

Bessie Wetzell Newspaper Library
University of Oregon
Eugene, OR 97403

HEPPNER

50¢

Gazette Times

VOL. 132 N O. 2 6 Pages Wednesday, January 9, 2013 Morrow County, Heppner, Oregon

Ione resident killed in highway crash

Ione resident Judith F. "Pachy" Burns, was killed Sunday morning, Jan. 6, in a two-vehicle fatal traffic crash along Highway 207 about three miles south of I-84.

Burns, 63, from Bit Timber, MT, was northbound on Highway 207 near milepost 16 at 10:52 a.m., driving a 2012 Toyota Tacoma. She began to pass a northbound 1998 International flatbed truck that was attempting to make a left turn. Burns returned into the northbound lane and the Toyota crashed into the back of the flatbed truck, which was traveling slowly, beginning the left turn.

Burns, who temporarily was living in Ione, was pronounced deceased at the scene. A passenger in her pickup, Evan Jesus Delacruz-Meza, 45, from Ione, was not injured. Both were using safety restraints; the pickup's airbags deployed.



A two-vehicle crash on Highway 207 Sunday killed Ione woman Pachy Burns; passenger Evan Delacruz-Meza was uninjured. —Photo courtesy of Oregon State Police

The two occupants of the International flatbed truck were not injured. Oregon State Police (OSP) identified them as driver Scott J. Madison, 55, and passenger Kattje L. Pettyjohn, 45, both from Echo, OR. Both were wearing seatbelts.

OSP troopers from the Pendleton Area Command

office are continuing the investigation. Trooper Aaron Dietz is the lead investigator. OSP was assisted at the scene by Stanfield Police Department, Echo Rural Fire Protection District, Hermiston Fire & Emergency Services and Oregon Department of Transportation. —See obituary on PAGE SIX

Heppner schools closed last week for heating issues

Morrow County schools had a chilly start to 2013 when three schools experienced boiler-related problems that caused school closures last week.

Students at Heppner High School were sent home early on Jan. 2 when a motor on the exterior of one of the school's two boilers broke down, causing the boiler not to fire. The school district immediately brought someone in to fix the problem but, according to Morrow County School District Superintendent Dirk Dirksen, a part had to be ordered before the motor could be fixed. That led to plans to cancel HHS classes on Thursday.

As the repairman was about to leave HHS on Wednesday, word came that Heppner Elementary School was having heating

issues of its own. Another, different type, of motor had malfunctioned on the elementary school's boiler. Though the school district had planned on having classes at HES through the week, both Heppner schools ended up closed both Thursday and Friday, creating a slow start to 2013.

The motor at Heppner elementary has been fixed and is up and running, says Dirksen. As of Tuesday afternoon, one boiler at HHS still had not been fixed because maintenance workers were still waiting on parts. However, classes were held at the high school, as the one working boiler's heat was diverted from the cafeteria and gym areas to the classrooms.

Dirksen says he hopes

that, once the motors are fixed, the problem will be solved.

"That's what they told us. Heppner should be fine," he says, adding that the heating problems came on top of a Jan. 2 closure at Windy River Elementary in Boardman.

"We have a bigger problem at Windy River. The boiler (there) has to be replaced," he says, saying they have temporary measures in place to fix the problem until the district can get in and replace the faulty boiler. "We plan on doing that when we won't lose any class time."

Dirksen said it wasn't a great way to start 2013, and he's hoping for better luck for Morrow County schools through the remainder of the school year.

Beautification committee to meet

The Heppner beautification committee will meet Thursday, Jan. 10,

at 8 a.m. at Heppner City Hall to discuss the city's proposed heritage park and

the American Indian met-alwork planned for it. The public is invited to attend.

ALL NEWS AND ADVERTISEMENT DEADLINE:
MONDAYS AT 5:00 P.M.

County officials sworn into office



County officials elected in the November election were sworn into office on Monday, Jan. 7. Left to right are: Stephen Haddock, County Surveyor; Gayle Gutierrez, County Treasurer; Bobbi Childers, County Clerk; Leann Rea, County Commissioner; and Greg Sweek, Assessor. Not pictured is Ken Matlack, Sheriff. —Photo by David Sykes

From lawyer to author to movie mogul

Heppner native Scott McEwen consultant on American Sniper movie

By Andrea Di Salvo

While the term "movie mogul" may not exactly fit Heppner son Scott McEwen, his involvement with the "American Sniper" has certainly launched him into arenas he never imagined when growing up in a small town.

Those who read the article in the Feb. 22, 2012 issue of the Gazette-Times will remember that McEwen, along with fellow co-author Jim DeFelice, worked with Navy SEAL Chris Kyle on the creation of his bestselling autobiography, "American Sniper: The Autobiography of the Most Lethal Sniper in U.S. Military History."

The hardcover book is in its 18th edition, with approximately 500,000 copies now in print. It was on the New York Times Bestseller list for roughly nine months and was number one on the list for seven weeks. It is now being published in six different languages. The paperback is due to be released next month, and will be sold by all major distributors, including Amazon, Barnes & Noble, Costco, Target and Wal-Mart.

McEwen, a 51-year-old

trial attorney based in San Diego, CA, says he never wanted to be a writer. However, after hearing Kyle's stories of the front lines, he felt compelled to get the SEAL's story heard. That launched him into an unexpected, wild ride of writing, marketing, book deals and agents.

McEwen says the book's success has been "truly amazing" from his perspective.

"I am very proud of all the support we have been able to give to the men and women of our military, including our wounded warriors," he says. "The 'message' of patriotism and love of this country we wanted to impart from this work has been received and understood by many. This is really why we set out to chronicle Chris' story, and I believe it has been successful."

Now, Kyle and McEwen have embarked on a new stage in their adventure, as Hollywood giant Warner Brothers has acquired the movie rights to Kyle's story. Film star Bradley Cooper

(The A-Team, The Hangover, Limitless) has plans to produce, and possibly star, in the film, which will be the first effort for Cooper's new production company, 22nd & Indiana.

David O. Russell (Three Kings, The Fighter), who has teamed up with Cooper on previous projects, is said to be slated for the director's chair. Jason Dean Hall (Spread) has been set up to write the script, and McEwen says he will be working closely with Hall and acting as a consultant in the production.

"I will be consulting on the movie during its production, script, and the actual filming, so that will be an interesting adventure," says McEwen.

He says that, while he doesn't know for sure everything that consultation will eventually entail, it could run the gamut. Thus far, he has been assisting with terminology used in the book that might not be familiar to filmmakers, as well as certain background

—See AMERICAN SNIPER MOVIE/PAGE THREE



Scott McEwen

Public hearing on Heppner sidewalk use ordinance to be held Monday

A public hearing to discuss a new sidewalk use ordinance will be held next Monday, Jan. 14, beginning at 7 p.m. at Heppner City Hall.

The new ordinance will

cover everything from community events to sandwich boards to selling items on city sidewalks and the permits and permissions required to use the sidewalks. The city council will take

public comment at next Monday's hearing. The complete ordinance was printed in the Dec. 19 and 26 issues of the Heppner Gazette-Times.

Walden to hold town hall in Boardman

U.S. Rep. Greg Walden will hold a Morrow County town hall meeting this Thursday, Jan. 10, from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. at the Port of Morrow, 2 Marine Dr., Boardman.

Walden plans to discuss his efforts to provide tax relief for Oregon families and small businesses, grow the economy, reduce spending, and balance the budget. Residents will also have the opportunity to ask ques-

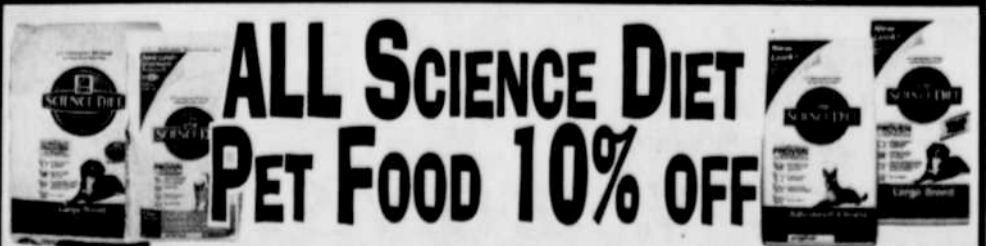
tions and give their input for Walden's "to do" list to take back to Washington, D.C.

Walden's Morrow County stop will be one of eight town hall meetings in the Gorge and northeastern Oregon this week, kicking off his 2013 meetings. Last year, Walden held 24 town hall meetings in the 20 counties in Oregon's Second District.

"While the Congress and the country are fac-

ing very difficult, but very important choices going forward, here at home there are many local issues that I'm focused on, as well. Expanding access to broadband in rural areas, boosting our farm and ranch economies, improving management of our federal forests, and taking care of those who wear—or who have worn—our nation's uniform remain priorities for me," said Walden.

GREEN FEED & SEED IN HEPPNER:



Morrow County Grain Growers Green Feed & Seed
242 W. Linden Way, Heppner • 676-9422 • 989-8221 (MCGG main office)