

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
Published weekly by Sykes Publishing, LLC and entered as periodical matter at the Post Office at Heppner, Oregon under the Act of March 3, 1879. Periodical postage paid at Heppner, Oregon. Office at 188 W. Willow Street. Telephone (541) 676-9228. Fax (541) 676-9211. E-mail: editor@rapidsolve.net or david@rapidsolve.net. Web site: www.heppner.net. Postmaster send address changes to the Heppner Gazette-Times, P.O. Box 337, Heppner, Oregon 97836. Subscriptions: \$30 in Morrow County; \$24 senior rate (in Morrow County only; 65 years or older); \$36 elsewhere; \$30 student subscriptions.
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.

Local churches to offer Lenten study, worship series

Several local churches will present a Lenten study, "The God We Can Know," over the coming weeks.

This Lenten study includes a soup supper, as well as a book study and a short service centered on the "I Am" sayings of Jesus. Everyone is welcome.

Pastors Patty Nance of Heppner United Methodist Church and Katy Anderson of the Shared Ministry of Hope Lutheran and All Saints Episcopal explain that in the Gospel of John, Jesus gives us the "I Am" sayings, meaningful images to reveal his mission and purpose. One by one, the "I Am" statements not only grab our imagination about Jesus' identity, but also help us experience

God, who spoke the first "I Am" to Moses.

The series schedule is as follows:

Feb. 18 (Ash Wednesday), 6 p.m., Hope Lutheran Church

Feb. 25, 6 p.m., United Methodist Church

March 4, 6 p.m., All Saints Episcopal Church

March 18, 6 p.m., Hope Lutheran Church

March 25, 6 p.m., United Methodist Church

To register for this book study or for more information, call the Shared Ministries of Hope Lutheran and All Saints Episcopal Churches, 541-676-9970, or contact the United Methodist Church, heppneroregonmethodists@gmail.com.

HUMC this week

What does it take to become a truly spiritual person? The Apostle Paul teaches that true spirituality is achieved not only by how good you are but by how good you are to others. Pastor Patty Nance will talk about this and more when she presents "Mastering True Spirituality" this Sunday at Heppner United Methodist Church. Liturgist BonnaRae Miller will read from the books of Deuteronomy, Corinthians and Mark. Hymns will include "Fairest Lord Jesus," "We

Sing Your Glory," "As A Fire Is Meant For Burning," "Let Us Break Bread Together" and "I Come With Joy" with Carley Drake as accompanist.

A fellowship time will be held in the community room following the service.

Service begins at 10:30 a.m. All are welcome. The Heppner United Methodist Church is located at 175 West Church St. For more information call 541-676-9224 or e-mail heppneroregonmethodists@gmail.com.

Driver indicted in crash that killed Hermiston man

Monday, a Klamath County Grand Jury indicted Guage Lee Gray, 22, on charges related to the Dec. 28, 2014 fatal crash that killed Hermiston resident Garrett Zimmer.

Gray was charged with two counts of Manslaughter in the First Degree, two counts of Manslaughter in the Second Degree and Driving Under the Influence of Intoxicants (DUI).

A warrant issued for his arrest was served when an OSP trooper located him and arrested him without incident. Gray was lodged in the Klamath County Jail.

Obituaries

Shirlee A. Sweigart

Shirlee A. Sweigart, 71, of Heppner, died January 21, 2015, at Oregon Health & Science University in Portland. Services are pending.

Mrs. Sweigart was born December 15, 1943 to Harold Gains and Jeanie Dobbs of Heppner. She was born in Portland, although the family lived in Heppner. The doctor who delivered her was her uncle Ben Houston, who grew up on Heppner. She grew up on Eightmile where her grandparents, the Houstons, ranched. She attended Heppner High School and was a stay-at-home mom after the birth of her first child.

After high school she attended Blue Mountain Community College, studying business, and then started her career in mental health administration. She worked for the Morrow/Umatilla mental health

clinic. After marrying her husband, Jim Sweigart, they moved to Mesa, AZ, where they lived for 25 years. They returned to Heppner around 2006.

She enjoyed visiting with her friends, and her last years had been especially meaningful because she could reconnect with her friends in Heppner. She also enjoyed house painting.

Survivors include: her husband, Jim Sweigart; daughter Tawnie Gray, Fairview, OR; son Treve Gray, Pendleton, OR; stepson, Jimmy Sweigart, Salem; stepdaughter Karen Oeser, Greenville, SC; brother Bobby Dobbs, Chandler, AZ; and nine grandchildren.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the St. Patrick's Senior Center.

Betty Jean Way

Betty Jean Way, 86, a longtime resident of The Dalles, OR, formerly of the Heppner area, passed away peacefully at a care facility in The Dalles on the evening of January 18, 2015. A local graveside service was held in Lexington on Saturday, January 24.

Betty was born to Frans (Frank) Martin Lovgren and Hannah Marie (Erickson) Lovgren August 29, 1928 on their farm at Eightmile, OR, between Condon and Heppner. She was the 12th of 13 brothers and sisters.

She grew up in eastern Oregon and was the Valedictorian of her Heppner graduating class of 1946. She had excellent horse-womanship skills and was chosen as a princess for the Heppner rodeo in 1946.

She worked during and after her high school years at "Scotty's" and at a bank in Heppner.

Betty married Joseph Daniel Way, from the Lexington area, after his World War II service in the Navy, on September 15, 1950 in Ketchikan, AK. While in Alaska they lived on Annette Island. The young couple moved from there to Las Vegas, NV, then to Salt Lake City, UT, then to Fort Jones, CA. While living in Fort Jones, a son and a daughter were born. The family then moved to Yreka, CA and then finally to The Dalles, OR in 1971, where they enjoyed many happy years.

Betty was her daughter's Girl Scout Brownie troop leader, and many fun times were had. Some of her favorite times were when she was watching her granddaughters and great-granddaughters at their sporting events.

Betty was active in sewing, embroidery and

crocheting. She made many sets of Barbie and Ken doll clothes and even entered them in the fair. Besides the many quilts she made especially for her family, many of her quilts and afghans were made to be donated to various senior organizations and care facilities in and around The Dalles.

Betty never saw a baby that she didn't want to hold and cuddle. Her granddaughters and great-granddaughters were the light of her life, causing many smiles, laughs and lots of hugs.

Betty was preceded in death by her husband, Joseph; and her sisters and brothers, Erma Christina Lovgren Keithley, Victor Arthur Lovgren, Helen Irene Lovgren Horton Stradley Nevis, Alfred Lawrence Lovgren, Edna Josephine Lovgren Harshman, Frances Marie Lovgren, Frank Martin (Tim) Lovgren Jr., James Calvert Lovgren, Marshall Lovgren, Marion Lovgren and Robert Lee Lovgren.

She is survived by her sister, Gladys May Lovgren Alderman of Heppner; her son, Dane Way and his wife Darlene of The Dalles; her daughter, Janna Way Thorp and husband Randy of Corvallis, OR; her granddaughters, Karissa Way Hamm and husband Eric of The Dalles, and Elizabeth Way Wheeler and husband Christopher of Monmouth, OR; and her great-granddaughters, Drew, Lillian and Josephine Hamm, and Charlotte and Esmé Wheeler.

The family wishes that in lieu of flowers, donations be made to either your local hospice organization in Betty's name or Heart of Hospice, 508 Washington Street, The Dalles, OR 97058.

Death Notice

Cecil O. Barlow—Cecil O. Barlow, 83, of Heppner, died Sunday, January 25, 2015 at a care facility in Hermiston. He was born December 19, 1931 at Elgin, OR.

Arrangements are pending at Sweeney Mortuary of Heppner.



Wheatland Insurance Center, Inc. Serving Eastern Oregon since 1983.

On Thursday, February 12th
Heppner and Lone Wheatland offices will be closing at 3:30 pm

~ 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.

Happy birthday, Colt Basketball

I lived in Heppner for nine years, seven of which were spent as band director. I was involved in organizing many activities for kids back in my young and energetic years. Some of those activities included a junior bowling league, putting on dances, community movies, putting on shows to raise scholarship money, etc. However, the organization of which I am most proud is Colt Basketball. Over the years, it has come to my attention that most people don't realize how it started. Since this is a landmark year, I thought I would pass on the story.

I began teaching in Heppner in the fall of 1973. I developed a special bond with my first beginning band. I was a new teacher and they were new to band. I still remember that there were 23 kids in that band and can still name most of them. When they were in sixth grade ('74-'75 school year), I thought it would be great to get them started in basketball. At that time, there were no organized teams until seventh grade. I asked the boys if they would like to form a team. They were very excited about this and we proceeded...a team with no opponents, no uniforms and no name. Bill Buckendorf was a new choir teacher that year and he came on board as an assistant coach.

We began to practice and word got out that there was a new team in town. I was approached by a community member who had connections with Jesse Jones, the man that ran the youth basketball program on the Umatilla Reservation east of Pendleton. We were invited to participate in their annual youth tournament that spring. Since the school season was completed, we were able to borrow the seventh-grade uniforms.

We needed a team name. Teams already in existence were Mustangs, Fillies and Ponies. It was obvious that we had to have a younger horse. I honestly admit that the first name that popped into my head was "Foal." I immediately realized that this was a very "lame" name for an athletic team. After a bit of thinking, another name popped into my head...Colt. I went to the kids and asked them if they liked the name. They thought it was great and Colt Basketball was born.

We were blown out in the tournament. Teams came from as far away as Neah Bay, Washington and those kids played all year long. However, people at the tournament loved our spirit and effort and we were awarded the Sportsmanship award. I still have that trophy with the names of the very first Colt Basketball players engraved upon it. Some of those guys still live in the Heppner area. The names are: Rick Cole, John Bier, Tony Currin, Jim Launer, Pat Clark, Ian Cate, Brian Thompson, Robert Servi, Rick Smith, Kenny Stookey and Jim Angell. These are the "pioneers" of Colt Basketball.

I had a new group of sixth-grade boys the following year and we again went to the Umatilla tournament with the same results. In the '76-'77 school year, we had a new high school basketball coach that wanted to get involved in the program. His name was Chris Borgen. He was only there for one year, but he should get some credit for expanding Colt Basketball. We decided to open it up to all third through sixth graders (boys and girls), everyone getting their own T-shirt. I believe we had eight teams.

Chris was gone the following year and we decided to change our format to fourth through sixth grade, boys and girls mixed. We had six teams, formed our own little league and got "real" uniforms. This system continued for the next five years until I left the area and handed over the reins to Dave Gunderson. The teams were: Lions, Tigers, Bears, Hawks, Eagles and Colts. I can still visualize the colors of each team uniform. I also did the laundry of those uniforms every weekend of the season for five years. At one point, the county got a special grant and they became involved in giving the coaches a few bucks for their time and expenses.

I didn't keep up on Colt Basketball after I left, so I don't know about changes that have taken place over the years. But, I do know that it continues to this day. I hadn't been back to visit Heppner for around 15 years when I was invited to a birthday party. I also heard that the district had put up new buildings. On that visit a number of years ago, I first went by my old house on Gilmore and then proceeded down Court Street to the school. The tennis court was there, but the old gym and band room were gone. I drove around to the front and got a good look at the new building as well as the sign that read: "Home of the Colts." The school had taken on the name. I got quite emotional at that moment, visualizing all the hundreds of faces I had worked with under the name Colt. I realize that the number of kids having now gone through the program is probably in the thousands. I can visualize being at the 1986 state tournament and seeing the Fillies win the state title...all those graduates of Colt Basketball. Look at what a powerhouse Heppner High School has been over these past decades and how many of those kids went through the program. Think of all the volunteers that have given their time to keep Colt Basketball going.

On behalf of all present and past players, coaches and parents that have participated in the program over the years, I say: "Happy 40th Birthday, Colt Basketball."

Sincerely,
Jim Ackley, Mulino, OR



Join Us For A Valentine's Day Banquet
Saturday Evening, February 14th at 6:15 P.M.

Cost: FREE - Tickets REQUIRED!
Mexican Dinner & Entertainment
A drawing for a romantic couple's basket

Heppner SDA Church
560 N Minor, Heppner

R.S.V.P. by February 10th to
(541) 922-8697 or ecwenberg@gmail.com



VETERANS
Health Care Transportation
TOWN HALL
Thursday, February 12th

11:30am Heppner Senior Center
Free Spaghetti Lunch served to veterans who pre-register. Call 541-922-6420

Hosted by
Morrow County Veterans Services & Walla Walla VA Medical Center

Defining EXCELLENCE in the 21st Century
VA HEALTH CARE

Questions? Contact Veterans Services
541-922-6420