

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 requested 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.

**Births**

Send birth announcements to editor@rapidsolve.net or upload to Heppner.net.

**Aubrey Joy Rice** — David and Dakota Rice, Heppner, welcomed a daughter, Aubrey Joy, on October 9, 2020. Aubrey was born at Kadlec weighing 7 lbs. 2 oz and measuring 19 ¼ inches long.



Aubrey Joy Rice

Aubrey joins three siblings, Tyler, 10, Logan, 6, and Madison, 3.

Grandparents are Jim Rice, Yakima and Marti Kerner, Heppner. Great-grandmother is Leslie Moore, Prosser, WA.

# Lexington 'unincorporated' comment sparks town council discussion

*Mayor: 'Have no intention of letting that happen'*

By David Sykes

A comment by incumbent county commissioner running for reelection, Jim Doherty, that the town of Lexington was “in danger of being unincorporated and absorbed into the county” caused a lively debate at last week’s Lexington town council meeting.

Near the end of the meeting, one citizen in the audience asked councilmembers if any had read an article in that day’s East Oregonian quoting Doherty as saying the town of Lexington may be dissolved and become part of the county at large. Doherty was apparently speaking at a recent candidates’ forum when he mentioned the possibility the town could become unincorporated.

His comment, however, was part of a larger statement about help for certain cities within the county. “Different communities in Morrow County

face different challenges, and he (Doherty) wants to see communities, such as Lexington — which he described as in danger of being unincorporated and ‘absorbed’ into the county — get the extra attention they need to improve,” the entire East Oregonian quote read.

The comment, however, was enough to get the council wondering if something was happening they didn’t know about. “It’s news to us here,” Councilmember Bill Beard said when he heard the Doherty quote. Some others in the audience wondered if his comments had been taken out of context. The citizen audience member who brought the article to the council’s attention said she would like answers as to what Doherty meant. “I would like the council to ask him to come here and explain to the townspeople what that really meant,”

said Dorothy Edwards, who brought up the quote. “I want to know before I decide who to vote for (for commissioner.), she added.

Mayor Juli Kennedy said she hadn’t yet read the article but would contact Doherty for an explanation of the comments. Following the meeting she called him and asked for clarification on “where this was coming from.” “First off, I let him know that community members were concerned that a comment like that was put in the paper and it caused them to wonder what was going on and if something happened. I told him that things with Lexington have been much better since there have been a few changes. That we are doing well, and we are excited about our future,” Kennedy said in an email to councilmembers the next day.

Kennedy said Doherty attributed comments about unincorporating to a previous county planner, who had made the comments that she was concerned Lexington was going to be absorbed by the county. Kennedy said Doherty told her he thought unincorporating would be a bad idea. “I told him that we have no intention of letting that happen. I also reminded him that when the budget was not passed last year and the town was shut down, yes I’m sure there was talk about that happening within some circles, but that is not where we are now,” Kennedy said in her email.

Kennedy said Doherty told her county government needed to assess the needs of each community better “when figuring out assistance and funding. For example, Lexington may need more money allocated to them than Boardman because of needs,” he said. Doherty also expressed that same view to the Heppner Gazette-Times later when contacted for further comments on the quote. Doherty said some areas of the county might need more assistance than others, pointing out that although Columbia River Enterprise Zone (CREZ) funds are distributed on a population basis around the county, maybe the CREZ board should look more at a city’s needs, rather than just its population.

In the end Mayor Kennedy was positive about what she heard from

Doherty. “The conversation overall was good and ended well, but I did make it clear that we had no intention of letting something like that happen,” she said.

In other business at the October 13 meeting the council talked about a request from a resident to change his address to Humphries Street. The council was not sure if Humphries was even a legal street in Lexington, even though there is a street sign with that name. “I’m not against it but we have to make sure it is even a legal street,” councilmember Bobbi Gordon said. The name change request was tabled until more information was received. Town Recorder MacKia Tarvin was instructed to contact the county for more information.

The council also received a letter from Brent Gunderson, CPA, of the accounting firm Connected Professional that the firm would no longer be doing the town’s yearly audit. “We appreciate your business and the relationship our firm has had with you over the years,” Gunderson wrote in his letter. “Unfortunately, we have decided we need to reduce our audit and review services to maintain the quality of our product.” He said his company has grown and, “We regrettably must ask you to engage another firm to provide you with future review services.” Town staff said they would investigate a replacement firm to do the town’s audit.

In other business the council heard a report from town maintenance man Scott Lamb who said the east side paving project was done and that he got some cold patch from the county to fill some pot holes. He reported that with the help of Lexington Pump the chlorine pump was rebuilt and tubing changed. “It seems to be working good again,” he told the council.

Lamb also said the town was investigating getting some reimbursement for COVID related expenses. There is \$25,000 in grant money available for reimbursement such as cleaning town hall. He also said he was investigating possibly getting a pickup truck with a plow from the county for the winter months. The town does not have plow at this time. The option is to buy just the plow, or the plow and pickup together.

## Weddings/Engagements

Send engagement and wedding announcements to editor@rapidsolve.net or upload to Heppner.net.

# Richman, Garrett wed in Florida

Mayci Garrett, Heppner, and Troy Richman, Hermiston, were wed August 25, 2020 at Bowditch Point Park, Fort Myers Beach, FL.

Garrett, the daughter of Doug and Sariena Garrett, Heppner, graduated from Heppner High School and Pioneer Pacific College. She works as a certified medical assistant at Morrow County Health District.

Richman is the son of Randall and Becky Richman of Hermiston and grad-



Troy and Mayci Richman

uated from Hermiston High School. He is a US Army veteran and is currently employed as a salesman at United Rentals.

**New Baby in Your Family?**  
**Engagement?**  
**Wedding?**

We want to share your life events!  
Stop in the Heppner Gazette office or email us with details and photos.

All birth, engagement and wedding announcements are always free!

188 W Willow Street  
Heppner, OR  
editor@rapidsolve.net

**Retain**  
**Glen DIEHL**  
**Justice of the Peace**

\*Appointed Justice of the Peace January 2020\*  
\*Over three decades of Criminal Justice Experience\*

"Having known and worked with Glen for almost 33 years I have been able see his dedication to the public and how he deals with people. Glen has vast knowledge and experience in many facets of the criminal justice system. I believe he is the most experienced and capable candidate for Justice of the Peace." - Terry Harper

**ENDORSED BY:**

- \* Judge Ann Spicer, Retired
- \* Sheriff Roy Drago, Retired
- \* Chief Gary David, Retired
- \* Chief Merle Cowett, Retired
- \* Boardman Police Officers
- \* Chief Mike Cahill, Retired
- \* Under Sheriff Steve Myren, Ret.
- \* William Kuhn, Attorney at Law
- \* Chief Greg Sayles, Ret.
- \* Sheriff Verlin Denton, Ret.
- \* Under Sheriff Larry S. Sample, Ret.
- \* Chief Mark Calbick, Ret.
- \* Circuit Court Judge Jeff Wallace, Retired

**Morrow County Health Department**  
(541) 676-5421

**October 21, 2020**  
**1:00 – 6:00 pm**  
**Drive thru Flu Vaccine**

**Ione Medical Clinic**  
**365 W 3rd St.**  
**Ione, OR 97843**  
**- Weather Permitting -**

**GET your FLU SHOT**

**Morrow County Strong!**

**Departamento de Salud del Condado de Morrow**  
(541) 676-5421

**21 de Octubre 2020**  
**1:00 – 6:00 pm**  
**Vacuna de la gripe desde su carro**

**Clínica Médica Ione**  
**365 W 3rd St.**  
**Ione, OR 97843**  
**- El tiempo lo permite -**

**Obtenga su vacuna de la Gripe**

**El Condado de Morrow Fuerte!**

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**ATTENTION HUNTERS!!**

*The Heppner Gazette-Times wants pictures of your trophy animals from this hunting season.*

Stop by to have your picture taken, drop off photos at 188 W Willow in Heppner, email them to editor@rapidsolve.net upload them at heppner.net or text cell phone photos to 541-980-6674.