

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  
Andrea Di Salvo 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 \$5 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 \$5.75 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.

**Obituaries**

**Rita H. Sumner**

Rita H. Sumner, 77, of Heppner passed from this life on May 15, 2013 in Ashland, OR. A memorial service will be held at 3 p.m. Sunday, June 2, at the Willow Creek Branch of The Church of Latter Day Saints, Highway 74, Lexington.



Rita H. Sumner

She was born December 9, 1935 in Pendleton, OR, the daughter of Ivan and Helen Cox. Rita was raised and attended school in Pendleton for a time before her family moved to Heppner, where she graduated from high school. She spent much of her youth on horseback, helping her family with their cattle ranch. She had a great love for animals and often adopted them as pets.

After graduation, Rita married John "Jack" Sumner and they had five children. Together, they ranched and farmed the family property. Rita was recognized as the force behind her husband's efforts in conservation farming and later supported him as he served in Salem as

a state representative. The couple later divorced.

Rita was a school-bus driver and at one time owned and operated a fabric store in Heppner.

She was a talented seamstress, a very good cook, and also enjoyed baking and gardening.

In addition to all these things, she was also a pilot, often flying small planes to get urgently needed parts for farm machinery.

Survivors include: sons, Charlie Sumner and wife Cindy of Lexington, Jeff Sumner and wife Kathleen of Hillsboro, OR; daughters, Sally Runyan of Vancouver, WA, and Jaci Jones and husband Kevin of Medford, OR; her sister, Mary Banks of Pendleton; 10 grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by: a son, John Sumner, and ex-husband Jack Sumner, both in 1995.

Memorial contributions may be made to Pioneer Memorial Hospital, PO box 9, Heppner, OR 97836.

**Robert Peter Fitzsimmons**

Robert Peter Fitzsimmons, 67, of Goldendale, WA departed on the ultimate hunting and fishing trip Saturday, May 18, 2013 at Oregon Health & Science University in Portland, OR. A memorial service will be held Friday, May 31, at 1:30 p.m. at the Goldendale Country Club, 1901 N. Columbus Ave. in Goldendale. It will be followed by a potluck celebration of his life, so everyone is encouraged to bring favorite "Fitz" stories.

He was born January 6, 1946 to June and Kenneth (Pete) Fitzsimmons of Oroville, CA. The family moved to Prineville, OR in 1957, when he was in the seventh grade. Bob completed his education in Prineville and was a member of the graduating class of 1963 from Crook County High School.

Following in his father's footsteps, in 1964 he started his journey to become a lineman with the Pacific Gas & Electric Company of Fresno, CA. Upon completion of his apprenticeship, he moved back to Oregon and began working for the Condon office of Columbia Basin Electric Co-op in January of 1970, and spent over 30 years dedicated to keeping the power on for the residents Gilliam and Wheeler Counties.

He married Roberta Bruce in 1965 and they were blessed with two children, Aaron and Jeanine, whom they raised together in Condon. They later divorced.

On May 14, 1996 he married the love of his life, his wife Sharon Coleman, in Shaniko, OR. They made their home in Fossil, OR for several years before relocating to Goldendale in 2001 following his retirement from the Columbia Basin Electric Co-op.

On July 1, 2001, he began working at the Klickitat County PUD and held the position of Line Superintendent at the time of his death. He loved his job and the people he worked with immensely, and made many close friends during his years there. It was said that "Ror a guy that gives the impression of having a rough exterior, Fitz has a

heart of gold."

Bob spent his life outdoors and was an avid sportsman. His happiest times were spent hunting, fishing, and spending time with family and friends. He also enjoyed guiding fishing trips, meeting new people and following his beloved Notre Dame Fighting Irish. He was an extremely gifted woodworker and spent countless hours in his shop creating treasures that will long be cherished by family and friends.

Always ready to lend a helping hand to neighbors and friends, Bob was very involved in the community and particularly enjoyed working with kids. He was a devoted father and was always there for his family, whether coaching his sons' baseball team, teaching hunter safety courses to the kids of the area, or simply lending an ear and extending much needed advice. His children and grandchildren were the pride of his life.

He became a Master Mason in May of 1984, was a member of the Condon Elks Lodge #1869 where he served as Exalted Ruler in 1976 and 1977, and was also a member of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local #125, Oregon Hunters Association, National Rifle Association and Northwest Steelheaders Association.

He was preceded in death by: his father and his brother, Richard Dunn.

He is survived by: his wife, Sharon; mother, June Dunn Guimont of Woodburn, OR; son, Aaron (Chris) Fitzsimmons of Condon; daughters, Jeanine (Rob) Conlee of The Dalles, OR, and Shannon (Vince) Vanoss of Leonardtown, MD; grandchildren, Mar-nie, Derek, Coby, Aleks and Stefan; sister-in-law, Carolyn Reeves of Prineville; sister, Debra Bowar of Woodburn; brother, Richard Fitzsimmons of Madera, CA; and niece, Lindsey Dunn of Portland.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests memorial contributions be made through IBEW Local #125 to the Oregon Burn Center. Columbia Hills Memorial Chapel handled cremation arrangements.

**Birth Announcement**

**Pearl Kathleen Miller**—Corey and Jill Miller of Heppner announce the birth of a daughter, Pearl Kathleen Miller. Pearl was born at St. Anthony's Hospital in Pendleton, OR on March 22, 2013, at 12:25 a.m. At birth, she weighed five pounds, seven ounces and measured 18.5 inches in length.



Pearl Kathleen Miller

She joins big sister, Paige, who is two. Grandparents are Mark and Shanny Miller of Heppner, and Bob and Tricia Sorey of Helix, OR.

She is the second great-grandchild of Tad and Melba Miller of Heppner.

**Armato to graduate from Harvard**

On May 30, 2013, Margaret (Maggie) Elizabeth Armato will graduate from Harvard University with English honors from the Department of Economics, where she has earned a Bachelor of Arts degree. She will also graduate with a secondary in environmental science and public policy and language citations in Spanish and Italian.



Maggie Armato

Maggie graduated from Heppner High School in 2009. She is the daughter of Kim Cutsforth and the late Mike Armato, and sister of Joe Armato.

While studying at Harvard, Maggie took advantage of their summer study-abroad programs. She spent her freshman summer in Venice attending environmental science classes and traveling Italy. Her sophomore summer was spent in Lima, Peru. While

there, she participated in a Spanish immersion program and worked at an archeological site, the pyramid Huaca Puellana, where she helped diagram artifacts. She spent her 20<sup>th</sup> birthday watching the sunrise at Machu Pichu. Last summer, she interned for an investment banking firm in New York, NY. She was the president of the Harvard Taekwondo Club and on the Executive Board for Harvard Women in Business. For the last one and a half years during school she volunteered for Escuela Amigos, a bilingual elementary school, and she interned for an energy consulting group, MyEnergy. After graduation, she will work for Pinterest in San Francisco.

The Armatos will be holding a celebration at their home June 22 at 5 p.m.; no gifts, please.

**Fishing derby planned**

The eighth annual youth fishing derby, sponsored by Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife and Morrow County Parks, will take place Saturday, June 1 from 8:30-11 a.m. at Cutsforth

Park, 58430 Willow Creek Rd., Heppner. The derby is for children 14 years old and younger.

For more information, contact Betty Gray at 541-989-8214.

**Virginia L. Wilkinson**

Virginia L. Wilkinson, 91, of Heppner died Saturday, May 25, 2013 at Pioneer Memorial Hospital in Heppner. A funeral Mass will be held 11 a.m. Monday, June 3, at St. Patrick's Catholic Church in Heppner, with vault interment to follow at the Heppner Masonic Cemetery. Recitation of the Rosary will be held at 7 p.m. Sunday, June 2, at St. Patrick's Catholic Church.

She was born August 3, 1921 in Portsmouth, VA, the daughter of Herman and Mary Caprio Dean; she was the eldest of the three Dean children. Her father was a musician in the United States Navy, so the family moved several times, including Pensacola, FL, San Pedro, CA, Honolulu, HI and Long Beach, CA.

Her father was called to duty in American Samoa when Virginia was 16 years of age; the family lived there for 18 months. Virginia learned to play the ukulele, dance the hula, and sing island songs. While in Samoa, she was taught bookkeeping basics and earned \$7.50 a week.

For his 20-year discharge, her father was sent back to Pensacola, after which the family moved to Marianna, FL. Virginia graduated from high school in Marianna and started another bookkeeping job, with more extensive on-the-job training.

World War II began, and her father was recalled to Norfolk, VA. It was there that Virginia met and married Bill Cochell, a Heppner native who was in her father's band. Together they

had two daughters, Judith and Pamela, after returning to Bill's hometown. Bill Cochell died of cancer in 1949. Virginia and the girls lived in Heppner with her in-laws, and she worked at the Production Marketing Association for Bill Padberg.

On October 31, 1950 she married Dick Wilkinson, a local rancher and native of Heppner. She was happily married to Dick for over 62 years; she kept the books and managed finances at the Wilkinson Ranch while raising her girls.



Virginia L. Wilkinson

She enjoyed painting, crocheting, bowling, sewing, and playing bridge with friends. Virginia was very active in the Eastern Star, serving as

Worthy Matron. She was honored when chosen as Worthy Grand Matron for the state of Oregon.

Survivors include: her husband, Dick Wilkinson; daughters, Judith Shannon and Pam Wunderlich; son-in-law, Mark Wunderlich; sister, Olive Suarez; sister-in-law, Shirley Rugg; four grandchildren; seven great-grandchildren; and several nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by: her parents, and her brother, Herman Jr.

Memorial contributions may be made to Pioneer Memorial Hospital Long-Term Care, PO Box 9, Heppner, OR 97836 or to Willow Creek Terrace Assisted Living, 400 Frank Gilman Drive, Heppner, OR 97836.

Sweeney Mortuary of Heppner is in charge of arrangements.

**Park district to meet**

Willow Creek Park District will have a regular board meeting, along with a budget meeting, on June 11 at 5 p.m. at Heppner City Hall.

**Over the Tee Cup**

Rain, rain and more rain didn't deter the ladies of Willow Creek Country Club from turning out for play on Tuesday, May 21. Despite the weather, 12 participated.

Virginia Grant had low gross of the field, Laura Rogers had low net and Jackie Allstott had least putts.

For flight A, Corol Mitchell had low gross, Eva Kilkenny had low net and Judy Harris and Loa Heideman tied for least

putts. Eva Kilkenny had the long drive.

For flight B, Pat Dougherty had low gross and long drive, and Betty Burns low net.

On flight C, Beverly Steagall had low gross, and Lorrene Montgomery had low net and long drive.

Jackie Allstott had chip-in and longest putt #2.

The 18-hole invitational will take place June 4. All ladies playing from Heppner are asked to sign up at the club house.

**Farmer's market to open in June**

Willow Creek Farmer's Market will open for the season June 21 at Heppner City Park. Market hours will be Fridays from 10

a.m. till 2 p.m.; anyone interested in being a vendor, contact Margaret Flaherty at 541-676-5972.

**Hunter Education**  
Courses to be held June 11th, 13th, 18th and 20th  
6:00 - 9:00 p.m. at Heppner High School  
With a field day Saturday June 15th at Lexington Gun Club 8am -12 noon  
Any person under 18 who wishes to hunt must pass this course in order to acquire a hunting license in the State of Oregon. Any person wishing to hunt out of state must also hold a valid Hunter Education Card. The course is being taught by Jim and Darlene Marquardt. Questions, call Jim at 541-969-4845.  
To register for the class go to <http://www.dfw.state.or.us/education/hunter/> and follow registration instructions.  
The fee for the course is \$10 and is set by ODFW

**PLEASE HAVE YOUR DECORATIONS REMOVED FROM THE CEMETERY BY THURSDAY JUNE 6TH**  
Heppner Masonic Cemetery

**If you or someone you know has a gambling problem, help is available and that help is FREE of charge.**  
If YOU have a family member who suffers from gambling addiction, YOU can also receive FREE treatment even if the gambler is not receiving treatment.  
If you are a resident of Morrow County and you wish to take advantage of the services above or desire more information, Please call any of the following numbers to set up a LOCAL appointment or just to talk:  
Bobby Harris @ 541-676-9925 or 541-256-0175  
Community Counseling Solutions (CCS) @ 541-676-9161  
OR 1-877-695-4648 (1-888-MYLIMIT)