

The Official Newspaper  
of the City of Heppner and the County of Morrow

**Heppner  
GAZETTE-TIMES**

U.S.P.S. 240-420

Morrow County's Home-Owned Weekly Newspaper

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

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**Obituaries**

**Earlene Wilson Miller**

Earlene Wilson Miller, 69, of Hermiston, died April 12, 2005, at Oregon Health Sciences University Hospital in Portland.

A memorial service was held April 18 at Burns Mortuary Chapel in Hermiston.

Miller was born Oct 15, 1935, at Ft. Davis, TX to Carlton Dewey "Dude" and Goldie (Willis) Wilson. She was raised in Ft. Davis and graduated from high school there with her twin brother Gerald, one of four in her graduating class.

She worked as a telephone operator in Marfa and El Paso, TX.

She met her husband, James B. Miller, on a blind date set up by his best man. They married July 6, 1956 at El Paso, TX. They lived in Ft. Bliss and El Paso before moving to Corvallis where Jim finished school and graduated from Oregon State University. The couple then moved to Lexington and farmed with Jim's brother for several years.

A move to Pendleton was next and they farmed on Birch Creek for a time before moving to Hermiston in 1972.

Miller enjoyed reading, gardening and her family.

Survivors include her husband of 48 years, James B. Miller of Hermiston; son, Terry Miller of Rodgers, AR; daughter, Kristi Brown of Seattle, WA;

and eight grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her parents, Carlton Dewey and Goldie Mae Wilson; daughter, Tana Clarice Thomas; son, James Kip; and three brothers, Dunk, twin brother, Gerald and P.L. Wilson.

Memorial contributions may be made to a charity of your choice.

Burns Mortuary of Hermiston is in charge of arrangements.

**Paul Warren**

Paul Warren, 83, of Pocatello, ID, a retired Heppner school district employee, died Monday, April 11, 2005, at the Idaho State Veterans Home in Pocatello.

A funeral was held April 15 in the Latter-Day Saints Chapel in Pocatello. Burial was held April 16 at the Heppner Masonic Cemetery.

Colonial Funeral Home, 2005 S. 4th Ave, Pocatello, is in charge of arrangements.

**Death Notice**

**Joyce Y. Dinkins**

Joyce Y. Dinkins, 78, of Heppner, died Tuesday, April 12, at her home. Arrangements are pending at Sweeney Mortuary in 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.)*

**Law enforcement, Heppner's paper turkey**

To the Editor:

At its regular monthly meeting on April 11, your city council voted 4 to 2 to ratify a contract with the county sheriff for municipal law enforcement services. Councilor Judy Buschke and I voted against it. Councilor Tom Wolff was absent. Mayor Tim Van Cleave and councilors Kay Robinson, Cynthia Doherty and George Koffler carried the majority vote. Previous versions of this contract have worked all right, so no big deal, right?

Think again. Under the old contract, you got 120 hours per week of police coverage of Heppner for about \$180,000/year—roughly \$60,000 per officer. That's basically salary, benefits, patrol vehicles, weapons, uniforms, communications equipment, etc., for three full-time officers.

Under the new one, you will get 80 hours (two officers) of weekly coverage for about \$155,000, or about \$77,500 per officer per year. Expressed in these terms, you will pay about 30 percent more per officer, in exchange for which you will receive fully 1/3 less police coverage.

That's not all. You're getting local law enforcement managed by a new county sheriff who has balked at just about every turn to provide the service unless major concessions were granted under a revised agreement vesting him with much greater control over officer deployment, tour of duty duration and other contract terms. Add to that his contention that deputies are bored with patrolling Heppner. That is, since we haven't been inundated with major crimes, Heppner patrol is generally regarded as a ho-hum assignment. In short, you're getting law enforcement services provided by a bunch of people that don't want the job.

And you're getting all this at a time when enforcement of traffic laws in Heppner is just about non-existent (monthly officer logs showing few or no citations issued are commonplace), an uncomfortably large segment of the local driving population is running stop signs and tearing through

residential areas at 45 mph and up and recent thefts of anhydrous ammonia from area farms suggest an upsurge in local methamphetamine lab activity.

Finally, hacking our local law enforcement coverage to bits has understandably attracted some regional news coverage. And that's as good as an engraved invitation announcing that Heppner is now a great place for the region's drug-dealing jerks to set up shop and conduct a little commerce. Of course, much of that commerce will probably be financed by the street value of personal property boosted from your homes.

Why did a solid majority of the city council bend over backwards to approve such a contract? And why wasn't the obvious alternative of reconstituting our own municipal police department given a serious hearing? Interesting questions; I wish I could answer them for you. But, for the time being at least, it looks like you and I are now subscribers to what's known in government contracting lexicon as a "paper turkey."

The new law enforcement service contract is not a good deal. It's a bad deal. Unfortunately, two dissenting votes aren't enough to overcome the uncanny ability of political assemblies to occasionally come up with bad management decisions. However, citizen involvement and oversight might keep our little group more consistently on a reasonable track.

I ask that more of you start getting into the habit of attending city council meetings on the second Monday of each month. Granted, it's a sacrifice. You'll find these sessions boring, mired in routine city business and usually deliberated with reasonable competence. However, every once in awhile, half-baked ideas and proposals emerge like cockroaches. That's when things get interesting and that's when you should be there to throw a royal connoption fit.

(s) Glenn Baker  
Heppner City Council  
Heppner

**Ione superintendent receives praise**

*continued from page one*

child care providers. The sessions include musical activities, a group story and an activity, which may include crafts, extended reading responses, games or free play time. The next session on April 26 will include a tour of the school's new greenhouse and children will be able to plant their own plants to take home. Read-n-Play has a page on the ISD website.

-Browning, Melissa LaRue and Steve Schaber attended a workshop at the High Desert ESD pertaining to early childhood education, teen parenting and child development, which will be incorporated into the school's health classes, Read-n-Play and elementary education classes. The workshop was funded by an Oregon Department of Education grant received earlier.

-Student-led conferences for grades five-10 were held on April 7. Attendance at all conferences exceeded 90 percent. The Booster Club made dinner for the staff that evening.

-Volunteers Theresa Dumler, who assists with the "Read Naturally" program for seventh and eighth grades, and John Bristow, Don Bristow and Katherine Lindstrom, who read to students in grades one to four each day, were to be honored with a tea on April 19.

"Inside Ione," a program to show student learning through projects, videos, work samples and presentations will be held on April 21 at 6:30 p.m. The evening will include greenhouse tours and a book drive for new and "gently used" books to give to the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation library.

-Two ISD employees, as yet unnamed, will be honored with Umatilla Morrow ESD Crystal Apple Awards at a banquet in Pendleton on May 11.

-Tupper for Ione students will be held May 9-12.

-Ione Schools spring music program will be held May 25 at 7 p.m.; the Junior/Senior banquet will be held May 17.

-ISD received notice from its legal counsel that the Morrow County School District has decided not to have its legal counsel review the deeds involved in the transfer from MCSD to ISD and will execute them on their own. No timeline has been set.

-ISD enrollment is 162 students as of April 13.

-The budget committee met April 11 and included the following additions to the budget: an all-day kindergarten position; an additional elementary teacher; expanding Tom Shear's position from half-time to full time (which was absorbed from the current physical education position); an increase in the PERs rate from 11.11 percent to 16.97 percent, based upon recent court rulings; a transfer for the early retiree health benefits agreement. Browning said that while it "appears that the budget reflects a larger than needed increase in salaries," "certified and classified contracts were finalized after the 04/05 budget was adopted, so it actually is covering two years' worth of

raises." "Recommendations included funding specific programs at a higher amount, reducing contracted services where needed and increasing the capital projects fund if possible for future projects."

-The Ione pool has purchased a heavy-duty collapsible canopy to provide shade for the pool audience. The purchase was funded by the 1909-1939 Alumni Association, headed by Helen Crawford and Helen Lindsay.

-National Honor Society members will create a courtyard in the area surrounding the reader board as a community service project. Plans include installing a stone planter at the base, landscape plants and flowers and a cobblestone path/patio. Additional plans include a bench and a plaque thanking those who made the reader board possible.

In other business, the board:

-learned that Ryan Rudolf and Dennis Stefani were selected as coaches for the Eastern All Stars and Nick Christman was selected as a player.

-learned that Kristal Temple has been named a National Merit Scholar, ranking in the top five percent of the nation.

-The Student Success Committee reviewed new bylaws for the National Honor Society; reviewed policy concerning naming of valedictorian and salutatorian with regard to home school students; and drafted policy concerning distance education.

-learned that the pool plumbing project is almost completed and the crows nest is under construction.

-learned that the shop cleanup and school inventory have been completed, along with repair projects.

-heard from Browning that the district is in compliance with the Oregon Administrative Rules.

-heard from board member John Rietmann that the district does not have sufficient funds to proceed with a major paving project. Rietmann said that such projects may have to be funded through a bond levy several years down the road.


-heard the following announcements: the Oregon School Boards Association meeting will be held Monday, May 2, at Blue Mountain Community College; Crystal Apple Awards presentation, May 11, Pendleton Red Lion; budget committee meeting Monday, May 16, 6 p.m., prior to the board meeting; next board meeting Monday, May 16, 7 p.m.

**DA's report**

Bobby G. Burgess was convicted of Possession of a Precursor Substance, a Class B felony, Possession of a Controlled Substance 2, a Class C felony and Burglary-2, a Class C felony. For the two possession convictions Burgess received a concurrent sentence of 10 months in jail and two years probation. He will then serve a consecutive sentence of 13 months in jail and one year probation for his conviction of Burglary-2.

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**Ione Prom is April 23rd  
and Heppner Prom is April 30th**

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