

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

**Heppner
GAZETTE-TIMES**

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Morrow County's Home-Owned Weekly Newspaper

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David Sykes Publisher
April Hilton-Sykes Editor

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Obituaries

Rose Marie Buschke

Rose Marie Buschke, 82, of Heppner, died Saturday, February 19, 2000 at Pioneer Memorial Nursing Home.

Recitation of the Rosary was held Monday, February 21, 2000 at St. Patrick's Catholic Church in Heppner. Funeral Mass was held Tuesday, February 22, 2000 at the church with concluding service and burial at the Heppner Masonic Cemetery.

Mrs. Buschke was born December 26, 1917, at Elgin, to Clarence and Rose Wehrli Hazen. She grew up at Elgin, attended school there, attended St. Joseph Academy in Pendleton for a couple of years, then returned to Elgin where she graduated from high school.

On June 1, 1936, she married Herman J. Stroeber at Elgin. The couple moved to Heppner in 1960. Mr. Stroeber died in 1968.

On September 13, 1969, she married Claude Buschke at Ontario. Mr. Buschke died in 1990.

Mrs. Buschke was employed by the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service for a number of years.

She was active in community service, serving on the Ration Board, with the Red Cross, helped in developing Spout Springs ski area near Tollgate, played the organ and sang at St. Patrick's Catholic Church, and in 1997 was given the Governor's Award for community service in recognition for helping with the meal site, preparing taxes, involvement with the Heppner swimming pool and with Hanford Emergency Management.

Mrs. Buschke enjoyed hunting, fishing, canning and gardening.

Survivors include son, Don Stroeber and stepson Bob Buschke, both of Heppner; a sister, Agnes Hithrick of Gresham; three grandchildren; five great-grandchildren; two step-grandchildren and four step-great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by stepson Jerry Buschke, and two step-grandsons, Brian and Marty.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Pioneer Memorial Hospital Foundation, P.O. Box 515, Heppner, Oregon 97836.

Sweeney Mortuary of Heppner was in charge of arrangements.

Elsa May Leathers

Elsa May Leathers, 95, of Hermiston, formerly of Heppner, died Friday, February 18, 2000 at the Good Samaritan Center in Hermiston.

Funeral service was held Tuesday, February 22, 2000 at the United Methodist Church in Heppner with concluding service and burial following at the Heppner Masonic Cemetery.

She was born September 23, 1904, at Hardman, to Edward and Emily Perainington McDaniel.

She was raised near Hardman and attended the Burton Valley Schoolhouse near Hardman.

On June 14, 1926, she married Owen H. Leathers, Sr., at Heppner.

She was employed at the Kinzua Box Factory, owned the store and gas station at Ruggs for several years, worked as a cook at Heppner Grade School and worked summers at the Tupper Guard Station cooking for the U.S. Forest Service.

She enjoyed caring for her family and loved being outdoors.

She was a member of the Rebekah Lodge.

Survivors include sister, Opal Cook of Hermiston; three grandchildren; six great-grandchildren and one great-great-grandchild. She was preceded in death by her husband, Owen Leathers, Sr.; son, Owen "Junior" Leathers; sisters, Jessie Lovgren and Dorothy Bailey; and a brother, Carl McDaniel.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Morrow County Museum, P.O. Box 1153, Heppner, Oregon 97836; or Pioneer Memorial Hospital Fund, P.O. Box 9, Heppner, Oregon 97836.

Sweeney Mortuary of Heppner was in charge of arrangements.

Anna Ball

Anna Ball, 92, Hermiston, a lifetime Ione area resident, died Sunday, February 20, 2000, at Good Shepherd Community Hospital in Hermiston.

A graveside memorial service will be held at High View Cemetery in Ione on Thursday, February 24, 2000, at 1 p.m.

She was born March 22, 1907, in Chicago, Illinois, to Peter and Elsie Krestensen Petersen. She grew up at Ione and attended school there. She was in the first graduating class of the new Ione High School in 1925.

On August 29, 1925, she married Lewis Ball at Ione. The couple remained in the Ione area.

She was an active member of Willows Grange, the Home Economic Auxiliary, the Rebekah Lodge and the Bingo Club until poor health curtailed her activities.

Survivors include sons, Don of Ione, Wayne of Portland, and Ellis of Panama City, Florida; 15 grandchildren; numerous great-grandchildren and one great-great-grandchild. She was preceded in death by her husband, Lewis; her parents; three brothers; a sister; and two daughters.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Ione United Church of Christ Building Fund, P.O. Box 365, Ione, Oregon 97843.

Sweeney Mortuary of Heppner is in charge of arrangements.

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. The G-T is not responsible for accuracy of statements made in letters.

Internet auction guide offered

To the Editor:

Internet auctions are one of the hottest phenomena of the web. Yet despite their popularity among buyers as well as sellers, many people don't understand fully how Internet auctions work, the kinds of auctions available - and perhaps most importantly, how to participate in them as responsibly and safely as possible.

Internet auction fraud has become a big problem, with an increasing number of consumers complaining about sellers who deliver their advertised goods late or not at all or deliver something less valuable than promised.

To help educate consumers about Internet auctions, the Federal Trade Commission has

issued the pamphlet, "Internet Auctions: A Guide for Buyers and Sellers." The guide offers tips for buyers to protect themselves against fraud, and advice for sellers on how to make Internet auction transactions as smooth and successful as possible. Copies of the guide are available free from: Federal Trade Commission, Consumer Response Center, 600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20580, Toll-free: 1-877-FTC-HELP (382-4357), TDD: 202-326-2502

More than 150 other consumer publications also are available online from the FTC at www.ftc.gov. Click on "Consumer Protection."

(s) Donna Miles
Federal Trade Commission,
Washington D.C.

Board decision detriment to children

To the Editor:

In a democratic society, I always thought that the objective of volunteer board members is to conduct business in the best interests of the majority. Obviously five Morrow County school board members do not adhere to this philosophy. The decisions at the last school board meeting are a detriment to our children's future and the welfare of the entire county. Their decisions totally ignored what was endorsed by over 200 people in attendance as well as many people who did not attend.

Suggestions that would allow time to study cuts and consider other options before implementation were rejected. The teachers whose jobs are on the line have undoubtedly already been researching other options. Has there been any consideration given to a wage freeze to compensate for budget increases?

It is an interesting choice of words to focus on how much revenue each school "generates". I thought the purpose of schooling is to educate "generations" of students. Since some schools "generate" less money than received how can the board justify budgeting

\$1,111,000. in administrative costs compared to around \$8 million in teachers' salaries and benefits? As a knowledgeable board member Barney Lindsay targeted cuts in administrative costs including the use of district vehicles.

It does cost more to operate south end schools with greater transportation costs and fewer students in a sparsely populated area, but that shouldn't be the determining factor in educating students. By citing the shortfall of revenue, particularly for south end schools, it seems like a determined effort to perpetuate the ugly north-south issue that has plagued the health care district. That stance could be accelerated if we looked at comparative costs of law enforcement or the judicial system for both ends of the county—a cost also born by all taxpayers. Sadly the action of the school board puts a damper on passing a school bond levy in the near future. Hats off to those citizens and board members Barney Lindsay and Keith Lewis who stand firm on the basic principles of upholding the best interests of our students and their future.

(s) Merlyn Robinson
Heppner

Statement about school district office budget incorrect

To the Editor:

On February 14, 2000, at the board meeting of the Morrow County School District, Mr. Bill Kuhn made a remark about the district office budget in an amount of over \$2,000,000. Mr. Kuhn also stated that not a penny of that money went to educate children. I would like to explain just what the District Office budget actually does support.

The total budget, listed as District Office, for the 1999-2000 school year is \$3,280,220 and the following items make up that total:

Talent and Gifted Programs for the entire District \$ 24,107.
Special Education Programs for the entire District 735,864.
Early Intervention Programs 5,500.

Alternative Education Programs for the entire District 237,263.
Tutoring and ESD Contracts for specialists 138,211.
English as Second Language Programs for the entire District 321,243.

Improvement of Instruction and Staff Development 23,500.
Teen Parenting Programs 700.
Assessment and Testing fees 26,000.

Audit, Legal, Election and Insurance Fees for the District 105,503.

Data line charges for the computer network 45,000.
Textbook adoption for Social Studies 120,604.

Unemployment Insurance 20,000.
Contractual Early Retirement 87,000.

Vehicle maintenance (gas, tires, repairs and maintenance) 10,600.
Interfund Transfers (Curricular and Food Service 75,000.
Debt Service (to pay interest if we have to borrow) 6,000.
Operation of Plant, (utilities) 20,200.
Contingency Funds 341,561.
Ending Fund Balance 300,000.
Salaries and Benefits 596,498.
Supplies and other costs of doing business 39,866.

Of the total budget salaries and benefits equal 18 percent. Contingency and Ending Fund Balance equal 20 percent, and 35 percent goes directly to the classroom. The balance, of 27 percent, is either for costs that are mandated by collective bargaining contracts or for legal obligations. In other words, the District Office budget supports all the programs and services that serve the entire School District.

In the 2000-2001 Fiscal Budget, the Business Manager position will be eliminated. The District will be receiving funds from the ESD to defray half of the Assistant Superintendent's salary. The ESD will also fund a computer tech.

Anyone interested in viewing the current budget document is welcome to come to the District Office in Lexington. I also urge you to attend the budget meetings for the 2000-2001 Budget.

I hope this information is helpful to you.
(s) Shirley Landauer,
Business Manager
Morrow County School District

Republicans donate to Cattlemen

To the Editor:

The Malheur County Republican Central Committee has recently donated \$1,000 to the Oregon Cattlemen's Association, to be directed toward aiding Malheur County cattlemen in the court battle to retain their lawfully granted public grazing rights. This action by the Malheur County Republican Central Committee is a challenge to organizations and groups throughout Oregon, whether they are Republicans, Democrats or Independents, to take direct action to aid Oregon's production agriculture.

I hope the publicity of the Malheur County Republican Central Committee's donation will encourage other Republican, Democrat, Independent or other committees and organized agricultural groups to join in saving Oregon production agriculture.

Governmental action in one form or another has hamstrung Oregon's production agriculture to the point its survival is in question.

Those people who have actually investigated the court decision interpreting the Endangered Species Act to close off many miles of the Owyhee River to access by cattle cannot help but see that the government has overstepped its responsibility to conserve and protect natural resources. The government, in fact, is attempting to create natural resources at a level that did not exist even when the Endangered Species Act was passed by Congress. By the court saying there can be no impact by livestock, it is impossible to have multiple use on the government lands.

Similar government action in

the form of the North American Free Trade Agreement and other policies that might have started out as having a positive impact on agriculture have, in fact, damaged segments of Oregon's production agriculture such as fruit production, grain production, and cattle production to the point that the very future of Oregon's production agriculture is in doubt.

I encourage groups and organizations throughout Oregon, whether they are Republicans, Democrats, Independents, or others to unite in support of Oregon's production agriculture. We must protect the heritage and economy of the great state of Oregon through legislative revision of these damaging policies and through support of judicial actions to overturn poor lower court decisions.

The efforts of the Malheur County Republican Central Committee are only the start. I encourage all Oregon citizens to come together and protect this very important segment of Oregon's economy, history, and heritage.

(s) Neil Venturacci
Ontario

EWU announces dean's list

Eastern Washington University in Cheney, WA has announced its dean's honor list for the fall quarter 1999. To be listed, a student must carry at least 12 credits and achieve a grade point average of 3.5 (4. scale) or above, which is equivalent to an "A".

Jill Barber of Heppner qualified for the list.

Engagement



Tarnasky - Hill

Anthony Tarnasky and Heather Hill

Ronald and Patricia Hill of The Dalles have announced the engagement of their daughter, Heather Hill, to Anthony J. Tarnasky, son of Edward and Sheridan Tarnasky of Heppner.

The bride-to-be graduated from The Dalles High School, then studied music at Central Washington University. She lives in The Dalles where she is employed at Columbia River Bank as an operations administrative assistant.

The future groom graduated from Heppner High School and went on to earn a bachelor's degree in finance from Oregon State University. He lives in The Dalles, where he is employed at Columbia River Bank as a commercial loan officer.

The couple plans a May 27 wedding in The Dalles at Old St. Peters Landmark.

Swim team meeting set

Anyone interested in forming a swim team is invited to attend an organizational meeting for volunteers on Wednesday, March 1, at 7 p.m. at the Willow Creek Water Park in Heppner.

No experience is necessary to join.

For more information, call 676-5752 and leave a message.

According to Bobette Lovgren, pool manager, if there is no support, there will be no swim team.

**IT'S TRUE!
IT'S TRUE!
GINGER IS RETIRING!**

**Don't miss her party!
Tuesday, Feb. 29, 2-4 p.m.
Cake and coffee will be served**

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