

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.

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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.

Montgomery Reed Britt

Braden and Amber Britt announce the birth of their son, Montgomery Reed Britt. Mont-

gomery (Monte) was born February 8, 2021 at 7:09 a.m. at Colville Hospital in Colville, WA. He weighed seven pounds, two ounces and measured 19 inches. He is Braden and Amber's first child.



Montgomery Reed Britt

Grandparents are Rick and Shelli Britt of Heppner and Dennis and Lorrie Baunach of Colville WA.

'21 GOALS

-Continued from PAGE ONE

for City Hall maintenance items, windows, complete the painting. (short term).

6. Bid out and complete work on end of Fairview Way to city limits and Jones Street. (short term).

7. Look for grants to reduce/ improve water usage and sewage treatment volumes. (long term).

8. Add sewer/water/power and pave property at Chase and May street. (long term.)

9. Cameras in parks, update internet at City Hall, PW. (short term).

10. Meter at well #1 and reservoir #1 (short term).

11. Crack seal Court Street

In other business the city received notice that Business Oregon had approved a no-repayment grant of \$20,000 for a feasibility study on building the new waste system.

The council heard a report from Public Works Director Chad Doherty who said among other things the crew last month picked up new downtown trees in Canby, removed the stumps and replaced trees in front of Heppner Family Foods and Peterson Jewelry on Main Street. Doherty reported there were four more trees left to be planted. The crew also took down the town Christmas decorations

and received 21 new garbage cans which the crew placed around downtown and in the parks.

The council also voted to renew a lease with Dickenson Chiropractic for office space owned by the city in the back of city hall on May Street. The renewal is for one year and the rent is \$450 per month.

Heard a report from Fire Chief Steve Rhea who said his department for the month of January had one motor vehicle accident, secured the helicopter landing zone four times, had one electrical fire, three lift assists with ambulance and provided mutual aid to Boardman.

Rhea also released year-end figures for all of 2020 which showed in the Rural Fire District area there were among other things, 25 motor vehicle accidents last year, secured the Life Flight landing zone in Heppner 71 times, answered 10 wildland fires, three structure fires in the city. He also reported 25 ambulance assists, three flood alarms, two calls of power lines arcing, two electrical fires, four vehicle fires, five illegal burns, nine mutual aids to Ione and one to Lexington. There were 204 total incidents the department handled last year.

County and Port reach new enterprise zone rules agreement

By David Sykes

Concluding months of back-and-forth fine tuning, the Port of Morrow and Morrow County have finally reached agreement on the nuts and bolts set of rules that will govern operation of the new Columbia Enterprise Zone III (CREZ III) for the next five years. The new zone will replace the extraordinarily successful but expired CREZ II, and the IGA, or inter-governmental agreement, will guide the day-to-day operations of what could be, if it is anything like its predecessor, a very lucrative organization.

The new CREZ III faced several hurdles even getting to this point, chief among them the contentious negotiations between the port and county creating the new zone. The two at first could not even agree if Boardman should join the port and county and be a permanent member. The port wanted them permanent, as they had been for past 10 years during the life of CREZ II, but at least two of the county commissioners did not want Boardman included. The disagreement at one point even looked to be sinking the new enterprise zone, with the county even having to apply for an extension after negotiations dragged on past the June 2020 application deadline.

But the port and county finally worked things out and the new zone was born.

Under the new deal Boardman will not be a permanent member of CREZ III but will join the board if a new business development has interest in locating within its newly defined "influence zone." Each of the other four cities in the county also now have their own influence zones, and under the new rules they too will be at the table as a CREZ III board member if a new business seeks to develop close to their city.

Under the new rules, when a project is within a city's influence zone, CREZ III shall be governed by a board of directors comprised of nine directors, three from the affected city, three from the county and three from the port. At least one of those three must be an elected official from that entity. If the business development does not fall within any of the five zones of influence then the county and port will alone be members of a six-member board, three from the port and three from the county. The IGAs between the five cities and the permanent enterprise zone members, the port and county, still must go before the city councils for approval before they will be fully implemented.

One wrinkle in the voting procedure in the new IGA requires that instead of a simple majority of five votes to approve an action, six votes are needed. Additionally, at least two

members of each of the three entities must vote in favor of the action for it to pass. If a spending motion is not approved by at least two members of each entity, the board will be at an impasse on the spending action. The board members representing each of the entities will be appointed by their governing body. For instance, the city council will appoint three members and an alternate to serve on the CREZ III board if needed. Likewise, if the port and county are also on the board, two votes from each entity will be required to pass any action of the board.

The new nine-member, or six-member board will then be responsible, not only for negotiating tax break deals with the new businesses, but also deciding how the money paid in lieu of taxes into the zone will be spent. If the new CREZ III is anywhere near as successful as CREZ II, that income could reach into the millions. This year the CREZ II board made decisions on how to spend over \$9.5 million in tax money throughout the county, and that level of income and spending will likely increase over the next 15 years.

The new CREZ III has a shorter life span than the previous CREZ II and expires in five years instead of the previous 10. The

zones are authorized by the state legislature. All monies negotiated by the previous CREZ II are still being collected by that organization and the board convenes at least once a year deciding how to spend it. The millions of dollars coming into the CREZ II, and county leaders hope also into the CREZ III, are generated by giving new and existing businesses, mainly at the Port of Morrow, tax breaks for locating or expanding there. Some of the major payers into the CREZ II are Lamb Weston, Tillamook Cheese and the big one, Amazon Web Services. With its multiple server farms located in north county for example, Amazon pays the CREZ II \$1 million per year per server farm (and there are four) in lieu of, or instead of, regular full taxes.

Proponents of the enterprise zones, especially directors at the Port of Morrow, are adamant a zone is a needed tool for attracting new businesses to Morrow County, and without the zone they could locate somewhere else. Umatilla County, for instance, also gives tax breaks in its enterprise zone. The Port is in competition with ports and industrial sites for new businesses all around the state and has been very successful attracting and expanding business within the zone.

Good News Only

By Doris Brosnan

Good to see that good news continues.

Good news for Main Street and several neighborhoods had some volunteers come with snowplows, shovels and brooms to try to keep sidewalks walkable. Obviously, that has continued to be a challenge as the persistent snow has yet to stop. An inclusive "Thank You" goes out from appreciative individuals able to leave their homes. Neva DeMayo may speak for many Heppner residents, "After hearing the weather forecast last week I wanted to get downtown for one last time to empty my mailbox before the storms descended upon Heppner. By mid-day Thursday there was already too much snow for me to get out of my hillside driveway, so the only alternative was to walk. But I gave one last look out my window and discovered that someone had shoveled my driveway. I didn't have to walk and risk taking a fall, after all. The following day I looked out my window and discovered that someone had shoveled the steps and sidewalk that led to my front door. I have no idea who was so thoughtful, but it was much appreciated. An excellent reason for me to continue to live in Heppner now that David's gone. It's still a community that looks out for one another. Such a great feeling to be living here."

The compromise that the city crew seems to so far have created between drivers' safety and homeowners' access and snow-sledders' fun is good news. The giggles, shouts, and screams as young and older sledders race down some of our hills are exhilarating. And unless a particular street is closed to vehicles, drivers are watching carefully for people and sledders are being super cautious.

Good news for recipients, "Neither rain nor snow..." could keep the St. Patrick's Altar Society volunteers from delivering the so-important beautiful Valentines' Day orders for Country Rose. Extra Murray's staff Hannah Palmer, Shelby Dixon, Stephanie Rill and Latosha Hedman created the floral arrangements, and Stefanie and Mack Sweeney, Kay Proctor and Janet Greenup delivered on Friday and Saturday to Heppner, Lexington and Ione. For this effort and again on Mother's Day, the church receives floral arrangements for its altar. Good to hear that Merry Chandler was also able to help Murray's crew with arrangements.

Good news for Morrow County Chronicles readers is that Jeanne Creswick is going to take a walk into the past, when the circus came to town. She will be relying on research, her 1955 memories and the stories

others also have of that big top. To share your stories with Jeanne, contact her via PO Box 923, Lexington, 541-989-8121 or jeancreswick@earthlink.net.

Yes, the Sage Garden Preschool is opening in Heppner on March 1. Obviously, good news for the parents of the first thirty students registered, making a full class (state regulations because of space and number of teachers) within just a half-hour after registrations were opened. Tayllor Brannon and Darcie Chick will be teaching the four-hour morning course, located in a back-area facility of the Sage Clothing building.

Good to see little people at Heppner Elementary outside, enjoying hopping like a bunny, as instructed by their teacher. Fresh air and exercise. Dieter Waite, principal, reports that HES benefitted from a window of opportunity last October that allowed the school to open for half-day instruction on site, with each class isolating with their co-horts and following the other safety instructions. While HES has been able to continue this method, many schools throughout the state continue to be working with distance-learning only.

For school athletes it was a long wait for good news from OSAA, with the final decisions/recommendations sent to Governor Brown, who has announced that high school sports seasons can go forward (within certain circumstances), and HHS and Ione Community School plan to participate. As of now, the football, volleyball and cross-country season is scheduled for 2/22-4/11; baseball, softball, track, golf and tennis 4/5-5/23; basketball and wrestling 5/10-6/27. Scheduled games are to begin in March. Prior to the start, parents and other fans expect to learn the final mandates dealing with spectators - allowed or not



Roger Henry of Heppner shovels snow at the corner of Chase and May streets in Heppner. He said he had a couple more places to shovel out that day.

allowed, limited or unlimited?

Ray Grace's good news is that he came through surgery at OHSU last week feeling optimistic, and he expects to soon be moving to a rehabilitation facility.

In February 2020, Jimmy Fichter received a cochlear implant at OHSU. Just before last Thanksgiving, he received a second implant. Such good news for Jimmy, our man-about-town, and for everyone he enjoys visiting with, for he can now hear normal-ranged voices for the first time since damage resulted from being hit by a car when he was 24 years old.

Trent Smith, Navy GSE, is home on leave until March 4. Trent, son of Sarah Baker/Smith, grandson of Glorene Lesperance, was among the only 10 percent of original recruits who graduated from Naval boot camp at Great Lakes, Illinois on May 15. Trent has been looking forward to an assignment since waiting for Covid-19 restrictions to allow that. As a gas turbine engine electrician and mechanic, he will report for a four-year duty on the USS Benfold, a destroyer stationed at Yokosuka, Japan.

Readers are encouraged to share their good news. Anyone who has a tidbit is invited to email it to dbrosnan123@gmail.com or to call 541-676-5382.

Hoping some good news comes to everyone reading this.

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