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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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**St. Patrick's Senior Center news**

Guests and treats were the focus of a recent Heppner St. Patrick's Senior Center's congregated noon meal. Marion Brosnan's family came to help her celebrate her 89th birthday-about 15 children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, spouses and others. They provided cake and ice cream for the group. The celebration included singing, visiting and laughter.

Marion came to Morrow County as a teacher of one of the many country schools which now exist only in memory. She chose to stay when a local rancher suggested it. Over the years she has made rich contributions to our community life. Now she is one of the residents of St. Patrick's Senior Center, and still remains actively engaged in her favorite activities.

Ruby Steers is the most recent resident of the apartment complex. She came to Morrow County more than 55 years ago as a war bride from Arkansas. She and her husband (Sam) lived and worked most of those years in the Hardman area. Since his death in 1983, she has been for a time in Arkansas, and in other parts of the world and the U.S. on mission trips. "This is the place I have found peace, and I'm going to stay," was her comment during a brief conversation.

Results of surveys, in the Morrow/Umatilla County area, indicated that minor and major home repairs, routine household chores, meal preparation or cooking, and finding prescription drug assistance programs were the five mentioned as most needed.

Of more than 100 survey forms returned, 29 respondents were male and 80 female. Fifty-six persons were in the 80 and over age bracket; 34 were in the 70 to 79 bracket; and 16 were in the 65 to 69 age bracket. Sixty-three live alone and 45 live with another person or persons. These statistics are a part of the information used to put together the four-year plan the Area Agency on Aging and CAPECO have been working on since March 2003.

Meals on Wheels and Transportation Services are two other high priority services in Morrow County. These numbers were revealed at the quarterly meeting of the AAA Advisory Committee. Ed Baker and Tom Wilson, Morrow County members, and Grace Drake attended the scheduled meeting in Milton-Freewater last week.

The senior bus is scheduled to leave for the Westward Ho Parade in Pendleton on Friday, Sept. 12 at 8:15 a.m. The bus will be leaving from the Main St. entrance of the Center. The bus will not travel this year to the Dress-up Parade as previously announced. Remember, Westward Ho Parade, Friday, Sept. 12, departing at 8:15 a.m.

On Wednesday, Sept. 10, volunteers for serving the meal will be from the United Methodist Church.

**Correction in fair results**

Last week's edition of the Heppner Gazette-Times misidentified the winner of the Open Class Swine Champion Gilt. The winner of this category was Kelly Lieb.

**Morrow County School District # 1  
News**

By Dr. Jack Crippen, Superintendent

Last month I mentioned how excited I was to see Susan and Mick Tolar as Grand Marshals of Boardman's Fourth of July parade. After I had sent the article in I attended the Irrigon Watermelon Festival Parade and was delighted to see John Sebastian, principal at A.C. Houghton, honored as their Grand Marshal. It is very gratifying to see educators honored in so public a manner.

August is Morrow County Fair time; the most interesting site I saw was a lone skinny goat as the only contestant in one division. Skinny or not, it was a blue ribbon winner.

Please drive carefully, as school is now in session, again, finally. It was getting to be too long and quiet a summer. It is good to have the buildings filled with activity.

**Where is Irrigon Elementary School?**

Irrigon Elementary School is the name the Board approved for the new building across from Columbia Middle School. The Board approved this name as one of three presented to the Board from a committee set up for that purpose by the Board. Board member Pat McNamee chaired the committee. The other two names presented were Tolar Elementary School and Stokes Landing Elementary School.

**So once again we ask, is there a High School in Irrigon?**

Yes, it will open in September 2005. The board did meet in August to set their goals for the year. As we talked last month in this article they had two choices. Pick a day to open the high school or pick a day to make the decision. After extensive discussion they choose to open the school.

There was a lot of discussion about the criteria that was set several years ago to decide when the high school was to be created at the Columbia Middle School campus. However, circumstances and board decisions since that time have changed some of the concerns. The most significant change is the Board's financial goal of 2002-2003 dealing with Equity. The Board kept the financial goal and the Equity issue as a 2003-2004 goal. So, in setting up the high school, it will be set up based on the money it generates is what it is allowed to spend as all the other schools are currently doing.

In looking at the size it is apparent at the present time that the high school in Irrigon will not be as large as Riverside High School when they are split. The difference in the number of students at A.C. Houghton Elementary and Sam Boardman Elementary indicates the relative size of each. However, with the addition of the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade in each it should still allow for sufficient teachers to provide a sound basic core curriculum in each high school along with reasonable electives. The difference will be in the number of sections for each class that will be offered. One school may offer two sections of U.S. History and one may offer one section.

There are a lot of questions that need to be answered, and the two years will give us time to find good answers and to make the necessary plans to have both high schools running smoothly from the beginning.

**How will the district deal with the additional money from the Legislature?**

The district will be careful and cautious in the spending of the additional money. Although the legislature has finished for the session and it appears that our state's economy has stabilized, there are still some questions to be answered. It appears that the group of people that have been working for over a decade to lower Oregon's standard of living will be at it again. The initiative users plan to try to undo what the legislature has taken a record amount of time to accomplish. What creates the most concern is that they never offer any way to improve our lives, only diminish them.

The district's administrators have been discussing how we want to approach the use of this additional money. The recently published testing results of the No Child Left Behind Act have provided a focus in the Boardman and Irrigon areas. We have known that our ELL program has not been all it could be. We intend to reassess how we have been spending our ELL money and with the additional money from the Legislature we hope to substantially improve our ELL program k-12. With the Equity goal in place, it makes it clear that the ELL money is now where the ELL students are. Part of our careful and cautious plan is that this may take us a little time. We have already started looking at where we are currently spending money. When we finish that analysis we will look at what we feel we need to do to move towards the program we want to create.

In Heppner we were able to make some decisions just prior to school starting. The principal was able to put together an add-back list based on conversations he'd had with staff and patrons during the meetings to reduce expenses. We added a .5fte kindergarten position to bring it back to a full day program. We added a .5fte 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grade position to bring it back to three full time teachers. We added a .33fte in music to bring it back to a full time music position. At the high school we added a .5fte position, the principal will be able to shift some classes and add some cut classes and we increased the Spanish program by one additional class.

If you have questions about items in this article or desire an explanation of items concerning education, please write or E-mail me in care of this newspaper or to the Morrow County School District office at P.O. Box 368, Lexington, OR 97839.

**Fire restrictions continue during bow season**

Bow hunting season began on Aug. 30, and conditions in the Blue Mountains are still very, very dry with the risk of fire extremely high. Cooler temperatures both at night and during the day seem to lull people into a false sense of security, but the extreme dryness of the fuels in the forest hasn't changed. The Oregon Department of Forestry and the Umatilla National Forest have Public-Use Restrictions in place to help keep the public and firefighters safe.

Campfires, wood stoves, briquette fires are not allowed except in a few designated Umatilla National Forest campgrounds. These are Jubilee Lake and Woodward, on the Walla Walla District; Bear Wallow, North Fork John Day and Olive Lake on the North Fork John Day District; and Bull Prairie Campground on the Heppner District. Propane stoves and liquid gas cook stoves are allowed.

The use of chainsaws is not allowed.

Generators or other internal combustion engines are not allowed except in the above designated campgrounds in an area at least 10 feet that has been cleared of all flammable material or in the cleared bed of a pickup truck.

Motorized travel off Forest Roads and Trails is not allowed. ATVs, motorcycles and other vehicles must stay on developed roads and trails.

Smoking is only allowed inside an enclosed vehicle or building, developed recreation site or while stopped in an area at least three feet in diameter that is barren or cleared of all flammable material.

Following these restrictions will help ensure a safer, fire-free hunting season.

Bow hunters come to the Blue Mountains from all over the United States (and a few other countries) to participate in the hunting season here. The Oregon Department of Forestry, the Umatilla National Forest, the Bureau of Land Management and the National Park Service all have similar restrictions in place. It is important for visitors to know the ownership of the lands they're recreating on. Restrictions are much the same on both public and private, but hunters and campers must have permission to be on private property.

"We have several large wildfires currently burning in the northwest," said John Robertson, Fire Management Officer for the Umatilla National Forest. "The nation's firefighting resources are tapped. If a wildfire were to outgrow our local initial attack resources it could be devastating. There is nothing more wasteful than a human-caused wildfire that could have been prevented."

For more information on restrictions, contact the Umatilla National Forest Supervisor's Office at (541) 278-3716; the Pendleton office of the Oregon Department of Forestry at (541) 276-3491, or visit [www.fe.fed.us/r6/uma/fireupdate.htm](http://www.fe.fed.us/r6/uma/fireupdate.htm).

**Obituaries**

**James LeRoy Ellis**  
James LeRoy Ellis, 74, of Boardman, died Wednesday, Aug. 27, 2003 at his home in Boardman.

A memorial service was held Tuesday, Sept. 2, at the Boardman Senior Center. Disposition was by cremation.

In lieu of flowers, donation memorial contributions may be made to the Boardman Senior Center.

Ellis was born at Dellvale, Kansas on Oct. 30, 1928 to parents LeRoy and Bessie Smith Ellis.

He was a longtime resident of Boardman and worked for the Union Pacific Railroad for 42 years.

He was a veteran of the Korean War, serving in the U.S. Army.

He married his wife Alice on Feb. 20, 1970 in Sandy.

Ellis was a member of the Eagles Lodge, Kiwanis Club of Corbett and was one of the Board of Directors for the Boardman Senior Center.

He is survived by wife, Alice, of Boardman; sons, David Ellis of Cle Elum, WA, Tony Jimenez of Sumner, WA, Tim Jimenez of Corbett and Ted Reiker of Troutdale; daughters, Barbara Cruz of Cle Elum, WA, Tobi Ervin of Corbett, Tamra Ramsey of Boardman, Tanya Smith of Scio; sister, Donna Wyman of Beloit, KS; 16 grandchildren and 13 great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by two sisters and three sons.

Burns Mortuary of Hermiston was in charge of arrangements.

**William A. Rowell**

William A. Rowell, 76, of Ione, died Sunday, Aug. 24, 2003, at Jonathan M. Wainwright Memorial Veterans Medical Center in Walla Walla.

A graveside service was held Sept. 3 at Lexington Cemetery.

Rowell was born June 22, 1927, at Ione, to Arthur and L.V. "Toots" Crowell Rowell. He attended school at Ione and attended Hermiston High School.

He served with the U.S. Army during World War II.

Rowell worked in the farming and logging industry in the Heppner and Ione areas most of his life.

He loved to hunt and fish and had a special passion for playing bingo.

He was active in the South Morrow County Neighborhood Center at Heppner and the Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP). He helped with the delivery of Meals on Wheels and drove the Senior Bus. He always volunteered for anything that would help others.

Survivors include a son, Mike Rowell of Heppner; and a stepdaughter, Terry Winters of Hermiston; grandchildren, Ryan Clayton and Mellisa McDaniel, and four great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by sons, Carl and Raymond, and by his parents.

Memorial contributions may be made to the South Morrow County Neighborhood Center, P.O. Box 895, Heppner, OR 97836.

Sweeny Mortuary of Heppner is in charge of arrangements.

**Rosetta J. Palmateer**

Rosetta J. Palmateer, 77, of Heppner, died Monday, Sept. 1, 2003.

Recitation of the Rosary will be at 7:30 p.m., Wednesday, Sept. 3, at St. Patrick's Catholic Church in Heppner. A funeral mass will be held Thursday, Sept. 4, at 11 a.m., at St. Patrick's Catholic Church, Heppner.

A full obituary will run in next week's edition of the Gazette.

**Fundraising Dinner**  
for the Benefit of  
**the Ione Education Foundation**  
Saturday September 27th  
At the Ione Legion Hall  
Social Hour at 6 p.m. • Dinner at 7 p.m.

The evening will include Live Music, Auction Items and Raffle Drawing.

Menu includes Prime Rib, Crab, Shrimp, Salad, Baked Potato, Bread and Dessert  
Two beverages included with meal - choose from beer, wine or soft drinks.

Ticket price:  
\$25.00 for adults.  
\$10.00 for children 12 years and under.  
Children 6 and under free.

Tickets are available at the Bank of Eastern Oregon, Ione Branch or contact Lynn Dee Ramos at 422-7559  
Limited amount of tickets available.

Ione Education Foundation will be kicking off sales of memorial bricks to be placed at the plaza to be built as part of the new school playground.

Please join us in support of the Ione School and celebrate an historic year in the life of our community.

The Ione Education Foundation is a 501c3 non-profit corporation. Contributions to the Foundation are tax-deductible.

**NURSERY SALE**  
50% OFF ALL NURSERY STOCK  
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Shrubs & Perennials  
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