

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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David Sykes ..... Publisher  
Autumn Morgan ..... Editor

All 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 \$4.90 per column inch. Cost for classified ad is 50¢ per word. Cost for Card of Thanks is \$10 up to 100 words. Cost for a classified display ad is \$5.50 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).  
For Obituaries: Obituaries are published in the Heppner GT at no charge and are edited to meet news guidelines. Families wishing to include information not included in the guidelines or who wish to have the obituary written in a certain way must purchase advertising space for the obituary.  
For Letters to the Editor: Letters to the Editor MUST be signed by the author. The Heppner GT will not publish unsigned letters. All letters MUST include the author's address and phone number for use by the GT office. The GT reserves the right to edit letters. The GT 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 \$10.

On the HEPPNER WEBSITE: [www.heppner.net](http://www.heppner.net)

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**Gazette hires new editor**



Autumn Morgan

Joining the Heppner Gazette staff as news editor is Autumn Morgan. Morgan and her husband, Troy, moved to Heppner in August from Florida. Troy teaches math at Heppner High School.

She joins the staff with two years of previous experience in the newspaper business.

She was born in McAllen, Texas, and spent her first nine years in Ixmiquilpan, Hidalgo, in Mexico where her family worked as missionaries. Her family then moved to Florida where she spent her high school and college years. During that time she worked for two

years with The Jackson County Floridan as an editorial clerk.

Before moving to Heppner, both Morgans worked at Graceville High School in Florida, Troy as a math and Spanish teacher and baseball coach, and Autumn as an ESE and vocational aid and yearbook sponsor.

She has one sister who currently lives in Florida.

Autumn enjoyed how previous work in the school system and newspaper business allowed her to get to know the communities in which she worked. She looks forward to getting to know the people of Heppner in the same way.

**Free flu shots available**

Flu season hasn't arrived yet and there is still plenty of vaccine available. Morrow County Health Director, Sheree Smith is urging Morrow County residents to get in and get their flu shots. Free flu vaccine is available at no cost to uninsured individuals, and Morrow County Health Department will gladly bill insurance companies for those who have medical coverage. While the health department does not foresee a shortage, free vaccine will be limited to doses on hand.

If you are not getting a flu shot to protect yourself, get it to protect others. By immunizing yourself, you are minimizing the chance that you may pick up the flu virus and pass it on to others. Those most vulnerable to severe complications from the Influenza virus are those older than 65, and younger than 5 years of age, people with chronic or long term health problems, weakened immune systems, and pregnant women. These are the members of the community that we can protect by getting vaccinated.

Morrow County Health Department vaccination clinics are held in Boardman, 101 Boardman Ave, Mon. and Tues. 8:30-4:30 (closed 12:30-1:00 for lunch), and Heppner, 120 S. Main, Thursday 8:30-4:30 (closed 12:00-1:00 for lunch) Phone: 676-5421 or 481-4200 for directions or questions.

**Holiday garbage pick-up schedule**

There will be no garbage collection on Christmas day, Dec 25th. Please have garbage out between a day to a day in a half ahead of schedule beginning Dec 26 through Dec. 29.

If anyone has questions regarding this matter, contact Dave Green at 676-5364.

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**Obituaries**

**Leo W. Pankey**

An avid automobile restorer, Leo W. Pankey, died Dec. 11, 2006. He was 61.

A celebration of life gathering was held at 1 p.m. on Saturday at 81673 Harbor Light Drive in Umatilla. A graveside service was held at 1 p.m. Monday at the Evergreen cemetery in McMinnville.

Mr. Pankey was born Nov. 29, 1945, in Joplin, Mo., to Lemuel and Mary Piatt Pankey.

He was raised in John Day, graduating from Mount Vernon High School in 1965.

Mr. Pankey lived in Pendleton, working at Kinzua Mill in Heppner. He later lived in Baker City before moving to McMinnville and working at White City Plywood Mill, which later became Coast Range Plywood. He then worked in St. Helens for Multnomah Plywood and Cascade Steel. He later worked as a bartender in McMinnville.

Mr. Pankey moved to Umatilla in 1987.

He married Victoria Tachjian on June 27, 1992, in Umatilla.

He enjoyed automobile restoration, working in his yard and family gatherings.

He is survived by his wife; daughters Tamela Pankey and Toni Pankey, both of McMinnville; son Scott Pankey of Jefferson; stepdaughters Missie Spencer, Bobbi Walker and Tracy Walker, all of McMinnville; brother Charles Eugene Digsby of Kentucky; sisters Bev Follett of Boise, Pearl Padgett of Umatilla, Bonnie Lemberger of North Pole, Alaska, and Carol Montenegro of Grandview, Idaho; 14 grandchildren; and two great-great grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents and brother Arthur Pankey.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Vange John Memorial Hospice 645 W. Orchard Ave., Hermiston, 97838 or St. Mary Cancer Center at P.O. Box 1477, Walla Walla, 98362.

Burns Mortuary of Hermiston is in charge of the arrangements.

**Marriage Licenses**

Morrow County Court Bobbi Childers has released the following report of marriage licenses issued:

-December 8- Roberto Carlos Bernal, 23, Boardman, and Alyssa Jean Baxter, 18, Boardman;

Shawn Drake Chandler, 34, Heppner, and Merry Elizabeth Brannon, 38, Heppner.

**Donna Lea Gardner**

Donna Lea Gardner was born in Baker, Oregon



Donna Lea Gardner

January 6, 1946 to parents, Robert & Violet Howell. She died on Saturday, December 16, 2006 at the Kadlec Medical Center in Richland, Washington at the age of 60 years.

She was a resident of Irrigon, Oregon, the past few years, formerly had lived in Baker many years and also in the John Day area for 15 years. She worked for the State of Oregon for 32 years as a case manager. She was a champion to the elderly she worked with. She loved to travel, loved her kids, and grandkids, and was devoted to her family and friends. She enjoyed fly-fishing, reading, museums, and outdoors, and she loved wolves. She was a member of the Catholic Church. She married her husband J.C. Gardner on May 11, 2001 in Hermiston.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Robert and Violet Howell and two brothers, Leland, and Randy.

Donna is survived by her husband, J.C. Gardner of Irrigon; son, David Pierce of Irrigon; daughter, Michelle Osborne of Irrigon; sisters, Faith Sonnemon of Colby, WI; and Darlene Farley of Boise, Idaho; grandchildren, Dustin, Jessika, Gavin, Bradley, Rylee, Harley, and Seth; and also nieces, nephews, and cousins.

Recitation of the Rosary will be held on Thursday Dec. 21, 2006 at 7:30 p.m. at Burns Mortuary Chapel. Funeral Services will be held on Friday, Dec. 22, 2006 at 11 a.m. at Burns Mortuary Chapel. A private family burial will follow at the Desert Lawn Memorial Cemetery in Irrigon, Oregon.

Memorials can be made to the American Diabetes Association.

Burns Mortuary of Hermiston is in charge of the arrangements.

**G-T closed for Christmas**

The Heppner Gazette-Times will be closed on Monday, December 25. Submission deadlines for advertisements and contributed photos and articles will be Friday, December 22, at 5 p.m.

We will also be closed on Monday, January 1, 2007. Submission deadlines will be 5 p.m. on Friday, December 29, 2006.

**William Bentley Williams**

Funeral service for William Bentley Williams was held Saturday, December 16, 2006 at Sweeney Mortuary, concluding service was at the Heppner Masonic Cemetery.

Mr. Williams, 88, of Heppner died Thursday, December 14, at his home.

He was born May 4, 1918 at Van Alstyne, Texas the son of James and Emma Williams.

On August 7, 1939 he married Irene Morgan at Darant, Oklahoma, the couple moved to Visalia, California in 1947. Mr. Williams worked at Knudsons Creamery for 29 years.

They moved to Heppner in September of 2005 to be close to their grandson Michael and their granddaughter Michelle.

He was a member of the Sierra Baptist Church in Visalia, California. Mr. Williams enjoyed gardening, tinkering and playing the harmonica.

He is survived by his wife; Irene of Heppner, grandson; Michael of Heppner, granddaughter; Michelle of Portland, and great-grandchildren.

Memorial contributions for those who wish may be made to Pioneer Memorial Hospice, PO Box 9, Heppner, OR 97836.

Sweeney Mortuary of Heppner was in charge of arrangements.

**Sheila B. Pruett**

A "world class fisherwoman," Sheila B. Pruett, died Friday, Dec. 8, 2006, at Good Shepherd Medical Center after a battle with lung cancer. She was 59.

A memorial service will be held at a later date at Stokes Landing Senior Center in Irrigon. Disposition was by cremation.

She was born April 29, 1947, in Boise, the fourth of 12 children, to Dale M. and Leotta B. Wilson Neider. She attended schools in Boise. She was a longtime resident of Boise, Bend and the Umatilla/Irrigon areas. She traveled most of the western states working at various jobs.

Ms. Pruett was a member of the Lady Anglers and the Old Time Fiddlers Association. She played in local nursing homes and other functions until her health forced her to stop.

She is survived by her mother, Leotta Neider of Irrigon; daughter Tammy Ferguson and son, Tim Elam both of Boise; sisters Shirley Strong and Sally Lloyd of Boise, Sandy Powell of Hermiston, and Sharon Kopp of Wilsonville; brothers John and Steve Neider of Irrigon, James Neider of Bend and Jerry Neider of St. Helens; special friend Mr. J.C. Pruett of Boise; five grandchildren and many nieces, nephews and great-nieces and great-nephews.

She was preceded in death by her father, Dale Neider; sister Shelly Neider; brothers Jay and Joe Neider; and a grandson.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Parkinson's Foundation or to the charity of choice.

Burns Mortuary of Hermiston is in charge of the arrangements.

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