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of the City of Heppner and the County of Morrow

Heppner
GAZETTE-TIMES
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Morrow County's Home-Owned Weekly Newspaper

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David Sykes Publisher
Bobbi Gordon 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 \$5.25 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 \$6.05 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.

McElligott scholarship recipients named

Six Ione High School alumni have been named recipients of the 2019-20 Maryan L. McElligott Memorial Scholarship. Rachel Holland, a senior studying biochemistry at Regis University in Colorado and Maia Fuchs, also a senior studying Egyptology at University of Montana, both received \$1,500 and were repeat awardees. Katelyn Bass, also a repeat awardee, a senior studying education at Eastern Oregon University, her brother Tanner Bass, studying electrical engineering at Portland Community College, Sonia Medina, a junior studying nursing at Western Oregon University and Morgan Orem, a junior studying Agro-business at Oregon State University were awarded \$1,000 each.

The Maryan L. McElligott Memorial Scholarship fund has awarded scholarships to Ione High School alumni each year since 1997. The scholarship is open to all college undergraduates, with preference given to students in their sophomore year and above. The fund was established in her memory after she lost her battle with cancer.

Maryan McElligott was an energetic community volunteer who was recognized in 1992 as the Morrow County Woman of the Year. She placed a high value on community involvement. She volunteered in the schools, the American Legion Auxiliary Ione Post 95 and was a 20-year 4-H leader. An avid baker,



Maryan and L.J. McElligott she was well-known for her cakes and taught cake-decorating classes through Blue Mountain Community College for a short time. Education was very important to her. Maryan and her husband, L.J. McElligott, raised eight children, all of whom graduated from Ione High School as well as college; five having received graduate degrees.

"I am pleased to see this scholarship is focused on second year and higher college students, and I would encourage students to apply every single year of one's college experience," said Monica Swanson, a scholarship committee member.

The scholarship committee is composed of Ione residents Monica Swanson, Linda LaRue and Anne Morter, as well as Matthew McElligott of North Powder, OR and Vince McElligott, of Houston, TX, two of Maryan's sons.

Scholarships are awarded to students who share and demonstrate Maryan's values but may lack financial resources needed to pursue their college education. The following criteria are used to select scholarship recipients: high academic achievement; demonstrated character; community, family and school involvement; and financial need. The L.J. McElligott family initially set up the endowment fund in 1994, and it is administered by the Oregon Community Foundation.

The Maryan L. McElligott Memorial Scholarship fund makes annual awards to graduates of Ione High School who are enrolled or will be enrolled in a full-time undergraduate course of study at any accredited post-secondary institution, including out-of-state institutions. Applicants, including McElligott scholarship recipients, may reapply each year as long as they meet the eligibility requirements. All Ione Community Charter School graduates are encouraged to apply. Applications are available through the Oregon Student Access Commission at <http://www.oregonstudentaid.gov/>.

Obituaries

Merlyn Altha Robinson

Merlyn Altha Robinson, 92, a longtime Heppner area resident, passed away, July 10, at Pioneer Memorial Hospital. She was born September 5, 1926 and grew up on the local wheat and cattle ranches of her parents, Merle N. Kirk and Altha Devin Kirk. Merlyn and her descendants became the third, fourth and fifth generations residing on the family's Sandhollow Century Farm, homesteaded by her maternal grandparents, M.J. and Sara Devin in 1884.

After graduation from Heppner High School in 1944, Merlyn remained at home that fall to drive wheat truck for her father, because all farmers were short of manpower due to WWII. She attended Oregon State College for two years. In 1947 she became the Heppner Rodeo Queen once the rodeos resumed following cancellations during the war years. In later years Merlyn's daughter and granddaughter followed in her footsteps with royalty roles for Morrow County fair and rodeos.

On September 26, 1948 Merlyn married Donald O. Robinson. The couple had two sons and one daughter. Nieces, nephews and other children also were temporary household members for lively ranch style summers. During the early part of 70 years of ranch life, Merlyn helped manage a purebred Polled Hereford cow herd that became known as the Kirk & Robinson Ranch seed stock at cattle shows and fairs throughout the western states. In later years the herd was diversified while continuing to supply replacement stock for commercial operators. She held offices and was active in several cattle organizations and the Heppner Garden Club. Merlyn and her husband were active supporters of the Heppner FFA Chapter and they were given honorary member status.

Fairs, 4-H and FFA animals and horse shows were a way of life for Merlyn and family. Merlyn was a charter member of the Wrangler's Riding Club and organized the club's first fund-raising, annual rodeo-time cowboy breakfast under the direction of president Bill Smithers. Merlyn taught 4-H horsemanship for around 27 years, served on the fair committee and was a fair board member for approximately 15 years. In addition to raising and schooling ranch horses also used for gaming and pleasure, she focused on training versatile Arabian horses. Many awards and ribbons were

brought home from shows in the northwest.

Merlyn enjoyed all equestrian activities and helped formulate the first English riding and jumping classes for the horse shows in Morrow County. For a number of years, she officiated as a certified horse judge at both 4-H and open shows throughout the northwest.

With merely the editorship of the Heppner High School newspaper, "The Hehisch" for background training, Merlyn went on to become a self-taught journalist. For 15 years she wrote South Morrow County News for the East Oregonian, Pendleton. Her human interest and historical stories were featured in Ruralite magazines and Morrow County Historical Society publications. She sometimes wrote for the Agritimes newspaper along with the Heppner Gazette-Times newspaper columns. She also enjoyed spending time with her family, gardening, sewing and working with others. She stayed active and maintained a large garden through her 92nd birthday.

She was honored as Heppner's Woman of the Year in 1996 and she was chosen and served horseback as the Grand Marshal for the 1998 Oregon Trail Pro Rodeo. The Oregon State University College of Agricultural Sciences awarded her the Diamond Pioneer Award for her "contributions to agriculture, natural resources and the people of Oregon."

Merlyn was preceded in death by her husband and a sister Evelyn Kirk Broun. Survivors include her sons and daughters-in-law, Kirk and Delia Robinson and Kyle and Darcy Robinson both of Heppner; daughter and son-in-law Krynn and Art Parham of Fresno, CA and grandchildren Rondi (Rob) Davis of Vancouver, WA, Royal (Amber) Robinson of Corbett, OR, Devin and Garrett Robinson of Heppner and Mitchell Parham of Fresno, CA and many nieces and nephews.

Memorial contributions for those who wish may be made to the Heppner High School FFA, PO Box 67, Heppner or Morrow County 4-H, PO Box 397, Heppner, OR 97836.

A memorial service will be held on Friday, July 19 at 11 a.m. at the Heppner United Methodist Church, 175 Church St., Heppner, OR.

You may sign the online condolence book at www.sweeneymortuary.com.

Free movie Friday

The free monthly movie night hosted by Hopeful Saints Ministry will be held this Friday, July 19, beginning at 7 p.m. in the air-conditioned comfort of the All Saints Parish Hall.

The featured film, rated PG 13, will be a January 2019 American version of a 2017 French drama-com-

edy that tells the true story of a wealthy paraplegic and the desperate parolee who becomes his caretaker.

Pizza and beverages will be provided and everyone is welcome. Additional information about the movie is available by calling the church office at 541-676-9970.

Community lunch menu

Nazarene/Christian volunteers will serve lunch on Wednesday, July 24 at St. Patrick's Senior Center. Lunch will be BBQ beef sandwich, classic creamy coleslaw and tomato cucumber salad.

Milk, coffee and tea is served at each meal. Suggested donation is \$3.50 per meal. Menu is subject to change.

Concert to be held in Ione



Ione Music in the Park, sponsored by Ione Community Agri-Business Organization (ICABO), will be held July 27 from 6 to 8 p.m., with the Seymour Baker Band performing.

Everyone is welcome to attend the event and are asked to bring their own chairs and coolers. Funding is provided by Morrow County Unified Recreation District.

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