

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

Heppner
GAZETTE-TIMES

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Letter home from Bosnia

(Editor's note: The following letter from Bosnia was written by Morrow County District Attorney Earl R. Woods, who is serving in Bosnia with his National Guard unit.)

I had the good fortune the other day to be selected by my Commander to go to a NATO logistics (for you old soldiers that used to be supply) conference, which took place in Sarajevo, Bosnia. The thing that I found fascinating about the conference was the fact that 21 nations were represented at the conference including 15 member nations and six non-members, including a contingent from the (former) Soviet Union.

At the end of the first day, as I sat in the British officer's mess, I was approached by a Russian Lt. colonel who, using sign language, asked me if he could buy me a beer. I tried to tell him in sign language that American soldiers can't drink alcohol under our rules. We struggled with this for awhile and finally I discovered that while he spoke no English, he did speak German reasonably well (although with a heavy Russian accent). I used to speak German passably but haven't used it in years and, as a result, we had a conversation that was somewhat labored, although we were able to communicate. He told me that I was the first American military officer he had ever spoken to in depth and wanted to convey his feelings and attitudes about his country's new relationship with the United States to another soldier in the hopes we might share a common view.

He told me that Russians like and trust Americans more than they like or trust their European neighbors. He said his government had done a rotten job of managing the Soviet Bloc countries such as East Germany, Poland, Czech Republic, Romania, Bulgaria, etc., during the period of the Cold War and, as a result, these people hate the Russians. He went on to explain that the Soviets subjected these people to forced labor and now they're concerned that if these countries are allowed to join NATO that they would then constitute an alliance that would hate Russia. He was also concerned about Germany's rising influence in NATO. He also told me that Russia had been so dominated by their government that when the government crumbled there was a vacuum created so vast that it could only be filled by chaos.

I asked him after he described to me the chaos in his country, whether the people of the Soviet Union hadn't, in effect, made their own bed? I told him that the people of the Soviet nation didn't have to treat the eastern European countries badly any more than they had to support their government which eventually collapsed under its own weight. I told him that we have a saying in this country that "You reap your own rewards." With that he just looked at me for awhile like I had holes in my head and finally I began to understand. We don't think alike. In his country the government tells the people what to do and they accept it, never thinking they have a choice. In our country we tell the government what to do and we participate in making the choices. The more time I spend in these former soviet controlled countries the more I hope we never change.

Regards, Lt. Earl R. Woods, Jr.

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.

You deserve a real nurse

To the Editor:

I am writing in regards to HB 3697, the Oregon Hospital Association's super board and anti-RN bill. This bill would allow anyone, regardless of training or education, to put "RN" after their name so long as they register with the state. It also creates a super board to regulate these people without providing for an educated, trained, tested registered nurse sitting on this board.

This bill was introduced for one purpose only: "for profit" hospitals want to cut costs and increase revenue by eliminating real nurses (RNs) from the rosters. This is threat not only to educated nurses such as myself but an even bigger threat to the public. Untrained and uneducated persons in the health-care setting threaten the very lives of those we are trying to heal. In areas of the country where this has been allowed, hospital stays have doubled because complications have doubled due to poor patient care, not to mention the doubled cost to the patient. If an insurance company only pays for a five-day stay and you have to stay 10 days, guess who pays for the additional five days.

Hospitals in the business of making money care nothing for the public, their patients or the cost of care. If the patient doesn't pay for their additional days stay, they will simply send them to collections. It's all business and greed. Would you like to be hurried into a busy emergency room with a heart attack and be evaluated and given intravenous medications by someone with two weeks

orientation to giving bed baths. Health care is about people. It is my and my colleagues' duty to protect those people. The laws and regulations we have in place right now protect the public from these money hungry businessmen.

If we are to truly keep costs down, patients must receive the best care possible. That means receiving care from educated, trained real nurses. We want to protect you from the greed of hospital stockholders who don't care about you. Please speak out and let your state legislator know you want quality, professional care. You deserve a real nurse.

(s) Lori E. Straley
Registered Nurse
Certified Surgical Technologist

Obituaries

Darrell T. Vinson

Darrell T. Vinson, 78, of Heppner, died Sunday, June 22, 1997, at his home.

At his request, no services will be held.

Mr. Vinson was born September 13, 1918, at Monument to Elza and Emma Ferguson Vinson. He was raised on the family farm on the North Fork John Day River. He attended the Kimberly school and the Pumpkin Center School in Grant County. When he was 12, he moved to Buttercreek, where he attended Lena, Sunnyside and Pine City schools in Morrow County.

On July 27, 1958, he married Henrietta Sue Heath, at Eugene. He worked in Morrow County most of his life and worked 17 of those years as custodian for the Morrow County School District.

He was a member of the Morrow County Historical Society and served on the St. Patrick Mealsite Committee.

Survivors include his wife, Sue; stepchildren, Melvin Gilchrist of Alamogordo, New Mexico, Anna Schwarzin of Heppner, Joe Heath of Florence, Kansas; and Fran Barnett of Ione; 13 grandchildren, 26 great-grandchildren and one great-great-grandchild. He was preceded in death by sisters, Emma, Elba, Floss and Iva, and brothers Lee, L.D., Buster, Ben and Delbert.

Memorial contributions may be made to St. Patrick's Senior Center Trust Fund, P.O. Box 266, Heppner, OR 97836.

Sweeney Mortuary, Heppner, is in charge of arrangements.

Mildred I. Morgan

Mildred I. Morgan, 79, of Ione, died Saturday, June 21, 1997 at Pioneer Memorial Hospital in Heppner.

The funeral was Wednesday, June 25, 1997, with concluding service and burial at High View Cemetery in Ione.

Mrs. Morgan was born February 2, 1918, at Ione, to Ernest and Lena Baker Lundell. She grew up at Ione and attended school there, graduating in 1936.

On September 3, 1941, she married Lloyd W. Morgan, at Stevenson, Washington. The couple lived and farmed in the Ione area all their married life.

Mrs. Morgan was a member of Eastern Star and the Rebekah Lodge for 61 years.

She enjoyed her family and especially enjoyed watching her grandchildren play sports.

Survivors include a son, Virgil of Ione; daughters, Judy Davidson of Portland, Geraldine Paavola of Scappoose and Bonni Ball of Ione; a sister, Helen Pettyjohn of Ione; a brother, Richard Lundell of Pendleton; 10 grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her husband, a son, two sisters and two brothers.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Lloyd Morgan Athletic Fund, c/o bank of Eastern Oregon, Ione Branch, Ione, OR 97843, or a charity of choice.

Sweeney Mortuary, Heppner, was in charge of arrangements.

Verner E. Troedson

Verner E. Troedson, of Pendleton, who celebrated his 90th birthday on June 12, 1997, died less than a week later, on Wednesday, June 18, 1997, at his home in Pendleton.

Memorial services were held Monday, June 23, 1997, at Pendleton.

Mr. Troedson was born at the family ranch at Ella, near Ione, in 1907, to Thilda and Johan

Troedson, Swedish immigrants. He attended the local school through eighth grade when he started farming. During the Depression in the 1930s, he purchased his own ranch in the Ione area and devoted the next 40 years to farming.

On March 24, 1948, he married Margaret Brewster McGreer, who along with 12 year old daughter, Shirlee, joined Mr. Troedson on his ranch.

The Troedsons retired in 1971 and sold the ranch to Eric and Marnie Anderson.

In addition to farming, Mr. Troedson enjoyed the stock market, most sports, especially baseball, football and boxing, and the Pendleton Round-Up, which he had attended over 60 times. He also liked to travel and had made many trips to Sweden to visit relatives and, in 1960, participated in a People to People farming tour of Eastern Europe.

He was a member of the Wheat League, the Episcopal Church of the Redeemer and had been a member of the Heppner Elks Lodge for 67 years.

Survivors include his wife, Margaret, and daughter, Shirlee, both of Pendleton. He was preceded in death by brothers, Carl and Francis, and sister, Linea.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Episcopal Church of the Redeemer, 241 S.E. Second St., Pendleton, OR 97801; the Education Foundation of Pendleton, P.O. Box 812, Pendleton, OR 97801, or to a charity of choice, directly or through Bishop Funeral Chapel, P.O. Box 325, Pendleton, OR 97801.

Jared D. Vandecar

Jared David Vandecar, 16, of Irrigon, died Tuesday, June 17, 1997, at The Dalles hospital of injuries sustained in a fall from a bluff on the Phillipi Ranch near Arlington.

The funeral was held Saturday, June 21, 1997 at Boardman, with burial at Mt. Hope Cemetery in Baker City.

Jared was born December 1, 1980, at Hermiston, to Lois Elaine and Robert Louis Vandecar III. The family moved to Irrigon when he was two and he grew up in the area and attended schools at Irrigon and Boardman. A natural athlete, he had played football, basketball and baseball all through his school years and baseball every summer.

He was a member of the Riverside Future Farmers of America and loved hunting, motorcycle riding and camping.

Survivors include his parents Robert and Lois Vandecar and brother, Robbie, of Irrigon; sister, Nicole Case of Spokane; and grandparents, David Trump of Milton-Freewater, and Leroy and Pat Zeller of Colfax, Washington. He was preceded in death by grandparents, Robert and Lorena Vandecar, and grandmother, Pauline Trump.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Columbia Storm Legion baseball team, P.O. Box 1032, Boardman, OR 97818.

Mueller's Tri-Cities Funeral Home, Kennewick, Washington, was in charge of arrangements.

Raymond George "Ray" Blahm

Funeral services for Raymond George "Ray" Blahm, 88, Hermiston, formerly of Heppner, were held June 5, 1997, at Burns Mortuary Chapel in Hermiston.

Burial was at the Echo Cemetery. Mr. Blahm was born March 1, 1909, at Heppner to Adam George Margaret Mary Hartz Blahm. He died Tuesday, June 3, 1997, at the Abundant Care Group Home in Echo.

Mr. Blahm was a resident of Hermiston since 1939, moving there from Heppner. He was a carpenter for 25 years and also owned and operated a dairy and farmed for several years.

On November 26, 1954, he married V. Louise Tolar Broyles at Pasco, Washington.

Mr. Blahm was a member of the Carpenters Eastern Oregon Union Local #306 in Hermiston. He was a Veteran of World War, serving in the U. S. Army. He enjoyed watching wrestling on television.

Mr. Blahm is survived by his wife of 42 years, V. Louise Blahm of Hermiston; sons, Charles Aiken of Umatilla, Dennis Aiken of Riverside, CA, Danny Aiken of Echo, and Stephen Aiken of Edinburg, Scotland; daughters, Margaret Blahm and Melanie Burchette, both of Hermiston; brothers, David Blahm of Tacoma, WA, Elmer Blahm of Portland and Henry Blahm of Hermiston; sister, Lena Bartley of Portland; granddaughter, Jessica Blahm of Hermiston; six step-grandchildren; and two step-great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Adam and Margaret Blahm; sisters, Clara Sprinkle, Ann Eppereson, Nonna Peterson, and Johanna Blahm; and brother, Fred Blahm.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Abundant Care Group Home or to the Alzheimer's Association.

Bums Mortuary of Hermiston, Oregon was in care of arrangements.

7th-8th grade photos now available

Photos from the Heppner eighth grade dinner-dance are available.

Anyone who had pictures taken may pick them up at Heppner High School Thursday and Friday.

Colleges list local honor students

Carroll College

John Doherty of Lexington is among students who were named to the spring semester dean's list at Carroll College, announced academic dean Dr. Jim Trudnowski.

To be named to Carroll's Dean's List, students must maintain a grade point average of at least 3.5 and be enrolled for a minimum of 12 credit hours.

Carroll is a four-year, Catholic, residential, liberal arts college located in the heart of the Rocky Mountains in Helena, Mont. Bachelor of arts degrees are offered in more than 30 academic areas.

University of Portland
The University of Portland School of Nursing has announced that Melissa Wallace, Lexington, has qualified for the dean's list during the spring semester.

Oregon State University
Oregon State University conferred 3,301 degrees to 3,212 students during its 1997 commencement program held earlier this month.

Local students include: Heppner-John Kenny, Daniel Michael and Peter Pearson, bachelor of science (BS) in business administration, and Alecia Tarnasky, BS in merchandising management; Ione-Nancy Swarat and Marvin House, master of science in mathematics education, and Amy Daulton, BS in history.




Washington State University
The following local students were named to the President's honor roll during the spring semester.


To be eligible, a student must earn at least a 3.75 grade point average (GPA), or maintain at least a 3.5 cumulative GPA.

Crystal Minster, of Ione, qualified for the honor roll.

St. Christopher Medals

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Starting Thursday,
June 26th, 1-7 p.m.
Main Street, Heppner
(next to Murray's Drugs)

**Get Your
Fireworks
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FREE FAMILY FUN

The Morrow County Arts Council and The Community of Ione present
the **FIRST ANNUAL IONE**

RED, WHITE, and -BLUES- FESTIVAL*

JULY 4TH

FEATURING THREE OF THE TOP NORTHWEST
BLUES BANDS OF NATIONAL RENOWN!!!
the PAUL DE LAY Band,
L'L LYNNE and THE SMOKIN' SOLES,
JIMMY LLOYD REA and THE SWITCHMASTERS

BANDS START AT 1:30 IN THE PARK
MUSIC ALL AFTERNOON - INTO THE NIGHT





*THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS: Willow Creek Park and Recreation District, ICB, Ione City Council, Columbia Basin Electric, Burns Creek Ranch, Bank of ICB, Morrow County Beta Chapter, Heppner Historical Society, Heppner Stage, Peterson's Jewellers and Butlers Supply, Morrow County United Navigation District. *FREE HOME INFORMATION: CALL 541-422-7338 OR 541-422-7243