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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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Obituaries

Wilda Crawford

Wilda Crawford passed away in her home in Eugene, OR on April 20. She was born in Condon in 1934 and grew up on her parent's ranch near Dry Fork in south Morrow County. Wilda's parents, Art and Irene, and her sister Wilma preceded her in death.

Wilda graduated from Lone High School where she was a cheerleader, played volleyball and tennis and was active in most school activities. Clyde Crawford asked her to a dance at the Lexington Grange Hall for their first date in the summer of 1952. They quickly fell in love; he proposed a year later and they were married in August of 1953.

Clyde and Wilda spent 67 loving years together and were blessed with four children. According to her family, their sons Neil, Tom and Perry Crawford and their daughter Lori Sato considered themselves blessed to be raised in such a loving home and all hope to pass down that sense of kindness, optimism and family for generations.

They also said that although Clyde was the center of her universe, Wilda loved her children, grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. She cared deeply for her family, friends and neighbors bringing joy as she touched their lives.

Wilda's children re-

member her getting up early to pack lunches for Clyde and the kids and she would have homemade cookies baking when they



Wilda Crawford

got home. She took care of her family, the home, worked, made it to the kids' ball games and still found time for her bowling, volleyball or exercise classes.

Most of the family vacations were to visit family, family reunions and camping. Wilda and Clyde retired early so they could travel. They saw most of the US and Wilda loved their winters in Arizona. She loved Clyde's family as much as her own relatives.

"If you don't have anything nice to say, don't say anything at all," she'd tell her family and she lived by those words. Always seeing the bright side and the good in people, Wilda's laugh, sparkling blue eyes and sheer joy would light up a room. She will truly be missed by her family.

Marvin Lane

Former Heppner resident Marvin Lane passed away on April 21 at his home in Ocean Park, WA. Marvin died as a result of prostate cancer. He was 68 years old.

Marvin was born to George and Ruth Lane in Hood River, OR on Jan. 3, 1952. He spent his childhood in Hood River and Condon. Marvin graduated from Condon High School in the class of 1970. He attended Central Oregon Community College in Bend and Lane Community College in Eugene.

Marvin went to work for Columbia Basin Electric in Heppner in 1974 where he became a journeyman lineman. While living in Heppner, he served a term as city councilman. Marvin married Marie Van Marter of Heppner in 1975. They had two children, Jacqueline, born in 1979 and Kenneth, born in 1982.

In 1987 Marvin became the owner/operator of the Sears Catalog and Appliance Store in John Day, OR. He went to work for Oregon Trail Electric in John Day

in 1992.

In 1994 Marvin went to work for Umatilla Electric in Hermiston where he served as line superintendent. Marvin took a position as a distribution controller with We Energies in Milwaukee, WI in 2003. After retiring in 2017, he and his wife moved to Washington.

He enjoyed hunting, fishing and golf. He was a music and sports fan and he loved spending time with family and friends.

Marvin is survived by his wife, Marie; his children, Jacqueline McCloskey and Kenneth Lane; his son-in-law, John McCloskey; grandchildren, Jack McCloskey and Samuel McCloskey; his sister, Patty Lane and numerous nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents and his older sisters, Lettie Cannon and Betty Cuning.

A memorial service will be scheduled and announced at a later date.

Death Notices

Thomas Ray Wilson - Thomas Ray Wilson, 84, of Heppner, died Sunday, April 26 in Hermiston. He was born March 4, 1936 in Monument, OR. A private family graveside service will be held at the Heppner Masonic Cemetery. A memorial service will be held at a later date. Sweeney Mortuary of Heppner is in care of arrangements.

Without agreement Boardman prepares to start own enterprise zone

More negotiations fail to produce port - county deal

By David Sykes

After two hours of talks at a special meeting last week, port and county officials were still unable to reach agreement on forming a new enterprise zone, which promoted the city of Boardman and the port to announce they were prepared to make a deal together and form an enterprise zone excluding the county.

The county and port have been holding negotiations for several weeks on how to re-certify the current Columbia River Enterprise Zone (CREZII) for the next 10 years. The zone is expiring June 30 but the two can't reach agreement on the structure of a new one. The three members of the current zone are the Port of Morrow, county government and the city of Boardman. The major hang up in negotiations is whether Boardman should be part of the new enterprise zone. The port wants it the same with Boardman as a member, and the county wants just the port and county involved.

Realizing the clock is running down and a new application must be submitted soon, the port held a special meeting last Friday in an effort to break the log jam. Morrow County Commissioners Melissa Lindsay and Don Russell attended the meeting remotely by Zoom.

The current enterprise zone covers about 12 square miles, mostly encompassing the Port of Morrow where all the new development is. New and expanding businesses receive tax breaks for locating in the zone. Some of the businesses who have located there and taken advantage of the tax breaks include Amazon, Lamb Weston and Tillamook Cheese.

Last month CREZ director Greg Sweek was in the process of drafting an application to the state to re-certify an identical zone with Boardman included. However, later at a joint meeting of the port and county Commissioner Lindsay presented a plan she says would include all of the cities in the county and not just Boardman. Lindsay said only the port and county should be members of the new zone and cities would become involved when a business development is proposed near their city. She says since the enterprise zone board can make decisions on business development and money disbursement throughout the county, it is not equitable for just the city of Boardman to be involved making decisions in all areas of the county. Lindsay and Commissioner Jim Doherty are in favor of a county-port-only agreement, while Commissioner Don Russell wants Boardman included.

Both the Port of Morrow and City of Boardman expressed opposition to excluding Boardman, saying the current enterprise zone has worked fine and should not be tampered with. Additionally, Port Chairman

Rick Stokoe and Director Ryan Neal have both emphasized the importance of having an enterprise zone when negotiating with new businesses looking to locate here. Both say much of the new development happening at the port would not have happened without the zone in the port's "tool box." Most port board members also agree that Boardman should be part of a new enterprise zone, and Stokoe has said he could not support any county proposal for an enterprise zone without the city of Boardman as a board member, and that cities in the county currently have a say in how enterprise money is spent once it comes into their communities.

Both the port and county failed to modify their positions at last Friday's meeting and seemed to be at loggerheads. Board member John Murray suggested the port begin working through the issues in an attempt to find common ground. The port approved several parts, including having influence zones, but the board would not budge from its previous position, Boardman must be included as full member of any new zone. The county also stuck with its position for a port and county zone only with cities included when appropriate. Without movement on the key issue, the port went on to pass a motion that it will sponsor an enterprise zone with the city of Boardman but only if the county and the port cannot agree on the structure of a new zone. The motion passed unanimously.

Under state enterprise zone law the city of Boardman can apply for and have its own zone but must have the sponsorship of the port and have the zone only located within its city limits. The port can only have an enterprise zone outside the city limits such as currently with approval from the county. If the county and port cannot agree a large part of the current 12 square mile enterprise zone comprising the port property, the county will be left without enterprise zone designation.

Over the past ten years the current zone has generated over \$20 million in revenue in lieu of taxes and in the coming 10 years is expected, with current contracts in place, to take in over \$100 million. Regardless of the current negotiations and zone applications, the current enterprise board will decide how this money will be spent. In the past it has made an effort to disburse the money across the county, giving grants to cities and economic development groups such as the Willow Creek Valley Economic Development in south county.

The county commission subsequently scheduled a special meeting Wednesday, April 29 to further discuss the enterprise zone negotiations, however, any decision from that meeting will be done following the Gazette-Times deadline for this week's newspaper.

Morrow County reports sixth case of COVID-19

On April 27 Morrow County Public Health Department confirmed a sixth individual had tested positive for COVID-19. Of the five previous positive cases, four are recovered and back at work and one is still recovering at home. OHA investigative guidelines are being followed and any individual deemed to be at risk will be contacted. The investigation is on-going.

The most common symptoms of COVID-19 are fever, cough and short-

ness of breath. Anyone experiencing these symptoms, should stay home, except to get medical care. If medical care is needed, call first. Be extra cautious to limit your contact with people who are at higher risk for severe illness. Do not go to work, or to any public areas.

Morrow County Public Health wants to assure the public that all precautions are being taken, and screening and testing are continuing.

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