

The Official Newspaper
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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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.

~ 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.

Do masks protect?

To the Editor,
There is great confusion and frustration over the Governor's dictates to "make the people safe from COVID-19." Presently all Oregonians are mandated to wear masks in public. A COVID-19 mandated vaccine is in the works with a reported tracking device. Also in the works is mandated digital dollar to replace cash. All these government dictates come with a pledge to keep us safe. Our schools are closed for the same excuse, to keep our kids safe from COVID-19.

Who are we to trust? Are we to trust the national press and media that push the COVID panic and fear button daily, as they push their destroy Trump agenda? How about trusting Governor Brown as she releases dangerous felons from prisons and exhorts BLM and Antifa rioters to destroy and desecrate our businesses, institutions and heritage? Are we to trust the WHO, CDC and Dr. Fauci as their projections and analysis constantly change always on the side of more

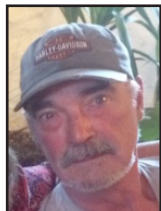
Socialist government control?

Do the mandated masks protect the user and the public? There have been no blind controlled peer reviewed empirical or scientific studies to verify. General public masks have never been required before for virus protection, ever. There is anecdotal evidence both pro and con, however empirical evidence proves these mandated masks have no positive impact on COVID-19. In Africa with 1.2 billion citizens and very few masks there have been less than 22,000 deaths. In India with minimal masks and 1.4 billion citizens there has been 20,600 deaths to COVID-19. Same in Bangladesh, South America, Philippines and all over the world. The worst cases of COVID-19 occur where masks are required.

What about closing our schools? In Oregon there has not been a death from COVID-19 under the age of 35. There is no scientific or empirical evidence that our youth will contract or spread COVID-19 nor is their evidence of adult to

Michael G. Smith

Michael G. Smith, 70, of Bend, passed away in Sisters, OR on July 8 from injuries sustained in a motorcycle accident earlier in the day. A graveside service will be held Saturday, July 18 at 1 p.m. at the Heppner Masonic Cemetery. As per Oregon guidelines, any in attendance must wear a mask.



Michael G. Smith

Mike was born April 20, 1950 at Baker City, OR to Lennadell and Glenn Smith. The family lived in Pondosa, OR where Glenn worked for the Collins Lumber co. While living in Pondosa, each summer the family would pack with horses into the high lakes for fishing and camping trips. Many memories were made from those trips. In 1955 the Smith family moved to Heppner where Glenn took a position as head sawyer with Kinzua Corporation. Mike attended Heppner elementary and high schools, graduating in 1969. During his high school years, he played football, basketball

youth transmission. There is no valid reason to close our schools. Time to stand for our youth.

Is there a valid reason to continue the police state COVID-19 dictates in Oregon? On July 7, the CDC admitted the death rate (USA) for COVID-19 has gone down for ten straight weeks and was about to be removed from pandemic status. The positive numbers have increased because the testing has and will continue to increase.

America is on fire and our way of life, our historical heritage is under assault by those that despise America, our institutions, our Constitution and our free enterprise way of life. America has allowed the God of our forefathers to be removed, along with prayer, the Bible, the Ten Commandments and the sanctity of life. Evil, Communism/Marxism, hedonism, racism in the form of BLM and Antifa, has filled the void. Those that yield their liberty for government promised safety will have neither.

Stand my fellow Americans for God and Country.
Stuart Dick, Morrow County

and baseball, lettering in all three

After graduation Mike, or Smitty as he was known to his friends, attended Lane Community College in Eugene for a short time. He returned to Heppner in 1971 and started working at Kinzua Corporation as a lumber grader. He played slow pitch baseball for a local league until a knee injury during a game kept him from playing permanently. Mike traveled to Europe in the 70's, bought an old van in Amsterdam, drove through several countries with a friend and decided Greece was the most beautiful country of all. He had the travel bug.

Mike's favorite pastimes were hunting, fishing, riding his Harley and sports. He could be found fishing the streams or the Columbia River with his father Glenn. Occasionally they would go to the coast and fish "for the big ones." For years he hunted deer and elk in the high lakes above Baker City with family and friends.

In 1981 Mike married Patty Huddleston. They later divorced.

Mike was an avid supporter of Heppner High School sports, whether watching his nieces or nephew or friends' children play. He was always there to cheer the teams on. He was also an avid "O" Oregon supporter.

Due to medical restraints, Mike retired from mill work around 2007. He moved to Tumalo, outside Bend, in 2008, living "across the field" from his sister until his passing.

Mike was a member of the Heppner Elks Lodge. While living in Tumalo he rode with several Harley groups, making trips to Canada, Montana and Hells Canyon to name a few. He participated in the Teddy Bear run with the Bend Harley group, picking up donations of teddy bears around Christmas for disadvantaged children and he rode in numerous poker runs each year to help the Veterans Association.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Lennadell and Glenn Smith. He is survived by sister, Judy Knight, (Gordon); nieces, Kimberle Wright and Nance Keeney (Chanz); nephew, Brent Wright (Nadia); several great nieces and nephews and his beloved dog, Sugar.

Memorial contributions may be made to the donor's charity of choice.

Sweeney Mortuary of Heppner is in care of arrangements. You may sign the online condolence book at www.sweeneymortuary.com

Garrett Eugene Wilhelm

Garrett Eugene Wilhelm, Heppner and Pilot Rock, was born December 11, 1977 and passed away April 4, 2020, passing away peacefully at his parent's house, mother Debbie McCall and stepfather Daryl. He had been on hospice for around a year.



Garrett Eugene Wilhelm

Garrett was diagnosed with brain cancer approximately six years prior to his death. He was told that his life expectancy would be around three years. He went through three brain surgeries, radiation and chemo in hopes to slow down the cancer. He wanted to see both of his boys graduate from high school. Garrett raised both of his boys, Lane and Wyatt, the best that he could by himself.

Garrett worked most of his adult live in the oil fields and timber industry. According to his family, when he was working for Britt Logging in Heppner, he "was so happy to be able to use the same skidder that his stepfather used when he was a skidder operator." It was said he bragged about that to everyone.

Wilhelm loved to fish and hunt. He told everyone that he shot a big buck that was going right to his mother, and he did. He loved to look for mushrooms and being up in the mountains as much as he could. He took his boys fishing often and

bragged about catching the biggest one. He also took his boys 4X4ing in his pickup and won the mud race one time. He was pretty happy about that.

Gene was a special friend to Garrett and looked after him. Garrett spoke often of Gene and told many stories of the things they did together.

Garrett missed the things he used to do with his family and apologized to his boys often when he couldn't do fun things with them. He spent the last two years of his life with severe head pain due to the cancer spreading. He asked frequently, "How much longer? I just want to get it over with."

He was preceded in death by his older infant brother, Milo James Wilhelm; grandfather, James Wilhelm; uncle Joe Wilhelm; grandmother, Jackline Mars and grandfather Tom Mars.

He is survived by his two sons, Lane and Wyatt Wilhelm; father, Gary Wilhelm; stepmother, Crystal Wilhelm; mother, Debbie McCall; stepfather, Daryl McCall; brother, Darren McCall; sister, Tammy Russell; grandmother Betty Wilhelm and many nieces and nephews.

Per Garrett's request, he was cremated and there was no funeral held.

A View from the Green

Over the Tee Cup

The July 7 playday hosted 14 ladies at the Willow Creek Country Club on a cool and breezy day.

Low gross of the field went to Nancy Prophet. Low net of the field winner was Kathy Martin. Karen Haguewood had the least putts of the field.

Low gross for flight A was Karen Thompson.

Low gross for flight B was Pat Edmundson. Shirley Martin had low net and Tiffany Clement had the

least putts.

Bunnie Lindsay took low gross for flight C and Kris Lindner had low net. Lorene Montgomery had the least putts.

Karen Haguewood got a chip-in on hole 13 and Pat Dougherty got one on hole nine.

The ladies with the long drives were Nancy Prophet for flight A, Pat Edmundson for flight B and Lorene Montgomery for flight C.

Willow Creek Country Club men hold playday

The men's club playday held July 12 at Willow Creek Country Club hosted 18 men.


First place gross was Scott Burright with 65. Logan Burright and Dave Pranger tied for second with 67.

Gary Prophet came in first in net with 56. Roger Ehrmantraut was second with 59 and Jim Swanson was third with 60.

In special events, Delbert Binschus got KP with 6'4" on #4-13 and David Allstott had a long put of 25'7" on #5-14.

The next playday will be held July 19 with Rick Johnston, Greg Greenup and Delbert Binschus hosting. The men's club championship will be held July 25 and 26 with additional information provided at a later date.


Wishing you a Happy Retirement Dr. Rolen!



Dr. Dave Drotzmann and Dr. Kollan Arritt would like to congratulate Dr. Rob Rolen for over 35 years of service to his profession. May all the years ahead bring you great joy and relaxation with family and friends.

For Dr Rolen's current and past patients, Lifetime Vision Source has your files. They'd like to build on the quality care you've come to expect from Dr Rolen for over 35 years

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