

## South Morrow County Scholarship Trust recipients named

The South Morrow County Scholarship Trust announces the recipients of the 2009 scholarships in the amount of \$750 each. They are Margaret Armato, Jordan Shepherd, Tiana Camarillo, Sarah Ballard, and Spencer Palmer.

The five students were selected out of 16 applicants on the basis of academic achievement, chosen field of study, financial need, school participation, degree of effort the student has made in seeking sources for college, and personal characteristics for success and school citizenship.

Margaret Armato is the daughter of Alto Kim Cutsforth and the late Michael Armato.

She attends Heppner High School and she plans on earning a degree that includes economics, environmental sciences and political sciences. Margaret is very active in school with varsity letters in volleyball and golf. She is National Honor Society president and student body treasurer. Margaret has participated in

many community activities, serving as 4H Camp cook, 4-H Ambassador and volunteers at the assisted living center in Heppner. She received Heppner Chamber of Commerce Youth Achievement Award, Gold Presidential Award, pre-Calculus student of the year and many other awards.

Jordan Shepherd of Heppner is the son of Joyce Shepherd. He plans on attending Eastern Washington University. Jordan will be studying forensic science and chemistry. He is a member of national honor society and was technology student of the year in 2008. Jordan is very active in community events and in his church. He also has served as a teacher's assistant and designed an add-on for the assisted living center in Heppner.

Tiana Camarillo attends the Ione Community School. She is the daughter of Clint and Sharon Camarillo of Ione. She plans on attending a four year university to receive a degree in exercise and sports science. Tiana then

plans on completing her radiology degree. She is a member of the National Honor Society, lettered in varsity basketball, volleyball and track and field. Tiana has served as class president for two years and is editor of the yearbook. Awards include physical science excellent student, biology excellent student and pre-calculus excellent student. Tiana is active in community activities, working on bike trail cleanup, church auction, youth track meet and juvenile diabetes walk.

Sarah Ballard from Heppner is the daughter of Elizabeth Ballard. Sarah is considering several colleges, where she plans on attaining a B.S. in biology. She then plans on attending medical school studying to become a psychiatrist. Sarah has been secretary/treasurer for the National Honor Society for two years, varsity tennis participant in Ione, received the Gold President's Education Award and varsity football and basketball cheerleading awards. She is an active volunteer in her community, working on Cycle Oregon, Mustang Mop-up and helping at the assisted living center.

Spencer Palmer attends Heppner High School and is the son of Larry and Tina Palmer of Heppner. He plans on attending Brigham Young University in Idaho. Spencer's proposed field of study is exercise and sports science. He has taken five years of math including honors math, pre-calculus and AP Calculus. He has lettered all four years in football and track and three years in wrestling. Spencer is a member of the science bowl team and has been on the knowledge masters team for the past three years. He is a member of civics club and National Honor Society. He is currently serving as the Senior Class president. He is active in community events and in his church. He is a member of the parks and recreation beautification committee.

The board of directors of the scholarship trust include: Bill Rietmann, president; Barb Hayes, vice-president; Del LaRue, treasurer; Sharon Harrison, secretary; Missy Cutsforth; Martha Munkers; and Carri Grieb.

The South Morrow County Scholarship Trust was established several years ago with the mission to grow funds to provide scholarships to graduating senior from Heppner and Ione High schools and to eventually take the place of the Troedson Scholarship fund, which will be discontinued in the year 2023.

## Smithsonian Art Series coming to Heppner

Area residents of all ages are invited to attend a special series of live public programs brought directly to Heppner on coming Thursdays from the Smithsonian American Art Museum (SAAM) in Washington, D.C.

Beginning on May 21, SAAM officials will offer a series of four videoconferences exploring the notion "Sense of Place."

The programs are free and will be held at the Heppner public library. Each hour-long program will begin at 12 p.m. and attendees are welcome to bring a brown bag lunch. The programs are sponsored by Libraries of Eastern Oregon (LEO) and the Oregon Trail Library District.

By examining art and literature associated with several archetypal American places, SAAM officials will bring art from the Wash., D.C. museum directly to area residents via live-time videoconferences. Attendees will be able to speak directly with SAAM staff. Student, seniors, business persons and anyone interested in art or American culture is encouraged to attend.

On Thursday, May 21, "Making Sense of Place" will be presented.

On Thursday, May 28, "Personal Values Associated with Place in the U.S." will explore art as a reflection of life on the farm, in small towns, and in cities.

On Thursday, June 4, "Trees as Reflections of Place" will provide insight into the way different places are perceived by inhabitants and by outsiders.

Finally, "America as Garden of Eden" on June 11 will depict early 1800's perceptions of America as an emerging nation, rather than a confederation of separate states, fueled by views of the frontier as a land of opportunity rather than a dangerous wilderness.

To learn more, see [www.imls.gov](http://www.imls.gov). For further information, contact Oregon Trail Library Director Marsha Richmond at 541-481-3365 or LEO executive director Lyn Craig at 541-763-2355.

## Acocock completes National Guard training

Specialist James D. Acocock with the Army National Guard recently completed training for Army Combat Medic, at Fort Indiantown Gap, PA. He also certified as an EMT.

James is the son of Scott and Donna Acocock of Irrigon.

## ~ Letters to the Editor ~

The Heppner Gazette Times will print all letters to the Editor with the following criteria met: letters submitted to the newspaper will need to have the name of the sender along with a legible signature. We are also requesting that you provide your address and a phone number where you can be reached. The address and phone number will only be used for verification and will not be printed in the newspaper. Letters may not be libelous. The GT reserves the right to edit. 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.

## Emily's story

To the editor:

I am writing this to share a little about a rare disease; that we had never heard of before December 2007 when it affected our family. This disease is devastating, especially since it affects young children and worse, it's sadly incurable. Some of you may not know that our little niece passed away on June 9, 2008 from this disease, at the young age of 4. She was the only child of Mike and Ruth (Norton) Koltonski; also the granddaughter of Tom and Pam Norton, niece of David and Katy Norton, Jim and Becky Kindle, and Brian and Rachel Roth.

Sandhoff disease is a rare genetic disorder that causes progressive destruction of nerve cells in the brain and spinal cord due to lack of one enzyme (Hexosaminidase B). It often affects families with no prior history, one in every 278 people are carriers of this disease, and the chance of two carriers having a child together with Sandhoff disease is 25%.

We have teamed up with the Cure Tay-Sachs Foundation to help raise funds to support research to find a cure for these diseases (Tay-Sachs and Sandhoff are essentially the same disease.)

This foundation was started in June 2007 by the parents of Dakota, a sweet little girl with Tay-Sachs disease, since its beginning less than two years ago; the foundation has raised over \$818,000 for research to cure these diseases. In gene therapy studies, they are actually-right now able to cure mice with Sandhoff disease; a cure for these devastating diseases is within reach.

Emily was born a seemingly normal child, as she reached her first year of life; her parents and doctors realized there was something wrong. It would be a long journey, but eventually they learned that Emily had Sandhoff disease, a fatal degenerative condition that would leave her blind, paralyzed, and unable to smile, laugh or play. Emily passed away at the age of 4. Her personality was amazing, she would light up a room just like that, she had the most contagious giggle ever, she was stubborn, determined, and sweet, and she touched countless lives.

Some of us in our lifetimes are fortunate to have been blessed to experience the ultimate gift of a touch of an angel. Our family was blessed with four wonderful years of loving and experiencing this in our time spent with Emily Sue. For those that ever met Emily, they experienced immediate joy, and the knowledge that there was something very special about her. For all the pain and suffering that Emily had to endure in her short lifetime, the peace about her, and the happiness she expressed was contagious. Just being around Emily made you feel good about yourself, and made you realize life wasn't that bad, if this sweet little girl could still be happy.

We are planning to host a fundraising event on May 30 in memory of Emily - this would have been Emily's fifth birthday. The event will take place at Roddy's (a bar in downtown Boise), it will feature appetizers and discounted drinks as well as free bull rides. All proceeds will go to support the Tay-Sachs Foundation in order to support research to find a cure for these diseases.

At the event, we are going to hold a silent auction, an auction for a few larger items and a 50/50 raffle. There is a fundraising website that has been created that tells Emily's story as well as information about the event and the cause.

Although most of you may not be able to attend, if you would like the opportunity to support this cause, you can contact Becky Kindle or David Norton, Becky's cell 1-541-240-1077, mail at P.O. Box 53, Heppner OR, or go to the website [www.emilysfundraiser.homestead.com](http://www.emilysfundraiser.homestead.com).

Becky Kindle  
Heppner

## A tribute to Heppner from a "travel" nurse

To the Editor:

I recently received a note from a RN who had worked at Pioneer Memorial Hospital as a contract or "travel" nurse, i.e. we occasionally utilize nurses from out of the area to work when one of our regular nurses needs an extended period of time off.

She had entered an online essay contest about either their best or worst experience as a contract nurse. The essay entry read:

"My favorite hospital has to be Pioneer Memorial Hospital in Heppner, Oregon. It's a rural, critical access hospital. The first time I worked there, it had a nursing home attached. The nursing home later closed but I understand there is a push to get it going again. They'd like to keep those needing extra care in the community.

The first or second time I worked there, I was impressed at how friendly the staff was, not only to me - a traveler, but to the community it serves.

One of the dietary staff came in to see a patient and what he would like to eat and as well brought some soup and a sandwich for his wife.

I've never seen such hospitality offered before or since."

Her note went on to say, "I wrote this essay for a contest on Nurse Connect and won an iPod! Now I have to figure out how to use it! Valerie Davis RN, Princeton, OR". I called Ms. Davis and asked permission to share her essay and recommendation.

This letter demonstrates it is not just the clinical staff that makes Pioneer Memorial Hospital special, it is the entire staff of caring individuals.

I feel fortunate to work in a place where we can make a positive difference in peoples' lives.

Molly Rhea  
Heppner

## Farra recognized by Heppner Garden Club



Ida Farra stands by the Rainier Cherry tree in full bloom at her Heppner Main Street home. Given to her by then neighbor, Bob Jones, Farra kept the original label of the 'dwarf' tree and noted she planted it March 14, 1984. While she gets to keep fruit from lower branches, birds make a quick harvest of the rest. The Heppner Garden Club recently recognized Farra with Garden Feature for May for this outstanding tree. -Contributed Photo

## Plants still for sale at HHS greenhouse

The Heppner High Agriculture department's greenhouse still has a great selection of bedding plants {petunias, snapdragons, Portulaca (rose moss), white lobelia, marigolds, pansies, sedum, dianthus, calibrachoa, zinnias, and alyssum}, some hanging baskets, patio baskets and a few vegetables.

The greenhouse will be open after school until 4:30 this week, Friday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Saturday from 8 a.m. to noon, or call Beth Dickenson at 676-9138 for a special time.

**DRINK SPECIALS**

- Peanut Butter Cup Mocha
- Banana Creme pie
- Italian soda
- Snow Cones and Fresh Squeezed Lemon Aid

**GRADUATION**

Cards  
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Megan Kae Bailey  
& Kyle Richard Snow  
*Saturday, May 30th*

Robert Raymond Ashbeck  
& Jennifer Marie Brushia  
*Saturday, June 20th*

Adam Ashley McCabe &  
Shelley Kathryn Rietmann  
*Saturday, June 27th*

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