

~ 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.

Other sports need publicity too

To the editor:
Why does the Heppner football team get more publicity than other Heppner sports? Heppner cross country came in fourth in state this year and received a token mention.

My point is that there are more sports in Heppner than football. It would be nice to hear about the wrestling team, track or even the chess team in the local paper.

Thank you,
Francisco Velasco
Heppner

Editor's note:
The Heppner Gazette-Times news staff is not large. We do not write up or take photos of any of the sports that appear in the newspaper. We rely on interested members of the public for this. We encourage and welcome anyone who would like to write sports stories to please contact us and we will be happy to work with you. Please call 541-676-9228 or email editor@rapidsolve.net if you are interested in submitting sports stories. (We actually welcome contributed stories on any community activity, happening or event in Heppner, Lexington and Lone so please contact us.) Our goal is to produce a community newspaper of interest to you, our readers.

Neighborhood Center to be closed Friday

The Neighborhood Center will be closed on Friday, December 13 for the Kid's Shopping Day Event.

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2021 Teacher of the Year nominations sought

The InterMountain Education Service District is encouraging students, parents, staff and community members to nominate a great teacher in their district for 2021 Oregon Teacher of the Year. The Oregon Department of Education, in partnership with the Oregon Lottery, has announced the continuation of Oregon Regional Teacher of the Year to honor exemplary educators in every region of the state.

Nominations are open statewide through January 31, 2020. Teachers will submit applications by March 27. Each Oregon Education

Service District will select a winner from their region.

Regional teachers of the year will be honored across the state in May 2020 and one will be named the 2021 Oregon Teacher of the Year in September. Regional teachers will receive \$500 and the state winner will receive a \$5,000 cash prize as well as a matching \$5,000 going to their school.

Anyone can nominate a teacher by going to oregonteacheroftheyear.org/nominate/. All Oregonians are encouraged to nominate their favorite teacher.

Kids invited to compete in free throw contest

The Heppner Elks Lodge will hold their annual free throw shooting contest for children ages 8-13 at 1 p.m. on Dec. 15 at the Heppner Elementary school gym. Girls and boys need to be from the Heppner, Lexington or Lone area but parents do not need to be members of the Elks Lodge.

This free event will have girls and boys competing separately in three age groups. Each competitor

will shoot 10 free throws, rest and then shoot 15 more for a total of 25. The 10- to 11-year-old and 12- to 13-year-old groups will shoot from the standard free throw line and the eight- to nine-year-old group will shoot closer to the basket.

The winner from each group will advance to the district hoop shoot in Hermiston on January 5. For additional information, contact Corey Sweeney at 541-256-0355.

Park district to hold meeting

Willow Creek Park District will have a regular board meeting at 5 p.m. Thursday, December 12 at Heppner City Hall, 111 N Main Street in Heppner.

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HOLIDAY SHINDIG OPEN HOUSE
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Elks Free Throw Shooting Contest
Sunday, December 15th
1:00 p.m. - FREE
Girls and Boys Ages 8-13
(as of April 1, 2020)
from Heppner, Lone or Lexington. Parents do NOT need to be members.
At Heppner Elementary Gym
Girls and Boys compete separately in 3 age groups: 8-9 year olds, 10-11 year olds and 12-13 year olds.
Each competitor will shoot 10 free throws then rest and shoot 15 more for a total of 25. 8-9 year olds will shoot closer to the basket and the other 2 groups shoot from the standard free throw line. Winner from each age group will advance to the District Hoop Shoot in Hermiston on January 5th.
Contact Corey Sweeney at 541-256-0355
HEPPNER ELKS 358
"WHERE FRIENDS MEET"
541-676-9181 142 N MAIN ST

Obituaries

Robert Clarence Reid

Robert Clarence Reid, 95, of Irrigon, died Tuesday, December 3 in Hermiston, with family by his side. He was born August 14, 1924 in Heppner to parents Clarence and Viola Reid.



Robert Clarence Reid

Robert was raised in multiple eastern Oregon communities and attended school in John Day. His first child was born in 1944 and shortly after, Robert enlisted in the US Army where he was a committed WW II soldier. He proudly served on Okinawa and in Korea and was honorably discharged as a sergeant in 1946 and received a letter from President Roosevelt for his service in Korea.

Robert moved back to John Day, then Spray and on to Kinzua where he worked for the local sawmills for several years. He then moved to Hermiston and worked at C and B Feedlot. In 1979, he moved to Heppner and married Hazel Spivey. Robert worked at ODOT until his retirement. He remained in Heppner for 30 years before settling in Irrigon.

Robert always kept busy. He spent many days hunting and camping when he was younger, and his love for fishing continued throughout his adventurous life. He also enjoyed working with leather and raising animals, especially his sheep. Robert's greatest love, his wood working, started early in life. He built himself two homes, but he most loved sawing logs and his time crafting

hope chests, bird houses, jewelry boxes and other knick-knacks, and sharing them with family, friends and other crafters. Robert also loved music and spending time with his family.

He is survived by his children, Loraine Wilson (Floyd), Raymond Reid (Deena), Janie Kepler (Darryl), Judy Walston (Michael Bothom), Debbie Bloom (Bill) and son-in-law Steve Conlee. He is preceded in death by his parents; his wife, Hazel; siblings, James Reid, Russell Reid, Lola Houtchin, Clara Whitney, and Mary Johnson; children, Roberta Conlee, Melba Mitchell and Neil Methias. Robert had 26 grandchildren, 58 great, 28 great-great and nine great-great-great grandchildren as well as numerous nieces and nephews.

The family appreciates the Good Shepherd Hospital for their tender loving care. For those wishing to make a donation in honor of Robert, they can be made to the Wounded Warriors Project, PO Box 758517, Topeka, KS 66675-8517.

A celebration of life will be held Sunday, December 8 at 2 p.m. at the Harkenrider Senior Center, 255 NE Second Street, Hermiston, OR.

Sweeney Mortuary of Heppner is in care of arrangements. The online condolence book is available at sweeneymortuary.com.

Charles Linley Mitchell

Charles Linley Mitchell of Umatilla was born May 21, 1946 in Santa Paula, CA, the son of Lowana Dowling. He passed away at the age of 73 on December 7 at his home, with his family by his side.

Charles grew up and attended school in California and Oklahoma and later moved to Oregon. He served in the US Army during the Vietnam Era. He married Melba Reid in May of 1966 and from this union three children were born: Windi, Cindy and Terry. The couple later divorced. He later married Marlene Yeigh Wallis on March 23, 1978 in Heppner. The couple lived in Kinzua for a short time before moving to Heppner in 1979. They moved from Heppner to Umatilla in 2005 where they have resided since.

national until retiring. He enjoyed racing cars and snowmobiles, fishing (especially deep-sea fishing) and spending time with his grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his mother; son, Terry; sisters, Joyce and Billie June; and brother, Bill.

He is survived by his wife, Marlene; daughter, Windi and husband Chris Deiter; son, Clark and spouse Lance Krystopher; daughters, Cindy Tayloe, Michelle and husband Mark Herburger, Linsey and husband Jason Hanna; niece, Tara and husband Steve Lucas; sister, Alice Modena; thirteen grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

No services are planned. Burns Mortuary of Hermiston is in care of arrangements. Family suggests memorial donations to Vange John Memorial Hospice in Hermiston.

Online condolences for the family may be left at www.burnsmortuaryhermiston.com.



Gary Watkins of Heppner created this Christmas sign honoring the Mustangs for their state championship win.