

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

SEARCH OLD COPIES OF THE HEPPNER GAZETTE-TIMES ON-LINE: <http://oregonnews.uoregon.edu/>

Published weekly by Sykes Publishing and entered as periodical matter at the Post Office at Heppner, Oregon under the Act of March 3, 1879. Periodical postage paid at Heppner, Oregon. Office at 188 W. Willow Street. Telephone (541) 676-9228. Fax (541) 676-9211. E-mail: editor@rapidsolve.net or david@rapidsolve.net. Web site: www.heppner.net. Postmaster send address changes to the Heppner Gazette-Times, P.O. Box 337, Heppner, Oregon 97836. Subscriptions: \$35 in Morrow County; \$40 senior rate (in Morrow County only; 65 years or older); \$30 elsewhere; \$35 student subscriptions.

Chris Sykes ..... Publisher  
Andrea Di Salvo ..... Editor  
Cindi Doherty ..... 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 \$5.50 per column inch. Cost for classified ad is 50¢ per word. Cost for Card of Thanks is \$15 up to 100 words. Cost for a classified display ad is \$6.00 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.

## Obituaries

### Earl Selby Towner

Earl Selby Towner, 72, passed away unexpectedly on February 27, 2023. A private service was held; a celebration of life will be in the summer of 2023.

Born in Prineville, OR, Earl was raised by his grandparents at the Towner Mine. He graduated from Redmond Union High School and later received a degree in electronics engineering. Earl had a successful career with General Electric Medical Systems, and later with his own company, Professional X-Ray Services, Inc.

He was a devoted husband, father and grandfather who enjoyed spending time with his family, farming and

working on his vintage corvettes.

Earl will be deeply missed by his partner in life and loving wife, Judy (Gentry); sons Michael (Gail), Matthew (Allie) and Jeffery; daughter Tammy Baney; grandsons Cory (Ashley) and Jacob; granddaughters Tiffanie Bottoms, Danielle Moss, Mariah (Paul) and Adalynn Baney; and bonus granddaughters Lindsi (Scott) Bilyeu, Ashley (Chris) Level, Alesha Simpkins; and 10 great-grandchildren, and numerous nieces and nephews.

To view his full obituary, please go to [www.bend-funeralhomes.com](http://www.bend-funeralhomes.com). If you wish to donate in his name, please do so by contacting the Oregon Community Foundation/Oregon Scholarship Fund [www.oregonconf.org](http://www.oregonconf.org).

### SAGE Center celebrates 10 years this week



Ribbon cutting at the Sage Center at Boardman 10 years ago. L-R: Gary Neal, Jerry Healy, Joe Taylor, Don Russell and Marv Padberg, long-time commissioner Larry Lindsay cutting the ribbon with the big pair of scissors, State Rep. Greg Smith and Oregon State Sen. Bill Hansell. - Contributed Photo

The SAGE Center in Boardman is opening its doors wide to the public this week as it celebrates its tenth anniversary here in Morrow County.

The celebration is going on all week during the SAGE Center's regular hours, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. As part of the celebration, the museum is offering 10 percent off all store sales, admission prizes and raffle submissions each day, as well as hosting events visitors have enjoyed in the past.

Friday, visitors can enjoy some free French fries from the Lamb Weston fry truck from 1:30 to 5:30 p.m. At 6 p.m., the museum will offer a free showing of "Night at the Museum." The movie is open to the public and includes free water and popcorn for everyone.

Festivities will continue Saturday with SAGE Saturday, as stations for

kids' crafts and sensory play will be available all day. Free face painting by Vivid Imaginations Professional Face Painting will be offered to visitors from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

"Tilla-moos" cheese giveaways will be back thanks to donations from Tillamook County Creamery Association. A free enchilada feed with admission will be offered by Village Restaurant in Boardman from 12-2 p.m. Also available will be shaved ice treats outside from WE ice.

Since officially opening its doors to the public in May 2013, the SAGE Center has welcomed hundreds of thousands of visitors, travelers and students to share the story of Morrow County and learn about sustainable agriculture and energy.

The SAGE Center is located at 101 Olson Road. For more information, call 541-481-7243.

### Lexington begins planning for downtown improvements

Public invited to participate in Monday meeting



The Town of Lexington will hold a public education and outreach event next Monday to discuss future plans for Lexington's downtown area. -Contributed photo

**By Andrea Di Salvo**  
The Town of Lexington is seeking community involvement in its plans for downtown improvement. The town will hold a public meeting next Monday, May 22, to discuss possible downtown improvements and get community input.

The education and outreach event will run from 6-8 p.m. at Lexington Town Hall. It will also be live online via Zoom.

Items on the agenda include roadway facilities, lighting, pedestrian walkability and sidewalks, and parking. With the possibility of Morrow County Transit putting in a fixed route in Morrow County, the discussion will also include the best location for a public transit stop.

"The point is to help slow people down and also help provide safe walking and biking for our community and our visitors," says Lexington Town Councilor Katie Imes.

Imes said the town began looking into possible downtown improvements due to safety concerns, especially at the junction of highways 74 and 207 and through the dip in the center of town, where visibility is limited.

"Lexington is located at a junction," says Imes, "so there is a lot of activity for our little town."

Public outreach like next week's meeting is the first of many steps toward completed projects in a process that will most likely take several years.

The town is seeking initial project funding through the Transportation & Growth Management (TGM) program, which is a joint effort between Oregon Dept. of Transportation (ODOT) and the Oregon Dept. of Land Conservation and Development (DLCD).

The TGM program's goal is to support community efforts to expand transportation choices. That includes planning for streets and land use in ways that lead to more "livable, economically vital, and sustainable communities," according to a TGM report. In the 2017-19 biennium alone, TGM awarded 25 grant projects totaling more than \$4 million to 23 local governments.

Competitive grants are awarded yearly for projects involving transportation safety and land use. Lexington is seeking an Integrated Land Use and Transportation Planning grant, geared toward compact, mixed-use development.

"There's a lot of different things communities can do with these programs," says Imes, "but we've chosen to focus on our downtown."

Lexington first applied for a TGM grant for the 2022-23 funding cycle. The application wasn't approved, but a Region 5 committee member told Imes the committee had really liked the town's application.

Funding was limited however, so the committee told the Lexington Town Council to put some more

work into education and outreach and then try again. The town is currently in the process of applying for the next round of funding. This time around, Imes says, Lexington is more likely to receive the funding it needs to move forward.

The town is seeking a \$175,000 grant. If awarded, the funding will be used to hire a consultant to analyze Lexington's downtown area and conduct studies of the town's downtown needs and transportation system. The results of those studies will, in turn, open the door to more funding for projects like downtown lighting, sidewalks and more.

The prospects are promising, but it's not a quick fix. It will take at least a year for a consultant to finish the studies and have the council adopt them, plus more time to find additional funding and complete downtown improvement projects.

"This is not a short-term project," says Imes.

Monday's meeting is only one part of the town's effort to involve the community in the initial planning process. Lexington council members and Lexington Town Recorder Veronica Ferguson have been working with planners from DLCD and ODOT to create a public outreach strategy and talk with town stakeholders.

Imes said the town would also like to see engagement from elected officials and county-wide stakeholders, including the board of commissioners and Morrow County Public Transit.

Lexington Town Hall is located at 425 F Street in Lexington. The Zoom meeting can be accessed through meeting ID 687 755 5033, passcode: Lexington.

More information is available on the Lexington website, <https://lexington-oregon.com>. Any questions or concerns regarding this meeting should be directed to Veronica Ferguson, Town Recorder at 541-989-8515 or by email to [lexington.oregon@gmail.com](mailto:lexington.oregon@gmail.com).

### Heppner students attend Tupper



The heppner Elementary School sixth-grade class spent a week at Tupper Outdoor School recently. The week at Tupper is an annual tradition that is supported by many partners in the community. Students said they had a great time and made some amazing memories. -Contributed photo

### Boardman hosts low-cost rabies clinic, offers free dog licensing

The City of Boardman is reminding pet owners of the need to keep their dogs and cats current on their rabies vaccinations. This year the city will host a low-cost rabies vaccination clinic given by Dr. Burgess of Country Animal Hospital.


Rabies is a fatal disease of the brain and spinal cord, caused by a virus carried by mammals. Vaccinating dogs and cats against rabies is essential in protecting loved ones and halting the spread of the disease.

This low-cost rabies vaccination event kicks off on


Saturday, June 17, from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. at the Boardman City Park. The cost of the rabies vaccination is \$25 per pet.

Along with the vaccinations, the city will offer free dog licensing. All dog owners who reside in the city limits of Boardman are required to have their dog licensed for identification purposes.

For more information, please call Boardman Animal Control Officer Jose Fernandez at 541-481-9252.



**May 21st**  
Happy 30th Birthday Amber Boyer. To our sweet Goddaughter. Love Bob and Bonnie.



ALL NEWS AND ADVERTISEMENT DEADLINE: MONDAYS AT 5:00 P.M.


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





WEEKLY SHOPPER

RESERVE YOUR SEAT BY NOON ON THURSDAY (541) 676-5667



Proudly Serving Morrow County Veterans

MAY 19<sup>th</sup>

WAL-MART  
SAFEWAY PLAZA  
BELLINGER'S  
DENNY'S

---

MAY 26<sup>th</sup>

BI-MART  
SAFEWAY PLAZA  
CHEN'S

## EQUIPMENT / FARMLAND

Ready for this Season?

See **AMBER SCHLAICH** for **Equipment and Farmland Purchases**





**AMBER SCHLAICH**  
270 N. Main Street / Heppner  
(541) 676-9125  
Ag/Commercial Loan Officer

SPECIALIZING IN AGRICULTURAL & COMMERCIAL LOANS



## Bank of Eastern Oregon

MEMBER FDIC



Print & Mailing Services

\*Design \*Print \*Mail

Sykes Publishing 541-676-9228