

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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Drug money for county

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"When Mr. Burns came to Pendleton, he saw the extent of the drug problem we face and has been instrumental in locating additional drug enforcement resources. Plenty of work remains and I'm not going to let up on my efforts to address the area's rampant methamphetamine problem. This is a fight we can win and I'll continue to do everything in my power to help secure for our communities the resources they need."

Sgt. Greg Sherman, a representative on the BENT taskforce from the Oregon State Police, praised Walden's efforts on behalf of the organization's anti-drug activities.

"We sincerely appreciate Congressman Walden's assistance. There is no doubt that without his

attention to the drug problem here in the region we would not be receiving this funding," said Sherman.

Additional investments from the National Marijuana Initiative will hopefully be made available to conduct investigations to penetrate and dismantle the umbrella organizations responsible for production and trafficking of illegal drugs throughout the region.

Congressman Walden represents the Second Congressional District of Oregon, which includes 20 counties in southern, central and eastern Oregon. He is a Deputy Whip in the House leadership structure and a member of the House Committee on Energy and Commerce as well as the Committee on Resources.

Justice Court monthly report

The Morrow County Justice Court for Heppner and Irrigon handled 245 cases in July 2004. They received \$35,174.45 and turned over the same amount. The state received \$9092.23 of those monies; the county received \$25,586.45; and \$495.77 was paid in restitution.

Of the cases filed, 196 were traffic citations; four were game citations; 27 were misdemeanors; four were civil claims and FEDS, two were small claims; and 12 were DUI. Other activities also included seven pre-trials; 23 warrants were issued; 77 suspensions were ordered; and 11 DUI Divisions were filed.

Eighteen trials or hearings were schedule and 16 were held, with 14 being minor hearings (traffic) and two being jury trials.

Tailgate Fundraiser to be held

A Tailgate BBQ fundraiser will be held this Friday, Sept. 10 at the Heppner High School versus Reedsport football game. The BBQ will begin at 5 p.m. and run through halftime.

The Morrow County Fair Board is sponsoring the event and proceeds will go towards the fairground's community building and dormitory.

Obituaries

Roger Lee Helfrecht

Roger Lee Helfrecht, 63, of Hermiston, died Monday, Aug. 30, 2004 at Pendleton.

A memorial service was held Sept. 3 in the chapel at Burns Mortuary of Hermiston. Disposition was by cremation.

Helfrecht was born Jan. 24, 1941, at Rockford, IA, to Ralph and Elizabeth Draeger Helfrecht. He was raised at Burns and graduated from Burns Union High School. He attended Blue Mountain Community College at Pendleton for two years, where he earned a degree in diesel mechanics.

Helfrecht has been a resident of Hermiston since 1974. He owned and operated Roger's Automotive at Hermiston for several years, then was employed at Agri-Northwest as maintenance supervisor before retiring in 2003.

He was a long-time member of the National Rifle Association.

He enjoyed fishing and the mountains and he loved his family, children and grandchildren.

Survivors include his life partner, Belinda Helfrecht of Hermiston; his mother, Elizabeth Helfrecht of Pendleton; sons, Jamie Helfrecht of Heppner, Darrin Helfrecht of Seattle and Justin Helfrecht of Hermiston; daughter, Desiree Schwartz of Kennewick; brother, Robert Helfrecht of Pendleton; sister, Marlene Essa of Las Vegas, NV; and four grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his father, Ralph Helfrecht.

Memorial contributions may be made to the American Lung Association of Oregon, 7420 S.W. Bridgeport Road, Suite 200, Portland, OR 97224-7790.

Burns Mortuary of Hermiston is in charge of arrangements.

Bernice Alberta Rogers Lowe Wihlon

Word has been received that Bernice Alberta Rogers Lowe Wihlon, 89, of Gresham, formerly of Lexington, died May 17, 2004, at Gresham due to heart and lung complications.

Interment is at Lincoln Memorial Cemetery in Portland.

She was born Jan. 14, 1915, in Buhl, ID, to Fred and Hazel Amidon Rogers.

She married Joseph Clarence Lowe in 1930; together they raised their three children. Mr. Lowe died in an auto accident in Burns in November 1951.

In 1955, she married Armin Chester Wihlon and lived in Redmond and Lexington. Mr. Wihlon died in an airplane crash in 1979 while working for Gar Aviation with a firefighting crew.

Prior to moving to Lexington, Wihlon owned

and managed restaurants in Redmond. She then worked at Stefani's Restaurant in Ione and owned the Lexington Airport.

Wihlon moved to Gresham in 1984 to live near her children.

She is survived by her children Clarence "Jack" Lowe, Barbara JoAnne Lowe Rogers and Thomas Fred Lowe; sisters, Helen Moyer, Bertha Cunningham and Genevieve Holman; six grandchildren; 15 great-grandchildren and one great-great-grandson. In addition to her husbands, she was preceded in death by two grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

James B. "Jim" Hart

James B. "Jim" Hart, 56, of Irrigon, died Wednesday, Sept. 1, 2004, at his home in Irrigon.

A graveside service was held on Sept. 4 at Desert Lawn Memorial Cemetery in Irrigon.

Hart was born July 7, 1948, at Meadville, PA. He was raised in California and Arizona before moving with his family to La Grande in his mid-teens. He lived at Ellensburg, WA, for a few years then returned to La Grande for a short time. He moved to Irrigon in 1976 and has lived there since.

He worked in construction most of his life and for the last 12 years had been employed as an executive superintendent at O'Brien Construction of Hermiston, until his health forced him to retire.

He was an avid hunter and fisherman who enjoyed hang gliding, building race cars and building airplanes. He loved spending time with his family, especially barbecuing for them.

Survivors include his wife of 37 years, Wondra of Irrigon; daughters Tammy Spencer of Wenatchee, WA, Cindy Hart of Irrigon and Kathy Piper of Hermiston; son, Nathaniel Caswell of Pendleton; his father, Donald Hart of Ellensburg; brothers, Nelson Hart and John Hart, both of Eugene; sisters, Carolyn Hart of San Jose, CA and Sharon Larsen of La Grande; and 10 grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his mother, Doria Hart; a sister, Judy Hayes; and his mother-in-law, Vavid Miller.

Remembrances may be made to a memorial fund through Burns Mortuary of Hermiston, P.O. Box 289, Hermiston, OR 97838.

Burns Mortuary of Hermiston is in charge of arrangements.

Justice Court report

Matthew Scott Young, 18, Heppner, VBR 78/55, fine \$209.

Kristie Joleen Taylor, 30, Heppner, VSL 72/55, fine \$108.

Raymond Kenneth Howey, Jr., 29, Umatilla, VSL 80/55, fine \$180.

Robert L. Botefuhr, 48, Heppner, VBR 85/55, fine \$180.

Helping young drivers become safe

By Molly Rhea

School has started with another crop of new drivers pulling their assorted vehicles into the high school parking lots. As with every season, the ambulance crews of Morrow County Health District (MCHD) respond to motor vehicle crashes more often than nearly any other emergency call.

MCHD has ambulances or first responder units in every community in Morrow County. These ambulances are mostly manned by EMTs that work somewhere other than the health care field, often these individuals have sought out, and paid for, their training so they can work within the Emergency Medical System (EMS) to help others in need. And almost all of these responders would tell you the worst calls, or the ones they dread the most, are to the scene of an accident involving teenagers or children.

We frequently remind our young drivers to "Be careful," because, as adults we realize these young people often are driving with much technical information and very little experience. Youth are often frustrated with adults "white knuckle" attitude to their initial driving efforts. It is difficult for them to imagine the devastating aftermath of roadway crashes that the Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs) have seen first hand, and too often.

Motor vehicle injuries are the greatest public health problem facing children today. In fact, they are the leading cause of death among children at every age after their first birthday. On the basis of miles driven, teenagers are involved in three times as many fatal crashes as are all drivers.

Why do young drivers have such poor driving performance? Three factors work together to make the teen years so deadly for young drivers: Inexperience; Risk-taking behavior and immaturity; and Greater Risk Exposure.

Inexperience: All young drivers start out with very little knowledge or understanding of the complexities of driving a motor vehicle. Like any other skill, learning to drive well takes more than technical ability, good judgment and experience are also needed to properly make the many continuous decisions, small and large, that add up to safe driving. Without supervised practice driving time, we are setting them up for the risk of making a fatal mistake.

Risk-taking behavior and immaturity: Adolescent impulsiveness is a natural behavior, but it results in poor driving judgment and participation in high-risk behaviors such as speeding, inattention, drinking and driving, and not using a seat belt. Peer pressure also often encourages risk taking.

Greater risk exposure: Teens often drive at night with other teens in the vehicle, factors that increase crash risk. Compared to other drivers, a higher proportion of teenagers are responsible for their fatal crashes because of their own driving errors. In general, a smaller percentage of teens wear their seat belts compared to other drivers. A larger proportion of teen fatal crashes involve speeding, or going too fast for road conditions, compared to other driver. More teen fatal crashes occur when passengers are in the car than do crashes involving other drivers. In fact, two out of three teens who die as passengers are in vehicles driven by other teenagers.

The Graduated Driver Licensing (GDL) has proven to be effective in fostering safer driving behavior in young drivers. With GDL new drivers typically go through a three-stage process that involves their gradual introduction to full driving privileges. By restricting when teenagers may drive, and with whom, graduated driver licensing allows new drivers to gain much-needed on-the-road experience in controlled, lower-risk settings. It also means that a teenage will be a little older and more mature when her or she gains a full, unrestricted license. After the young driver demonstrates responsible driving behavior, restrictions are systematically lifted until the driver "graduates" to full driving privileges.

So how can we help these young drivers reduce their risk exposure? Next week's article will be "Clues for Driving Safe." Meanwhile, continue to tell those kids to "Be careful" and remember Morrow County Health District's Emergency Medical Technicians are always on call and ready to help.

CAPECO currently seeking board members

The Community Action Program of East Central Oregon (CAPECO) is currently recruiting individuals who represent the low-income sector to serve on the Board of Directors and is particularly interested in maintaining a balance of representation from all four counties within its service delivery area.

CAPECO is a private, non-profit agency serving disadvantaged residence in Morrow, Umatilla, Gilliam and Wheeler counties. CAPECO is composed of three major components, each responsible for their unique delivery of services within the organization.

The Senior Services' component houses the Area Agency on Aging which provides a variety of services to the senior citizens of our region.


The Community Service and Weatherization Component provides a

variety of services to the area residents which include: commodity food distribution, emergency assistance service such as help with utility payments, lodging, rental assistance and rent subsidy, housing rehabilitation and weatherization services.

The Workforce Development Component is responsible for the management and administration of our employment and training programs, which consist of adult, youth, dislocated workers, disabled and senior community services.

Individuals interested in serving on CAPECO's Board of Directors should contact Kelly Thornburg at 1 (800) 752-1139 ext. 133. CAPECO is an Equal Opportunity Employer. Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities.

*We wish for you,
our friends and family,
to share with us
the beauty of this day
as we unite in marriage*



Please join us

Jill Leann Barber

and

Jonathan Paige Greenup

on

September 25th, 2004


at 6:00 p.m.

at Cottage Flowers,

1725 N. 1st Street, Highway 395

Hermiston, Oregon

*Join us for the Reception
immediately following the Ceremony*



HEPPNER ELKS 358
676-9181 "Where Friends Meet" 142 North Main

Thursday, September 9th

LADIES' NIGHT: with Karen Wolff and Friends for the Elks Tailgater! German Dogs, Sauerkraut, Mozzarella Bread, Moe's Potato Salad and Other Goodies!