

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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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.

INTERNET

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Heppner, but the Broadband Benefit Program is open to anyone no matter where they live.

Which brings up the main purpose of the Morrow County Broadband Team and having Moss here. In partnership with Lead for America and Tillamook Creamery Association, the county is hosting Moss to help bridge the digital divide in the area. He is working to assist the county's efforts in improving internet speeds, broadband availability, plan affordability, and growing digital skills among citizens. From Portland, Moss is living here for at least a year to head up the effort.

Moss said the main effort of the team is to bring broadband to areas of the county now either underserved or without service. And with the new infrastructure program just passed by Congress, the government will soon be giving out millions in grant money which the county should be ready to receive. "We first need to define the needs and where those areas of need are," he explained. He said the team is gathering information from people now about "the story of what (the internet) means to their life, and what it means for those people that don't have it."

Moss said while the internet is not perfect, connecting to it is becoming more important in people's existence. "I know there is a lot of good things the internet can do, and there is also a lot of bad things it can do. I'm not a proponent that the internet can fix all problems and that we should put our lives completely online. But I also acknowledge the necessity of the internet including health benefits and education," he said. He said the main emphasis of the team, and the reason he is here, is to improve the infrastructure and speed of the internet providers who will ultimately be the ones getting better service out to the underserved areas of the county.

To get ready for the

new grant money Moss says the county needs a plan. "We better have our ducks in a row," he said in preparation for the \$65 billion in federal money, plus \$126 million already earmarked by the state of Oregon. "Once that money does start to come down and grants become available, we need to be ready." He said the money should start being available by the middle of next year and will be used to help build out internet service in the unincorporated areas of the county. Inside the city limits internet has already been taken care of by providers, "But getting to areas the market hasn't addressed because of low population, grant money is going to be very important," he emphasized.

Take the internet speed test



Moss said if citizens want to help out in the effort they can take the internet speed test at home. It's free and will allow him to build a data base of internet speeds and where the service is located.

To take the test go to: speedupamerica.com. Once there click on the icon "Take the Test". Select "Use My Browser's Location," then "Get My Location," and "Let's Begin." Choose "Work," or "Residential." Enter as much additional information as you would like, including, "How are you connected," "Price per month," and "Advertised download speed." Click "Take Test" and wait for test to complete.

If you have any questions about this test or the county's work on broadband, feel free to reach out to Moss through email at amoss@co.morrow.or.us or by phone at 541-676-5664.

Good News Only

By Doris Brosnan

New holiday decorations are up on the street lights, contributing to a cheerful atmosphere on Main Street. Thanks go out to the city maintenance crew.

Adding to the cheerful atmosphere at the Gary and Barb Watkins home is the return of their son, Jeff, who graduated from HHS in '97. Since then, Jeff has lived in Beaverton, working for the same company for 21 years. Though he periodically toyed with the idea of moving back to Heppner, he actually made the move a month ago, when he was hired by the Morrow County Grain Growers to work at Green Feed. A big welcome to another returnee.

Some good news this week seems to belong to me. I have thoroughly enjoyed two performances of "Mamma Mia" performed by students at West Salem

High School, singing and dancing with the expertise of experienced actors. And my eyes were especially on granddaughter Amy, a sophomore who totally enjoyed the eight performances as a member of the ensemble. This was her first stage appearance, but I am positive that it won't be her last. I am sure that she will find time for drama in her schedule of standard classes, choir and the school newspaper. (Unbiased assessment: She was great.)

Everyone is encouraged to contribute to this column dedicated to everyday positives, some huge, some small, all sources of pleasure for our readers. Please, send your good-news tidbits before Monday afternoon to dbrosnan123@gmail.com, or call 541-223-1490.

Here's hoping that some good news comes to everyone reading this.

Chamber Chatter

The Heppner Chamber's Christmas schedule:

-Thursday, December 9 at 7 p.m., painting party at the Heppner Christian Church.

-Saturday, December 11, Artifactory Bazaar at the Gilliam and Bisbee building, sponsored by Heppner Daycare.

-Sunday, December 12, 5 to 7 p.m., "Searching for Christ in Christmas" wise man scavenger hunt sponsored by Hospice.

-Monday, December 13, Christmas trivia night at Flood Town Bookstore.

-Tuesday, December 14, Merry Grinchmas party at Flood Town Bookstore.

-Wednesday, December 15, Wine and Design event at Murray's Drug.

-Thursday, December 16, 6 to 9 p.m., Chamber of Commerce hosts Celebrate Christmas event at the fairgrounds. Included at the event will be the Rewards Card raffle, all ages coloring contest, Santa and Mrs. Claus and the Parent Teacher Club bake sale. Pick up coloring pages at the chamber office or city hall lobby. Return to the chamber office by December 13.

-Friday, December 17, Polar Express at the Sage Center.

-Saturday, December 18, dedication ceremony for Thomson Square. Mexican hot chocolate will be served courtesy of Tacos Hometown.

-Saturday, December 18, the Heppner Outreach Council hosts the Nightlight Parade and snowball drop.

-Heppner Chamber of Commerce is holding a Christmas home decorating contest. Participants must live inside the Heppner city limits and names and addresses must be submitted to the chamber by December 13 with judging to take place December 14. Categories will include Victorian: old fashioned, traditional and nostalgic holiday display; Clark Griswold: excessive use of lights and decorations; and crazy inflatables: must have three or more inflatables to qualify.

For additional information or for anyone interested in participating contact the chamber at 541-676-5536 or email heppnerchamber@gmail.com. Additional details will follow next week.

COUNTY COVID TESTS

-Continued from PAGE ONE

tion for our employees and everything to do with what the state and feds rule us to do," she said.

New bus design approved

In other business at the meeting the commissioners approved a design for the three new buses it will use on the new Port of Morrow-Boardman to Hermiston bus route, and potentially the Heppner to Boardman route. The logos will be a vehicle "wrap"

around the busses. "The concept of the large picture graphic is to showcase all industries in Morrow County and provide a visual aid associated to the Loop," County Transportation Director Katie Imes said in presenting the design to the commissioners.

In other business the commissioners voted to reappoint Barbara VanArsdale to the Airport Advisory Committee, a seven-person committee.

The Loop is looking for Members for the Special Transportation Fund (STF) Advisory Committee

The STF Advisory Committee is established in the interest of transit system users in Morrow County.

Its purpose is to advise the Morrow County Commissioners/The Loop on matters that pertain to the Special Transportation Fund and all matters regarding the transportation needs of those utilizing the transit system.

The Advisory Committee will make recommendations that encourage and promote the accomplishments of those needs that directly affect the welfare of those who desire and/or require such services.



If you are interested in serving in this committee, please contact:
Katie Imes at The Loop: 541.676.5667
or kimes@co.morrow.or.us

WWW.HEPPNER.NET
SUBMIT NEWS, ADVERTISING
& ANNOUNCEMENTS
LETTERS TO THE EDITOR
SEND US PHOTOS
START A NEW SUBSCRIPTION

Send out your Christmas wishes to your customers and the community!
The Heppner Gazette-Times will publish our special Holiday edition on December 22nd. The Christmas section will be full color and is a great way to thank your customers for their support throughout the year.
Contact Giselle at the Heppner Gazette-Times for more information on how to have your advertisement included.

Deadline for the December 22nd issue is Monday, December 20th at 5pm
graphics@rapidsolve.net • heppner.net
541-676-9228 • 188 W Willow St., Heppner

WEEKLY SHOPPER

December 3rd
Walmart, Dollar Tree, Ixtapa

The Bus Will Pick Up Passengers At Requested Addresses Within The City/Town Limits



Call Us Today to Reserve Your Seat
541-676-5667

I WANT YOUR STORY!

Do you have a community project?
Have you started a new, interesting hobby or business?
Have you or someone you know hit a significant milestone?
Is there something you feel needs to be shared with the community?

Share your story!
I would love to share it with the Heppner Gazette-Times' readers!

Contact Giselle
Call or text cell# 541-914-2157
(PLEASE leave a message if I don't answer!)
office# 676-9228
email graphics@rapidsolve.net

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