Obituaries

John C Breidenbach

John C Breidenbach was born April 24, 1937 to Richard (Dick) and Jean Breidenbach in McCleary, WA where he became the older brother to sister, Bobbette and brother, Rick. John graduated from Elma High School in 1956.

John C Breidenbach

As a result of developing a love for the outdoors, John chose wildfire firefighting as vocation, serving for 35 years, before retiring from the U.S. Forest Service in 1989. During fire season, he was the crew boss of a fire line that could stretch up to twelve miles. This meant he was constantly hiking back and forth, over rough terrain, helping where needed and giving on the spot training. He also kept a watchful eye on the weather, smoke and the fire itself. During the off season, he was responsible for training and certifications, ordering food and the maintenance of the buildings and firefighting equipment. John always enjoyed teaching others about working in and caring for the outdoors.

In 1960, he married Linda Nevitt, with whom he had two children, Lela Jean and John Alan. They lived in Forks, WA until 1974, before he transferred to another job in Heppner. In 1978, Linda passed away and he became a single dad to two teenagers.

In 1979, John married Mary Lucinda (Cindy) Reed Ledington, where he gained two more children, Rosalie and Howard. John moved his family to Estacada, OR in 1979, where he worked at the Timberlake Job Corp as a forestry instructor for ten years. After retirement, John moved back to Heppner.

John's last profession was that of a school bus driver, continuing his long involvement with the youth right up to his death. "His calm and steady personality was well suited for both driving nasty roads and curbing occasionally unruly children. It was also through this last profession that he met and married the love of his life, Jennifer Thompson Cote in 2018. The happiness, joy and love he and Jen found in one another was an incredible thing to watch unfold," a family member said.

John passed away at Providence St. Mary's hospital in Walla Walla, WA on October 26, 2020.

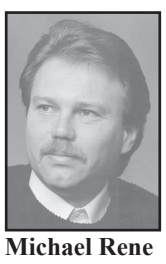
In addition to his wife, Jennifer and children, Lela Rogers, John Alan Breidenbach and Howard Breidenbach, he is survived by eight grandchildren, and two great grandchildren, as well as his sister, Bobbette Fowler, brother Richard, and brother-in-law Richard Rich Nevitt.

He was preceded in death by his parents; wives, Linda and Cindy; daughter, Rosalie; son-in-law, Gary Rogers and brother-in-law, David Nevitt.

A memorial service will be held May 1, 2021 at 1 p.m. at the Christian Life Center, located at 535 Morgan St, Heppner. There will be a reception afterwards. Please RSVP.

Michael (Mike) Rene Meligan

Michael (Mike) Rene Meligan, 64, passed away February 26, 2021, at his home in Heppner. He was the beloved son of Jack & Jo Meligan, also of Heppner.



Michael Rene Meligan

Mike was born February 6, 1957 in Palo Alto, CA. His early formative years were spent in Fremont, CA, where he attended kindergarten through the 5th grade. His family moved to S.E. Portland in October 1968. Mike was a 1975 graduate of Centennial High School in Gresham, OR, where he excelled in music (saxophone) and art, as well as metal, wood and electronics studies.

After high school, Mike pursued his artistic passions by quickly becoming one of Portland's best custom painters of cars and motorcycles. Around 1990, his lungs were seriously injured when he inadvertently inhaled caustic fumes from a newly introduced catalytic automotive paint. After receiving an out-of-court settlement from Dupont for their failure to warn, Mike started a screen-printing business.

In 2000, Mike and his long-time partner, Shelley Hillborn, relocated to the Heppner area and were married in 2005. The marriage ended in 2007. Mike eventually operated an automotive body shop in Heppner until his health caused him to close the business.

Mike spent the last 10 years perfecting several inventions. He became involved with the 3-D printing industry, and invented a simple, yet elegant coupler device which solved a major issue for those "maker" machines. His product was successful and was sold and shipped to hundreds of customers across the U.S. and Europe.

At the time of his passing, Mike was attempting to build and test his novel design for a wind turbine blade that could operate in extremely low-wind conditions.

In addition to his parents, Mike is survived by his older brother, Jack L. Meligan; sister-in-law, Kathleen; nieces, Heather Meligan-Burson and Jenna Meligan; grand-niece, Aria Belle Bouey and grand-nephews, Derek and Aaron Burson, who all live in the Portland area.

Mike was pre-deceased by his baby sister, Marcia Jo, in 1979.

A graveside family memorial service took place at Heppner Cemetery on March 11, 2021. An Irish wake followed at a private location.

"Mike, until we can all meet again, may God hold you in the palm of His hand. Say hello to Marci and all the grandparents, aunts, uncles, cousins and friends for us. We'll be seeing you …"

"A golden heart stopped beating, hardworking hands at rest. God broke our hearts to prove to us He only takes the best." (A traditional Irish poem.)

Tim Jones

Tim Jones was born in Santa Rosa, CA on June 2, 1962 and died at Lake Stephens, WA February 9, 2021.

He is survived by a son, Zachery Jones, Portland, OR; parents, David and Roberta Jones, Irrigon, OR; sister and brother-in-law, Terrie and Mark Cutsforth, Kennewick, WA and brother, David Jones Jr., Nampa, ID.

Jones graduated with the class of 1980 at Heppner High School. He was employed as a blueprint designer at Cable Com. in Woodland, WA.

No services are planned at this time.

Climate Change

To the editor:

The Arctic Ocean is warming up, icebergs are growing scarcer and in some places the seals are finding the water too hot, according to a report to the Commerce Department yesterday from the Consulate at Bergen, Norway.

Reports from fishermen, seal hunters and explorers all point to a radical change in climate conditions and hitherto unheard-of temperatures in the Arctic zone.

Exploration expeditions report that scarcely any ice has been met as for north as 81 degrees 29 minutes.

Soundings to a depth of 3,100 meters showed the gulf stream still very warm.

Great masses of ice have been replaced by moraines of earth and stones, the report continued, while at many points well-known glaciers have entirely disappeared.

Very few seals and no whitefish are found in the eastern Arctic, while vast shoals of herring and smelts, which have never before ventured so far north, and being encountered in the old seal fishing grounds.

Within a few years it is predicted that due to the ice melt the sea will rise and make most coast cities uninhabitable.

I must apologize. I neglected to mention that this report is from Nov. 2, 1922, as reported by the Associated Press and published in the Washington Post 98 years ago. This must have been caused by the Model T Ford's emissions or possibly from horse and cattle farts.

"The Range Magazine," Spring 2021

(Submitted by Al Osmin, Heppner)

~ 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. Email to editor@rapidserve.net or upload to Heppner.net.

Honoring Mike Meligan

To the editor:

This column is written in honor of the late Mike Meligan, his family and friends, entitled 24/7. Mike understood our times (1 Chr. 12:32) at the end of our age when knowledge shall increase (Daniel 12:4).

America and Great Britain controlled the major sea gates of the world before WW2 and that is a major reason the Allied Forces won the war. Both Great Britain and America turned from their Christian heritage and covenant commitments to God after the war and neither nation has secured a victorious military outcome since. Great Britain lost control of the Suez Canal, Singapore, Hong Kong, Cyprus, the Cape of Good Hope, Malta, the Gulf of Aden and Sri Lanka. America has lost control of the major gate of the world, the Panama Canal, plus most of our sea gates in SE Asia which China has turned into their own military armada. These sea gates, where 90 percent of the national produce of the world must pass through, were a blessing from God prophesied upon Great Britain and America in the Bible. That blessing has turned to a curse because America and Great Britain have turned their back on the God of their fathers. Those sea gates are now controlled by Communist and Islamic powers that hate America and deny the God of the Bible. This will not end well and burying our head in the ground will not make this reality go away.

Donald Trump recognized the ominous threat China posed to the free world and reversed decades of appeasement. China and the Obama socialist/communists in America worked in tandem to usurp our constitution and historic voting integrity to steal the election and place a pro-communist, pro-Islamic, anti-Israel puppet as President. Barack Obama said it best, "If I could make an arrangement where I had a stand in, a front man or front woman…and I could deliver all the lines…" (Live, Stephen Colbert, Nov. 20)

There is a very serious consequence to kicking God, prayer, the Bible and the Ten Commandments out of our schools, our government and media and entertainment industry. America and Americans are now at the mercy of 1) anti American politicians that hate our Christian heritage, 2) activist courts that rule according to politically correct dictates, 3) despotic foreign nations that hate America and enslave their own people, 4) a satanic Red Chinese system of torture and sexual abuse terrorism of innocent Ulghurs, Christians, Buddhists and Tibetan women. Do not doubt this satanic horror is coming to America if America does not repent and turn back to God.

What must America and Americans do to restore our liberty, Christian heritage, and our constitutional republic? There is only one power on earth and the heavens that is able to defeat the wickedness that is rising on every horizon. Jesus Christ was the source of power and the only God of our American fathers. We have lost our way through ignorance, compromise, deception and/or rebellion. When Thomas asked Jesus, "How can we know the way?" Jesus responded, "I am the way, the truth and the life, no man come to the father except through me." (John 14:5,6) This was Mike Meligan's ministry to America and the world. May his 24/7 commitment to ministry online with a passion for reaching lost souls for Jesus Christ be an example and inspiration to all.

We may not be able to change the world, but we can change our destiny one life, one family, one community, one school, one county at a time. The way to hope and victory is through repentance and turning back to the only true God of the Bible. I have witnessed more than one true saint of God tell me Heppner will be a sanctuary city in the time to come. There are many committed Christian churches not only in Heppner but Morrow County as well. These churches will minister truth and hope to those sincerely seeking. Restoring our liberty, Christian heritage and way of life begins with a personal commitment and relationship with Jesus Christ. There is no other way, no other hope and no other avenue for victory in this life and eternal life in the hereafter.

Stuart Dick, Irrigon

Area Pastors are invited to share Easter messages in the March 31 issue of the Heppner Gazette-Times.
The deadline to submit your message is March 29 at 5:00pm

Stop in the Heppner Gazette office or email

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Easter Service
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Easter Breakfast to Follow

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