

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  
Published weekly by Sykes Publishing, LLC and entered as periodical matter at the Post Office at Heppner, Oregon under the Act of March 3, 1879. Periodical postage paid at Heppner, Oregon. Office at 188 W. Willow Street. Telephone (541) 676-9228. Fax (541) 676-9211. E-mail: editor@rapidsolve.net or david@rapidsolve.net. Web site: www.heppner.net. Postmaster send address changes to the Heppner Gazette-Times, P.O. Box 337, Heppner, Oregon 97836. Subscriptions: \$30 in Morrow County; \$24 senior rate (in Morrow County only; 65 years or older); \$36 elsewhere; \$30 student subscriptions.  
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 from Iraq

*Editor's note: Sheena Christman, lone native and graduate of Lone High School, is volunteering with World Orphans in northern Iraq. She is sending home weekly updates to family and friends, which the G-T was lucky enough to also receive. We plan on publishing these updates as space allows. She writes:*

I am happy to report that I arrived safely in northern Iraq on Tuesday, May 26, 2015. The flight was long—it took more than 24 hours to travel from Salt Lake City to Chicago, Chicago to Vienna, and Vienna to Erbil—but it was an uneventful flight. It's then another two-hour drive from Erbil to Soran, where I am staying with the Ray family for three weeks and then the Buxton family for four weeks. Nicole Leeper, a World Orphan's employee, traveled to Iraq on the same flight as me.

**1. World Orphans.** As most of you know, I am volunteering this summer with World Orphans in northern Iraq. World Orphans is a Christian organization headquartered in Castle Rock, CO. It currently works in 14 developing countries around the world, and it began working in Soran, Iraq approximately six years ago when the Ray family moved to town. It offers two types of programs: it operates a community center for the local Kurdish population, and it recently constructed several refugee camps for Iraqi families who were forced to flee their homes after the Islamic State took control of large portions of western Iraq.

**2. Soran, Iraq.** Soran is located in the mountains of northern Iraq, close to the Iraqi-Turkish and Iraqi-Iranian borders. Because Soran is in the north, it is under the control of the Kurdish Regional Govern-



**Shabuk Kurds at The Refuge Community Center, day 1. L-R: Nicole Leeper, Authara, Narmeen, Khowla, unknown, unknown, Sheena Christman, unknown.** —Contributed photo

ment. Soran has a population of roughly 125,000 people (with refugees, it's jumped to 135,000). Most of the locals are ethnic Kurds—Sunni Muslims, though there is a small Orthodox Christian community in the city as well. Interestingly, northern Iraq, including Soran, has hot summers (it's supposed to hit 108° on Wednesday) and cold, snowy winters.

**3. The Refuge Community Center and Refugee Camps.** In my first week in Soran, I visited all three refugee camps (Kawlokan Village, Rwandz Camp, and Akoyan Camp) and The Refuge Community Center. The refugee camps house both Yazidis and Shabuk Kurds. The Shabuk Kurds' first language is Arabic, so I have been able to practice my not-so-great Arabic language skills with them. So far, we have managed to share names, family information (e.g. number of kids, relatives, marital status, etc.), and carry on some simple conversations. As for the Yazidis, there are two different groups. One group speaks both Sorani Kurdish (first language)

and some Arabic (second language), meaning we are able to communicate a bit. However, the second group of Yazidis speaks only Kurmanji Kurdish, so visiting them requires a lot of hand motions. Because of the language barrier, this group of Yazidis taught us (Nicole and me) how to say hello and count to 10 in Kurmanji. Perhaps by the end of my stay I will have picked up a few useful phrases in Kurmanji.

The Shabuk Kurds are Shiite Muslims from Bartala, Iraq, a city near Mosul. In 2014, they were forced to flee their homes after their Sunni neighbors told ISIS where they lived. Fortunately, another Sunni neighbor told them that ISIS was headed their way and, as a result, they were able to flee to safety in the Kurdish region before ISIS arrived in Bartala. The Shabuks had less than two hours to gather their belongings and head north.

All-together, World Orphans is supporting 18 Shabuk Kurdish families. On my first day in Soran, these families moved from The Refuge Community Center,

where they had lived since fleeing ISIS about eight months ago, to their new homes at Kawlokan Village. Rather than tents, they now have more permanent (cinderblock) "homes."

In addition to the Shabuk Kurdish families, World Orphans is also helping over 85 Yazidi families (or approximately 500 people) from Shingal Mountain (aka Mount Sinjar). The Yazidis tend to be more private and reserved, so we don't know many of their stories. However, at least one Yazidi family squeezed 20-plus family members into a car, and drove eight hours to the Kurdish region of northern Iraq in order to escape ISIS.

The Yazidi families live in two camps: Camp Akoyan and Rwandz Camp.

To learn more about the Buxton family (my hosts), visit: <http://flickerflame.org/>. To learn more about The Refuge Initiative, visit: <https://www.facebook.com/therefuge.soran>. To learn more about World Orphans and to support World Orphans' work in Iraq, visit: <http://worldorphans.org/iraq-emergency-fund/>.

## Marriage Licenses

The Morrow County Clerk's office has released the following report of marriage licenses:

**June 25, 2015:** -Ofelia Rubi Cisneros Zavalza, 23, of Irrigon and Luis Campos, 24, of Irrigon.

-Mr. Anthony Bruce Fetters, 50, of Farmington, MO and Angela Suzanne Lasiter, 42, of Farmington, MO.

**June 29, 2015:** -Michael Ray Masterson, 46, of Heppner and Betty Jo Colvin, 45, of Heppner.

## Neighborhood Center closed July 3

The Neighborhood Center staff and volunteers would like to remind everyone that the center will be closed Friday, July 3, in celebration of the Fourth of July on Saturday.

Normal hours of operation are Monday through Friday, 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. The food pantry is open Monday through Friday, 9:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.

## Grange to hold community sale

The Lexington Grange will host a community sale Saturday, July 11, from 9 am to 4 p.m.

Anyone can purchase a space to sell items, and anything can be sold from old clothing to crafts or food and furniture. A space will cost \$20. Application for a space can be found at <http://lexgrange726.wix.com/grange#!events/ch8j>. Email [lex.grange726@gmail.com](mailto:lex.grange726@gmail.com) with any questions.

*We will be closed  
Saturday July  
4th, have a safe &  
Happy 4th of July!*

MURRAY'S DRUG - 217 N MAIN PHONE 676-9158

## BMCC releases spring term honor roll

Pendleton—Blue Mountain Community College spring term 2015 honor roll recognition went to the following full-time students:

President's List (4.0 GPA): Selene Andrade, Andrea Angeles, Kai Arbo-

gast, Yvette Barrera, Sergio Briones, Jessica Calvillo Mendoza, Jairo Carcia, Kandan Evans, Miguel Flores, Macy Gibbs, Paige Grieb, Luz Ibarra, Jessica Kempken, Will Lepage, Andrew Martinez, Juana Martinez Vazquez, Jennifer Matlack, Fabian Meza, Marino Pena, Jasmine Puerta, Jennifer Rodriguez, Emily Sepulveda, Lizeth Zuniga.

Dean's List (3.40 to 3.84 GPA): Jorge Aguilar,

Ruby Barrera, Rachel Holland, Makenzi Hughes, Jason Juarez, Nicole Kempken, Belinda Lomas, Kevin Madrigal, Misael Madrigal, Lacey Mashos, Zuleyma Medel Rodriguez, Lily Mills, Luis Olvera, Jesus Onate, Skyler Palmer, Stephanie Ponce, Daniel Rodriguez, Maria Rodriguez, Betty Rowlette, Rubi Salazar, Alisha Sorensen, Stephanie Stokoe, Edith Velasco.

Honor Roll (3.0 to 3.39 GPA): Caitlynn Bailey, James Creason, Dawn Eddy, Luis Gonzalez, Zachary Irzyk, Stephanie Madrigal, Cheyanne Matlack, Ernesto Mendoza, Tyler Mills, Esmeralda Murillo, Erica Nelson, Jesus Pacheco, Brandy Quezada-Hermosillo, Georgina Rios, Joseph Rupe, Savannah Seewald, Gilberto Silva, Riley Sollman-Lawson, Kylar Sorensen.

**Two-Time ACM Award Winner  
James Otto**

**FREE Concert\***

\*Bring your own lawn chairs or blanket. Grass amphitheater.

**No Dogs Allowed in Park**

**Plus Walla Walla local  
The FrogHollow Band**

**IONE'S  
4th of July  
Celebration  
July 4, 2015  
Ione, Oregon**

## Irrigon man graduates from Bismarck State

BISMARCK, ND—Dustin Osborne of Irrigon graduated from Bismarck State College with an A.A.S. in power plant technology during the college's 75<sup>th</sup> Commencement Ceremony on May 15 at the Bismarck Event Center.

Osborne also was named to the President's Honor Roll for the Spring 2015 semester at the college.

"BSC students are great; it is always gratifying when the honor roll comes out and students like Dustin get the credit they deserve for their focus and hard work," said Dave Clark, BSC interim president.

Students must maintain at least a 3.5 grade point on a 4.0 scale while enrolled in at least 12 semester hours of classes to qualify.

## MCHD announces holiday closures

Pioneer Memorial Clinic in Heppner and Irrigon Medical Clinic will both be closed on Friday, July 3, for the Independence Day holiday. Pioneer Memorial Hospital's laboratory and radiology departments will also be closed for non-emergent services.

Fun Run/Walk 5K (7am) • Fireman's Breakfast  
3-on-3 Basketball Tourney (10am) • Blues Cruise Car Show  
Children's Games (11am) • Parade (1pm) • Talent Show (3:30pm)  
Live Music (6:30pm) • Food Vendors • Beer Garden  
Fireworks • And So Much More!

## All-day fun for the whole family

[www.CityOfIoneOregon.com/FourthOfJuly](http://www.CityOfIoneOregon.com/FourthOfJuly)

Music funded in part by Morrow County Unified Recreation District

# BURNING BAN

Effective June 29, 2015, the Fire Chief of the Town of Lexington is imposing a **CLOSED SEASON** for open burning based on local fire safety concerns.

*This burning ban is for the Town of Lexington. A reminder that open burning also includes a "burn barrel."*

The closed season will remain in effect until further notice this fall as per **ORS 478.960**.

**WE PRINT!**

**BUSINESS CARDS  
LETTERHEAD  
BROCHURES  
FLYERS  
AND MORE!**

The Heppner  
Gazette-Times  
188 W. Willow  
Call Dave Today  
(541) 676-9228