

Heppner
GAZETTE-TIMES
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Morrow County's Home-Owned Weekly Newspaper

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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.

Marriage Licenses

The Morrow County Clerk reports issuing the following marriage licenses for the month of May.
May 3, 2023—Kristina Lynn Corbin, 48, of Heppner and Michael Shane Alford, 51, of Heppner.
May 4, 2023—Nancy L Acosta, 35 of Irrigon and Raul Gonzalez Jr., 36, of Irrigon.
- Leonel Perez Yepiz, 33, of Boardman and Leticia Louise Sanchez, 31, of Boardman.
May 10, 2023—Martin Gabriel Garcia, 55, of Boardman and Teresa Zurita, 52, of Boardman.
May 11, 2023—Brian David Holtz, 47, of Heppner and Sheila Marie McKinley, 49, of Lexington.
- Trevor Charles Horn, 22, of Stanfield and Tiffani

Marie Lund, 22, of Stanfield.
May 15, 2023—Charlie Anne Dimke, 25, of Heppner and Stephen Gerald Thompson, 28, of Heppner.
- Efrain Murillo Arellano, 63, of Boardman and Ma Delia Arellano Diaz, 35, of Boardman.
May 18, 2023—Juan Carlos Silva Preciado, 27, of Boardman and Aileen Velasco, 25, of Boardman.
May 25, 2023—Hannah Marie Davis, 24, of Boardman and Timothy Robert Atkeson, 25, of Boardman.
- Hector Quinton Ortiz, 24, of Boardman and Joanna Marie Lomas, 29, of Boardman.
May 26, 2023—John Robert Herzog, 73, of Ione and Pamela Gail Renfro, 79, of Lexington.

Brass Fire back at Irrigon Music in the Park



Brass Fire is back for a repeat performance for Music in the Parks on July 17 at Irrigon Marina Park. Brass Fire's large ensemble includes saxophones, trumpets, trombone, piano, bass, guitar, and drums. Be prepared for music made popular by a large variety of artists from Chicago to Earth Wind and Fire, or Elvis to Santana. Brass Fire spans a musical range from the Big Band era music through blues, soul and on to the rock music of

the '70s and '80s. The concerts are free to the public and begin at 7 p.m. on Monday nights. Visitors are encouraged to bring chairs and blankets. The series is funded by the Morrow County Unified Recreation District and Portland General Electric and sponsored by the North Morrow Community Foundation. In the event of inclement weather, Irrigon performances will be held at the Irrigon Senior Center.

A View from the Hill

By Doris Brosnan
At Willow Creek Terrace, with the warm summer weather has come opportunities for more frequent socializing on the front portico, especially in the afternoon shade. Most Fridays at 3 p.m. will find Residents and occasional family members gathered there for a "cocktail hour." This is an opportunity for enjoyable conversation over juice, sodas and noshes. On July 4, that was where the firework fans gathered for sparklers and ice cream, and this coming Friday, everyone will be there for the ice cream social, some of the occasional changes in routine – definitely fun, refreshing and tasty ones!
Routine activities at the Terrace include the daily

morning exercises, Monday Bingo, and Wednesdays' craft activities or game events. Today's feature is the "Right-Center-Left" game, and on an upcoming Wednesday, participants will be enjoying "Frisbee Golf" in which prizes will reward individuals for the most successful frisbee tosses into buckets. Residents at the Terrace view the combination of routine and variety as one of the positives of life on the Hill. And they always have the "Welcome" mat out for potential new neighbors, so interested persons can come for a visit or call 541-676-0004 for more information. Employment opportunities are also available, with more information on the Terrace's Facebook page and from visiting the facility or calling.

Heritage Trail on track new signage

-Continued from PAGE ONE
Transit-The Loop Director Benjamin Tucker told the commissioners that the county had received the report on the ODOT compliance review done on The Loop in April. The last compliance review was conducted in 2019.

"It was very eye-opening to have been here for four months and go, 'Hey, we want all this information and we're going to stick with you for two days until you find it,'" said Tucker, who took over as transit manager earlier this year.

He said The Loop was in compliance with all requirements; the advisory findings ODOT did present were mainly recommendations for best practices, many of which the county had already been in the process of implementing.

"Nothing that we weren't already aware of process-wise," added Kevin Ince, Morrow County Finance Director. "And accounting practices, those processes have already been changed operationally even though we don't necessarily have the formal documentation of that in place. We're looking good moving forward."

For instance, ODOT wants to see new or updated policies, which Tucker says are in the works, as well as better reporting on completed preventative maintenance. Tucker said The Loop has been completing the maintenance on time but is implementing new software, which should make maintenance record-keeping much better.

"The vast bulk of it is in process to be taken care of and be in compliance," he told the commissioners, adding that there were a handful that he needed to get clarification on so he could get them taken care of.

The board of commissioners also approved a change in the reporting structure for the Morrow County Emergency Manager position. The change comes in the wake of current Morrow County Emergency Manager Paul Gray's resignation.

Historically, Morrow County Human Resources Manager Lindsay Grogan told the commissioners, the Morrow County Under-sheriff was also the county's emergency manager. As the county grew, it became too much for one person to handle both positions, so the emergency manager position was created in 2021 and was placed under the supervision of the county administrator.

With Gray's recent resignation, county staff re-evaluated the position and decided it would be more effective if the emergency manager reported to the Morrow County Sheriff's Office rather than the county administrator. It would remain a separate position housed in the county's government offices.

"I met with the sheriff, undersheriff and with Paul, and we talked about this position, where it should fall," said Morrow County Interim Administrator Roberta Vanderwall. "Most of the emergency managers fall under the sheriff's guidance."

She added that the sheriff is "not thrilled" by the change but agrees that it makes sense.

"I can remember when it was under the sheriff," replied Sykes. "I thought it was better, myself."

In other business, the

board of commissioners:
-Approved an engineering consulting services agreement for \$271,806 with Century West Engineering for the Lexington Airport Taxiway D Reconstruction Project. The contract is one portion of the total project cost and is fully reimbursable through the Federal Aviation Administration grant program.

-Approved an Intergovernmental Agreement between Morrow County Public Health and the Umatilla County Health Department for a Nurse Family Partnership home visiting program.
-Approved Amendment 1 to an Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) Grant Agreement for a Rural Veterans Healthcare Transportation Program. The amendment extends the length of the agreement from June to September.

-Approved an ODOT funding agreement for administration and mobility management. The agreement provides federal funding totaling \$420,263 for Morrow County Transit administrative expenses such as salaries. The \$48,102 county's local match will come from the Special Transportation Fund.

-Approved an ODOT agreement for \$123,814 in Federal Transit Administration funds to improve mobility for seniors and individuals with disabilities. Morrow County will have a \$14,171 local match.

-Approved an ODOT Agreement to fund Boardman-Port of Morrow circular operations. The deviated fixed route project will serve Boardman and will provide first/last mile connections between inter-community and commuter services and employers at the Port of Morrow. It will run 18 round trips per day Monday through Saturday and will also provide access to the Heppner-Boardman connector and coordinate with Kayak's Hermiston-Boardman connector. The \$484,000 in state funding requires a \$121,000 local match.

-Approved a \$241,600 ODOT agreement to fund transit services between Heppner and the Port of Morrow with a stop in Lexington en route. The connector will run up to eight round trips daily Monday through Saturday and will provide coordinated access to the Port of Morrow circulator and Kayak's Hermiston-Boardman connector. Morrow County will provide a \$60,400 local match.

Ione gets donation of special memorabilia



Dave Stratton, right, and Ione Public Works Director Matt Dotson. -Contributed photo

The City of Ione received an unexpected gift recently when Dave Stratton of Mississippi stopped by to donate a rare piece of Americana to the city.

Stratton, a retired FedEx driver who now lives in Olive Branch, MS, is a license plate collector and amateur historian. He obtained a very special vanity license plate from at man in North Dakota several years ago.

He thought the license

plate, a North Dakota plate that says "IONE," would be the perfect addition to the City of Ione's collection of memorabilia. He made a detour on his way from Spokane, WA to California to donate the plate to the city.

Stratton said he has been to every county in Oregon except Wheeler County, which he will drive through on his way to John Day before heading to California.

Missing man located safe

Morrow County Sheriff's Office reports that the Silver Alert issued for Robert Hiatt last week had a happy ending.

The 72-year-old man's disappearance from the Willow Creek Road area south of Heppner on July 3 was concerning because

he suffered from dementia, was without needed medication and could be in a confused state of mind.

MCSO reported later that evening that Hiatt had been located alive and was being checked by medical staff.

MURRAY'S GIVEAWAY!!!

Our Heppner location is turning 64 this year and we are celebrating in sizzling style! To thank all of our amazing customers for their support over the years, we're hosting a giveaway!

Here's how to enter for a chance to win a Blackstone Adventure Ready 22" Griddle:

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