

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 \$5.65 per column inch. Cost for classified ad is 55¢ per word. Cost for Card of Thanks is \$16 up to 100 words. Cost for a classified display ad is \$6.15 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 \$16

## Heppner Chamber 2025 Town & Country Awards Banquet Feb. 6

HEPPNER, OR — The Heppner Chamber of Commerce will hold the Annual Town & Country Awards Banquet, on Thursday, February 6, 2025, at 6:00 PM at the Gilliam & Bisbee Event Center.

This prestigious event recognizes outstanding individuals and businesses in South Morrow County. Honorees will be celebrated in the following categories: Woman of the Year, Man of the Year, Business of the Year, Citizen-Educator of the Year, Lifetime Achievement Award, and Youth Award.

Dinner & Ticket Information

Guests will enjoy a Tri-Tip Dinner prepared by Chef Alvin Liu, with tickets priced at \$30 per person. A No-Host bar will be provided by Broken Spoke.

Tickets are available for purchase at the Heppner Chamber of Commerce, City Hall, and Market 87.

Sponsorship Opportunities

Community members and businesses are invited to support the event through sponsorships. The Gold Sponsor level is \$1,000 and includes eight event tickets. The Silver Sponsor level is \$750 and includes six event tickets. The Bronze Sponsor level is \$500 and includes two event tickets. A centerpiece basket donation for the silent auction should have a value of \$200.

Silent Auction Contributions

A friendly reminder to those contributing baskets for the silent auction: Please drop them off at the Chamber office by Tuesday, February 4. Your support is greatly appreciated.

For more information, contact the Heppner Chamber of Commerce at 541-676-5536 or heppnerchamber@gmail.com. The mailing address is PO Box 1232, Heppner, OR 97836.

## MC Sheriff's Office partners with Community Counseling Solutions



L to R: Community Counseling Solutions Zero Suicide program coordinator Melissa Coiner, Morrow County Sheriff John Bowles, and Undersheriff Brian Snyder

The Morrow County Sheriff's Office has partnered with Community Counseling Solutions (CCS) to raise awareness about the 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline, a free, confidential, 24/7 support service for individuals in emotional distress.

As part of this initiative, Morrow County Sheriff John Bowles approved the addition of a 988 Lifeline stripe package on one of the department's new patrol vehicles. The marked vehicle serves as a visible reminder of available crisis support services for residents in need.

"The Morrow County Sheriff's Office is happy

to partner with Community Counseling Solutions in promoting the 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline," said Sheriff Bowles. "Suicide prevention and crisis services are available. Having our vehicle out in the county is a small way of sharing this information. If you are struggling or would like to speak to someone, call 988."

The 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline offers free, 24-hour support in both English and Spanish for anyone experiencing a mental health crisis or emotional distress. Individuals in need are encouraged to call 988 for immediate assistance.

## Thank you, Doris Brosnan, for years of Good News!

The Heppner Gazette sincerely thanks Doris Brosnan for sharing so much good news with our readers over the years. Her dedication and weekly contributions made our

publication better, and we are truly grateful. As she steps away from writing her Good News Only column, we want to express our appreciation for her work. Thank you, Doris!

## Leah Mueller of Irrigon named to dean's list at George Fox University

NEWBERG, ORE. (January 30, 2025) - Leah Mueller of Irrigon was among those who earned dean's list recognition at George Fox University for the fall 2024 semester. Traditional undergraduate students must earn a 3.5 grade point average or above on 12 or more hours of graded work to earn a spot on the dean's list. Mueller is a sophomore majoring in biology.

George Fox University is a Christian college

classified by U.S. News & World Report as a "Best National University." More than 4,000 students attend classes on the university's campus in Newberg, Oregon, and at teaching centers in Portland and Redmond, Oregon. George Fox offers more than 60 undergraduate academic programs, accelerated online degree programs for working adults, six seminary degrees, and 15 master's and doctoral degrees.

## MCSD continues trend of high graduation rates

Morrow County, OR — On Thursday, January 30, the Oregon Department of Education released graduation rates for the 2023-24 graduating class.

Morrow County School District continues to achieve graduation rates above the state average across all demographics for the graduating class of 2024. The most recent rate of 96.7% continues the trend of MCSD graduation rates being well above the state average at both the building and district levels. MCSD's high graduation rates also extend to focus groups that traditionally have lower graduation rates than the general population. These four-year cohort rates include Hispanic/Latino students, economically disadvantaged students, migrant students, English language learners, and students with disabilities.

We are incredibly proud of the class of 2024; these students started their ninth-grade year in a blended learning scenario with COVID restrictions. Building administration in all four high schools attributes the continued success of their graduates to strong systems of student support, including individualized guidance counseling, staff relationships, and monitoring that begins at the junior high level. The CARE wraparound program, which the district established in 2015, also has a tremendous impact on our families at all levels and is critical in supporting students through graduation.

Superintendent Matt Combe also notes that Morrow County Schools are very fortunate to be able to offer families a wide variety of academic courses, co-curricular activities, workforce internships, and early college credit opportunities that keep students challenged and engaged through graduation.

Graduation rates broken down by individual MCSD high schools:

For the graduating class of 2024, Irrigon Jr/Sr High achieved a 98.3% four-year graduation rate, with a 100% four-year completer rate. Heppner Jr/Sr High and Riverside

Jr/Sr High both reported perfect graduation and completer rates at 100%.

At Morrow Education Center, the four-year graduation rate was 73.3%, while the four-year completer rate reached 93.3%. Across the district, the overall four-year graduation rate stood at 96.7%, with a 99.3% completer rate.

In comparison, the State of Oregon reported an 81.8% four-year graduation rate and an 84.5% four-year completer rate.

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### Lunch & Dinner Menu

2/6 - 2/12

**Thursday** - Reuben & potato salad  
**Friday** - Clam Chowder, salad, & popcorn shrimp  
**Saturday** - 1/2 order biscuit and gravy, hamburger patty and hashbrown patty's  
**Sunday Super Bowl Opening at Noon.** Limited menu. Popcorn chicken taco  
**Monday** - General Tso chicken, rice, and egg roll  
**Tuesday** - Hawaiian burger with fried chips  
**Tuesday Night** - 6-9pm \$2 hard shell tacos  
**Wednesday** - Hot Turkey & tomato sandwich with cottage cheese

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