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of the City of Heppner and the County of Morrow

**Heppner
GAZETTE-TIMES**

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Obituaries

Billy "Bill" Abb Ward

Billy Abb Ward, 68, of Letha, Idaho, died May 18 at his home. Friends and family will gather in his honor at the Let'er Buck Room in Pendleton on Friday, May 26, from 5-7 p.m.

Mr. Ward was born October 22, 1931, in Kiowa, Oklahoma, to Lacy and Ruby Scroggins-Ward. He attended school in Kiowa and graduated from Kiowa High School. After graduation he moved to Prineville and began working for Hudspeth Logging. In 1961 he moved to Athena where he worked for Johns, Smith, and Beamer feedlot. Later he became a self-employed cattle buyer for several years. He then worked for Riley Freeman in both Oregon and California before settling in Letha in 1988. In Letha he ran a ranch for Dr. Rodney and Marcia Herr, and also had a small herd of cattle of his own.

Mr. Ward was a Gold Card member of the Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association. He was a calf roper, team roper and later had a passion for single steer roping. He was runner-up for the steer roping title at the Pendleton Round-Up in 1979, and the Columbia River Circuit Steer Roping Champion in 1980. He was a lifetime cowboy both in and out of arena.

After retiring from rodeo competition, fishing became his sport of choice. The highlights of his fishing travels were journeys to Kodiak Island, Alaska, and the creeks of Western Montana. There was no stream, pond, lake, or river that was safe when he knew there were fish.

Survivors include two sons and daughters-in-law, Frank and Caroline Ward of LaGrande, and Jim and Susie Ward of Heppner; granddaughters Lindsey and Ashley Ward of Heppner, and Lacy and Whitney Ward of LaGrande; and brother Lacy Don of Emmett, Idaho. His best friend, partner, and companion, Julie Aubuchon of Letha, also survives him. His parents preceded him in death.

Memorial contributions may be sent to the Justin Cowboy Crisis Fund at PRCA Headquarters, 101 ProRodeo Dr., Colorado Springs, CO 80919.

Eva Brosten

Former Morrow and Umatilla County resident, Mary "Eva" Wilcox Brosten, 92, of Potlatch, Idaho, died Monday, March 27, 2000, at her home.

A memorial gathering will be held at Eagles Lodge in Hermiston from noon to 3 p.m. The Eagles will serve salad and sandwiches.

Mrs. Brosten was born July 23, 1907, at Lexington, to Robert and Ethel Eskelson Wilcox. She attended schools at Lexington and Klamath Falls, and completed three years at Oregon State University in Corvallis.

An avid horsewoman, she served as royalty for the Pendleton Round-up and Heppner Rodeo.

In 1942, she joined the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps and received an honorable discharge on July 13, 1943. She returned to Oregon where she worked as a bookkeeper and trained horses.

On May 16, 1944, she married Edwin I. Brosten at Walla Walla. After World War

II, they made their home at Hermiston. In 1948, they moved to Elk River, Idaho, where they operated a diary for several years. They later switched to a beef and hay operation, which they ran until retirement in 1969.

After retirement they moved to Flannigan Creek out of Potlatch, Idaho, where Mrs. Brosten continued to ride and train her horses.

She thoroughly enjoyed riding and working with horses. She worked with the 4-H youth program in Oregon, organized a 4-H horse group at Elk River and, after moving to Potlatch, continued to work with a small group of interested riders. She enjoyed horseback riding into her 80s. Mrs. Brosten was an avid reader and loved archeology, geology, and ancient history and science. She was the queen of the Heppner Rodeo in 1925.

Survivors include her daughter, Lois Rasmussen and two granddaughters; a sister, Dorris Graves of Heppner, brothers, Charles Wilcox of Medford, Claud Wilcox of Portland. She was preceded in death by her husband, Edwin, and a brother, Lester Wilcox.

Memorial contributions may be made to Hospice of the Palouse, 700 South Main, Moscow, ID 83843, or the Ann Beckner Foundation, c/o Betty Nagle, 1625 Deep Creek Road, Potlatch, ID 83855.

Kramer Funeral Home of Palouse, Wash., is in charge of arrangements.

Twilight tours planned

On Thursday, June 1, Oregon State University will offer a Twilight Tour of the state variety trial at Starvation Farms on the Bombing Range Road one mile north of Grieb Lane at 6 p.m.

Scott McDonald, CBARC agronomist will be on hand at the plots to answer questions about the variety program, and wheat varieties. For more information call Morrow County Extension service, 676-9642.

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.

Have fun, recycle

To the Editor:

Have fun--recycle. Save green bows off of your Christmas packages; they will come in handy, when good old St. Pat's Day rolls around March 17.

Save your coffee grounds in a double layer of bread wrappers; when full, sprinkle in your flower boxes or flower garden. (Angleworms like them too.)

Easter baskets make good bird houses. Use wire to make the handle strong, then add a couple more wires to form a frame for the cover. Cut a circular piece of material large enough to make the cover. Gather about one-third edge of circle of material to make a door opening for the new family. Gather and sew the rest to the basket. Poke a small limb in the basket for a "door" step.

People who comb and brush their pets could have a good supply of wooly, soft hair, fuzz

to put out for birds to line their nests with. A small weight will keep it from blowing away. Lint from your clothes dryer serves the same purpose.

When your hand soap becomes too thin for use, save in a double bread wrapper. When you have saved enough to half-fill a medium sized cooking kettle, cover with water and heat until dissolved. Pour in to custard cups or any kind of mold. Allow to set and dry for a few days before unmolding.

If you set your miniature water fall and lake on a low level your pets will enjoy it as a drinking fountain and the refills keep the water fresh. The two little green frogs that swim in mine earn their own living by catching flies, gnats or any other insects that get in by mistake.

(s) Lois Winchester
Heppner

Too few teachers result in problems

To the Editor:

It is hard for me to believe that if all Morrow County residents were fully aware of the small school scheduling difficulties due to too few teachers that anyone would wish to inflict a similar situation on their own children. And this will happen if we split a too-small funding pie into yet smaller pieces.

I am told that 75 percent of Heppner's students did not get the classes they needed or wanted this year due to already-in-place staff reductions. An example of the difficulty is a student who had to take a required Spanish course her freshman and junior year instead of in sequence. A year's lapse in between does not promote retention but does promote a waste of time. Another student had to take a physics class when a chemistry class was being taught by the same teacher at the same time. This is hard on both teacher and student.

Examples of scheduling difficulties in small schools are everywhere, but the school board is currently proposing the possibility of inflicting this situation on all communities in Morrow County. Ione's situation in the past has been different. Their student body has been so small that they could give one-on-one instruction to some of their students, but if their numbers grow, they will have increased difficulty. As 10 Heppner High students transferred to Ione this year, Ione may begin experiencing this same difficulty.

Splitting the course offerings between two schools in North Morrow will lessen both schools. How many people want this? We rely on our school board to make good decisions, but when they follow poor instructions from their superintendent, they fail everyone.

We are now paying the price for the ridiculous decision to have only four days schooling in a week. I contest the statement that it saves \$300,000. Teachers are still paid the same; the lights are still on and athletic buses still run. The only thing accomplished is a further reduction in what we offer our students, but provides a benefit for the teachers.

Figures can show what you want them to. Our budget figures this year were based on an average salary of \$50,000 for teachers. I am told that this was the average salary of very tenured teachers in Heppner and not on a county-wide average. I cannot put faith in getting a straight answer from this and past administrations.

If the people of Morrow County want good public schools, we must make the right decisions for ourselves.

(s) Meg Murray
Ione

Track results in next paper

Local results and photos of the 2A state track meet will appear in next week's Gazette-Times.

PO helps raise cancer funds

The Heppner Post Office has joined a nationwide campaign to raise funds for breast cancer research by encouraging the use of a special fund-raising stamp on cards and letters, with a goal of selling out the stamp.

The Breast Cancer Research "semipostal" stamp is the first in U.S. history to have its net proceeds above the cost of postage earmarked for research organizations. If the entire print run of 280 million stamps is sold out, up to an estimated \$20 million will be raised for breast cancer research. To date about \$11 million has been raised.

"The self-adhesive Breast Cancer Research stamp is now available," said Heppner Postmaster Debbie Rutherford. "The Postal Service has a proud tradition of issuing stamps to help raise awareness of social issues. This stamp continues our active role in the fight against breast cancer, one of the deadliest diseases among women. We encourage everyone to purchase and use the stamp before it goes off sale July 29. Send a message from the heart!"

The 40-cent, self-adhesive Breast Cancer Research stamp is valid for postage at the 33-cent First-Class letter rate, with up to seven cents per stamp sold going to research. Seventy percent of net proceeds above the cost of postage is given to the National Institutes of Health (NIH). Thirty percent goes to the Medical Research Program of the Department of Defense (DoD). The NIH and DoD, which both conduct breast cancer research, were identified as recipients of the funds by legislation.

To see an image of the Breast Cancer Research stamp, or to order stamps, visit the Postal Service's Web site at www.stampsonline.com. The stamps are also available toll-free at 1-800-STAMP-24.

Vacation Bible School to be held June 5-9

"Veggie Tales" is the theme for this year's Vacation Bible School to be held on June 5-9 at Heppner First Christian Church, from 6- 8:15 p.m.

Kids three years old to sixth grade will have the chance to meet "Bob" the tomato and "Larry" the cucumber, as they sing "Veggie Tunes," play games, create arts and crafts, and participate in Bible lessons. Kids will learn, "That whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God."

Each day that children participate in VBS, they will have the opportunity to earn "Veggie Bucks." At the end of each day, children will exchange their "Veggie Bucks" for a selection of prizes. The more bucks earned, the better the prize. Ways to earn "Veggie Bucks" include bringing a Bible, bringing a friend, good behavior, and for just showing up.

VBS is free, with no obligations. For more information contact C.J. at 676-9209.

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