

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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<http://oregonnews.uoregon.edu/>

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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 \$5.25 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 \$6.05 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 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.

**Project could close roads**

To the Editor:

The Heppner Ranger District and the North Fork John Day Ranger District are trying to put together a plan that could drastically affect the Umatilla National Forest southeast of Heppner and west of Ukiah. It's called the Ellis Project and covers more than 170 square miles (110,000 acres). It generally stretches from Little Butter Creek to Rhea Creek and south to the North Fork of the John Day River. It includes Ditch Creek, Mallory, Little Potamus, Potamus, Ellis, 5 Mile, Taylor, Camas and other creeks. They could close up to a hundred miles of roads.

Due to the federal shutdown, they have extended the comments deadline to Feb. 19. You won't be eligible to file an objection (in the future) if you don't submit a written comment by Feb. 19.

I'm not real pleased about how the public was informed about this project. The handout placed in Heppner's businesses didn't appear to show clearly on a map the areas they were talking about. The summary didn't have a very good description of how big and where this area is. Were they trying to slip this past us? They haven't changed the deadline on their website either. This appears to be an enormous gigantic timber sale. I am against it.

I just want what's best for our mountains. When it's made perfectly clear what and how they're going to do things, we can decide if we want to accept, object or change things.

There is no question that the old-growth, ripe timber needs to be selectively harvested and removed along with much of the ladder fuel and firewood. The reason that timber is still there is because that privilege has been so drastically abused in the past. Taking it all at once for many of these areas would wipe out the forest completely. I think it should be removed in cycles over the course of 6 to 8 years or so. Commercial logging for profit causes too many shortcuts to be taken and not enough timber left behind.

Controlled burns shouldn't just be alongside of existing roads. I think they need to go out into the forest late in the year, when it's wet, and burn hot spots that won't harm large stands of timber.

Brandon Houck, Heppner Forest Ranger, told me that the turnout for three public meetings held in Heppner and Ukiah to discuss these issues attracted less than 40 citizens all together. The comments on their website show less than 20 entries.

Please go to this website, submit a comment and see what you think about the plans that will affect our forests and streams: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=42350>

Thank you,  
Kevin Dick, Gresham, OR

**Community lunch menu**

Christian Life/Firelight volunteers will serve lunch on Wednesday, February 20 at St. Patrick's Senior Center. Lunch will be chicken divan, rice pilaf, sunshine carrots, Waldorf salad, hot rolls and cookies for dessert.

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

**Slick roads claim snow plow**



A state highway snow plow flipped and went into the ditch on the top of Jones Hill on Hwy 74 outside Heppner at 3:14 a.m. Monday. -Contributed photo

**WCVEDG to host annual luncheon**

The Willow Creek Valley Economic Development Group (WCVEDG) will host its annual luncheon on Thursday, Feb. 28 from noon to 1 p.m. in the dining room at the senior center. The annual luncheon will include an update on the projects that WCVEDG has been working on, along with plans for the future.

The luncheon is free with Alvin Liu with Gateway Café serving homemade barbecue ribs, baked beans, potato salad and dessert. RSVPs are required to accommodate food and seating by contacting the Heppner chamber office at heppnerchamber@centurytel.net or 541-676-5536 no later than Monday, Feb. 25.

**Group skis near Coal Mine hill**



Pictured (L-R): Dan and Sandra Van Liew, Luanne Brownfield and Tripp and Jacob Finch. Not pictured, Steve Brownfield.

Six skiers enjoyed the snow Feb. 9 near Coal Mine hill for the Arbuckle Nordic club's Saturday outing. The group parked at the top of Coal Mine hill, skied through the snow across Herron Meadow and up the FS 750 Road to the headwaters of Ditch Creek.

After lunch around a warming fire, the group skied back to the 53 Road and back to their vehicles.

**Dogs in Heppner must be licensed**

It is the time of year to license your dogs in Heppner. All dog licenses expire on Dec. 31 each year. The city requires all dogs over the age of six months to be licensed and to have

current rabies inoculation. The licensing fee varies by breed and other circumstances.

According to a spokesperson for the city, licensing your pet has many benefits. Number one, the pet is returned to you if it is found after escaping or getting lost. Unlicensed pets are taken to pet rescue in Hermiston and licensed pets are kenneled locally.

Licensing can be done at the Heppner city hall from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday. There is a fine for dogs at large as well as a penalty for allowing your animal to deposit solid waste on property other than your own. Both actions are Class D violations and can carry a penalty of \$110 per fine.

Plans for a dog park where animals can run in a safe area is in the works, with part of the project to be funded by licensing fees.

**Justice Court Report**

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

-Christina Barboza, 32, Hillsboro was convicted of violation of basic rule, 75/55, fine \$165.

-Megan Z Anderson, 37, Battleground, WA was convicted of violation of basic rule, 74/55 mph, fine \$165.

-Deborah L Evans, 55, Heppner was convicted of driving while suspended, fine \$440.

-Linda J Workman, 62, Heppner was convicted of careless driving with accident, fine \$440.

-Dawna A Dougherty, 54, Heppner was convicted of violation of basic rule, 76/55, fine \$265.

DEADLINE:  
MONDAYS  
AT 5PM

**Community Bank reaches milestone**

Community Bank, the locally owned and operated full-service commercial bank, finished 2018 with total assets of \$422,824,000. This was the first time in its history that the bank completed an operating year with assets greater than \$400MM. Organic deposit growth of \$24.5MM was a direct result of deepening relationships with existing customers, as well as gaining market share throughout the local communities serviced by the bank. Core deposit growth is typically the most widely accepted measure of franchise value for a commercial bank.

From the broader economic perspective, 2018 also represents the ten-year mark since the start of the financial crisis. Since the beginning of 2009, Community Bank has grown by over 30 percent, represented by over \$100MM in asset growth. At the same time, the bank has further strengthened its balance sheet into one of the strongest in the Pacific northwest.

Bauer Financial, a bank

rating agency, has assigned Community Bank its highest star safety rating of five (Superior). The bank is currently the only financial institution headquartered in eastern Oregon recommended by Bauer Financial, which requires a rating of at least four stars.

Regarding the bank's recent performance, Community Bank CEO Tom Moran stated, "With total assets north of \$420MM Community Bank was the largest financial institution headquartered in eastern Oregon at year end. We can directly attribute this success to the dedication of our bankers, and the continued support of our customers, who understand the importance of banking with a local financial institution. The funds deposited in Community Bank are redeployed directly into our local markets in the form of loans, investments, sponsorships and donations. Looking ahead, we see little reason to make changes to our business model. After all, it's worked for 64 years."

**Ione FFA members take first place**



Grace Ogden (left) took first place in Beginning Public Speaking and Madison Orem was awarded first in Creed Speaking.

FFA members Madison Orem and Grace Ogden of Ione Community School took first place wins at the Blue Mountain District FFA competition recently. The district includes Hermiston, Pendleton, Heppner, Athena, Boardman, Milton-Freewater, Echo, Pilot Rock and Irrigon.

The girls will compete at the sectional competition in La Grande on Feb. 20.

**Family Hunting Club**  
**Looking for big game land**  
We are currently leasing property locally from the same ranchers for 40+ years, and currently want to add 10,000+ more acres of leased big game hunting areas. We are a fully insured, non-profit family hunting club established in 1976, with 50 members. We promote **family style hunting** by providing a safe hunting environment for the whole family including children. We adhere to strict ethical and regulatory standards. Using club volunteers we hold annual work parties on leased properties working on projects directed by the property owner (fence and gate repair, road improvement, vegetation removal etc.) We do projects to improve hunting such as no trespassing signage and campsite improvements. Club members patrol leased properties during hunting seasons, and take an active role in deterring and prosecuting trespassers and poachers. References available upon request. **If you have land to lease please contact: Jason Slangan 503-927-5643**

**VALBY LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
**VALBY ROAD IONE**  
**Potluck After Church Feb. 17**  
**Everyone welcome!**  
**CHURCH SERVICES 1ST & 3RD SUNDAYS**  
AVAILABLE FOR:  
WEDDINGS ♦ FUNERALS  
FAMILY EVENTS

**OLD COUNTRY CHURCH ALL ARE WELCOME**

**HEPPNER ELKS 358**  
676-9181 "Where Friends Meet" 142 North Main

**Elks Lodge Members & Guests**

**Come join us at our Valentine's Day Dinner!**

**Thursday, February 14th**  
**LIVE MUSIC**  
(WEATHER PERMITTING) by **Frank Carlson**  
5- 9pm