

The Official Newspaper of the City of Heppner and the County of Morrow

Heppner

GAZETTE-TIMES

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Morrow County's Home-Owned Weekly Newspaper

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David Sykes Publisher
Bobbi Gordon Editor
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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.

BROADBAND

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when they come up," he says.

Public asked to help

As part of his job Moss will be meeting with groups around the county to talk about internet and broadband. He is also asking for the public's help in mapping out broadband speeds and costs around the county. "Starting this week, we will be putting up a link to a speed test online." He says the public will be able to log on, test their internet speed, and have that information compiled and used during the infrastructure build out program. The link will be on the Morrow County Facebook page and the web site. It is a link to Speed up America and what we are trying to do is get as many people throughout the county to take this test as possible. What this will do is show us what advertised speeds are in specific areas for your internet and what the actual speeds are. It will also show us the price that people pay for the service they get. This will allow us, in our task force, to go to providers and when we meet have accurate data on what speeds and minimum speeds should be available to people hopefully by the end of the project here," he says. "No personally identifying information is collected during the test, and the data will help our team identify gaps in service and establish standards for internet speeds moving forward," he emphasized.

To take the test (estimated time 3 minutes) go to: speedupamerica.com and follow the directions. Although getting the infrastructure into Morrow County is the number one goal of his program, Moss says he would later like to work with people to better understand how to use the internet. "We will

be looking at doing public meetings to have kind of a town hall about broadband and internet and engage the public. Public input along the way is going to be very important to us, and I would like to engage the public as much as possible," he says.

Moss says after infrastructure has been improved, he would then like to have meetings to "enhance digital skills for people who have not had internet before. People can come in and learn the basics of technology that they have not had access to. We are going to be moving towards more education and bridge the educational gap in using technology, but that is further down the timeline. First infrastructure, then affordability, then educational," he says.

To accomplish these goals Moss is working for an organization called Lead For America, a national fellowship program that recruits, trains and places leaders in rural communities to tackle "the community's toughest public challenges." The program is supported by donations from Tillamook Cheese, a major food processing business in Morrow County, and Land O'Lakes, an American member-owned agricultural cooperative.

While not an employee of Morrow County, Moss will be working out of the county office building and his supervisor is county administrator Darrell Green. He comes to Heppner from the Portland area and says he is getting used to living in rural Morrow County. "It's been fantastic. I'm transitioning from where people are so busy with their lives; they don't take time to wave and say hi. It's been great," Moss says of his experience so far here.

Don Bennett honored for service



HRRFPD Board Chair Kelwayne Haguewood, Fire Chief Steve Rhea, Donald Bennett and former Chief Rusty Estes present Don with his plaque of appreciation. -Contributed photo.

The Heppner Rural Fire Protection Board recently paid homage to Donald Bennett of Heppner, who retired from the fire board after 46 years of service, many as board chair. Bennett was first elected to the board in 1975 and has served continuously since.

"He can't remember how many meetings he has attended over the years on behalf of the fire district," a board spokesperson said, "But it has been a truckload." The spokesperson continued, "Many thanks to Don for his years of community service."

Regular fall volleyball returns

By Hannah Finch

Heppner Mustangs hosted a three-way volleyball tournament last Thursday, September 2 at Heppner High School. Participating schools included South Wasco and Irrigon, where the two schools played each other first at 4 p.m. Proceeding South Wasco's win against Irrigon, the team scored a second victory against Heppner 3-0.

Unwilling to accept defeat, the lady Mustangs bounced back in their game against Irrigon, turning the tables and winning 3-0 to end the night. The tournament was the first home game this season for our Mustangs. After losing 10 previous seniors through graduation this past spring, the girls' roster definitely

took a hit. However, this didn't discourage the Mustangs, who kicked off their season with a win 3-0 against Riverside on Thursday, August 26.

With only two seniors on the floor, the team is looking young this year. Don't let the underclassmen fool you, though. Freshmen Hallee Hisler and Katie Spivey are strong additions to Heppner's Varsity, along with sophomores Zandra Masterson and Morgan Cutsforth. With experienced upperclassmen paired with young talent in the freshman and sophomore classes, this fall season is looking bright.

The Mustangs push forward this weekend with another tournament this Saturday at Helix High School starting at 9 a.m.

Chamber Chatter

Wednesday, September 8 at 6 p.m., Adult crafting to make fall/Halloween gnomes at the library. Register at www.otld.org.

Saturday, September 11, Heppner, Lexington and Ione Fire Departments' 9/11 firefighter remembrance. The event includes a silent parade, raising of the flag, patriotic songs and the stair climb.

Sunday, September 12 from 5:30-7:30 p.m., Music in the Park at Heppner City Park featuring Chasing Ebenezer, a Portland musical group. Chasing Ebenezer is a world folk-rock band with influences from Celtic, African and Middle Eastern music. Hopeful Saints will be offering food for purchase by donation to their Mission

and Outreach fund.

Wednesday, September 15 at 2 p.m., Heppner High School homecoming parade.

September 18 and 19, Blue Mountain Century Scenic Bikeway ride. Registration and waivers are available at the chamber office or on the chamber website. Contact the chamber at 541-676-5536 to guarantee a spot as the ride will be limited to 100 riders. The Blue Mountain Century Bikeway is a scenic loop of approximately 108 miles beginning and ending in Heppner.

October 28, vaccine clinic and community health fair at the Ione American Legion Hall. Additional information will be available at a later date

Booster Club postpones auction

The Heppner Booster Club auction committee has made the decision to postpone the annual booster club dinner and auction that is typically held in October each year. Due to current restrictions in place for the health and safety of the community they will be unable to hold the event.

The auction and dinner, with donations of money, items, talent and time, provides support for many opportunities for Heppner Junior Senior high school students. Those who would still like to make contributions to the organization this year are welcome to do so.

Cemetery District to meet

Ione-Lexington Cemetery District will meet September 20, the third Monday instead of the scheduled September 13, the second Monday. State mandates will be followed, and masks are required.

School district releases sports spectator requirements

With fall athletics beginning, the Morrow County School District has announced requirements that must be followed for spectators at school sporting events. The district will be following the updated OHA guidelines regarding masks.

For indoor or outdoor sports, students are not required to wear a mask indoors or outdoors when practicing or playing a competitive sport at any level, including cheerleading and dance/drill. Students not actively participating (i.e., on the sideline during an indoor or outdoor competition, etc.) are required to wear a mask.

Coaches and support staff, regardless of vaccination status, are required to wear a mask during indoor practices and competitions.

Spectators (5 years or older) are required to wear a mask, regardless of vaccination status, at indoor practices and competitions.

Coaches and support staff, regardless of vaccination status, are required to wear a mask during outdoor practices and competitions when six feet of physical distance cannot be maintained. Spectators (5 years or older) are required to wear a mask, regardless of vaccination status, at outdoor practices and competitions when six feet of physical distance cannot be maintained.

The district has also announced that beginning with the fall athletics admission will be charged for football and volleyball contests. Price of admission is \$5 for adults and \$3 for visiting students.

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.

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SOUTH MORROW COUNTY FIREFIGHTERS 9/11 STAIRCLIMB MEMORIAL EVENT SATURDAY, 09.11.2021 8AM MOCO FAIR GROUNDS SILENT PARADE & PANCAKE BREAKFAST FIREFIGHTER STAIR CLIMB & WALK-A-THON FREE ACTIVITIES FOR FAMILIES LUNCH & SILENT AUCTION ALL PROCEEDS GO TO THE S. MORROW COUNTY FIREFIGHTER TRAINING FUND

Autumn is a time for Change... Ione Community Church Time Change— On Sept. 12, 2021 Worship—11:00am Church School 10:00am—Children and Adults

Your home is only as smart as your Internet. AT&T Internet \$40/mo. Plans up to 100 Mbps. Free Smart Home Manager App with Parental Controls. The bandwidth to power multiple devices at once. Get a seamless whole-home Wi-Fi experience with AT&T Smart Wi-Fi.

dish BRING EVERYTHING YOU LOVE TOGETHER! Blazing Fast Internet! ADD TO YOUR PACKAGE FOR ONLY \$19.99/mo. 2-YEAR TV PRICE GUARANTEE \$64.99 MO. America's Top 120 Package 190 CHANNELS Including Local Channels! CALL TODAY - For \$100 Gift Card 1-866-373-9175 Offer ends 7/14/21.

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