

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

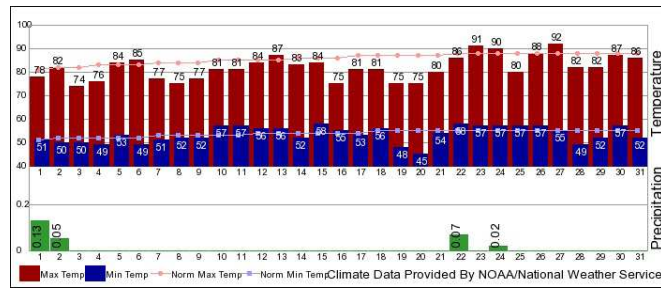
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David Sykes Publisher
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For Obituaries: Obituaries are published in the Heppner GT at no charge and are edited to meet news guidelines. Families wishing to include information not included in the guidelines 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.

July temperatures colder than normal



According to preliminary data received by NOAA's National Weather Service in Pendleton, temperatures at Heppner averaged colder than normal during the month of July.

The average temperature was 67.6 degrees which was 2.2 degrees below normal. High temperatures averaged 81.9 degrees, which was 3.8 degrees below normal. The highest was 92 degrees on the 27th. Low temperatures averaged 53.4 degrees, which was 0.5 degrees below normal. The lowest was 45 degrees, on the 20th.

On two days, the temperature exceeded 90 degrees.

Precipitation totaled 0.27 inches during July,

which was 0.06 inches below normal. Measurable precipitation, at least .01 inch, was received on four days with the heaviest, 0.13 inches reported on the 1st.

Precipitation this year has reached 10.47 inches, which is 1.48 inches above normal. Since October, the water year precipitation at Heppner has been 14.48 inches, which is 1.43 inches above normal.

The outlook for August from NOAA's Climate Prediction Center calls for above normal temperatures and near normal precipitation. Normal highs for Heppner during August are 85.5 degrees and normal lows are 53.5 degrees. The 30-year normal precipitation is 0.39 inches.

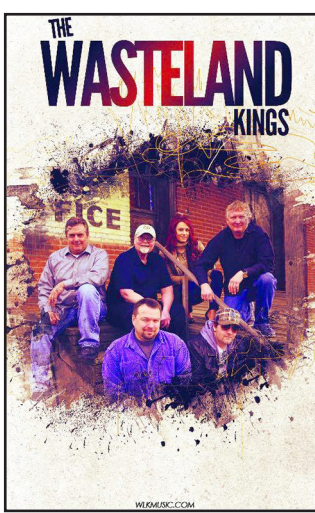
Wasteland Kings to perform for music in the park

The Wasteland Kings will perform at the final concert in this year's edition of Music in the Park. The concert will be held at the Heppner City Park on Main Street Sunday, August 11 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.

This group of gifted musicians from La Grande describes their music as "rock n' roll Americana" played with their own unique twist.

Pulled pork sandwiches and more will be available for purchase by donation beginning at 5 p.m., with proceeds supporting Hopeful Saints Ministry's well-drilling mission to El Salvador in November.

This series of concerts is funded by the Morrow



County Unified Recreation District and facilitated by Hopeful Saints Ministry as a service to the community. More information is available by calling the church office at 541-676-9970.

Community lunch menu

Willow Creek Baptist volunteers will serve lunch on Wednesday, August 14 at St. Patrick's Senior Center. Lunch will be fish nuggets, rice pilaf, orange-kissed beets, three bean salad, zucchini bread and oatmeal applesauce bars for dessert.

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

Hearing scheduled on changes to Wheatridge Wind Energy project

Increase acreage, add solar and install bigger blades

By David Sykes

The big Wheatridge Wind Energy project, set to get underway soon in Morrow County, will have a public hearing this month before the State Energy Facility Siting Council (EFSC) asking for some changes to the facility.

Wheatridge has already received a permit from the state to build, but now wants to increase the total size of the project by over 1,500 acres to accommodate a solar facility. Also included in the amendment NextEra Energy Resources, LLC, owner of the project, wants to install longer blades on the 292 wind turbines, and

change the way it builds the battery storage which is included in the project. Instead of building one large battery storage facility the company wants to build 41 distributed storage systems. The longer blades are apparently an improvement in design that will allow higher energy output. Also

enlarged from five to 10 acres is the substation site.

The public hearing on the changes to the project is scheduled for August 22 at 5 p.m. at the Port of Morrow Riverfront Room in Boardman. Written or oral comments may be provided at the public hearing.



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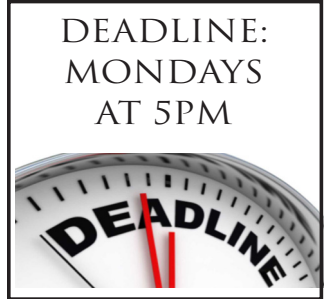
I love my job! Not only do I get to work with amazing people at MCHD, but I also have the good fortune to serve my community and the students through the Lone Community Charter School. Every day brings something new, and I can't wait to see what we grow next!

Read About How We are Working Together to be a Healthier Community Today and TOMORROW

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New leather shop opens in Heppner



Don Carter looks over a saddle for a customer at his new leather shop in Heppner. -Photo by David Sykes.

By David Sykes

A new leather shop has opened in Heppner and is located in the old bowling alley building at 180 Chase Street. Owner Don Carter has over 40 years in the leather business and lives here with his wife Betty.

Carter got his start in the leather business back in 1976 when he apprenticed at a shop in La Grande. In

1978 he moved to Montana and opened his own shop, and then from there moved to Prineville where he operated a leather shop for 15 years.

"Don't get me wrong, I love Montana," he says with a grin. "The scenery is great, the hunting fantastic, but oh those winters," on why he moved back to

Oregon.

In addition to saddle work Carter also does boots and shoes, belts and all kinds of custom leather work. Carter says he is "semi-retired" but loves the business and has to stay busy.

"Stop on by and say hello," he says. His phone number is 541-420-6062.

Calls from SSA are a scam

Residents in Heppner and the surrounding area have reported receiving calls from Social Security to the Gazette. The following explanation was obtained on the AARP website:

The Federal Trade Commission (FTC) reported a surge in late 2018 in scams involving fake SSA

employees calling people with warnings that their Social Security numbers had been linked to criminal activity and suspended. The caller asks you to confirm your number so he or she can reactivate it or issue you a new one, for a fee. This is no emergency but a

ploy to get money and personal data: Social Security does not block or suspend numbers, ever.

You can call Social Security's customer service line at 800-772-1213 to confirm whether a communication purporting to be from SSA is real.

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