:30 pm—People Mache Finish and Walk (Activity)
- 9:00 pm—Luminary ceremony and Lap of Silence
- 9:00 pm—Bucknum's Team will be serving hamburgers (will serve until midnight)
- 9:30 pm—Glow in the Dark Lap (show your glow, be a light in the dark) (Dress-up)
- 10:00 pm—Three-Legged Lap (Activity)
- 11:00 pm—Patriotic Lap (Dress-up)
- 11:00 pm—Special Entertainment - Skyler Hawk - ½ hour

Sunday, August 4

- Midnight--Midnight Madness, Switch Direction (Activity)
- 12:00 pm—BEO Team will have Bunco and Bingo in the Annex Building
- 1:00 am—Secret Agent Lap (Dress-up)
- 2:00 am—Toga (Dress-up)
- 3:00 am—Red Light Green Light (Activity)
- 4:00 am—Poker (Activity)
- 5:00 am—Recycle Lap (Dress-up)
- 5:30 pm—Breakfast served in the Annex for a donation
- 6:00 am—Sole-mate Lap (Activity)
- 7:00 am—Funky Hat Lap (Dress-up)
- 8:00 am—Sing Happy Birthday Lap (Activity)
- 8:30 am—Clean-up Crew (sport your trash bag - start with empty bag - check back in with trash) (Activity)
- 9:00 am—Closing Ceremony
- Night-long activities: Holy Walkamolies will have a photo booth (individual and team photos can be taken)



Mary Beamer at her 100th birthday gathering; this family photo includes three generations.

-Photo by Whitney Knowles

indoor plumbing. They later sold that ranch and bought the Quaid place on Balm Fork, at that time owned by Hugh Smith. This continues

to be the Beamer ranch, where they gradually made improvements and built a new house. Ralph passed away in 2000.

Besides developing a cow herd, the Beamers also leased wheat ground

-See BEAMER TURNS 100/
PAGE FIVE

ODOT gives project update for Morrow County

Horseshoe Bend not on the list through 2018

By Andrea Di Salvo

Road crews have been busy in the Heppner area over the past several months but, after this round of repairs and renovations, things will be quiet in South Morrow County for the next few years, Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) representatives told the Gazette-Times this week.

South Morrow County has seen a flurry of ODOT activity over the last year, from the rock-fall project on Hwy. 74 between Lexington and Ione to the current work to upgrade Barratt Blvd. in Heppner.

The Barratt Blvd. job, contracted at more than a

million dollars, was funded through the Oregon Jobs and Transportation Act. Slated to be completed this fall, upgrades to Barratt Blvd. include installing a retaining wall, modifying sewer/water connections, modifying road configuration, improving

access to Pioneer Memorial Hospital, upgrading walkway stairs and more.

ODOT crews have also been working on the Sperry St. Bridge project, removing the existing bridge and building a new street connection.

Both of these Heppner

projects were coordinated by the City of Heppner with assistance from ODOT.

Other city projects, such as the current Quaid St. project in Heppner, are completed strictly at the local level without ODOT assistance.

-See ODOT UPDATE/
PAGE SIX

AT MCGG GREEN FEED & SEED IN HEPPNER:

ALL NURSERY
STOCK 30% OFF

Morrow County Grain Growers Green Feed & Seed
242 W. Linden Way, Heppner • 876-9422 • 989-8221 (MCGG main office)