

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
Katie Wall Editor

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Obituaries

**Vashti Geneva
"Jean" Didier**

Vashti Geneva "Jean" Didier, 83, a longtime Hermiston and Irrigon resident, died Friday, June 6, 2003, at Oregon Health Sciences University Hospital in Portland.

A funeral was held June 11, with burial at Hermiston Cemetery.

Didier was born April 13, 1920, at Rolla, KS, to Conrad and Bertha Gann Sullivan. She moved with her family to Fay, OK, when she was 10 and completed school at Fay.

On May 25, 1939, she married Hinson W. Didier at Watonga, OK. They moved to Hermiston in 1950. There she worked in agriculture for a time, as a cook at McCabes Restaurant in Hermiston and at what is now the Crossroads Restaurant in Umatilla. She and her husband had a produce stand in Hermiston on the corner of Highland Avenue and Hwy. 395 from 1958-1969. Then they moved to Irrigon where they owned and operated Riverview fruit stand on Hwy. 730 from 1969 until retirement in 1996. They were well known for Didier tomatoes.

Didier's husband died in 1998 and in 2002 she moved to Portland to be near family.

She was a member of the Trinity Lutheran Church in Hermiston and a 51-year member of Hermiston Eagles Lodge 2909.

She enjoyed cooking, sewing, reading, family gatherings and playing pinocle and loved dancing.

Survivors include sons, Bill Didier of Vancouver, WA, Tony Didier of Sedalia, MO, and Conley Didier of Fallon, NV; daughter, Lucille Haynes of Portland; sister, Jennie Van Slyck of North Bend; 14 grandchildren and 14 great-grandchildren. Besides her husband, she was preceded in death by her parents, a daughter, Pat Didier

Reece, a grandson, David Darrell Brasel, brothers, Ernest, Carl, Earl, George and Wayne; a sister, Mae, and an infant sister.

Memorial contributions may be made to the American Cancer Society through Burns Mortuary of Hermiston, P.O. Box 289, Hermiston, OR 97838.

Joshua Charles

Joshua Charles Daniel Jenson, 16, of Pendleton, died Thursday, June 5, 2003, as the result of a motor vehicle accident near Helix while he was on his way to summer league basketball practice.

A funeral was held for him on June 12 in Pendleton, with burial following at Olney Cemetery.

He was born Sept. 20, 1986, at Pendleton to Charles D. and Patricia A. Devine-Jenson.

He had just completed his sophomore year at Helix High School where he was involved in student government, publications and was a member of the Helix basketball team.

In addition to school activities, he had a voracious interest in film, editing and computers. His goal was to attend University of Southern California Film School. He enjoyed travels with his family throughout Europe and the United States and it inspired much of his creativity.

Survivors include his parents, Chuck and Patti Jenson; sister, Jessica Jenson; grandparents, Rep. Robert and Evelyn Jenson and Pete and Betty Keating, all of Pendleton; Barbara Bloodsworth of Heppner and Vickie Gibson-Devine of Culver; and many other relatives. He was preceded in death by grandfathers, Jim Devine of Culver and Jim Bloodsworth of Heppner.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Joshua Jenson Memorial Scholarship Fund through Bishop Funeral Chapel, P.O. Box 325, 131 S.E. Byers, Pendleton, OR 97801.

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. (Any letters expressing thanks will be placed in the classifieds under "Card of Thanks" at a cost of \$7.)

Ione Schools' excellence more dependent on teachers, community, rather than unified district

To the Editor:

The Ione School's fight to regain its independence has attracted, through the Associated Press article, interest in papers throughout our country. We have had calls from friends and relatives in Roseburg, Red Bluff and New York that they had read the story of their old hometown. Unfortunately the tenor of the story seems to be the economic loss of our businesses which one version listed as only a bank and restaurant. Of course we do not want to lose our eight small businesses, but most of all we do not want to lose one of the premier small schools in our state.

The Ione school has been in existence for over 120 years. For the first 60 years it was the town district then the one-room districts were incorporated, then as the school for southwest Morrow County and served the students from the town plus a thinly populated rural area about 16 miles wide by 26 miles long. Until the mid-twenties some of the families with high school-aged children living in the more remote areas moved to town or boarded them there during the school year. With the advent of better roads it was feasible to run buses north and south and up and down the creeks and serve its present boundaries.

Even in its earlier years the school has claimed many distinguished graduates, among them the engineer designer of the Golden Gate bridge, a long time Oregon chancellor of higher education and a host of respected professionals and successful farmers. Almost 50 years ago the district set some goals, the first being that every graduate of the high school would have the opportunity to take all the required courses for admission

to Stanford. With the consolidation of the sixties, goals were changed but the community's dedication and support for better education has never diminished. However the present reputation for excellence depends more on the labors of its dedicated teachers rather than the support of the unified district.

Twice prior to this last attempt to abolish this school a similar effort was proposed, the plans were dropped when it was discovered that the possible savings in instruction were offset by increased cost of transportation. Where now some of our children were transported as much as 40 miles a day, the new plan would require as much as 80 miles a day for a few. Then of course, if only the middle and high school were moved we would have had two bus systems. Last of all, about half the students would be excluded from participation in extra curricular activities at the combined school.

An additional complaint is that when local administrators were no longer responsible to a local board some never had enough interest in the children to even attend school activities. For example one recent administrator had so little interest that he never bothered to attend the seniors' baccalaureate services. But probably the main feeling of the patrons is that a local board will hire an administrator who will teach some classes. And while they will always support an education that will prepare their students for careers beyond the hills of Morrow County, they will never tolerate wastefulness nor policies that will hurt children from other districts.

(s) Donald C. McElligott Ione

Turner Tops in Elks horseshoe tournament

Ken Turner of Heppner took top honors in the Elks Lodge Horseshoe Pitching Tournament held recently in conjunction with their annual Father's Day Picnic at Cutsforth County Park. Simon Winters earned the second place award, with Joe Kenny capturing third place.

In the doubles competition, the team of Kelwayne Haguwood and Joe Kenny took first place, Brian Haguwood and Matt Kenny took second, with Curtis Cutsforth and Jeff

Cutsforth nabbing third. Twenty-two players took part in the tournament.

In other activities at the annual picnic, Todd Lindsay recaptured his title in the coveted football-toss accuracy competition. Families enjoyed softball, a three-legged race, sack race, egg toss and coins-in-the-straw events. The potluck dinner was well attended and visiting was done by all. The various adult events raised \$94, which will be donated to the Meadowood Speech Camp maintenance fund.

Little things create identity

To the Editor:

Last week, Al Beck took issue with statements attributed to me in a recent AP article in a rather lengthy letter to the editor. Rather than apologize to everyone and their brother, I will instead attempt to put my comments in the proper context. As I am rather quickly learning, the problem with talking to a reporter is, well, talking to a reporter. An hour of conversation is boiled down to a quote or two. To be perfectly frank, in the big scheme of life I care not much about homecoming queens and other such matters. However, the point I was making was that there are a million little things including traditions that our kids would give up if they did not have a school in Ione. They would be asked to put them all away and adopt those of their new school. All those little things add up to give Ione its identity, and that is something the community has said over and over again that they do not care to lose.

As for the comment pertaining to athletics, I have no worries that the Ione

athletes could find their way on to just about any team. It was not the stars I was thinking about; rather the kids at the other end of the spectrum (hence the use of the term "benchwarmers.") I spent my fair share of time riding the bench at a small high school. Had I been eliminated from a JV team in my early years, I may never have discovered the athletic aptitude waiting to be developed. Despite Mr. Beck's attempt to make it so, that comment had nothing to do with coaches or rivalries or put-downs. It had everything to do with opportunity.

Self-determination, local control and preserving the school and community are the driving forces behind this secession effort. It has not been easy or pleasant. It has required an inordinate amount of time and energy on the parts of many. The past six months have been devoted to doing what many experts said was impossible. So flog me if you must Mr. Beck, but the apologies are going to have to wait until I do something to warrant them.

(s) Anne Morter Ione

Weary of competition

To the Editor:

There are four elementary schools in the Morrow County School District. In the recent district-wide math competition five of the 10 top students were from Heppner.

Why then do we keep reading in print that another

school in the district is simply the best?

Competition between students keeps them interested and working hard, but I am weary beyond belief of competition between towns.

(s) Meg Murray Ione

CHAMBER CHATTER

By Claudia Hughes, Exec. Dir.

This past weekend the weather cooperated. No thunder, no lightning, no rain or hail. Sun shone on visitors for the 100-year commemoration of the 1903 Flood. They came from Montana, California, Washington, and Western Oregon to remember their ancestors who perished in the historic flood of 1903. For many it was great or great-great grandparents who were lost. There were tears, there was laughter and there were new friendships made. Some were in period costume, some were old, some were young, and some traveled in collectors cars.

The commemoration started June 13, with around 200 experiencing "The Flood: We Remember". On Saturday, June 13, 100 years later, some attended the dedication of the weekend at the park; others trooped to the cemetery to see the unveiling of the memorial and hear the congressional record sent by Representative Greg Walden. Some attended the Cascadia Folk Quartet and heard the historic Heppner Flood song while tapping their feet to a variety of period music; others walked the Volkswalk,

following the Flood Guide and stopping to view the flood room at the museum.

The grand finale of the day included "Dinner at the Cemetery" with lamb and potatoes, a staple of the 1900's "Ghosts of the past" came from their gravesites to share memories and letters of that historic day when 247 people lost their lives 100 years ago. "Les Matlock and Bruce Kelly" even rode past on their horses as those old Heppner hills turned all shades of pink and the sun set on a memorable day. People left with history to carry forward into future generations.

Historic Heppner, the place we are lucky enough to call home; the place where people come together to cause events to happen in order to carry on history and leave lasting memories. We are about the same size we were in 1903. Some things change, some things remain much the same and we keep caring. Life goes on.

Births

Christian Anthony DuBry-A son, Christian Anthony DuBry, was born to Starla FayAnn Kerns and Chet Alen DuBry of Ione on May 26, 2003, at Good Shepherd Health Care System in Hermiston.

Kyle Reed Wheeler-A son, Kyle Reed Wheeler, was born to Elizabeth and Philip Wheeler of Irrigon on May 29, 2003, at Good Shepherd Health Care System in Hermiston.

Marco Antonio Barrera-A son, Marco Antonio Barrera, was born to Maria Emma and Sixto Alvaro Barrera of Boardman on June 5, 2003, at Good Shepherd Health Care System in Hermiston.

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BURNING BAN

Effective
June 23, 2003

The Fire Chief of the City of Heppner is imposing a CLOSED SEASON for open burning based on local fire safety concerns. This burn ban is for the City of Heppner. Remeber: Open burning also includes **burn barrels**. The closed season will remain in effect until further notice this fall as per **ORS 478.960**

**Hardman Hall
Community Sale**



Saturday, June 28

8 a.m. - 3 p.m.



Refreshments: Hot Dogs, Polish Dogs, Soda Pop, Coffee and Potato Chips