

The Official Newspaper of the  
City of Heppner and the  
County of Morrow

**Heppner**  
**GAZETTE-TIMES**  
U.S.P.S. 240-420

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**Obituaries**

**Velma (Fell) Cole**  
Funeral services for Velma (Fell) Cole, 88, Portland, were held April 30, 1997, at the Tigard Christian Church, Tigard. Private Mausoleum entombment will be held at the Riverview Abbey Mausoleum in Portland.

Mrs. Cole was born in Washuckna, WA, on August 22, 1908, and died at a Portland foster care home on April 27, 1997.

Mrs. Cole came to Heppner when she was two years old. She was raised and educated in Heppner, where she graduated from high school. She lived in Heppner 20 years before moving to the Portland area where she lived most of her life. She lived in Vernonia and Seaside for a very short time.

Upon moving to Portland in 1942, she went to work in the Oregon shipyards and also worked for the Charles F. Berg exclusive ladies' clothing store. She was a homemaker and had retired from Standard Plaza and American Business Maintenance.

While in Heppner, she was a member of the Christian Church and was a member of the Tigard Christian Church.

She was an excellent seamstress and loved to dance.

Mrs. Cole is survived by daughters, Jo Anne Wolf, King City, Darlene Ernster, Barbara Fazzolari and Dona Katherns, all Portland; son, Robert Cole, Portland; sister, Ellak Blake, Portland; brothers, Glen Fell, Portland, and Donald Fell, Hebo; 21 grandchildren, 33 great-grandchildren and four great, great-grandchildren.

Memorials may be sent to the Tigard Christian Church Memorial Fund, 13405 S.W. Hall Blvd., Tigard, OR 97223.

**Mother's Day raffle to be held**

Soroptimist International of Heppner is raffling a Mother's Day basket full of "lots of good stuff" for one lucky winner.

The basket is displayed at the Heppner TV office.

Tickets are available for \$1 each or six for \$5 from any Soroptimist or from Marianne at VanMarter and Kahl's Insurance in Heppner.

Janel Lacey is chairman for the raffle.

Proceeds will go towards funding of the indoor therapy pool, under construction at the swimming pool site.

**Speaker planned at Life Center**

Duane Parrish  
A few years ago, Duane Parrish found himself stripped of the ability to read, write, or speak, following a major brain operation.

The Rev Parrish will be in Heppner at the Christian Life Center, 535 W. Morgan, on Sunday, May 4, at 10:30 a.m. and 6 p.m. to tell how, "with God, you are 'Destined to Overcome.'"

Pastor Tim Van Cleave of the Christian Center invites everyone to "hear Duane tell his story of human despair and of divine power, of healing and the power of a grateful spirit."

"The positive faith and spiritual insight with which Duane speaks, will inspire courage to face life and deal realistically with doubts, fear, conflicts, and obstacles. His inspired story has helped many to believe that, with God, they are 'Destined to Overcome,'" said a news release.

**Letters to the Editor**

*Editor's note: Letters to the editor must be signed. The Gazette-Times will not publish unsigned letters. Please include your address and phone number on all letters for use by the G-T office. The G-T reserves the right to edit.*

**Devastated by resignation**

To the Editor:  
On April 11, 1997, Dr. William Bitsas resigned from practice with Pioneer Memorial Hospital and Clinic due to conflicts between both parties. That was a day that, I feel, shocked his patients and friends as well as may have devastated some others. I for one was one of the devastated patients.

You see, I have a very complex medical case with some life-threatening conditions. Some of these life-threatening conditions Dr. Bitsas discovered for the first time and was treating and now I don't have him anymore.

Through the course of my life, I have been seen by literally hundreds of physicians-some good, some not so good, and some I have questioned how they came to practice medicine. Dr. Bitsas is one of the very best I have every been seen and treated by. He definitely ranks in the top 10. He is, in my opinion, very thorough and competent, with a wonderful bedside manner. He has taken the time to find out about and explain to me different conditions that affect me and what course of treatment he has planned for me. I, myself, cannot afford to lose this quality of medical care. Can

you, the other patients of Dr. Bitsas, afford to lose this either? Can our community afford to lose a very valuable doctor and citizen as he is?

The article on the front page of the newspaper two weeks ago addressed some of the issues surrounding his resignation and I feel sure there are others. Dr. Bitsas stated that he was willing to try and work those out so that he could remain here to live and practice medicine. I hope that can be accomplished. If you are one of the people that would like to see that happen, I would like to ask that you not only sign the petitions that are circulating around, but let your request be known by calling and talking to Kevin Erich, the hospital administrator, or Cara Osmin or Meg Murray, our representatives on the hospital board of directors, so that they will know how you feel about keeping him here.

I appreciate your time and help in trying to see that this happens. Also, would you be so kind as to do that before the next meeting of the hospital board of directors.

Sincerely,  
(s) Vern Burke  
Heppner

**Renegotiate with Dr. Bitsas**

To the Editor:  
This is a letter to the editor, and also to the citizens of Heppner. I believe everyone that lives here, and uses the medical facilities in town should have a say in which doctor they go see when ill. Having a family doctor you trust, respect and like is a very important right. The board is elected, I thought, to make decisions that are in the best interest of the town. Since the town citizens elect the members of the board, it should also be their job to listen to what's important to the people who elect them, especially in a matter as important as choosing a physician.

As by now, everyone knows Dr. Bitsas is no longer working as a doctor in Heppner or anywhere else. While he was, he gave his patients quality care, that no one has denied. Dr. Bitsas is still here and would like to work things out with the board and the other caregivers at the clinic. The problem is the other caregivers at the clinic and the administrator and the board aren't willing to

work things out with Dr. Bitsas. It's time for the townspeople to let people who made the decision not to renegotiate a fair contract with Dr. Bitsas know what in this matter is wanted by the majority of the town, and what is felt about their decision to force Dr. Bitsas to leave. They need to hear from everyone. Below are their names and phone numbers: Jim Hankins, Boardman, (541) 481-2540; Robert McKinley, Boardman, 481-7480; Norma Stahl, Irrigon, 922-3392; Cara Osmin, Heppner, 676-5816; Meg Murray, 422-7251; administrator, Kevin Erich, clinic employees, 676-5504.

Everyone who wants Dr. Bitsas back needs to call these people, and write letters to the editor. Together as a town we can make a difference, but all voices must be heard.

There are also petitions all around town. Please be sure to sign them. If anyone wants to personally let Dr. Bitsas know he has their support or find out his side, his number is 676-5896.

(s) Laurie Reichardt  
Heppner

**Time to give something back**

To the Editor:  
Fellow Morrow County Citizens: Like many of you, I recently received a letter from the Morrow County Fair Board asking for a donation toward the construction of a multipurpose building. This building would replace the old livestock areas that are greatly in need of much repair, plus add more potential usage of the fairgrounds. The fair board, all volunteers, have put much time and effort into the planning for this much needed update and addition. But, now they need the help of all the county citizens to bring this about. The county budget committee has provided about half the funding. It would be great if we could get behind this

effort and perhaps have this new facility ready for fair.

Parents, if you're looking for a way to teach your child citizenship, this would help. All of those who have benefited from the livestock sale could give a little something back. A Fair Booster account has been set up at the Bank of Eastern Oregon. Drop by and make a contribution, any amount; or mail it in to the Multipurpose Building Fund, Bank of Eastern Oregon, P.O. Box 39, Heppner, OR 97836.

If a county fair is part of the lifestyle we enjoy, we must all support these efforts. Every citizen can take pride in such accomplishments when we all pitch in. And 100 percent of the contribution goes directly to the project. There are no governmental or hidden inefficiencies in overhead.

(s) Al R. Brazell

**Court starts off a busy year**



Morrow County Fair and Oregon Trail Pro Rodeo Court (L-R) Princess Kara Miller, Queen Dawn Boor, Princess Maci Childers

By Kara Miller  
Teresa Bunn, chaperone, recently arranged a Sunday morning photo session for the 1997 Morrow County Fair-Oregon Trail Pro Rodeo court. Queen Dawn Boor dressed in her regal white, while Princesses Maci Childers and Kara Miller donned their official split riding skirts of electric blue suede, trimmed with white and black fringe and matching vests. The suits were designed and created by Sandy Shook of Hermiston and provided by the Morrow County Fair Board. Kara and Maci's black hats, boots and belts completed their official wardrobe, while Dawn wore the traditional white.

After a lunch break, the three were joined by Katie Bacon, daughter of Bill and Marcy Bacon of Ione, and Bobbie and Tracy Rankin, daughters of Tim and Kathy Rankin of Heppner. They will be three of the pennant bearers who will travel to parades and other appearances with the court this summer.

The first official appearance of the court was this year's Town and Country Day, Jan. 15. For their coronation and introduction, they wore their official blue and white fringed split riding skirts and vests, with chemise blouses. The princesses' tiaras were a gift from court chaperone, Teresa, and her husband, Matt Bunn. Queen Dawn's silver belt buckle was

sponsored by the Bank of Eastern Oregon; Princess Maci's, Inland Empire Bank; and Princess Kara's, Wells Fargo Banking Company. Their silver and gold hair barrettes were a gift from Marilyn Childers and the official OTPR logo silver earrings and brooches, from Marilyn Schiller.

The second court appearance was at the St. Patrick's Day Celebration KUMA Coffee Hour, at the Heppner Elks Lodge. Later that day, they rode in a bright red Dodge pickup furnished by Carner Auto of Pendleton for their appearance in the parade. In the afternoon, Queen Dawn and her princesses helped in the food booth, sponsored by the rodeo committee, at the arena during the motorcross barrel racing contests, and Sunday during the team roping.

The court is filling out a full summer of scheduled activities, including appearances in numerous parades and shows. They will be at Arlington on May 3, and helping with the barbecue for the dog trails at the Schiller Ranch, also the first weekend in May. They still have a few open dates on weekends in June. If you would like these Morrow County ambassadors to attend an activity or a meeting of your organization, contact Teresa Bunn at 676-5111, or LaRae Kindle, secretary of the Morrow County Fair Board, 676-9474.

**HAWAII SPECIALS**  
(Airfare only from Portland)

**WAIKIKI**-from only \$239.00 pp  
**MAUI**-from only 299.00 pp  
**KONA**-from only 318.00 pp/do  
**KAUAI**-from only \$318.00 pp/do  
(Airfare does not include airport pfc surcharge. pp/do: per person double occupancy)

**Hawaii Five Night Packages**  
Waikiki: \$363.00 pp/do with transfers  
Maui: \$492.00 pp/do with 5 day car  
Kauai: \$502.00 pp/do with 5 day car  
Kona: \$504.00 pp/do with 5 day car  
(All fares are subject to change without notice)

**CALL FOR DETAILS:**  
toll free  
**1-800-648-6006**

**Debbie's Travel Service**  
Dayville, Oregon

**LOOKING FOR A JOB?**

Then you can't miss the 1997  
**Blue Mountain Community College**  
**Regional Jobs Fair!**  
Wednesday, May 7, 4 to 7 p.m.,  
**HERMISTON COMMUNITY CENTER**

The Jobs Fair is offered to the public free of charge. Employers from throughout the region will be recruiting for a number of exciting job positions, which may include:

construction workers	electricians
computer operators	bank tellers
security guards	machinists
corrections officers	cashiers
equipment operators	irrigators
accounting clerks	clerical workers
truck drivers	mechanics

and more!

The Jobs Fair is cosponsored by  
**Region 12 - Workforce Quality Committee**  
**Regional Chambers of Commerce & Hermiston Foods, Inc.**

For more information call BMCC at:  
**541/278-5933**

*\*Mother's Day Treat\**  
at  
**Hair I Am**  
*Two Hours of Relaxation and Beauty, May 9 and 10!*

Every woman deserves  
*Sparkling Cider, Light Refreshments,*  
*and a Selection of three of the following Treats*  
for just \$30 to \$45:

1/2 hour Massage by Judy Norris  
Manicure or Pedicure by Sheri Arbogast  
Hair Cut or Hair Styling by Leah Brown  
Skin Care and Makeup by Julie Weimar  
Tanning Session

Call 676-9644 to reserve an appointment  
or to purchase a gift certificate

Morrow County Arts Council & Morrow County Museum  
**WELCOMES**  
**JOHN "JAY" KULM, COWBOY POET**  
Cowboy poetry, humor, tradition, introspection & a banjo!

Performing at: St. Patrick's Senior Center, Heppner, OR  
Friday, May 9th at 7:00 p.m.  
*This performance is free to the public*  
This event is funded by the Morrow County Unified Recreation District

**COAST TO COAST**  
your source for  
**SPRING**  
Lawn and Garden Center  
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Heppner WE CAN HELP YOU 676-9961