

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 177 N Main St. Telephone (541) 676-9228. Fax (541) 676-9211. E-mail: editor@rapidservice.net or sykeschris@hotmail.com Web site: www.heppner.net. Postmaster send address changes to the Heppner Gazette-Times, P.O. Box 337, Heppner, Oregon 97836. Subscriptions: In Morrow County \$35/year. Outside Morrow County \$40/year. In County Senior Rate (65 years or older) \$30/year. 9 month Student student subscriptions \$35/year.

Chris Sykes Publisher
Annalynn Black 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.

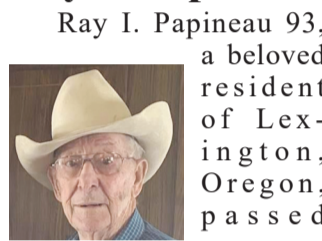
For Public/Legal Notices: public/legal notices deadline is Monday at 5 p.m. Dates for publication must be specified. Affidavits must be requested at the time of submission. Affidavits require three weeks to process after last date of publication (a sooner return date must be specified if required).

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

Ray I. Papineau



Ray I. Papineau 93, a beloved resident of Lexington, Oregon, passed away on Sunday, January 14, 2024, at the age of 93. He peacefully departed this life at Willow Creek Terrace Assisted Living, where he had spent his last five months surrounded by caring staff and fellow tenants.

A memorial service will be held at 1 p.m. Saturday, January 20, 2024 at the Lexington Community Church.

Ray was born to Agnus V. (Schoonover) and Frank Papineau on September 18, 1930, at Baker City, Oregon. He grew up on Rhea Creek above Heppner, Oregon. He later moved to Lexington with his family, where he established his roots. Ray was a hardworking individual who dedicated his years to various farms and ranches in the Heppner area. He also contributed his skills to Kinzua sawmill.

In his personal life, Ray found joy and fulfillment in his marriage to Gloria Gae Orwick. The couple was married at Vancouver, Washington on January 25, 1951. Together, they raised seven children and created a loving and nurturing home. Ray and Gloria shared a passion for racehorses and spent many years owning and training them. Their dedication to this pastime brought them immense joy and created lasting memories.

He was a member of the Eagles Lodge.

Ray was a proud member of AA, demonstrating his strength and perseverance in overcoming personal challenges. He had a reputation for having

a big heart and an open mind, never hesitating to extend kindness to those he encountered. Ray truly never knew a stranger and touched the lives of many with his warmth and generosity.

In recent years, Ray spent several summers in the company of his two daughters, enjoying the beauty of Montana. However, he always returned to his beloved hometown of Lexington, where his other two daughters and two sons resided. His love for his family and his deep connection to his roots were evident in his unwavering devotion to his loved ones.

Ray is survived by his brother, Earl (Edith) Papineau, and his children: Candace Gates, Carmen Wilson, Crystal (Don) Dale, Cammie (Matt) Jones, Curtis (Carolyn) Papineau, and Calvin (Karen) Papineau. He also leaves behind numerous grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and great-great-grandchildren, each one a testament to the love and legacy he leaves behind.

He was preceded in death by his wife Gloria, his daughter Constance Jones, four brothers, one sister, and four grandchildren.

Ray Papineau will be dearly missed by all who had the privilege of knowing him. His warm smile, kind heart, and unwavering love will forever remain in our hearts and memories. May he rest in peace.

Memorial contributions may be made to Willow Creek Terrace Assisted Living Facility, 400 Frank Gilliam Drive, Heppner, OR 97836

Sweeney Mortuary is in care of arrangements. You may sign the online condolence book at www.sweeneymortuary.com

Fair Motto contest winners



Mrs. Ringer's 5th-grade class enjoying the frisbees awarded to them. -Photo by Annalynn Black

The 5th-grade class at Ione Elementary School, taught by Autumn Ringer, won the Fair motto contest to be used at this year's fair at the end of the summer. The motto was "Admiration for generations". The students were rewarded with frisbees and stickers. This motto will be passed on to the High School for the students to design a coloring sheet to corre-

spond with the motto. This should take place in the next couple of months. When asked by a reporter from the Gazette, Fair Manager Sue Gibbs said she wanted something that involved the children and got them thinking of a fair that was also sustainable. When all is finished the coloring page(s) will be distributed to the kids of Morrow County.

Ethics investigations

-Continued from PAGE ONE
discussed the grant application process, deciding on funding for various categories of applicants.

According to Meyers's preliminary review, Doherty made no statement of conflict during the first two meetings, abstained from voting but not discussion in the third, and made what Meyers called a "more complete conflict of interest announcement" in the fourth meeting.

Meyers said further investigation was needed to determine whether Doherty had engaged in a prohibited use of office since it seemed he might have been involved in setting criteria and priorities for the applicants.

"Because he and his son were applicants, any suggestions, recommendations or proposals that he made to direct more funding toward one category of applicants versus another could give rise to a violation," said Meyers.

Lindsay asked whether the conversations Doherty was involved in centered on general topics of specific businesses.

Meyers responded that they included discussions on how much funding to give certain categories of businesses, such as tourism, agriculture, etc., and Doherty's businesses were included in some of those categories.

Doherty was present online and responded that, during those meetings, he had no thoughts or knowledge that his family businesses would qualify or make an application. He also said that his business is still struggling from the effects of the COVID shutdowns.

"I think it's important for the commission and the record to note that it was probably the most onerous disagreement that I've had with my spouse or business partner once the criteria was set up and she said, 'Look, our business qualifies,'" said Doherty. "She argued, rightly so, that, being an elected official, it shouldn't preclude her from trying to get some minimal recovery."

However, Doherty said he never held authority over which categories got which funds. He added that he stepped back from the decision-making committee when his family's applications came in.

"But that committee, they just looked at the base criteria," said Doherty. "They all came, ultimately, to the board, and the other two commissioners made all the decisions."

"I certainly agree with Ms. Meyers that it's a *mea culpa*," he added. "You can't just not vote. You have to declare why you're not voting, and that certainly was a misstep."

Lindsay said he appreciated Doherty's transparency and sympathized over struggles during COVID, which he called "uncharted water."

"I obviously see an intent to do what is right here," said Lindsay, saying he supported the investigation but hoped it would lead to instruction and help to be compliant in the future.

BOC complaint dismissed

Also at the Jan. 5 meeting, the three members of the Morrow County Board of Commissioners faced ethics complaints regarding discussions over the proposed new circuit court building in Heppner.

The complaint alleged that an executive session

held April 19, 2023, did not meet the criteria for a closed session.

The stated purpose of the session was to conduct deliberations with the person designated to negotiate real property transactions. In this case, the designated person seemed to be board chair David Sykes and other members of a committee formed to advise the BOC on potential locations for the new circuit court building.

However, the Oregon Revised Statute that authorized the closed session did not seem to authorize discussion of the county's future space needs, which was included in narrowing down the county's options. Meyers said it also appeared there were no negotiations at that particular meeting.

"They were simply evaluating potential sites. That negotiations might be required in the future does not mean that executive session would be authorized," said Meyers, adding that it appeared there never were negotiations, since the board decided to build on county property.

OGEC commissioner Jonathan Thompson said he was hung up on the definition of negotiation since making public deliberations concerning sites might cause a property owner to raise their prices.

"If I'm telegraphing as the county commission that this site meets our needs better than these other sites, do I run that risk?" Thompson asked.

Meyers said it was a valid concern. The statute, she said, does not allow government bodies to discuss all real-estate items in executive session, but is designed to put them on the same level as private businesses regarding real-estate negotiations.

"I think it is worth further inquiry, but I do see your point," she said.

Commissioner Channa Newell said she felt the purpose of the session stressed the deliberation, not the negotiation, and Meyers said the purpose was to deliberate with the person conducting negotiations.

"If the person designated is not engaged in negotiations for a real property transaction, then what is the deliberation that would qualify?" asked Meyers.

In light of what Newell called a "gray area," and because the discussion did involve several potential sites, the OGEC board voted 7-2 to dismiss the complaint.

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

Good News Only by Doris Brosnan

Yes, Jay Coil and Kim Cutsforth did "tie the knot"! On October 7, at the Gilliam Bisbee Building. They became man and wife before some friends and family, some coming from as far away as San Francisco and Juneau to witness the nuptial moment. Late congratulations to the couple!

Maybe a record exists, but Betty Gray was not interested in those possible statistics when she recently did one of her favorite things: Betty watched college football games on TV. Beginning on December 15 and watching through the Championship game on January 8, Betty watched 44 games! On the first and second days alone, six games were played each day, which required some deft use of her remote control. When faced with overlapping games, Betty had decisions to make but watched enough of every game to follow the action and not miss especially important plays. This is Betty's "winter fun" activity, she reports, and she also enjoys keeping a record of each game's teams and final scores. A favorite team? One has to be Alabama, of course! (Before the bowl-games season starts, Betty says, an online website lists all those games and dates on which they will be played.)

Sharing time with granddaughter Courtney last Friday was a late holiday gift for Kit and Shirley George. Courtney, daughter of Cam and Destiny, lives in Virginia and was not with the family for Christmas. Courtney is the senior loan officer at CMG Financial, work that brought her here last week and enabled visiting with family and many friends. A bonus to Courtney's visit was her cooking a delicious dinner for the Georges, Luke, and Kelly Barnett, and their baby, Bowen!

Last weekend, Diana Ball's speedster granddaughter, Allison, daughter of Duane and Stephanie, was among the nation's college and university top indoor track runners at the Spokane Indoor Challenge. Allison represented Whitworth University as she competed in the 60, 200, and 400! She ran the 60M in 8.02, a new personal best, which is not 5th in the all-time for Whitworth. She placed 14th in the 400M with a 1:03.88 and is currently ranked 16th in the nation for the 200M. This weekend she will be burning up the track again in Moscow, ID.

Brian Jewett, previously stationed in Heppner, has recently been recognized as the "Oregon State Police Prestigious Trooper of the Year" by the Oregon Marine Board. He has been in the Fossil unit of the state for ten years, focusing on the John Day River year-round. Brian, a nephew of Steve Lankford, had spent many youthful days here with Betty Lankford his mother, Lynn's, mother.

Others might agree with the reader who has noted, "When someone says, 'today is warmer than yesterday,' and the thermometer reads '8 degrees,' the significance of the observation doesn't seem important!"

Did you feel good about something recently? A few minutes and dbrosnan123@gmail.com or 541-223-1490 will get your tidbit into the Good News Only column and bring GT readers a smile and/or laughter. Here's hoping that good news comes to everyone reading this!

FOR SALE
\$475.00

Jerry Baker
Broker

57709 Meadowlark Rd
Heppner, OR 97836 541-969-6378

Great Location and great property! Check out this 3 bedroom, 2 bath home on 5 acres in the Blake Ranch Complex. 1872 sf(m/l) on 2 levels with propane radiant heat. Fenced yard. Outbuildings include a large 24 x 30 (m/l) "Doghouse" that includes an entertainment room on one side and a shop/storage area on the other. The listing also includes a beautiful 30 x 40 (m/l) shop/garage with 3 large bay doors. Green house

COLDWELL BANKER FARLEY COMPANY
www.cbfarley.com
541 276-0021 • 37 SE Dorion • Pendleton, Or 97801

LeafFilter
PROTECTION

EXCLUSIVE LIMITED TIME OFFER!

15% OFF + **10% OFF** + **0%**

YOUR ENTIRE FINISH SENIOR & MILITARY APR FOR 24 MONTHS**

Promo Code: 285

FREE GUTTER ALIGNMENT + FREE GUTTER CLEANING*

CLOG-FREE GUTTERS FOREVER

CALL US TODAY FOR A FREE ESTIMATE
1-855-536-8838

Mon-Thurs: 8am-11pm, Fri-Sat: 8am-5pm, Sun: 2pm-8pm EST

*Wells Fargo Home Projects credit card is issued by Wells Fargo Bank, N.A., an Equal Housing Lender. Special terms for 24 mo. apply to qualifying purchases of \$1,000 or more with approved credit. Minimum monthly payments will not pay off balance before end of promotional period. APR for new purchases is 28.99%. Effective: 9/18/2023 - subject to change. Call 1-800-431-9291 for complete details. The leading consumer reporting agency conducted a 15-month outdoor test of gutter guards in 2010 and recognized LeafFilter as the "#1 rated professionally installed gutter guard system in America." **For those who qualify. One coupon per household. No obligation estimate valid for 1 year. Offer valid at time of estimate only. See Representative for full warranty details. Manufactured in Plainville, Michigan and processed at LMT/Mercer Group in Ohio, AR #03692022, CA #103795, CT #HIC049905, FL #C8C056676, IA #C127230, ID #EEC51604, LA #555544, MA #176447, MD #MHC18829, MI # 23023208, #23000022, #23000043, #19012346, MN #H71884, MT #226192, ND #7304, NE #50145-22, NJ #121H09933900, NM #406983, NV #008890, NY #H119114, H-52225, OR #218294, PA #PA060383, RI #GC-41354, TN #FDCE, UT #178368-0001, VA #27051646, WA #E48P4W02C2, WI #WV009812.

OPERATING LINES

It's the Time of Year to Review
Operating Lines
New Loan and Branch Customers Welcome!

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

SHANE LAZINKA
280 Main Street
Jone
(541) 422-7466
Ag/Commercial Loan Officer

SPECIALIZING IN AGRICULTURAL & COMMERCIAL LOANS

Bank of Eastern Oregon
MEMBER FDIC