

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

News and Advertising Deadline is Monday at 5 p.m.

For Advertising: advertising deadline is Monday at 5 p.m. Cost for a display ad is \$4.75 per column inch. Cost for classified ad is 50¢ per word. Cost for Card of Thanks is \$7 up to 100 words. Cost for a classified display ad is \$5.35 per column inch.

For Public/Legal Notices: public/legal notices deadline is Monday at 5 p.m. Dates for publication must be specified. Affidavits must be required at the time of submission. Affidavits require three weeks to process after last date of publication (a sooner return date must be specified if required).

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A Wee Bit O'Ireland...

By Claudia Hughes and Cara Osmin

'Tis the time o' the year when Heppner's volunteers shine. All one needs do is pick up a brochure of the 22nd annual Wee Bit O' Ireland event to realize that it takes a community. Everyone kicks in to put Heppner on the map and provide a great green time for the many visitors who brave March elements.

Who are these committee people who keep "A Wee Bit O' Ireland in Heppner" on track? They are: "Grand Leprechaun" Director Shanny Miller; "Folklore" Director Doris Brosnan; Directors of "Signs and Flying Flags" Jerry and Joyce Kaye Hollomon and John Edmundson; "Leprechaun" Directors Molly Rhea and Marti Mitchell; "Pot O' Gold" Director Judie Laughlin; "Paddy Wagon and Cruz-In" Directors Gary Jones and Dick Sargent.

Directors of "Beneath the Toadstools" (details) and "Irish Shenanigans" (entertainment) are Hughes and Osmin; along with Joe Lindsay, Michael Duffy, Cliff Green (parade); Kay Fowler, Jamie Allen and John Murray (auction); Mary Hamilton (dog trials); Vicki Rayburn (teen dance); Ed Baker (shuttle); and the many subdirectors of "Corned Beef and Cabbage" would be everyone out there contributing to the event in a hundred thousand different ways.

Directors of the "Gold" include all of the above as well as Rene Devin, treasurer. The celebration is funded through button sales, advertising and the St. Patrick's Auction, with a percent of this year's auction proceeds going to the Parents Club and the Chamber of Commerce. The "green" events in the brochure and on the Internet St. Pat's sites at www.heppner.net and www.heppner.net/chamber are those which the Committee directly oversees, including funding, advertising, brochures, publicity and a myriad of other details related to the 22nd annual event.

The goal of the St. Pat's Committee is to bring visitors to Heppner businesses and to provide as many opportunities as possible for organizations, churches, youth groups, etc. to benefit from the event. We appreciate the entities who share "event ideas" and work together with the St. Pat's Board of Directors on planning, and scheduling for advertising throughout the year. Even leprechauns can't be everywhere at once, but 'tis sure many volunteers will try during March 11-14.

All volunteers, families, friends and visitors are encouraged to attend the Saturday evening Trail Band Concert, top-notch free entertainment, funded by the Morrow County Unified Recreation District and the Heppner St. Pat's Committee.

Vendors' Square

Local and visiting vendors will offer a variety of crafts and treasures daily during the three-day celebration. The Neighborhood Center hosts the group in its parking lot on Main Street, across from the library-museum building and City Park. More information about the Vendors' Square is available at (541) 676-5024.

John's Place will serve a ST. PATRICK'S BARBECUE
this FRIDAY, SATURDAY & SUNDAY (closed Saturday from 4-6)
Enjoy BBQ Beef Ribs
Country-Style Pork Ribs
1/4 Chicken Basket
BBQ Brisket Plate
BBQ Brisket Sandwich
JOHN'S PLACE
Main Street, Heppner

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.)

Heppner athletic program continues as standard of excellence

To the Editor:

Three cheers for the Heppner boys' basketball team and their excellent coach.

Were it not for a poorly designed playoff formula that required the league champions defeat Pilot Rock for a third time and the state defending champions in their own gym, Heppner may well have competed for a State championship.

Many communities make excuses when their enrollment numbers put them at a disadvantage against the elite programs of the state. Not so with the parents, coaches and athletes from Heppner. The athletic program at Heppner continues as the standard for excellence in Eastern Oregon.

(s) Stuart Dick Pendleton

Reid named Student of the Month in John Day



Brittany Reid

Brittany Reid and Peter Diezel were named Students of the Month for February by John Day Elks Lodge #1824.

Reid, the daughter of Matthew and Kellie Reid, and granddaughter of Mary Emert of Ione and the great-granddaughter of the late Delbert (Slim) and Catherine Emert, is a senior at Prairie City High School. She has earned a perfect GPA of 4.00, which places her first in her class. She lists as her academic honors as being elected to the National Honor Society and on the Honor Roll all of her years in school. She was selected as the Elks Most Valuable Student this year and has been a scholar athlete for

all four years of high school. She has received her Certificate of Initial Mastery and has certificates of excellence in virtually all of her classes.

Reid is a member of the volleyball, basketball and track teams at Prairie and has earned all-league and all-district honors in each. She has placed in the state track meet for the last two years.

During her high school years, Reid has been very active in her school activities. She is Prairie Assistant Secretary, chair of the Community Blood Drive, Student Council President, Yearbook Editor and a Peer Mediator. She coordinated the activities of Homecoming and was the captain of the volleyball and basketball teams. She has been a class officer every year in school.

Reid has participated in numerous community activities including the cleaning and painting of the Young Life Building, a can food drive for children across the seas, a volunteer at the Prairie Christmas programs, a volunteer reader at the nursing home, helped with the Cycle Oregon Race and helped with the community's blood drives.

Candidates file for upcoming election

Candidates had until 5 p.m., Tuesday, March 9 to file for open Morrow County positions for the May 18 election. The open positions include: Justice of the Peace, Treasurer, County Clerk, Assessor, Sheriff, County Commissioner, Surveyor and County Judge.

As of Monday, March 8, the following candidates have filed for these positions: Justice of the Peace- Charlotte Gray and Betty Burns; Treasurer- Gayle Gutierrez; County Clerk- Bobbi Childers and Cyde Marie Estes; Assessor- Greg Sweek; Sheriff- Verlin Denton and Kenneth Matlack; County Commissioner- John Wenzholz (Democratic candidate);

Surveyor- no candidate filed; and County Judge- Terry Tallman.

Candidate questionnaire responses will be available sometime in the near future.

Submit a news article online

www.heppner.net

Obituaries

Elvira Elizabeth

Irby

Elvira Elizabeth Irby, 88, a retired Morrow County tax collector and former Heppner resident, died Monday, March 8, 2004, at Good Samaritan Care Center in Hermiston.

A graveside service was held March 8 at the Heppner Masonic Cemetery.

The eldest of six children, she was born March 23, 1915, at Rock Creek near Hardman, to Bernard and Ella McDaniel Bleakman. She grew up in the Hardman area and graduated from Hardman High School in just three-and-a-half years in January 1933. In 1954, she went to Eugene Business School.

On Oct. 31, 1933, she married Raymond McDonald. The couple lived in the Heppner area. While Mr. McDonald served with the military during World War II, she lived in Pendleton and worked at Harris Pine Mills. The couple were parents of two children, a son, Monte and a daughter, Patricia. Mr. McDonald died in August 1953.

On Jan. 5, 1956, she married Glenn Irby at Pendleton. The couple lived in Heppner where Mrs. Irby worked at Central Market, First National Bank and the Morrow County Sheriff's Office as a deputy for women prisoners. She retired as Morrow County tax collector in 1979.

Mr. Irby died in 1998. Mrs. Irby enjoyed working in her yard and her rose garden. She loved to watch horse racing on television, especially the Kentucky Derby. She loved horses and in her younger years rode often. She had also enjoyed fishing and camping.

She had been a member of the American Legion Auxiliary.

Survivors include son, Monte McDonald in Oregon; daughter, Patricia "Patsy" Kwaliek in Alaska; stepsons, Bob Irby and Billy Irby, both of Hermiston; numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren; and nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents; by a brother, Leslie Bleakman; and by sisters, Pat Townsend, Delsie Craber, Zetta Jenkins and Florence Bleakman.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Heppner St. Patrick's Senior Center, P.O. Box 266, Heppner, OR 97836.

Sweeney Mortuary of Heppner is in charge of arrangements.

Margaret Phoebe Akers

Margaret Phoebe Akers, 88, formerly of Ione, died Saturday, March 6, 2004, at Mid-Columbia Medical Center in The Dalles.

Funeral services will be held Thursday, March 11, 2004 at 1 p.m. at the Ione United Church of Christ with burial to follow at High View Cemetery in Ione.

She was born September 6, 1915, at Morgan to Hiram and Minnie Palmateer Ely. She attended the elementary schoolhouse at Morgan, attended school at Monmouth for one year then attended Ione High School, graduating in 1933. During high school she excelled at basketball.

On September 5, 1936, she married Berl E. Akers at Walla Walla. The couple lived in the Gooseberry area near Ione where they operated the family farm.

In February 1969, they moved into Ione. They moved to Flagstone Retirement and Assisted Living Center in The Dalles in 1999.

Mrs. Akers was wife and mother to an active family, making sure the family and farm crews were well fed and cared for. She enjoyed working in her yard, tending her large garden and working on craft projects.

She was a member of the Rebekah Lodge, Eastern Star and Ione United Church of Christ. She was active in the Grange as a member of Ione Grange, Morrow County Pomona Grange, the Oregon State Grange and the National Grange. She held many offices in the organization at all levels except national. She had been awarded a 75-year Service Medallion by the Grange.

Survivors include sons, Bob, and his wife, Janice, of Gresham, Bill, and his wife, Lynn, of Portland; daughter, Bonnie Linnell, and her husband, Rodney, of Portland; sister, Edith Mathews of Ione; 11 grandchildren; and 19 great-grandchildren.

Her husband, Berl; and son Berl Jr.; her parents, Hiram and Minnie Ely; and brothers, Franklin Ely, and Elvin Ely, all preceded her in death.

Memorial contributions may be made to Pioneer Memorial Home Health, P.O. Box 9, Heppner, Oregon 97836.

Sweeney Mortuary of Heppner is in charge of arrangements.

Births

Daisica Yulisa Coria Moreno- a daughter, Daisica Yulisa, was born Feb. 26, 2004, at Good Shepherd Medical Center in Hermiston to Daisy Moreno and Gilberto Coria of Irrigon.

Rosa Orozco- a daughter, Rosa, was born Feb. 26, 2004, at Good Shepherd Medical Center in Hermiston to Rosa and Juan Orozco of Irrigon.

Blane Michael Mahoney- a son, Blane Michael, was born Friday, March 5, 2004, at St. Anthony Hospital in Pendleton. He weighed 8 pounds 9 ounces and was 20½ inches long. His parents are Mike and Nicole Mahoney. He joins big sister, Jaiden, at home in Heppner. Grandparents are Bob and Sherree Mahoney of Heppner and Richard and Joellen Resare of Huntington Beach, CA.

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288 North Main Street
Heppner, OR
(541) 676-8282

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M-W, F - 9:30-5:30
Th - 9:30-7:30
Sat - closed

Thursday - Sunday ONLY TREASURE HUNT
Win \$5 bills for shamrocks!
FREE DRAWINGS
1) Basket
2) Class
3) Fat Quarters

SALE
Thursday, March 11 through Wednesday, March 17

SPECIAL SALE HOURS
Thursday until 9:30
Saturday night: 6:30-9:30
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ALL MERCHANDISE WITH GREEN 17% OFF

GRAND CELEBRATION!