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Mike Currin dies in plane crash

Mike Currin of Hermiston, son of Ron and Judy Currin of Heppner, died in a plane crash on Mount Rainier Monday, July 2.

Mike, born and raised in the Heppner area and a professional en route from Portland to the Ponoka stampede, one of the largest rodeos in Canada, when the light plane in which he was traveling crashed into Mount Rainier. The crash occurred about 1 p.m. at the 12,500-foot level of the mountain. Pilot of the plane, Bob Card, and cowboys Dave P. Smith of College Place, Wash., David Bowen of Yoakum, Texas, and Randy Dierlam of Seadrift, Texas, also died in the crash.

Mike, 25, was a 1983 graduate of Heppner High School. He graduated from Blue Mountain Community College in 1985 and Boise State University in 1989. He was self employed on the Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association circuit. He won the 1988 All-Around title at the Pendleton Round-Up and the Lewiston Round-Up. He rodeo'd for Blue Mountain Community College and in 1984 was the national steer wrestling champion. He married the former Judy Walchli of Hermiston on Nov. 4, 1989.

The four cowboys had made the Monday night finals of the Ponoka Stampede in Ponoka, Alberta, about 100 miles north of Calgary, but failed to show up, rodeo officials said. The Cessna 210 disappeared from



Mike Currin

radar screens while flying about two miles southwest of the 14,410-foot Cascade Mountain peak, state aeronautics director Bill Hamilton told AP Monday.

The plane was owned by Card through his company, Aero West Aviation, a small charter outfit with three planes based at the Pendleton airport. Card, who had been flying for more than 25 years left Pendleton alone and picked up the four passengers Monday afternoon in Portland, Doug Ankney Jr., a flight instructor and charter pilot for Aero West Aviation, said.

The plane was to fly from Portland to Penticton, B.C., to go through customs, Ankney said.

A search plane from the 304th Air Force Reserve's Air Rescue and Recovery Squadron from Portland located the crash site around 5:30

p.m. on the south-southwest side of the mountain on Kautze Glacier, Cy Hentges, a Mount Rainier National Park spokesman, said.

Rescue workers planned on bringing the bodies down from the mountain on Tuesday, weather permitting, Hentges said.

John Wilcox, a Mount Rainier Park ranger in charge of rescue operations, told AP the plane lost its wings and flipped over.

Hentges said a high-altitude helicopter from the Fort Lewis Army Base near Tacoma was expected to fly a recovery team to the site on Tuesday morning.

Dave P. Smith, 31, was a fulltime cowboy who was a Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association national finalist in 1988. Smith won the \$50,000 calf roping at Calgary Stampede that year as well.

Friends said Smith had planned to meet fellow cowboy Sam Keyser and travel by car to Calgary, but learned he made the Ponoka finals and jumped on the plane.

Smith and Brent Palmer of Walla Walla were stock contractors who furnished steers for the Pendleton Round-Up the last few years.

Smith and his twin brother, Dale, grew up in Brewster, Wash. He and his wife, Teresa, recently had a baby girl.

H.R. "Bob" Card, 50, had been living in Pendleton for about six years, after moving here from Portland to establish Aero West Aviation in the fall of 1984.

The Heppner

G-T azette Times

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Wheat harvest underway



Pat Cutsforth, a Lexington wheat farmer, dumps a load of stephens wheat as harvest gets underway in Morrow County.

Morrow County Grain Growers Manager Larry Mills says that with the wheat harvest just getting started the quality of the wheat "looks

good."

"We think yields will be better than anticipated," said Mills. "It's not a bumper crop but better than anticipated."

Pat reported that his field on Cutsforth Corner was averaging 50 bushels.

Mills said the first areas to begin harvesting are north of Lexington on the Stan Kemp ranch and north of Ione on the Joe Rietmann ranch. He

added that estimates are around 40 bushels an acre. In the earlier part of the year the wheat outlook was not good because of the lack of rain, said Mills.

Market Report

Compliments of the Morrow County Grain Growers

Tuesday, July 3	
Soft White	
July	\$3.59/\$3.57
Aug.	\$3.57
Sept.	\$3.59/\$3.61
Oct.	\$3.63/\$3.65
Jan.	\$3.75/\$3.77
Barley	
July	\$106 T
Aug.	\$107 T
Sept.	\$109 T
Pik	100%

Weather Report

by City of Heppner

June 26 - July 2, 1990			
	High	Low	Prec
Tues.	82	50	.0
Weds.	83	55	.0
Thurs.	82	53	.0
Fri.	89	55	.0
Sat.	83	50	.0
Sun.	81	48	.0
Mon.	66	49	.05

Still time to sign up for swim lessons

Heppner Pool manager, Sarah Carlson, says that there are still openings in some session I swimming lessons, including:

Water Safety Aide Class- July 9-July 20, 5:30-6:30 p.m. \$17.20. Open to anyone 11 years or older who has a desire to volunteer his time to aid swim instructors in teaching swim lessons. It is good training to become a water safety instructor at 17 years old.

Swimmers-July 9-July 20, 9-9:45 a.m. This is for the advanced swimmer who wants the opportunity to work on perfecting the breast stroke, side stroke, and back crawl. Basic rescue procedure will also be taught.

Parent/Infant Class-11:30-noon, 6-18 months. Parents expose their infants to water through adjustment activities. The infant will experience supported movement and other basic water skills. Both parent and child will be introduced to appropriate water safety skills. The class is limited to six.

Session II classes, July 23-Aug. 3, are all open except for Beginner II, Beginner I, and preschool.

Session III classes, Aug. 6-17, are all still open.

All lessons are \$10.00. Those interested must come to the pool to sign up and pay the registration fee. There is no registration over the phone.

Cycle Oregon advance team meets with Heppner reps

Thirteen representatives from Cycle Oregon met with Heppner officials June 27 at the Morrow County Fairgrounds.

Cycle Oregon is planning a bicycle tour through Heppner Sept. 9. Heppner will be the first overnight stay on the cyclists' 420 mile trip across Oregon. The community expects to feed 2,000 cyclists box lunches, dinner and breakfast.

Local coordinators are Heppner Chamber of Commerce Manager Claudia Hughes and Mayor Cara Costa.

Meeting with Hughes and Costa and other local coordinators were Susan Bladholm, Cycle Oregon ride director and public relations and special events coordinator with Oregon Tourism; Andrienne Van Bommel, assistant director of Cycle

Oregon; Randy Stimson, amateur radio (ham operator KZT77) communications coordinator for Cycle Oregon and Cheryl Funkhouser his assistant both from Portland; Brian Harney, Cycle Oregon office assistant in publications and volunteer coordinator; David Rittenhouse, Cycle Oregon office assistant coordination public relations and entertainment; Bill Upson and David Fuller of Buck Medical Services in Portland, who will handle medical care en route; Ryan McGinnis of the Bike Gallery in Portland, who will handle bike repair; Cliff Coleman of Fred Meyer, transportation and trucking coordinator; Mike Collet, Oregon Coast Sanitation, Coos Bay, who will be handling restroom facilities; Ann VonderAhe, Klamath Falls, food coordinator; and Patti Reuter, Cycle Oregon assistant.

Fun on the 4th



Fair weather blessed the large crowd that gathered Wednesday for Ione's annual 4th of July Celebration. More pictures next week.



Cara Costa visits with Cycle Oregon office assistant David Rittenhouse.

LOANS FOR NEW CARS LOWEST RATES AROUND



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