

# New owners take helm of Times-Journal

## Stinchfields close out 45-year tenure

*Editor's note: Story reprinted from the Times-Journal July 4, 2019 edition. Steve Allen's parents, Dick and Jannie Allen, are residents of Ione. Dick was a former principal for Ione schools and Jannie taught at Heppner Elementary.*

Steve and Renee Allen have purchased the Times-Journal newspaper and print shop from Mac and Jan Stinchfield and will put out their first edition with help from the Stinchfields on July 3.

Steve Allen is the son of Dick Allen, who grew up in Kinzua and Jannie Chase, who grew up in Fossil. He was raised in Spray until the age of seven and graduated from Ione High School in 1997.

Steve's family has deep roots in the area. His paternal great-grandfather was John Gabriel Stephens, who moved to Lost Valley from Boone County Kentucky in the early 1870s. He married Mary Portwood of Lost Valley and their descendants inhabited Rock Creek and Lonerock.

Jannie Chase's grandmother was Janet Geddes who emigrated to Condon from Blairgowrie, Scotland in 1910. Jannie's mother, Nedeau Couture, was the first of her sisters to be born in the U.S. and graduated

from Condon High School in 1934. Steve has family buried in Olex, Arlington, Lonerock, Fossil and Condon.

Steve graduated from the University of Oregon in 2003 and from the University of Birmingham England in 2007. He has 15 years' experience in non-profit management and is excited to return home to serve the community.

Renee Allen grew up in McMinnville and is the daughter of Malcolm Johnstone and Connie Crone. Renee's ancestors have a rich history in the newspaper and print business. Her great-grandfather was a master printer who fled the Kansas dustbowl during the Great Depression. He settled in Pasadena, CA after setting type for more than a dozen newspapers in California, Oregon and Washington states.

Renee's great-grandmother was Saadi Montrose, who was an abolitionist from Virginia and who later became a reporter and writer. She was one of the first female post-mistresses in the United States and is buried in Brooklyn, NY. Renee's family also has Scottish ancestry and she first came to Condon to celebrate Robert Burns' Supper in 2004. Renee graduated from the Uni-



Renee and Steve Allen, new owners of The Times-Journal

versity of Oregon and the University of Birmingham England and has worked in hospital administration and for healthcare non-profits where she learned web design and digital marketing.

Steve and Renee aspire to maintain the journalistic integrity of the Times-Journal and to honor the impact that the newspaper has made in the community since 1886. Steve and Renee are also eager to learn what people like about the Times-Journal and what they want to see more of in the future. The new owners also plan to offer additional

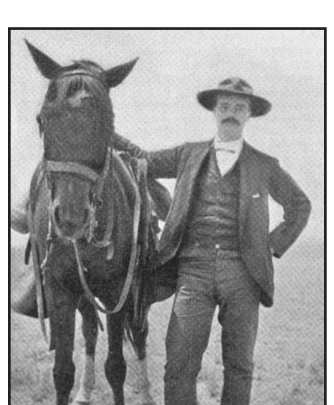
print services and digital design services at the Times-Journal shop.

Steve and Renee have an eight-year-old daughter, Saadi, named after her great-great-grandmother. She, too, loves to read and write and hopes to contribute a youthful voice to the newspaper. The Allens look forward to gaining the trust of the community and to build off of the legacy that the Stinchfields have established since 1976, and that of their predecessors since 1886.

The Allens have purchased a home in Condon.

# "The Virginian" modeled after Harney County cowpuncher

Author Owen Wister, best remembered for his 1902 novel "The Virginian," is considered the father of American western fiction writing. Wister drew on experiences and people he met during his travels as inspiration for his stories. He was good friends with such notables as Theodore Roosevelt and Frederic Remington.



Several years after the first theatrical film version of "The Virginian" was released in 1914, a reporter for the Heppner Gazette reminisced about the days when Wister is said to have written his iconic book at the Palace Hotel in Heppner.

"Mr. Wister, who is a native of New England, traveled extensively through the western cattle country in the early 1890s gathering material for his book and, while he chose Wyoming for the setting for his story, he came to eastern Oregon for most of his characters and local coloring. The leading character

is said to have been found in Harney County, but many of the thrilling scenes were picked up among the old cattlemen of the Heppner and John Day country. The town of Ione is described in the story as the Wyoming town where the Virginian first met the school m'am and where he later beat Trampas on the quick draw."

Old-timers in Heppner remember Wister well. He spent much time with J.W. Redington, veteran of the Indian Wars, who at that time was publisher of the Heppner Gazette and no doubt got many inspirations for his book from him.

# Chamber Chatter

Friday, July 26 from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., Eastern Oregon Economic Summit, hosted by the Eastern Oregon Women's Coalition at Hermiston High School. The summit will offer in-depth discussion about factors affecting rural Oregon's economy, from the impacts of legislation enacted during the 2019 session to changes in technology, demographics and environmental resources. The summit is designed for private and public sector leaders throughout eastern Oregon interested in learning how to tap into the growth and potential of the regional economy. Cost is \$25 and registration is required. Register at: [www.EasternOregonSummit.com](http://www.EasternOregonSummit.com).

Saturday, July 27 from 6 to 8 p.m., 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Bowl-A-Thon sponsored by Domestic Violence Services, Inc., held at Desert Lanes at 1545 N. First Street, Hermiston. \$30 per bowler or \$120 for team of four, which includes three lines of bowling and shoes. There will be raffle tickets for \$1 each or six for \$5. Fun for all ages and great prizes. To register, contact 541-276-3322, [www.dvs-or.org](http://www.dvs-or.org) or on Facebook.

Saturday, July 27 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Fifth Annual Veteran Benefit EXPO19 at the Pendleton Convention Center. Learn

about available federal, state and local veteran benefits including health care, disability compensation pension, business, burial, transportation, education, recreation, long-term care, records, ID's, home loans and more. This event is designed to provide a one-stop shop for Oregon veterans of all eras and walks of life to learn about and access the full range of their earned benefits. For more information about the Expo, visit [www.expo.oregonvda.com](http://www.expo.oregonvda.com). For questions, please contact Tyler Francke at 503-373-2389 or [tyler.francke@state.or.us](mailto:tyler.francke@state.or.us).

Thursday, August 1 is the deadline to apply for Morrow County Cultural Coalition grants. Applications for cultural-based activities are being accepted, with grants to be awarded for up to 50 percent of the total project cost. For complete guidelines and application form, contact Gayle Gutierrez at 541-676-5630 or via email at [ggutierrez@co.morrow.or.us](mailto:ggutierrez@co.morrow.or.us).

Friday, August 2 from 6 to 9 p.m., First Friday summer event in downtown Heppner. There will be food, shopping, vendors, live music and family activities.

Sunday, August 11 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m., Wasteland Kings will be the entertainment for Music in the Park at the Heppner

# Lightning storm ignites fires

Fire crews on the Heppner Ranger District of the Umatilla National Forest responded to new smoke reports following the passing thunderstorms early Monday morning. A total of six fires were reported.

The Bull Fire located near Bull Prairie Lake was last reported as being four acres in size and is burning a combination of mixed conifer and open pine fuels. A helicopter aided suppression efforts by dropping water and cooling hot spots. Firefighters continue to construct and improve the perimeter to reduce the risk of the fire spreading.

The Cabin Creek Fire is approximately five acres in size and is located about 1.5 miles north of Rocky Flat. The fire is 100 percent lined and firefighters are focusing on mop up and securing containment lines.

With increased dry weather, fire officials want to remind everyone that the current fire danger rating remains at moderate. No public use restrictions are in effect on the Forest at this time. Similar restrictions may be in effect on state and private lands protected by the Washington Department of Natural Resources (WA-DNR).

# Lathrop wins rifle raffle



Kacee Lathrop (center) is pictured being presented her rifle. Also pictured, representing the Oregon Hunter Education Instructor's Association are Darlene Marquardt, secretary, and Jim Marquardt, NE director.

Kacee Lathrop of Heppner was the winner of the Oregon Hunter Education Instructor's Association rifle raffle. The rifle is a model 70 Winchester grand 270 with scope, sling, carrying case, buck knife, ammo and

other miscellaneous items. Proceeds from the raffle go to provide grants and supplies for Hunter Education instructors to enhance student programs across the state.

Main St. park. There will be a meal available to purchase (by donation) prepared by the Hopeful Saints Ministry volunteers. Bring a lawn chair.

August 14-18, Morrow County Fair and OTRP Rodeo at Morrow County Fairgrounds. This year's theme is "Treasure Chest of Morrow County's Best." Entry into the fair is free this year but don't forget to purchase tickets for the rodeo.

Wednesday, August 14 at 7 p.m. Dinner & Dancing organized by the Morrow County Fair Board at Morrow County Fairgrounds. The evening will include live music by Trevor Tagle and catering by Paradise Rose Chuckwagon. Meal price is \$15 for adults and \$8 for a child. Meal will

consist of tri-tip, chicken, corn, green salad, baked beans, Dutch-oven potatoes and dessert.

Thursday, August 15 from 6-10:30 p.m., Murray's Annual Beer and Wine Tasting "Fiesta" event at Morrow County Fairgrounds. Come out and enjoy this fun evening and enjoy some great wine and beer choices. The event will include entertainment by Brady Goss. The dinner will be prepared by Alvin Liu and MaryAnn Elguezabal and served by the Heppner Chamber board/volunteers. The meal will consist of beef enchilada with beans and rice, fresh garden salad, dessert, lemonade or water to drink. \$12 for adults and \$6 for children 10 and under. Bottled water will be available for \$1.

ALL NEWS AND ADVERTISEMENT DEADLINE: MONDAYS AT 5:00 P.M.

## WILLOW Creek Water Park Event

Thursday, August 1st from 1 to 7 pm  
Come meet Olaf at the pool!

You can take your picture with him to celebrate summer. The first 60 kids in the door get a free magnet. (ages 0-17). Everyone can have one free sno-cone. Other concessions items will be on sale all day.



Call 541-676-5752 for more information.

## Community lunch menu

Hopeful Saints volunteers will serve lunch on Wednesday, July 31 at St. Patrick's Senior Center. Lunch will be dry rub pork tenderloin, mashed potatoes with gravy, wheat roll, steamed green beans, roasted garlic cauliflower and applesauce with cinnamon for dessert.

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

## WANTED

# 2019 FAIR & RODEO NEWS!

The 2019 Special Fair Edition of The Gazette-Times will be published August 7th, 2019

Submit your Fair & Rodeo stories & Events to [david@rapidservice.net](mailto:david@rapidservice.net) to have them included, the deadline to be included is July 31, 2019

## YEE HAW