

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

**Heppner
GAZETTE-TIMES**

U.S.P.S. 240-420

Morrow County's Home-Owned Weekly Newspaper

Published weekly and entered as periodical matter at the Post Office at Heppner, Oregon under the Act of March 3, 1879. Periodical postage paid at Heppner, Oregon. Office at 147 W. Willow Street. Telephone (541) 676-9228. Fax (541) 676-9211. E-mail: gt@heppner.net or gt@rapidserve.net. Web site: www.heppner.net. Postmaster send address changes to the Heppner Gazette-Times, P.O. Box 337, Heppner, Oregon 97836. Subscriptions: \$22 in Morrow County; \$16 senior rate (in Morrow County only, 62 years or older); \$29 elsewhere.

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April Hilton-Sykes Editor

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Obituaries

Charles D. Hendricks

Charles D. Hendricks, 50, of Ione, died Wednesday, February 23, 2000 at Oregon Health Sciences University Hospital.

Graveside services were held Tuesday, February 29, 2000 at High View Cemetery in Ione.

He was born October 20, 1949, at Coos Bay, to Richard and Mildred Wing Hendricks. He was raised at St. Helens and attended school there. He graduated from Scappoose High School.

On April 1, 1980, he married Edith R. McLain in Reno, Nevada.

He lived in the Scappoose/St. Helens area until 1997 when he moved to Ione.

He loved his children, raising them and spending time with them; he enjoyed fishing, the outdoors and playing cards.

Survivors include his wife, Edith, of Ione; daughters, Kimberly Schawth and Patricia Freeze, both of St. Helens, Missy Lou Hendricks in New Mexico; stepsons, Ray Van Derwall and Troy Fisk, both of St. Helens; his mother, Mildred Hendricks of Ione; and brother, Dick Hendricks of Scappoose. He was preceded in death by a son, Erin Ray Hendricks, and his father, Richard S. Hendricks.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Ione City Library, P.O. Box 125, Ione, Oregon 97843. Sweeney Mortuary of Heppner was in charge of arrangements.

Rodney "Rod" Dean Britt

Former area resident, Rodney "Rod" Dean Britt, 61, a Redmond restaurateur, died Monday, Feb. 21, 2000, at Central Oregon District Hospital in Redmond.

The funeral was Friday,

February 25, at the Dayspring Christian Center in Terrebonne with a gathering of family and friends that followed at the Redmond Senior Citizen Center.

Graveside services were held Saturday, February 26, at the cemetery in Spray, with a gathering held at the senior center there.

Mr. Britt was born Oct. 8, 1938, at fossil, to Roy H. and Selma Anderson Britt. He graduated from Spray High School.

On Oct. 24, 1959, he married Theda Croissant at Fossil.

Mr. Britt worked in heavy construction and at one time owned and operated Roy Britt Construction Inc. He had been proprietor of a hardware store at Pilot Rock. During his earlier years, he drove log truck and freight truck at Heppner.

In 1988, the Britt's purchased The Brand Dinnerhouse at Redmond and had operated the restaurant since then.

He and his wife had been able to find time to enjoy a tour of Europe; he also thoroughly enjoyed taking in some of the sights of the continental United States and Canada traveling in

their motorhome.

Mr. Britt really enjoyed golf and the Juniper Country Club became his second home.

Survivors include his wife, Theda, of Redmond; daughter, Kimberly Ann Britt of Redmond; sons, Rodney "Rocky" Allen Britt of Pendleton and Benjamin Fred Britt of Summerville; his mother and stepfather, Selma and Roy James Adams of Spray; a brother, Sidney Ray Britt of Echo; a sister, Ruth Pietila of Floodwood, Min.; and nine grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his father, Roy H. Britt, and brother, Leroy Allen Britt.

Autumn Funerals, Redmond, was in charge of arrangements.

Alice Fletcher

Alice Fletcher, 64, of Irrigon, died Tuesday, Feb. 22, 2000, at Good Shepherd Community Hospital in Hermiston.

The funeral was held at 1 Monday, February 28, at the Molalla Funeral Chapel with burial at Adams Cemetery near Molalla.

Mrs. Fletcher was born Feb. 17, 1936, in Lake County, Ind., to Harry and Henrietta Geib.

She graduated from Hamilton High School in West Los Angeles, Calif.

On Sept. 18 1959, she married George Edward Fletcher.

They moved to Molalla in 1969 and lived on the Fletcher family farm on Ellis Road, raising livestock. They later had their own farm on Herman Road in the Molalla area where they raised horses.

Mrs. Fletcher worked in the banking business for many years. She worked at Bank of America in California, at First Interstate Bank in Mt. Angel and Molalla, and retired from Wells Fargo Bank in Irrigon. She worked part-time for Farmers Insurance after her retirement.

Mr. and Mrs. Fletcher moved to Irrigon in 1993.

The loved to hunt and fish together and travel throughout the year. Mrs. Fletcher had been a Molalla Moose Lodge member since 1972. She and her husband were instrumental in instituting the Irrigon Moose Lodge.

Survivors include her husband, Eddie Fletcher of Irrigon; daughters, Cathy Tolliver of Boise, Idaho, and Patricia Ross of Clarkes; sons, George Edward Fletcher, Jr., and Patrick "Chuck" Fletcher of Boring; a sister, Arlene Clark of Cedar Lake, Ind.; a brother, Lewis Geib of Minneapolis, Minn.; her mother, Henrietta Geib of Cedar Lake, Ind., and eight grandchildren.

Correction

Heppner Junior/Senior High School released its second quarter honor roll, not first semester honor roll, as stated in last week's G-T.

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.

Board seeks help from those it refused to listen to

To the Editor:

It seems that the Morrow County School District Board has backed itself into a corner and is seeking help from the very people it refused to listen to at a Feb. 14 meeting.

Many people spoke at that meeting and asked the board to consider other cost cutting measures before cutting teaching positions. The board had the opportunity to show some good faith and grant their request, holding off on a decision until other options were more fully explored. But with the exception of Barney Lindsey and Keith Lewis, the board chose instead to make those teacher cuts without further consideration.

At last night's meeting the board reiterated their reason for cutting those teaching positions: that it is their "fiduciary responsibility to create a balanced budget." The key word here is create, not merely accept what was suggested by the superintendent.

Do members of the board and the superintendent honestly believe that of all the people in attendance at both meetings that none have ever served as a board or budget committee member and understand the necessity of balancing a budget? This air of arrogance must stop. We know that cuts have already been made in many other areas; we and our

kids live with them every day. We know further cuts must be made now and that they won't be painless. However, there are more ways than one to balance a budget.

You were asked before and were asked again at Monday night's meeting to cut more administrative expenses. If fewer teachers have to pick up the slack of those who are cut it is only fair that administration do the same.

Yes, you must present a balanced budget to the state. Remember, however, your fiduciary responsibility lies to the taxpayers of this county who elected you to represent them.

Many very good ideas came out of Monday night's meeting. Of course not everyone can have everything they want. Board President Frederickson said there is a good chance the proposed local option won't pass. I think the ball is back in the board's court. They have the opportunity to make some requested cuts in administration. If you want the local option to pass, first go back to the table. Listen to your budget and advisory committee members, not just your superintendent. Show some good faith to those who put you where you are.

(s) Patti Allstott
Heppner

McCain's proposals only ones that make sense

To the Editor:

Twelve to 15 years ago, I received a newsletter originating in Washington, D.C., that advised me if I were an executive, I should immediately ask for a high salary because my worth as an executive was based on the salary I was being paid. Shortly thereafter, there was an explosion in executive salaries followed by an explosion in union wages.

Left out of all this largesse were family farmers, family small businesses and minimum-wage earners, most of which were in rural areas.

One can easily understand why the newsletter originated in Washington because politicians are now happily engaged in using the resultant increase in taxes collected to pay on the national

debt.

I would suggest to any voter willing to listen that we must learn to live within our means and pay down the national debt. Continued inflation of wages for only 50 percent of the people should not be viewed as an option.

However, if we give priority to giving a large tax cut, as George Bush wants, or spend the surplus, as Al Gore wishes, the disparity in income between the haves and the have-nots will only increase. And this additional burden will fall heavily upon the shoulders of our children.

John McCain's conservative spending proposals are the only ones that make sense.

(s) Meg Murray
Ione

Local Angus breeder recognized

Kathryn Healy of Heppner, owns one bull listed in the 2000 Spring Sire Evaluation Report published by the American Angus Association which is headquartered in St. Joseph, Mo.

Issued in both the spring and fall, the new report features the latest performance information available on 4,720 sires.

"The American Angus Association has the most complete and comprehensive beef cattle database in the world," says John Crouch, American Angus Association director of performance programs. "Of the sires listed in the main report, 62 percent have expected progeny differences (EPDs) for carcass traits, which should assist cattlemen in choosing genetics that will

produce a more consistent, higher quality beef product." EPDs are generated from performance data submitted by breeders through the Angus Herd Improvement Records (AHIR) program.

Traits in which EPDs are available include birth weight, weaning weight, milk, yearling weight and height, mature daughter weight and height, and scrotal circumference, as well as carcass traits including carcass weight, marbling, rib eye area, external fat thickness and percent retail product.

The analysis for the sire evaluation report is done in cooperation with Iowa State University by Doyle E. Wilson and Dr. Abebe Hassen.

Support annexation into BMCC district

To the Editor:

As the former regional development officer for the Oregon Economic and Community Development Department serving Northeast Oregon, I saw first-hand the value of Blue Mountain Community College to Umatilla and Morrow counties.

The community college was, and continues to be, a key player on the community and economic development front.

Today, voters in Umatilla, Morrow and Baker counties have an opportunity to advance the strength of BMCC and provide more opportunities for jobs and growth in Eastern Oregon. Community colleges rely on increased enrollment for financial and programming

growth, and Baker County represents a largely untapped resource for BMCC.

It is my understanding that approval of this measure will not impact property taxes for Umatilla and Morrow County residents and will simply strengthen the existing community college.

I urge voters in the three counties to support the annexation of Baker County into the Blue Mountain Community College district, as I believe it will prove to be a win/win for all involved.

Please vote yes on the Blue Mountain Community College measure.

(s) Brian Cole
Baker County Commissioner
Baker City

Appeal endangered species listing

To the Editor:

On Jan. 21, 2000 the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission listed the Washington ground squirrel as an endangered species under the Oregon Endangered Species Act.

This occurred without the requisite notice of hearing being sent to affected local governing bodies. These governing bodies include, but are not limited to, Morrow County and The Port of Morrow.

These concerned local governing bodies were, in effect, denied their right to participate in the listing process as representatives of their constituency - the citizens of Morrow County.

It is now the responsibility of these bodies to appeal this mistreatment of Morrow County. Whether one believes that the Washington (not Oregon) ground squirrel is indeed endangered, our rights have been unconscionably trampled by an obviously determined effort of the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission.

On Feb. 25, 2000, the Northwest Environmental Defense Center, Defenders of Wildlife and the Oregon Natural Desert Association filed for emergency listing of the squirrel under the Federal Endangered

Species Act with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service. This proposed listing could adversely impact the management of any private property in the county which is determined to be a squirrel habitat. We do not need the flawed decision of the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission to list the ground squirrel under the state Endangered Species Act to be used as a precedent for this proposed federal listing. Furthermore, we genuinely do not need to have inaction by the County of Morrow or the Port of Morrow to be cited as our tacit approval of any endangered listing of the Washington ground squirrel.

Both the county commissioners and the port commissioners are elected to represent the people of Morrow County. Many citizens are demanding that both the County of Morrow and the Port of Morrow meet their responsibilities to the citizens of their county. They are calling upon these commissions to appeal the state listing in order that we may fully participate in this process. They demand that these commissions protect our rights. I would like to add my voice to this chorus.

(s) Michael Armato
Heppner

Board members show fiscal responsibility

To the Editor:

I just read with considerable amazement, the editorial page in the Feb. 16 issue of the Gazette. There was not a single article in favor of the recent action taken by the school board.

Well, I for one, would like to congratulate each member of the board who had the courage to show enough fiscal responsibility to make hard choices that are good for the whole community and not just good for a select few. I applaud each of you whose shoulders are broad enough to take the heat, complaints and criticisms of special interest groups that probably pay little if anything of the property taxes that support our school system.

Agriculture is the basis of our local economy. Wheat prices are in the toilet. Cattle prices are down. We've raped our forests. The mill is gone. Times are tough and as a community, we need to come to grips with the fact that we don't necessarily need everything we want.

Our school system must operate within its available budget just like everyone else has to. If that means cutting certain programs such as sports and v-og then so be it. In reality, we probably should have made these cuts long ago or maybe not even started some of these programs at

all. We have a limited amount of money to spend and, in my view, reading is more important than football.

I wonder how many of those individuals complaining so loudly would be willing to dip into their own pockets to help support their pet programs? All of this stuff is great as long as someone else is paying the bill.

Finally, I would like to address one more issue. My son came home last night practically in tears because a teacher told his class that, "Although he wasn't supposed to tell them, he felt that they had the right to know." He then proceeded to expound upon all the "terrible things" that are going on in the school system--from his point of view of course. I spent probably half an hour calming him down and explaining to him that this same thing (budget crisis) happened when I was a kid in the Ione school 35 years ago. Same song just different singers. And, it didn't affect my education in the slightest. His teacher is right about one thing, however. He shouldn't be talking to his students about these matters. He should stick to the subject he is being paid to teach and leave his political views at the classroom door.

(s) Sidney Zinter
Ione



**JACKPOT
DOUBLE HEADER**

SATURDAY, MARCH 18TH

BARRELS

4-D Format: \$5 office fee included

Entries: \$20

8 and under: \$10 • Juniors: \$15 • Time Only: \$5

POLES

25 and up: \$15 • 16-24: \$13 • 9-15: \$11 • 8 and under: \$9

Entries open Thursday prior, 8-10 p.m.

Entries close 9:30 a.m., start at 10 a.m.

R & A PAINTS, IONE

Ruby (541) 422-7290 • E-mail shear4shear@yahoo.com

HOME FOR SALE IN IONE

Extremely nice 1996 three bedroom, two bath Valley manufactured home on 1.72 acres in Emert Estates, Ione. Great floor plan, patio in back, outside shed, 24x36x12 shop, nicely landscaped. This home is in immaculate condition.



For more information or to see this lovely home, call Janet Fouse at Schroth Realty, 1-800-726-4603 or (541) 567-4663 or come by the office at 110 NE 4th Street, Hermiston.

Dr. Donald J. Carlson
Foot Specialist

will be at the Pioneer Memorial Clinic on March 8th for the diagnosis and treatment of all foot problems

Heppner 676-5504 Hermiston 567-8750