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of the City of Heppner and the County of Morrow

Heppner

GAZETTE-TIMES

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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.

Community Bank receives outstanding CRA performance rating from FDIC

Community Bank, headquartered in Joseph, OR recently received the highest possible rating from the FDIC for its most recent performance under the Community Reinvestment Act (CRA). The Community Reinvestment Act of 1977 requires federally-insured depository institutions to support the borrowing needs of all the communities where they do business, including low- and moderate-income areas.

The "Outstanding" rating is based on Community Bank's performance under lending, investment and community development tests. These tests measure residential, small business and community development lending, community development investments and community development services in the communities the bank serves.

In Oregon specifically, the bank achieved an Outstanding rating for both lending and community development. Community Bank is currently the only active Oregon-chartered bank to receive an Outstanding in both areas. On a national level, just 347 of 6,247 (5.5 percent) of federally-insured financial

institutions have an active overall CRA rating of Outstanding.

"We are honored to receive this rating, which demonstrates our commitment to the communities of Eastern Oregon and Southeast Washington where our bankers live, work and operate your Community Bank," said Tom Moran, President and CEO of Community Bank.

The CRA performance evaluation made specific references to Community Bank's strengths, including its lending efforts to small businesses, farming operations and participation in community development. Since the last CRA rating, Community Bank originated 14 community development loans totaling approximately \$24.7 million that directly benefited the bank's rural communities—including municipal improvement projects, economic development loans and the construction of medical facilities.

Additionally Community Bank team members and directors provided 4,227 service hours directly relating to community development and economic development.

Community lunch menu

Heppner United Methodist Church volunteers will serve lunch on Wednesday, Dec. 16, at St. Patrick's Senior Center. Lunch will include navy beans and ham, broccoli slaw, wilted spinach salad, corn muffins and lemon bars. Milk is served at each meal. Suggested donation is \$3.50 per meal. Menu is subject to change.

Marriage Licenses

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

December 3, 2015: -Michael Jay Palin, 59, of Heppner and Melissa Kristine Reese, 38, of Heppner.

Boyer graduates with master's degree

Tyler Boyer graduated in August with a three-year master's degree in professional mental health counseling from Lewis and Clark College in Portland. He is currently employed with Cascadia, Portland.

Boyer attended Heppner High School and obtained a Bachelor of Science degree in psychology from Linfield College, McMinnville.

He is the son of John and Kelly Boyer of Lexington.

Elks Hoop Shoot this Sunday

The Elks annual Hoop Shoot Free Throw Contest will take place this Sunday, Dec. 13, at 3:30 p.m. in the Heppner Elementary School gym.

The event is free for youth ages eight through 13, or those who will be those ages on or before April 1, 2016.

For information, contact Corey Sweeney, 541-256-0355.

Holly Rebekah to hold Bunco party

This Thursday, Dec. 10, the Holly Rebekah Lodge will host a Bunco party at the lodge hall in Lexington. Play starts at 7 p.m.; cost to play is \$5. Everyone is welcome.

First annual music fest planned

A first annual community-wide Christmas Music Fest will be held at Hope Lutheran Church (corner of Alfalfa and Cowins in Heppner) on Sunday, Dec. 13, beginning at 3 p.m.

The event will be a celebration of the season featuring special music and concluding with a carol sing-along. Admission is free, but donations of canned food or cash for the Neighborhood Center will be welcome.

For more information, call the Shared Ministry office at 541-676-9970.

Morrow SWCD, livestock growers to hold joint program

Morrow Soil and Water Conservation District and Morrow County Livestock Growers will co-sponsor an afternoon program next Tuesday, Dec. 15, beginning at 1:15 p.m. at St. Patrick's Parish Hall in Heppner.

The MCLG annual meeting will follow the joint program.

Library district seeks applicants for board position

Oregon Trail Library District is seeking a person within the district to fill a board vacancy.

The five members of Oregon Trail Library District Board of Directors are elected at large from around the OTLD District, located within Morrow County and serving the communities of Boardman, Heppner and Irrigon. When there are board vacancies between elections, the board may appoint someone to fill the vacant position until the next election.

The board is now seeking qualified candidates to fill a vacancy and is asking interested persons to submit a letter of interest by Dec. 14. The board will review all Letters of Interest received by the deadline at its next regularly-scheduled meeting on Dec. 16. The board also asks that anyone interested in the position be present at that meeting and be prepared to discuss their interest in serving on the board in an open public meeting.

Board members must reside within the boundaries of the OTLD District to serve.

Members represent the patrons of the district and provide leadership and oversight of the district through the district director. The director handles the day-to-day operation of the district and employee matters, and manages the library branches.

In addition to attending monthly meetings, board members are expected to have, or be willing to de-

velop, a basic knowledge of financial reports and Oregon's public meeting and public records laws. The board's regular monthly meeting is held on the third Wednesday of the month at 7 p.m., rotating locations among Boardman, Heppner and Irrigon. Occasionally the board will hold special meetings to address urgent business that cannot be delayed until the next regular meeting. Board activities may also include weekend or daytime workshops, and events at the community libraries.

Each Letter of Interest should include a statement that the applicant resides within the boundaries of the Oregon Trail Library District and their contact information. Letters of Interest are considered public document, so applicants are asked not to include confidential information.

The board also requests that Letters of Interest include a statement of why each individual would like to serve on the OTLD Board of Directors and what skills and experience they will share to further the district's mission to "meet the informational, cultural, and recreational needs of residents of the district with information resources...."

Each Letter of Interest must be received no later than 5 p.m. on Dec. 14 for consideration at the meeting to be held on Dec. 16. Each Letter of Interest may be submitted to otlddirector@centurylink.net, or by mail to: OTLD P.O. Box 107, Boardman, OR 97818.

Op/Ed

Community economic development: results require taking risks

Bruce Sorte

Editor's note: Bruce Sorte worked for many years with Oregon State University as an Extension Community Economist in the Rural Studies Program. He recently worked with the local community to develop strategies for economic development. Some of his insights are detailed here.

Last February, Sheryll Bates asked me to do a luncheon talk for the Willow Creek Valley Economic Development Group (WCVEDG). A great group showed up and tolerated my yammering for longer than they were promised. A few days after the lunch, the WCVEDG asked, if they funded a month's salary and some travel, would I postpone my June 30 retirement, do some interviews and give them some ideas for economic development projects.

I had my plans laid for getting back to some serious hunting and fishing this fall, yet as I considered the area and the discussion after my comments at the lunch, it seemed worth putting off hunting and fishing for a while longer.

"Experts" in economic development, including me, are not particularly effective. One reason is businesses, and more and more global markets drive almost all economic development. We do not know enough about specific businesses and their customers to ask a business to gamble on our recommendations.

Another reason is, although we get around quite a bit and may be able to suggest to agencies and volunteers a few projects that might help, it requires leaders in the community to risk their reputations or neighbors' goodwill on projects that at best have a 60 percent chance of succeeding. That is why the last three sets of recommendations for the Willow Creek Valley over the last 20 years, while very thoughtful, were mostly quite general and certainly not very controversial or risky.

I have made about 200 suggestions to at least 20 communities over the last 15 years. A few have been used to get and spend other people's money—federal, state and foundation grants. Only two or three have been used to spend local money. Leaders often agreed the suggestions could be useful, yet they also saw they were risky.

Over the last few months I have visited with many of you and you have taught me a lot about the region—thank you. I do not use very sophisticated measures for success—just total population and student population. All the rest—jobs, median income, building permits, aging—come down to current population and the hope (students) for future population.

My grandparents were Norwegian and Irish homesteaders and small business owners in northeast Montana. However, most of all they were tireless promoters for their communities—one of them took his interests in the region to the capitol as a state legislator. The stories they and my mom and dad told me at the dinner table started my interest in this field at a young age. I never once heard any of them discuss the politics of another community member, and they regularly helped people get across tough times and tried to recruit outsiders to the community for their skills and creativity.

Oregon has 138 small towns and 108 urban places. Over the last century, 52 incorporated or unincorporated small towns started, grew, declined, and are now gone. County seats do not disappear though they can wither. Construction of the new Bartholomew Building, as well as the state-funded road and walkway improvements, are great votes of confidence in the Willow Creek Valley. Still, reversing total and student population trends requires reinforcing local businesses and looking outward for businesses, customers and neighbors.

Most of my recommendations are focused on supporting people who are already in Heppner, Lexington and Ione and then recruiting outsiders, particularly from cities like Hermiston, the Tri-Cities, Bend, Albany, Hillsboro, etc.

People move to rural communities for three related reasons—reduced congestion, safety and quality of schools. You do a good job in all three; the rub as you know quite well is to differentiate yourself from other rural communities that are easier to reach. People will accept less income and convenience for other qualities of life—if you are willing to work together as a region to teach them about your communities and help them feel at home as soon as they arrive. I am staking out some volunteer work for me in the recommendations; I hope you will do the same.

Justice Court Report

Morrow County Justice of the Peace Ann Spicer has released the following Justice Court report:

-Steven C. Desart, 64, of Bend, OR was convicted of Taking a Cow Elk in Closed Season and was fined \$435.

-Gary Dean Gipson, 63, was convicted of Operating an ATV in Violating of Posted Restrictions and fined \$260.

Follow Morrow County History From the Beginning When You Purchase a \$110.00 Value Pack of the Morrow County Chronicles.

The Value Packs Will Be Available at Heppner City Hall
The 2015 *Morrow County Chronicles* are available at various locations. **There are 30 Editions.**
The 1982 and 1983 Editions are out of print. *The Morrow County Chronicle* was not printed in 2006 or 2007.

ALL NEWS AND ADVERTISEMENT DEADLINE:

MONDAYS AT 5:00 P.M.



Bruce Sorte

As your Aunts
we are ALWAYS in your CAMP
So PROUD you are
STATE CHAMPS!!!
Congratulations LOGAN & WYATT!!!
(Congrats to Teammates & Coaches too!)
Love, Julie (class of '79)
Geri & Jana (class of '80)