

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
Giselle Moses.....Advertising

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.

Obituaries

Gerald R. Wilson

Gerald R. Wilson, of Ione, died Saturday, May 9 at Pioneer Memorial Hospital in Heppner. He was born February 8, 1929 at Hollister, ID, the son of James W. and Clara E. Pereboom Wilson. He started riding horses at an early age, later becoming a bronc rider in his teens and working for Wine Company. He volunteered for the United States Army in 1950, serving in Alaska during the Korean conflict and was honorably discharged in 1953.



Gerald R. Wilson

He married his first wife, Phyllis B. French and they had three daughters: Tonya, Rhonda and Leta. Gerald retired as a Union Certified carpenter and welder. He worked on numerous projects throughout his life and there wasn't much he hadn't done. A few included sealing the Fast Flux Testing Facility at Hanford, Richland, WA, building the Sheraton Hotel, adding a wing at Stanford University in San Francisco, CA and working for Bechtel Power. Gerald found love again and married Linda J. Miller on November 30,

2000. They worked hard on their ranch raising cattle and quarter horses near Ione. He enjoyed fishing in his early years and later working on his ranch. He shared his stories and knowledge with anyone who would listen. Gerald is survived by daughters, Tonya Heideman and Leta Keller; brother, Grover Wilson; sisters, Priscilla Webster and Acenethe Wilson; grandchildren, Aaron, Nathan, Christina and Matthew; step-granddaughter, Nicole; and great-grandchildren, Katelyn, Ellie, Mackenzie, Hailey, Madelynn and Avery.

Preceding him in death were his parents; daughter, Rhonda; brothers, Bill, Norm, Morris, Lane, Dalton and Phillip Wilson. Due to the current pandemic, no service will be held. Sweeney Mortuary of Heppner is in care of arrangements. You may sign the online condolence book at www.sweeneymortuary.com.

History uncovered



A bit of Heppner history was uncovered Tuesday during the renovation of the former Lott's Electric building on Main Street. Seems the building once housed Green's Feed Store. The Lott building is currently being renovated into an exercise and work out facility.

COVID-19 testing available

Morrow County medical facilities have partnered with multiple labs to increase the COVID-19 testing capacities for county communities. Morrow County now has the capacity to test over 200 COVID-19 tests per week.

Those who wish to be tested, will have to see their medical provider. The test results turn-around time will be determined by the symptoms and risk factors of the individual.

The most common symptoms of COVID-19 are fever, cough and shortness of breath. If symptoms persist or worsen, contact your medical provider.

Other symptoms may include; chills, repeated shaking with chills, muscle pain, headache, sore throat and new loss of taste or smell. If you are experiencing two or more of these symptoms, contact your medical provider.

Students awarded scholarships

The Heppner Masonic Lodge sent letters to award their 2020 scholarships to graduating Heppner High School seniors on Saturday, May 16.

Cami VanArsdale, Jordan Sweeney, Kellen Grant and Casey Fletcher will each receive a scholarship of \$1,000.

Ione graduation scheduled May 30

Ione High School will hold a private graduation ceremony on May 30 at 7 p.m. at the football field. Graduates will be on the field with parents and family gathered in small designated areas outside the

field. Gift tables will be setup at the school office May 26-28 between 8 a.m. and noon for those who wish to drop off cards or gifts for the graduates.

G-T closed Memorial Day

The Heppner Gazette-Times will be closed for the Memorial Day holiday on Monday, May 25.

The deadline for all news and advertising for the May 27 issue will be Friday, May 22, at 5 p.m. Normal business hours will resume Tuesday, May 26.

The G-T wishes everyone a happy and safe Memorial Day weekend.

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Lexington looks at fiber franchise with PrineTIME

Would provide internet to homes with faster speeds

By David Sykes

The Lexington Town Council last week agreed to enter into a franchise agreement with PrineTIME internet provider, allowing the company to string high speed internet fiber around the town and to people's homes. The deal has not yet been signed but the council told company representative Ted Howard to go ahead and bring a sample agreement to the council next month for their review.

Under the proposed agreement, the company will string fiber cable on Columbia Basin Electric power poles around town and then offer subscriptions to residents who want high speed internet. Howard said the fiber will give 100 mb internet speed both "up and down" to those who subscribe, which is substantially more speed than is available now through other providers, he said.

If the town uses the City of Heppner's PrineTIME agreement as a template, which was just signed last month, the town will receive, in exchange, free internet at Town Hall and possibly several other locations such as the shop and the well house. Howard said he would help the city set up security cameras at the locations if it worked out. The company also offers phone service as part of the package it will be offering subscribers. The council will decide on the final agreement at the June council meeting.

In other business the council heard a report from Mayor Juli Kennedy who said the town had received a street allotment grant from the county for \$55,124 which will be used for repairs to streets around town. She said the town would most likely receive another grant from the county in the next fiscal year.

The council also heard a report from town maintenance man Scott Lamb, who said he was preparing to put up the new shop addition the city is planning to construct. The town received \$5,000 from the Willow Creek Valley Economic Development Group, WCVEDG, Community Enhancement Grant fund to help with the cost. Lamb said he has asked Tom Camarillo of Ione to help with preparing for the purchase and installation of the new building. Camarillo has experience with these kinds of

structures. The new structure will be an addition to the existing shop building and will be used to house equipment and supplies such as backhoe, piping and other material that does not fit in the existing shop building.

In other business, the council heard a report from councilmember Bobbi Gordon who has been working on designing and purchasing "Welcome to Lexington" signs. The signs will be paid for with last year's grant from WCVEDG. Gordon says they are narrowing down the design and locations for the signs. In a nod to the town's history it was announced that the Jack Rabbit mascot will most likely be part of the sign design. When Lexington had a school years ago, the mascot was the Jack Rabbit.

The council also voted to go out to election with a renewal of the five-year fire department and general fund operations tax. The tax is needed for both the general and fire department operations. The tax will be on the ballot for the November 3 election.

The council heard a report from the budget committee that they have approved the proposed 2020-21 budget for the town. The budget will be presented to the council for approval at a special meeting on May 28.

In other business the council heard from resident Kevin McCabe who is still upset that his neighbor has a large number of goats in her yard and they are causing foul odors at his house. McCabe has been to the council several times seeking solutions, mainly a limit on the number of goats allowed on the property.

The council has said in the past and repeated at last week's meeting that it does not have ordinances in its zoning codes to deal with animal problems. Councilmembers pointed out that even if the town had animal control ordinances it has no police department or code enforcement officer to enforce them. Before ending the discussion, McCabe and councilmember Will Lemmon got into a heated argument, with McCabe saying the animals stink and the council needs to act. Lemmon said he had been to the property and the animals do not smell. There was no further action or discussion by the council on the matter.

FREE DUMPING

Until further notice to aid in the protection of our residents the north and south transfer stations will only be open on Saturday's 9am - 4pm.

It is recommended that everyone follow precautionary guidelines to help prevent the spread of illnesses.

- If you feel sick, stay home.
- Practice social distancing by maintaining 6 feet or more between you and someone else.
- Wash your hands with soap or hand sanitizer.

MORROW COUNTY TRANSFER STATIONS

NORTH TRANSFER 69900 Frontage Ln. Boardman, Oregon 97818	SOUTH TRANSFER 57185 Highway 74 Lexington, Oregon 97839
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Questions or comments contact:
Morrow County Public Works, 365 West Highway 74, Lexington, Oregon 97839
Phone: 541-989-9500 Monday - Thursday 8am - 5pm

OR UNTIL FULL!

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