

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  
Bobbi Gordon..... 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.

## Health District offers heart screenings, CPR classes

Morrow County Health District is commemorating American Heart month by offering two important events to the public during February.

The first will be free walk-in Healthy Heart Screenings at Pioneer Memorial Clinic and Irrigon Medical Clinic on Tuesday, Feb. 6 and Tuesday, Feb. 27 from 9 to 11:30 a.m. and from 1:30 to 4:30 p.m. both days. MCHD CEO Bob Houser states, "We are extremely happy to be able to offer these free services throughout Morrow County at our clinics during the month of February and sincerely hope that people will take advantage of these valuable diagnostic tests."

The screening includes a blood pressure check, a height, weight and Body Mass Index (BMI) calcula-

tion, a blood glucose check (finger stick), a Healthy Life Habits questionnaire and a review of your chart by Morrow County Health District Care Coordinator, Nichole Maahs to check for any needed appointments or testing. All participants will also receive a special treat bag, said an MCHD spokesperson.

Another MCHD sponsored event is a free non-certified Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation class in Heppner, which will be offered on Friday, Feb. 9 from 10 a.m. to 12 noon and on Friday, Feb. 23 from 1 to 3 p.m. Both classes will be held in the Pioneer Memorial Clinic basement conference room in Heppner. Participants must preregister by calling 541-676-2930 or email Angela at [angelaj@mocohd.org](mailto:angelaj@mocohd.org).

## Catholic men plan events

The men of St. Patrick's and St. William's Catholic parishes will prepare a St. Valentine's Day breakfast in Heppner and Ione on Sunday, Feb. 11. The Ione breakfast will start at 9:45 a.m. and the Heppner breakfast will start at 12 noon. There is no charge.

The Catholic men will also hold a meeting on Shrove Tuesday, Feb. 13 in Ione. Holy Hour will start at St. William's Church at 5:30 p.m. with a no host social period, dinner and meeting to follow at the Route 74 Restaurant at 6:30 p.m.

## Obituaries

### Ralph William DeBoer

Ralph William DeBoer passed away at his retirement residence in Karakol, Kyrgyzstan on Nov. 3, 2017 and was buried there. He was born on June 10, 1948 at Ephrata, WA to Ralph Clifford DeBoer and Isabel Elizabeth DeBoer.

He graduated from Stanfield High School in 1966. After high school, Ralph enlisted in the US Naval Reserves and was sent to Da Nang, Vietnam for two tours of duty in 1969 and 1970. After returning from Vietnam, he attended Blue Mountain Community College, Portland State University and took correspondence classes at Eastern Oregon University.

He served as a Stanfield Police Department officer. DeBoer began working for Portland General Electric in 1980 and worked for PGE for 33 years.

He enjoyed big game, upland bird, and waterfowl hunting as well as fishing and camping. After retiring, he spent several hours playing golf and traveling around the world with his wife, Burul.

He is survived by his mother Isabel, his sister Janice Elizabeth DeBoer, his wife Burul DeBoer, who resided with him in Kyrgyzstan, and his children: William DeBoer of Lexington, Andrea DeBoer of Hamilton, AL, Dawn DeBoer of Lexington, stepson Artur Urazov of Russia and his several grandchildren.

A remembrance of life service and luncheon will be held at the Ione American Legion hall on Saturday, Feb. 10 at 3 p.m. Donations are requested to the Ione American Legion and Auxiliary or to Heppner Willow Creek Golf Club.

### Ione backpack program provides meals on weekends

The Ione Backpack Food Program provides a supply of nutritious food for children when school lunch and breakfast is unavailable on a weekend or school holiday. Each food bag contains three breakfasts, three lunches, three snacks, one can of vegetables and one can of fruit. All food is nonperishable and provided to children free of charge. These resources are expected to support the health, behavior, and achievement of every student that participates, said a spokesperson.

Though the program is intended to help children whose families find it difficult to have enough food for the entire month, all children are eligible for this program. Information to sign up for the program will be sent home with students and is also available at the school office and Ione Community Clinic.

The program is run completely by volunteers who help pack the food bags. The program is funded through the gifts from Ione Community Clinic, Ione Community School, Ione Community Church, St.

William's Catholic Church, Betty Bergstrom memorial and Neighborhood Center of South Morrow County.

Monetary donations may be made to the Ione Community church by designating Back Pack. Food donations may be dropped off at Ione Market, Ione Community Clinic, Ione School office, Ione Community Church, St. Williams Church or call one of the numbers below for pick up.

When making food donations, consider foods for breakfast, lunch and dinner that are easy for a school age child to prepare and eat. Suggestions include: granola bars, instant oatmeal, canned soup, instant macaroni and cheese, cup o' soup, fruit cups, canned vegetables, trail mix, peanut butter, cereal, canned sausages, microwave popcorn, Ritz snack pack crackers or canned meat.

For more information or questions contact Cydney McElligott or Yvonne Morter at 541-422-7128 or call the school office 541-422-7131.

## ~ 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.

### Help with litter pickup

To the editor:

With the St. Pat's Celebration approaching, it is time to tidy up Heppner's streets and sidewalks. All businesses and residents are encouraged to dispose of any litter on their properties.

Thanks in advance to everyone for this effort.  
John Edmundson, Heppner

### Day care faces challenges

To the editor:

The last six months have been filled with unforeseen challenges at the Heppner Day Care and Infant Center. As of Jan. 1, the main center has been operating without a director. We have spoken to our state certifier and have been allowed to operate on a short-term basis while we are actively looking for a qualified director.

As a certified center, a director must be highly qualified and meet the standards set by the state. Our first search did not yield any qualified candidates. We will begin outreaching for the position again this week, with applications closing on Feb. 15th. We will also be looking to hire a qualified director at the Infant Center. The positions will run in the local newspaper and online.

At this time, we have interim directors in place for both centers. The board is hopeful that qualified candidates will apply, but need to begin planning for the chance we do not find someone. The board has been brainstorming options and while we would love to remain a day care, if a director is not found, we will continue as a preschool and Infant Center only and have to suspend the daycare services at the main center.

In the event that we are no longer able to provide daycare services, the board is looking into developing a "Homework Club" for after school care. The state rec-

ommended we consider this option if we were unable to keep our certification due to lack of a director. The board hopes this would help to alleviate some of the stress to our families and community. The "Homework Club" would only be available to school age children during the school week.

The Heppner Day Care, its board members and staff are heartbroken that we have to consider closing our doors. The center has been an important and valuable resource to this community for the last 20 years.

We know that safe and reliable child care is desperately needed in Heppner and we hope that any closure would only be temporary. The good news is, we are not closed yet. The board and staff will continue to work towards finding a solution to keep our doors open.

Heppner and the surrounding communities have donated so much time, money and effort into keeping our doors open over the years and we feel it is our duty to be open and honest about the current challenges we are facing. Please feel free to contact the Heppner Day Care Board via email at [heppnerdaycareboard@gmail.com](mailto:heppnerdaycareboard@gmail.com) with any solutions or ideas to assist us in continuing to operate under our current certification.

Sincerely,  
the Heppner Day Care Board Members  
Heppner, OR

### Community lunch menu

All Saints, Hope and Valby volunteers will serve lunch on Wednesday, Feb. 14 at St. Patrick's Senior Center. Lunch will be beef stew, orange kissed beets, sliced cucumbers, French bread and red velvet cupcakes for dessert.

Milk is served at each meal. Suggested donation is \$3.50 per meal. Menu is subject to change.

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**February 14th**

**5:00PM-9:00PM**  
**\$35 per person**

**DINNER INCLUDES:**

- Soup or salad with rustic rolls
- (Entree) choose from
  - Bacon Wrapped Stuffed Meatloaf  
*Served with potato choice and fresh vegetables*
  - New York Strip Steak (10oz)  
*Served with bang bang shrimp, potato choice & fresh vegetables*
  - Heavenly Halibut Filet  
*Served with potato choice and fresh vegetables*
- Dessert Included
- Regular Menu Also Available

*Reservations Recommended*

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**541-422-7160**

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