Obituaries

Delpha K. Jones

Delpha K. Jones, 83, of Lexington, died Saturday, April 15, 2000 at Good Shepherd Community Hospital in Hermiston.

Funeral service was held Wednesday, April 19, 2000 at First Christian Church in Heppner. Concluding service and interment was held at the Lexington Cemetery in Lexington.

She was born December 22, 1916, at Baker City, to Frederick and Florence Spence Merritt. She grew up at Union and attended school there and at Lexington, graduating from Lexington High School.

On August 12, 1937, she married Cecil C. Jones at La Grande. The couple began their married life at Union, then lived at various locations throughout the Northwest before settling at Lexington in 1947. They operated a ranch northwest of Lexington.

Mrs. Jones was involved with the Lillian C. Turner Foundation, the Holly Rebekah Lodge, Ione Garden Club, Lexington Grange 726, Wheatland Pomona Grange, Rhea Creek Home Extension, Morrow County Historical Society, Morrow County Fair Board and was involved in other civic activities.

Survivors include her husband, Cecil Jones of Lexington; daughter, Charlene Whitney of Portland; son, Kenneth Jones of Lexington; sisters, Georgia Irvin of Irrigon and Patricia Cool of Pendleton; two grandchildren and one great-grandchild. She was preceded in death by a granddaughter, Kimberly Ann Whitney, in 1998.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Morrow County Museum Farm Foundation, P.O. Box 515, Heppner, OR 97836.

Sweeney Mortuary of Heppner in charge of arrangements.

Joanne Alice Blake

Joanne Alice Blake, 70, died Tuesday, April 11, at a Portland nursing home.

Born in Heppner, March 6, 1930, she is survived by a sister, Helen Gilliam of Heppner; a brother, Don Blake of San Francisco; two nephews and three nieces and their six children.

Joanne asked that any remembrance be made to the American Cancer Society. Funeral arrangements were pending. She requested that interment be at the Ione cemetery near her parents, Margaret and Earl Blake.

Joanne Blake, a tribute by her brother and sister, Donald Blake and Helen Gilliam.

Born with cerebral palsy, Joanne's life was a lesson in dealing with adversity. She did not have the use of her left arm and hand, she was blind in one eye, and walking was always a struggle for her. But despite these handicaps, or perhaps because of them, she lived life on her own terms and without help. She learned to make-do where others faltered. And she did it without complaint and with good humor. Only a few months ago she was told there was something she couldn't do, but did it as soon as the person was out of the room. A visitor said, "It didn't occur to them you had your teeth to help solve problems.""Yes," she said, "and my nose and my shoulder and my belly and my butt."

Five years before her final illness she had a radical mastectomy, then radiation treatment and chemotherapy. When all her hair fell out, she had a street artist paint a stylized face on the back of her head. Then she sent photos of it to her family and friends.

Unfortunately Joanne's physical problems where unique to her time and place, and people then didn't always know how to help her develop. She not only had to learn how to cope with her handicap, but with those who told her there were things she couldn't do. When she was very young, she wanted a bicycle, and when she was told it was impossible, she begged, wheedled and badgered until she got one. The struggle to learn, hampered even more by rough unpaved roads, was Herculean. But she learned.

In high school, she was told she couldn't take typing. Later she found a teacher who taught her to type with one hand.

In her sixties, despite no familiarity with electronics or computer jargon, she got a computer, learned to browse the Internet and kept in touch with her family via e-mail.

She didn't win all her battles. It was a major disappointment to her that she could never learn to drive a car. She couldn't win over an impaired nervous system that made skills, easily acquired by others, impossible for her.

But she won others. Following graduation from Heppner High School, she attended the Portland Museum of Art school. The museum retained several of her paintings which have appeared in retrospective shows there.

When cancer reappeared throughout her body and she knew she had only a few months left, her good spirits never failed. She knew the names of the staff at the nursing home and all about their families. Visitors who came to see how she was, instead spent the time answering her questions about them and their families. If ever she indulged in self pity, no one saw it.

From a shy, introverted little girl, Joanne blossomed into an open, outgoing and fun-to-be-with friend to every person she met.

She was a beautiful example of how reaction to adversity can change some people for the better.

Heppner officer back on the job

Heppner Police Officer Mike Sweek is back on the job after being placed on paid administrative leave last week, pending investigation on undisclosed charges.

Heppner Police Chief Doug Rathbun said that he investigated the allegations and determined that they were unfounded.

DA's Report

The Morrow County District Attorney David C. Allen has released the following report of cases conducted:

February 10:

-Mary Ann Davis pled guilty to charges of Frequenting a Place Where Controlled Substances Are Used, a class A misdemeanor, and was sentenced to serve 30 days in jail.

-John Joseph Horner, Jr., pled guilty to Assault IV, a class C felony, and sentenced to: pay fines, fees and assessments of $1,659 with $1,000 suspended; 36 months' formal probation; 80 hours community service; complete batterer's intervention at the direction of his probation officer; be subject to an alcohol and drug package, be evaluated for alcohol and drug treatment and submit to drug and alchol treatment programs as recommended by the treatment provider and probation officer; have no further offensive physical contact with the victim or her minor children.

-Efren Q. Muro pled guilty to Harassment, a class B misdemeanor and sentenced to: reimburse the state of Oregon for $200 for court appointed attorney's fees; 90 days in the Morrow County Jail; enroll in the batterer's intervention program by contacting Morrow County Behavioral Health; one year bench probation.

Sergio Renteria Landersos pled guilty to Criminal Trespass I, a class A misdemeanor, and was sentenced to: two years' bench probation; 90 days in jail, suspended; fines, fees, assessments and reimbursements of $929, $500 suspended; 80 hours community service; no further unwanted physical contact with the victim.

-Gabriel Escobedo was found to be in violation of his probation-his probation was revoked and reinstated, extended for one year from original expiration date. He was also ordered to make payments toward his court-ordered fines and fees.

-Martin Quezada pled guilty to Driving While Suspended, a class A misdemeanor, and sentenced to pay $929 in fines, fees, reimbursement and assessments, with $500 suspended; 90 days in jail, suspended; serve two years' bench probation, 60 hours community service and ordered to obey all laws and have no further traffic offenses during the term of his probation period.

-Michael Dean Lynch pled guilty to Possession of a Controlled Substance, a class C felony and sentenced to: pay $1469 in fines, fees, reimbursement and assessments, $1,000 suspended; 10 days in jail with credit for 10 days served; 18 months' formal probation; be subject to drug and alcohol package; with bail posted applied to all court-ordered financial obligations.

February 15:

-Hipolito Munoz pled guilty to Assault IV, a class A misdemeanor, and was sentenced to: two years' bench probation; 180 days in jail, suspended; no contact with the victim; pay fines, fees and assessments of $1369, $750 suspended; complete batterer's intervention program by contacting Morrow County Behavioral Health; undergo alcohol evaluation and treatment by contacting Morrow County Behavior Health.

February 17:

-Jose Carvajal pled guilty to six accounts of Assault IV, a class C felony, and Driving Under the Influence of Intoxicants, a class A misdemeanor, and was sentenced on count one-to pay fines, fees and assessments of $1,100; three years' formal probation; suspension of driver's license for five years to run concurrent to all counts; write letter of apology to all victims; be subject to alochol package through MCBH; with all court ordered financial obligations docketed as a civil judgment; on count two- pay fines, fees and assessments of $1,100; three years' formal probation; driver's license suspended for five years, concurrent; write letter of apology to all victims within 30 days of the order; be subject to the alcohol package through MCBH; on count three-pay fines fees and assessments of $1,100; three years' formal probation; driver's license suspended for five years, concurrent; write letter of apology to all victims within 30 days; be subject to alcohol package; on count four-pay fines, fees and assessments of $1,100; three years' formal probation; driver's license suspended for five years, concurrent; write letter of apology to all victims; be subject to the alcohol package; count six-fines fees and assessments of $1,100; three years' formal probation, driver's license suspended for five years, concurrent; write letter of apology to all victims; be suject to the alcohol package; Driving Under the Influence of Intoxicants, a class A misdemeanor-fines, fees and assessments of $1279; serve 90 days in jail with credit for 45 days served; driver's license suspended for one year to run concurrent; attend the DUII Victim's impact panel.

-Paul A. Carlson pled guilty to Frequenting a Place Where Controlled Substances are Used, a class A misdemeanor; sentenced to 45 days in jail (suspended); two years' bench probation; pay $929 in fines, fees, assessments and reimbursements, $500 suspended; obtain a substance abuse evaluation through MCBH.

-Dellana Irene Ferrell plead guilty to Unauthorized Use of a Motor Vehicle, a class C felony, and sentenced to: pay $1319 in fines fees, assessments and reimbursement, $500 suspended; two years' formal probation.

Mail-in ballots to be sent out by end of the month

Morrow County mail in ballots are expected to be mailed to voters by the end of the month, according to the Morrow County Clerk's Office.

The ballots must be returned to the clerk's office by May 16.

Morrow County voters will decide the fate of the Morrow County School District Local Option Serial Levy.

To pass the levy must be approved by a double majority-50 percent of the county's registered voters, not just 50 percent of those voting.

The school district local option, if passed, would impose a levy of $1,000,000 a year for five years beginning in the 2000-2001 year for school district operations. The levy, however, is expected to generate only $500,000 for the school district, because of Ballot Measure 5 and 50 limitations.

The levy specifies that the taxes would be used to fund teaching positions, including employment of 10 teachers-two in Heppner, one in Ione and seven in the Boardman-Irrigon area. The school district cut teaching staff when faced with almost a million dollar budget shortfall.

The school district serial levy tax rate would be an estimated $1.04 per thousand assessed valuation. A taxpayer with a $50,000 home may pay around $520; a taxpayer with a $100,000 home may pay around $1,040; a taxpayer with a $500,000 business may pay around $5,200; and a taxpayer with a $1 million farm may pay around $10,400.

Morrow County Tax Assessor Greg Sweek earlier said residential property owners and farmers would probably bear the brunt of the new tax, while commercial property owners would probably be less affected. Industrial property owners would probably not see an increase in their taxes because the tax monies generated result from the difference between market and assessed valuation. Most industrial property, he said, has nearly equal market and assessed valuation, so would not see additional taxes.

Sweek said that tax increases are estimated around three percent.

Voters will also decide the fate of numerous state measures:

-an amendment to the constitution which would make certain local taxing districts' temporary property tax authority permanent. This would affect only the tax rate limits of Dechutes County, Linn County and the city of Sweet Home.

-an amendment to the constitution which would lengthen the period for verifying signatures and initiative and referendum petitions from 15 to 130 days.

-an amendment to the constitution which would increase signatures required to place initiatives amending the constitution on the ballot from eight percent of the total number of votes cast for all candidates in the last election for governor to 12 percent.

-an amendment to the constitution which authorizes using fuel tax, vehicle fees for increased policing of the highway system. Authorizes use of revenues from fuel tax and motor vehicle fees for construction, reconstruction, improvement, repair, maintenance, operation, use of public highways, roads, streets, roadside rest areas, administration costs, highway bond retirement, certain parks and recreation costs. Authorizes additional use of such revenues to increase policing of public highways, roads, streets, and roadside rest areas by law enforcement officers.

-an amendment to the constitution which allows the legislature to limit recovery of damages in civil actions.

-a referendum which would repeal the truck weight-mile tax; establish a diesel fuel tax of 29 cents per gallon; and increase fuel taxes by five cents to diesel tax rate; raises vehicle registration fees; requires licenses for diesel fuel suppliers, distributors and others; requires record keeping, monthly tax reports by licensees. It authorizes the tranportation department to enforce the requirements with fines, penalties, criminal sanctions and other provisions.

The measure would increase gas tax revenues and expenditures an average of $140 million per year over five years. Of that increase $39 million per year is allocated to counties; $22.5 million per year to cities; and $78.5 million per year to the state.

On the **Democrat** ballot voters will select:

-President-Lyndon H. Larouche, Jr. or Al Gore.

-U.S Representative in Congress-Walter Ponsford, unopposed.

-Secretary of State-Bill Bradbury, unopposed.

-State Treasurer-Randall Edwards or Gary Bruebaker.

-Attorney General-Hardy Myers, unopposed.

-State Senator, 29th District-Bill George Duncan, unopposed.

-State Representative, 57th District-Keith Kirkwood, unopposed.

-Morrow County Commissioner Position No. 1-John Wenholz, unopposed.

On the **Republican** ballot, voters will select:

-President-George W. Bush or Alan Keyes;

-U.S. Representative 2nd Congressional District (unopposed)- Greg Walden;

-Secretary of State- Lynn Lundquist, Paul Damian Wells or Lynn Snodgrass;

-State Treasurer (unopposed)-Jon Kvistad;

-Attorney General (unopposed)-Kevin L. Mannix;

-State Senator 28th District (unopposed)-Ted Ferrioli;

-State Representative 59th District (unopposed)-Greg Smith;

-Morrow County Commissioner-no candidate filed.

Non-partisan candidates are as follows:

-Judge of the Supreme Court Position 2-Randall H. Niven, Charley Merten, Phillip D. Hatfield, Greg Byrne, Paul J. Demuniz.

-Judge of the Supreme Court (all unopposed) Position 3-Robert D. (Skip) Durham, incumbent; Position 6-Wallace P. Carson, Jr., incumbent.

Judge of the Court of Appeals (all unopposed) Position 3-Rives Kistler, incumbent; Position 5-Rick Haselton, incumbent; Position 8-Jack L.. Landau, incumbent; Position 10-Rex Armstrong, incumbent.

-Judge of the Circuit Court 8th District Position 1-Greg Baxter, unopposed.

-Morrow County Assessor-Greg Sweek, unopposed.

-Morrow County Surveyor (vote for one)-Judson Coppock, Ronald V. McKinnis.

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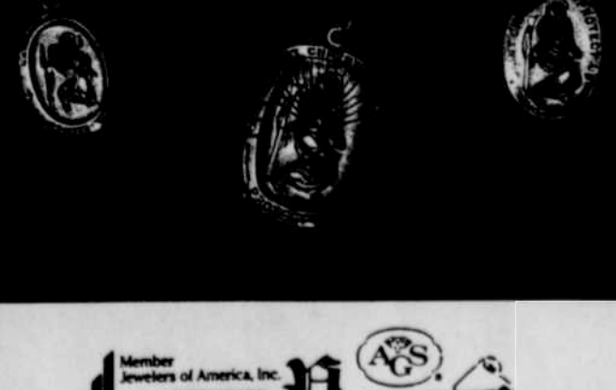

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