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 $5.50 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 $15

Heppner lights up for Christmas with decorating contest

The Heppner Christmas light contest is currently underway.
-File photo

The Heppner Lighting Contest is currently underway, the Heppner Chamber of Commerce has announced.

There are three divisions: Yard and Outdoor Decorations with a $100 prize, Business Windows with a $50 prize and Residential Windows, also for $50.

The following addresses are competing:

Division I - Yard and Outdoor Decorations: 565 S. Chase St. - Mullins Family, 655 S. Chase St. - Rod and Janet Wilson, 140 N. Gilmore St. - Jodie Seagraves, 140 S. Gilmore St. - Amy and Emma Patterson, 315 S. Gilmore St. - Brownfields, 230 NW Water St. - Matthew Neal, 195 N. Gale St. - Hanson Family, 220 W Center St. - Ric and Pam Rosenbalm.

Division II - Business: Wheatland Insurance, Bank of Eastern Oregon, Serendipity Designs, Northwestern Motel, Murray's Drug, Heppner Gazette-Times, Market 87, Sweeney-Payton Mortuary.

Division III - Residential Windows: 515 N. Gale St. - Kristen Marshall, 590 N. Gale St. - Allred Family, 840 E. Fairview Way - Gary and Cherrie Clark.

Voting will take place Sunday, Dec. 22 through Tuesday, Dec. 24. Voting forms will be available at Heppner Chamber of Commerce and Market 87, as well as an online poll on the Heppner Chamber of Commerce Facebook page.

Winners will be announced in the Gazette-Times and on the chamber's Facebook page the week after Christmas.

Snowmobile club play day, avalanche training

The 4-Corners Snowmobile Club will hold its annual holiday playday on Saturday, Dec. 28, at Kelly Prairie, weather and snow conditions permitting.

Activities include a poker run, and hot dogs, chili and hot chocolate will be served.

Festivities start at noon. Suit up and bring the whole family. For more information contact Cliff Dougherty, 541-561-7118, or Mike Gorman, 541-980-3396.

The snowmobile club is also sponsoring an avalanche training course on Sunday, Jan. 5, at Kelly Prairie. The cost is $200 per person and includes beacon use, general avalanche recommendations and warnings, etc.

For more information, contact Cliff Dougherty, 541-561-7118, or Adrian Frink, 541-561-0069.

Holly Rebekah to hold end-of-year Bingo

Holly Rebekah Lodge will be hosting its end-of-the-year meal and Bingo on Sunday, Dec. 29, at the Lodge Hall in Lexington.

This month, instead of the usual meal, all Bingo players are asked to bring appetizers to share with others. There will be no charge this month for food.

The food will start at 3 p.m. At approximately 3:30, Bingo will start with a variety of prizes available for selection.

The charge for a packet of 10 cards is $5. Also, a drawing for all players over 18 years of age will be held for a packet of Bingo cards every month, good through December 2025.

So, grab some friends and come play Bingo and welcome the new year in a couple of days early.

Good News Only by Doris Brosnan

As City Manager John Doherty explained last Friday, "If you are able to flush your toilet, if you have running water, if the green spaces around town remain green, you are a beneficiary of the work accomplished on a regular basis by the members of the city maintenance department." As the workers take on more responsibilities, the crew of four, which includes supervisor Chad Doherty, meets the challenges with expertise. An opening in the department remains unfilled—an opportunity knocking for someone.

Donna Smith's "Mini Bakers and Canners" delivered $341 and treats to the Sheriff's Department last Wednesday! These funds represent the donations given them from individuals and organizations thankful for their homemade treats they provide freely for a variety of gatherings and events. Smith started the batch of kitchen specialists seven years ago, and today the group ranges in age from four (the self-proclaimed "rhubarb-muffin king") to nine. The oldest member has been participating since the age of two, performing helpful prep and assistance chores. The workers learn that everything must be clean, the work area and their hands, and they are constantly reminded by the youngest to "wash a hand!" They decide together—looking through cookbooks is one source of suggestions—what they will make and for whom or what they will offer their treats.

Last Thursday was the monthly birthday luncheon attended by several area women. The birthday celebrants were Eva Kilkenny and Judy Harris, both of whom could not attend, but that did not deter the 12 well-wishers, who Facetimed with Eva on this her 91st birthday and sang the birthday song before enjoying Chef Heath's shrimp linguine luncheon.

Speaking of mysterious lights in the sky: Judy Buschke shares, "Seeing all of the news reports on sightings of UFOs/drones over New Jersey and other places reminds me of UFOs reported over Heppner in the late 60's. There was an article in the *Heppner Gazette* about many citizens reporting sightings over Heppner for several nights! These had also been reported to the Sheriff's office. That same week my two older sons, Kyle and Mike, along with our then-neighbor Jim Ployhar, had spent many nights building "UFOs" in my kitchen! They used strips of light wood, birthday candles, and plastic bags that came with our dry cleaning! They would go up on the hill behind our house and launch them maybe two at a time as fast as they could get them made! Their "UFOs" went really high and floated with the direction of the wind, which went right over town! I had to call the sheriff and the *Gazette* and let them know the origin of the UFOs, and the kids (and parents) were lectured on the fire danger of this fun adventure! I don't remember the exact year this was, but these kids' brains were way ahead of their time! (This was before Google or TikTok, when the kids had to make their own fun and use their imaginations!)"

Christmas stories to bring a smile or chuckle: The nativity play was going as planned and Joseph and Mary were going from house to house knocking on the doors and asking if there was any room for them. As they continued to get "no room" answers, a little voice called from the back, "YOU SHOULD HAVE BOOKED!" bringing the house down.

As a little girl climbed onto Santa's lap, Santa asked the usual, "And what would you like for Christmas?" The child stared at him open-mouthed and horrified for a minute, then gasped, "Didn't you get my email?"

A boy wanted to be Joseph in the Sunday School pageant. He was cast as the landlord and objected loudly, but to no avail. When the pageant was presented, Mary and Joseph knocked on the door and asked him if he had a room for them. The boy smiled and said, "Yes, sure. Lots of room. Come on in!"

The store's Santa Claus gave Jeanie a candy cane. Her mother says, "What do you say, Jeanie?" Jeanie looks up at Santa and says, "Charge it!"

Wishing everyone a happy holiday! Maybe some enjoyable stories will occur and be shared next week. Just jot a note to dbrosnan123@gmail.com or call 541-223-1490!

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

Lady Mustangs top Crosshill Christian, fall to Echo at Holiday Hoop Fest

Heppner's Lady Mustangs were impressive with their 54-36 win over Crosshill Christian Friday night. They easily avenged their volleyball 2A State memories of this powerful hitting team.

The Eagles' six-foot-plus junior Zoey Baker was not a game changer for the Mustangs. Instead, Hallee Hisler scored 19 points to set the pace.

Heppner led 13-11 after the first quarter and went on a 25-9 run, taking a 38-24 lead. Lily Nichols chipped in nine points, with Delaney Stefani and Maya Payne adding six each.

It was a great win for the Mustang girls—they stole the ball, scooped it up, and went coast-to-coast for easy twos. Katie Spivey and Kadie Hendrichs battled Crosshill's two big girls under the basket for rebounds. Heppner gave the crowd a great game to watch for those home for the Christmas holiday.

On Saturday, Heppner fell quickly to a physical, sharp-shooting Echo team, 70-56. Echo used four players to burn the nets.

Heppner was led by Hallee Hisler with 16 points, including 8-for-8 from the free-throw line. Delaney Stefani followed with 14, and Katie Spivey added eight.

The Mustangs will play next on Dec. 27 and 28, taking on top-ranked Knappa and Kennedy at the Pendleton Convention Center. They will then stay home to take on Dufur Dec. 30.

Death Notice

Jerry Lowell Martin, 92, of Hermiston passed away on Dec. 18, 2024. A celebration of life service will be announced at a later date. Sweeney Payton Mortuary has been entrusted with the arrangements (sweeneypaytonmortuary.com).

HOLIDAY HOURS!

DECEMBER 24
RETAIL & ESPRESSO: 7AM-4PM
PHARMACY: 9AM-4PM (NO DELIVERIES)

DECEMBER 25 : CLOSED

DECEMBER 26
RETAIL & ESPRESSO: 9AM-6PM
PHARMACY: 10AM-6PM

JANUARY 1 : CLOSED

SINCE 1959 Murray's Drug
HEPPNER | CONDON | BOARDMAN
217 North Main St., Heppner, OR
Phone 676-9158 Floral 676-9426
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Beautiful 20-acre property in Eastern Oregon, zoned Exclusive Farm Use (EFU). Along Willow Creek Rd. MLS#: 24056686

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Discover a timeless treasure with this beautifully preserved Craftsman-style home, featuring 1,174 sq ft on the main level and an additional 1,008 sq ft in basement, perfect for storage or extra space to customize. This 2-bedroom, 1-bath gem combines classic charm with modern comforts, including a newer furnace, forced air heat, and a freshly painted exterior. Located in a prime spot near the school and within walking distance to downtown Heppner, this home provides both convenience and a sense of community. Experience small-town living with easy access to downtown. Don't miss the chance to make this spacious, character-filled home your own!
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