

Roice Fulleton celebrates 100th birthday

Roice Fulleton recently celebrated his 100th birthday at Willow Creek Terrace with his family who enjoyed reminiscing about his life.

Roice was born on Dec. 3, 1917 to Edith (Roberts) and Frank Fulleton of McGrew, NE. Roice attended the primary grades and high school in McGrew, but as with all farm families of the time, spent many hours caring for animals and cultivating crops – of course without any mechanization. The Fulleton family farm raised sugar beets, corn, cattle and hogs until the impact of the dust bowl prompted their relocation to Oregon.

In 1936, at the age of 18 years, he enlisted in the U.S. Navy and served at several different naval air stations. Very notable to Roice, was time spent on the U.S.S. Overton destroyer on neutrality patrol near Panama and later on the U.S.S. Pennsylvania.

Roice related that while stationed at Long Beach, CA, he and his shipmate, Woody Predmore, would go ashore together on times of leave. In 1939, Woody had invited his mother and sister to visit from Nebraska and was to meet his family on his leave day. It was then that Roice was introduced to Woody's sister, Betty. The young navy men and visitors all attended the World's Fair together in San Francisco to celebrate the opening of the Bay

and Golden Gate Bridges. After a long-distance courtship, Roice and Betty married in Chadron, NE in 1941.

After the attack on Pearl Harbor and the U.S. entry into World War II, Roice re-enlisted in the Navy in 1942 as an aircraft mechanic and supervisor. He was assigned to the Pasco Air Station for a year and then was Seattle-based serving at Attu,

Alaska from 1943-45. During this time, Roice prepared and installed guns and bombing mechanisms on bombers and also repaired the damaged bombers upon their return. It was during this time, the U.S. Navy bombers based on the Aleutian Islands bombed the infamous Paramushiro Island, a Japanese naval air base. The Americans achieved nearly complete surprise and escaped with small losses. However, later raids became heavily opposed and the effort was too costly for the U.S. to continue. Roice recalls many details of his time spent on the Aleutian Islands during the war and has many, many stories of his over-seven years of military service prior to and during World War II. It is not well-known



Roice Fulleton celebrated his 100th birthday with his daughters Becky (Dave) Cannon, Diane (Archie) Ball, granddaughter Andrea Fletcher and great grandsons Casey and Cody Fletcher. – Contributed photo

but the Battle of Attu ranks as the second deadliest battle in the Pacific Theatre (in proportion to the number of troops engaged) falling just behind Iwo Jima.

While Roice was in Pasco and Alaska, Betty continued to live and work at the Pasco Air Base where she was secretary to the base commander and then employed by Boeing in Seattle, during the war. After Roice was honorably discharged, he and Betty moved to Vale, OR near Roice's parents (the first sugar beet growers in Oregon). Roice became a partner in an auto repair business and Chevrolet car dealership. While living in Vale, a daughter, Diana, was born in 1946 with Ruby following in 1950.

In 1952, Roice and Betty purchased Hodge Chev-

– See ROICE/PAGE THREE

Free Duffley concerts planned in Heppner and Condon

Christopher Duffley will be performing in Heppner and Condon next week. The Heppner concert will be held at the Heppner Junior/Senior High School gym on Dec. 10 at 6:30 p.m. and at the Condon High School gym on Dec. 13, also at 6:30 p.m. A concession operated by HHS FBLA will offer light dinner options and snacks during the concert in Heppner. Community Counseling Solutions is sponsoring both concerts, which are free to the public.

By all accounts, Christopher Duffley didn't have a fighting chance. Born in May of 2001, Duffley's biological parents tested positive for Oxycontin and cocaine, contributing to a premature birth. Weighing in at less than two pounds, Christopher was born permanently blind (detached retinas), along with a myriad of other health problems, requiring a seven-month hospital stay. Initially placed in foster care, Christopher's aunt and uncle soon took him in as their own, eventually adopting him at the age of two. As if his existing



Christopher Duffley will perform in Heppner and Condon. – Contributed photo.

health problems weren't enough, Christopher didn't speak in full sentences until the first grade and was later diagnosed with autism.

Despite the challenges, Duffley's adopted parents (who are devout Christians), didn't lose hope or waiver in their faith. And as the years passed, they would discover that Christopher displayed a tremendous gift in music. Particularly fond of Christian praise and worship songs, Christopher is now in high demand to perform at churches, sporting events and other venues.

According to his par-

ents, Duffley's story is an amazing testament that no matter how challenging one's situation may appear, there will always be silver linings in the midst of the obstacles and pain. In fact, Christopher's parents have used his story to advocate on behalf of pro-life groups to show that what society would often consider damaged or unwanted, is actually something to be considered very special.

From Manchester, New Hampshire to Heppner and Condon, Christopher has a story to tell to each and every one of us.

Local businesses to host open house activities



Parade of Lights to be held on Dec. 7 at 5:30 p.m. – File photo

On Thursday, Dec. 7 local businesses in Heppner will host a variety of activities to welcome the holiday season. From 10 a.m. until 2 p.m., Bank of Eastern Oregon, Blondie's Salon, the City of Heppner, Cornerstone Gallery and Heppner Auto Parts will be serving cookies, cider and other refreshments.

Community Bank will serve refreshments from 9

a.m. until 3 p.m. and Breaking Grounds will serve cookies and hot cider from 5-7 p.m. Sweet Productions will serve cookies and cider all day.

The Parade of Lights will begin at 5:30 p.m., with a toy drive and spaghetti meal immediately following at the Heppner Elks Lodge. Market Fresh Foods will have free coffee all day

and will serve hot chocolate and candy canes from 6-7 p.m. when Santa and Mrs. Claus will be available for pictures, with your own camera.

Murray's will hold hourly door prizes and Murray's Christmas Wish List from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. with a mini wine tasting from 5-7 p.m. Peterson's Jewelers will stay open until 7 p.m.

County and The Landing operators part ways



Morrow County unable to reach contract terms with operators of The Landing Restaurant at the Off Highway Vehicle Park.

By David Sykes

Morrow County is unable to reach a contract extension agreement with the operators of the popular Landing Restaurant at the Off Highway Vehicle, (OHV) park in the mountains south of Heppner, so the two are parting ways. The restaurant operates under a franchise agreement with the county which owns the park and the restaurant building.

The Landing operators Barb and John Harris have been running the restaurant under a year to year contract, however disagreements about hours of operation and other issues were unable to be resolved with the county, so the Harris will no longer be the operators.

"To all our valued and loved customers of The Landing Lodge, we are saddened to have to tell

you we will not be given an extended contract with Morrow County to operate the restaurant," they said in a recent Facebook posting. The Harris went on to say the dispute involved a disagreement over hours of operation, menu and giving priority to park guests to eat at the restaurant. "While we are saddened by the outcome, we are firm in our belief that the county's demands did not fit logistically or financially within our business plan," they added. In an apparent effort to put pressure on the county, they also provided the names and emails of county officials to contact on their Facebook page.

The county commission discussed the contract and its problems with the Harris at its Nov. 29 meeting, however they did not go into the details of the disagreements and the

Harris were not present at the meeting. "The current users were doing things outside the contract," Interim County Administrator Kim Cutsforth told the commissioners. "The operators said if they have to do anything different they didn't want to renew (the contract)," she added. The commission disagreed with The Landing's postings which placed the blame for the disagreement solely on the county. "They made it sound like we threw them out, which is not true," said Cutsforth. She said the county wanted Barbara Harris to give them a proposal and attempt to work out the differences. Cutsforth said the county regretted the negative comments that went out on Facebook, and even pointed out that John Harris had been a great help doing

– See LANDING/PAGE FOUR

Heppner temperatures above normal in November

According to preliminary data received by NOAA's National Weather Service in Pendleton, temperatures at Heppner averaged warmer than normal during the month of November.

The average temperature was 43.7 degrees which was 2.4 degrees above normal. High temperatures averaged 54.2 degrees, which was 3.4 degrees above normal. The highest was 71 degrees on the 23rd. Low temperatures averaged 33.1 degrees, which was 1.4 degrees above normal. The lowest was 19 degrees, on

the 7th.

There were 11 days with the low temperature below 32 degrees.

Precipitation totaled 1.63 inches during November, which was 0.03 inches above normal. Measurable precipitation, at least .01 inch, was received on 16 days with the heaviest, 0.32 inches reported on the 16th.

Precipitation this year has reached 12.42 inches, which is 0.26 inches below normal. Since October, the water year precipitation at Heppner has been 2.87 inches, which is 0.13 inches

above normal.

The highest wind gust was 39 mph which occurred on the 26th.

The outlook for December from NOAA's Climate Prediction Center calls for above normal temperatures and below normal precipitation. Normal highs for Heppner fall from 44 degrees at the start of December to 41 degrees at the end of December. Normal lows fall from 28 degrees to 25 degrees. The 30 year normal precipitation is 1.32 inches.

20% OFF

MONTANA

SILVERSMITHS

MONTANA SILVERSMITH JEWELRY

NOW THRU CHRISTMAS

CHRISTMAS TREES IN STOCK!



Morrow County Grain Growers Green Feed & Seed

242 W. Linden Way, Heppner • 676-9422 • 989-8221 (MCGG main office)