

Local kids have lunch with Santa



Area children visit with Santa while their parents take advantage of some free time for Christmas shopping Sunday, Dec. 17, at the Heppner Elks Club. The annual lunch with Santa is sponsored by the Heppner Chamber of Commerce.

Local families have ties to crash victim

Two Heppner families have a link to a man whose plane is believed to have crashed in the southeastern Canadian Rockies on Nov. 28.

Wayne Fountain, 45, Molalla, was one of five men aboard a twin-engine plane carrying employees of the Hessel Tractor and Equipment Co. The plane had taken off from Calgary Alberta, en route to Hillsboro. The search centered on an area between Castlegar and Cranbrook, British Columbia, about 100 miles north of Spokane.

Fountain is the cousin of Chuck Bailey of Heppner. Bailey and Fountain's mother, Mildred Robinson of Mollala, are first cousins. Robinson was born in Fossil and Bailey was born in Kinzua.

Robinson and Jack Maben of Heppner were classmates in Mollala and the children of the two families also attended school together.

Radar trackings showed that the plane descended quickly into a mountainous, snow-covered area. The search, which has since been called off, involved

as many as 13 aircraft.

Besides Fountain, a customer service representative for Hessel, the other employees, who had been returning from a training session in Calgary, were David T. Gorin, 45, Hillsboro, the pilot of the Rockwell 700 aircraft; Arthur Brown, 41, Gresham; Don Moxley, 41, Tangent; and Neil Tofell, 50, Gold Hill.

Bailey reported that Robinson commented on the dedication of the Canadian Armed Forces Search and Rescue team and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police.

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MIDCO to begin Morrow Co. service

Mid Columbia Bus Co., Inc. (MIDCO) will be providing pupil transportation for the Morrow County School District, effective Tuesday, Jan. 2, according to the school district.

MIDCO is a family-owned and operated transportation company that specializes in rural pupil transportation for school districts. MIDCO presently operates 25 contracts with school districts, education service districts and Head Start programs in Eastern Oregon and one school district in Idaho.

"Their goal in Morrow County, as in all school district operations, is to provide safe, reliable, and cost effective transportation, for your student and the other children in the county," said school superintendent Chuck Starr.

Starr said that MIDCO has retained the current transportation managers, Burke O'Brien and Everett Moore, to remain locally and perform day-to-day operations as they have the past several years. "They felt it essential to retain these skilled managers in order to provide you with consistency and continuity in dealing with someone you know and trust," Starr added.

"Employment was also offered to all existing school bus drivers employed by the dis-

trict," said Starr. "By retaining the drivers, on their same routes, MIDCO again is looking to maintain consistency and continuity through experienced and skilled drivers who will provide safe transportation for your student."

According to Starr, the following drivers have indicated that they have accepted employment with MIDCO beginning Jan. 2:

Heppner/Ione-Shawn Wilson, Kay Proctor, Gerald Bergstrom, Pat Dougherty, Rudy Bergstrom, Marie Rudisill, Ed Baker, Jan Coe, Rick Pettyjohn, Jim Rudisill, Bob Worden, Ginger O'Brien, Bill Adams, Glenn Anderson, Shirley Martin and Betty Bergstrom.

Boardman/Irrigon: Kellie Adams-Morgan, Evelene Finley, Rosa Rodriguez, Carolyn Maret, Robin McCord, Lloyd Peck, Brenda Newport, Arlene Flanagan, Al Hensley and Al Gordanier.

MIDCO will be installing F.M. communication radios, in any route buses not presently equipped with them. In addition, MIDCO will be installing base stations in each of the offices. This radio system will allow each of the buses to stay in constant communication with its home base, with buses on routes and with other MIDCO centers for emergency

backup and dispatch of maintenance and support vehicles. These radios also allow the activity buses to be in constant communication with other MIDCO offices for backup support, as they drive through Eastern Oregon/Washington.

A safety officer is being assigned to the district's operations to assist the local managers with emergency evacuation drills, driver training and education programs, route evaluations and to establish monthly employee safety and committee meetings.

A special needs manager will be assigned to the district's operations to evaluate and recommend pupil transportation for special needs students.

MIDCO has provided an option to the district to utilize 47 passenger motorcoaches to transport students on activity or field trips.

If you have any questions regarding your bus route or anything else, call Burke O'Brien, 676-5861, or Bruce Flatt, 1-800-574-3424, in the Heppner/Ione area, or Everett Moore, 481-7551, or Doug Flatt, 1-800-574-8676, in the Boardman/Irrigon area.

"The Morrow County School District looks forward to working with MIDCO in providing continued safe transportation for your children," concluded Starr.

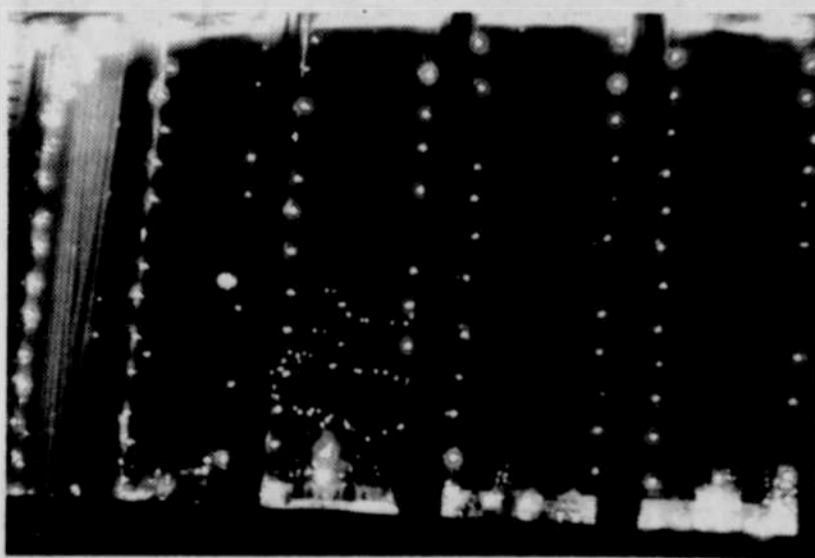
Lundquist announces candidacy

Representative Lynn Lundquist (R-Powell Butte), the Oregon House Majority Leader, has formally announced that he will seek a second term in the Oregon House of Representatives. Lundquist has filed documents with the Elections Division that will put his name on the Republican primary election ballot for House District 59.

During the 68th Legislative Session, Lundquist served as chair of the Business Subcommittee of the Commerce Committee. He also served on the Joint Ways and Means Committee, the Legislative Rules Committee and is currently serving on the Emergency Board. He and his wife, Barb, own and operate a ranch in Powell Butte.

District 59 includes Baker, Crook, Gilliam, Grant, Sherman, Wheeler counties and portions of Morrow and Wasco counties. The primary election is May 21, 1996.

Lighting contest winners announced



The Randall Petersons took first place in the indoor lighting category.

The Ronny Brisbois household, 605 Morgan, was the winner of the outdoor Christmas lighting contest, sponsored by the Heppner Chamber of Commerce. He won \$50 for his display.

The Richard Paris home, 315 Water Street, came in second and the Ernie McCake residence, 355 Water Street, was third. Second place was \$25 and third, \$15.

The Randall Peterson home,

195 N. Gale, won \$20 for first place in the indoor category. The Joyce Hughes family, 215 S. Court, was second and received a \$10 prize.

Receiving honorable mention for their lighting displays were Gene Hall, Greg Sweek, Larry Mills, Glen Ward and Lowell Jones.

The Shoe Box received special recognition in the Festive Business Lighting Display category and a \$15 award.

Christmas Blessings to Everyone



From the Gazette-Times



To all our friends and customers
We wish a Merry Christmas



we will be closed Dec. 23, 24 & 25

Morrow County Grain Growers
Lexington 989-8221 1-800-452-7396