

The Official Newspaper
of the City of Heppner and the County of Morrow

Heppner
GAZETTE-TIMES

U.S.P.S. 240-420

Morrow County's Home-Owned Weekly Newspaper

SEARCH OLD COPIES OF THE HEPPNER GAZETTE-TIMES ON-LINE:
<http://oregonnews.uoregon.edu/>

Published weekly by Sykes Publishing and entered as periodical matter at the Post Office at Heppner, Oregon under the Act of March 3, 1879. Periodical postage paid at Heppner, Oregon. Office at 188 W. Willow Street. Telephone (541) 676-9228. Fax (541) 676-9211. E-mail: editor@rapidsolve.net or david@rapidsolve.net. Web site: www.heppner.net. Postmaster send address changes to the Heppner Gazette-Times, P.O. Box 337, Heppner, Oregon 97836. Subscriptions: \$31 in Morrow County; \$25 senior rate (in Morrow County only; 65 years or older); \$37 elsewhere; \$31 student subscriptions.
David Sykes.....Publisher
Bobbi Gordon.....Editor
Giselle Moses.....Advertising

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 requested 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.

Russell J. "Rusty" Estes

Russell J. Estes (Rusty) died at the age of 63 at his home in Heppner, OR on December 9, 2021. He was born to Sarah Jane Sannar and James Franklin Estes on August 12, 1958, in Enterprise, OR. He was the first born of five children, "the big brother." Rusty was raised in Heppner, attending elementary school and graduating from Heppner High school.



Russell J. Estes

He became a junior fireman as a freshman in high school, which began his lifelong service to the Heppner Volunteer Fire Service of which he retired as chief in 2019.

Rusty studied mechanics at Mt. Hood Community College. Upon returning home, he went to work

for Hutches' Printing and learned to be a master printer. He subsequently worked for Heppner Gazette-Times and American Printing before being hired by Morrow County Health District in maintenance and as an ambulance driver. He worked in maintenance for several years before taking his dream job of emergency services coordinator for the health district.

Rusty received his First Responders Certification and Ambulance Driving Trainer Certificate in 1987, volunteering for the South Morrow County EMT Association. He continued to receive his Emergency Medical Technician 1 (EMT) license in 1989.

With permission from Cyde's two sons, Chad and Eric, Rusty married Cyde Allstott Skroch on November 19, 1988, in Heppner and they became a family. Rusty was a 40-year member of Heppner Lions Club, receiving the District Governor's Award in 2006. He was also a member of Heppner Elks Lodge #358, I.O.O.F Lodge #66 in Heppner, Willow Creek Country Club and District 9 Fire Chiefs Association, serving his community through these organizations.

In the early 1980's Rusty was in a 4-wheel Jeep club and participated in competitions, adding to his love of speed. Lights and sirens were his passion, with safety first. Rusty loved his occasional trips to the casino for a night of gambling and was well known for bantering while playing cards with friends and family.

Rusty is survived by his wife Cyde; stepson, Chad Skroch, wife Sarah Lynn and their sons Cooper and Devin; stepson, Eric Skroch, wife Sarah Lee and

their sons EJ and Skye and daughter Elli. He is also survived by his siblings, Rita Bergstrom and her husband Hal, Buck Estes, Ginny (George) Nairns and her husband Bob, Robin Traeger and her husband Rick; father, James F. Estes; nieces and nephews, Amy, Jeremy, Adam, Kiel, Blake, Emily, Krystal, Aaron, Chelsey and Russell and many great nieces and nephews.

A celebration of life for Rusty will be held January 15 at 11 a.m. at the Heppner fire hall with a dinner to follow at the Heppner Elks Lodge. Rusty believed in the safety of mask wearing to protect those we love.

Memorial contributions may be made to Heppner Fire Department, PO Box 743, Heppner, OR 97836 or South Morrow County EMT Association, PO Box 9, Heppner, OR 97836.

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

Good News Only

By Doris Brosnan

We still have another day for taking canned-food goods to Wheatland Insurance, to then be taken to the Neighborhood Center for distribution.

One good feature of our early-dark afternoons/evenings: A great time to take a drive around town to view the holiday decorations on the homes. (And still have time for at least one more Hallmark Christmas movie before bedtime.)

And the drive from Lexington to Heppner offers a welcomed view: snow in the mountains. Surely, more to come.

Sunday's scavengers' hunt proved an enjoyable and meaningful activity for the many participants who were searching for "the true meaning of Christmas" as they visited five churches that contributed to the Morrow County Hospice-sponsored event. A ten-minute activity awaited the players at each of the churches: St. Patrick Catholic, Heppner Christian, Hopeful Saints, Seventh-Day Adventist and Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints. Enacting the nativity was one such activity, and Muki the dog is said to have been a great hit with his camel's hump.

Yesterday, the Ione Community Church held its monthly luncheon for senior citizens. Approximately 40 to 50 attendees enjoy the delicious meals created

by Linda Halverson. The event oftentimes includes speakers, but yesterday's gathering was simply one for enjoying the season's music, visiting and the great food. On Mondays at the church, several people get together at 1:30 to play Mexican train dominoes.

Last Thursday, Nancy Anderson hosted the Ione Topic Club in her home decked out for Christmas. The members took this opportunity to present Susan Crum an arrangement of flowers in appreciation of her years of work on the school's November book fair.

Such good news coming all the way from Bruce Moyer (HHS Class of '62) in Montana, "I have been working on the Cunningham family history for the past several years. Recently, I came across the question of when the Cunninghams left their homestead on Little Butter Creek and bought the house on 175 Quaid St. in Heppner, where my sister and I were raised by my grandparents, William and Katie Cunningham. I called the county clerk's office to inquire about property records, without much hope that I would find records from the 1920's. I was connected to Mike Gorman in the assessor's office, who said he would research the records. I expected days, if not weeks, to pass before I would hear back, which

I have experienced with other agencies in doing research. The next day, I received a call from Mike, who said he had some records. He read them over the phone, and they were exactly what I was looking for and confirmed that 175 Quaid St. was purchased in 1929 and sold in 1973 when Cunninghams both died. He referred me to Kandy Boyd in the clerk's office to get copies. Again, I was ready for a delay before receiving the records. They were mailed out the same day as my request reached Kandy's desk. I am very

Wheat growers to host annual meeting

The wheat growers of both Morrow and Gilliam counties, along with the Morrow County Livestock Growers are hosting a joint annual meeting on Wednesday, January 5, 2022, from 7:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Gilliam-Bisbee building in Heppner. Topics include industry news on animal health, crop production in our region, federal program requirements and salutations from the state leaders of the Oregon Wheat Growers League and Oregon Cattleman's Association.

Breakfast will be hosted by Breaking Grounds and lunch by Gateway Café. For those wishing to par-

thankful for their time and quick effort in fulfilling my request. Thank you, Mike and Kandy for your work."

One source of information reports that about 43 facial muscles are required to make a smile. What a great way to exercise our faces. Contribute to our exercise regimen by sending your good-news tidbits before Monday afternoon to dbrosnan123@gmail.com or call 541-676-5382 or 541-223-1490.

Here's hoping that some good news comes to everyone reading this.

John Deane Graves

John Deane Graves, 85, of Lewiston, ID, died November 20, 2021, at St Joseph Hospital in Lewiston. Deane was born to John and Dorris Graves on May 5, 1936. He attended Heppner elementary and high schools. He joined the US Army and served his country, while stationed at Fort Lewis in Washington.



Deane Graves

In August 1954, Deane married Pat Davis. Their children were Eric (Leslie) of Aloha, OR and Mike (Vicki) Graves of Portland. Deane and Pat divorced when the boys were young. Deane had various jobs, including the US Army,

farming and a long haul truck driver.

He is survived by his sons and daughters-in-law, Eric and Leslie, Mike and Vicki; daughter, Candy and Rob Nielson, Lewiston, ID and grandsons Michael Deane Graves II and Mackenzie Michael Fettsch.

His siblings are Jo Ann and Howard Pettyjohn (deceased), Betty Carlson (Louis, deceased), Reita Hill (Walt) and many nieces and nephews.

There is no funeral service planned. A graveside service will be held at a later date.

Alumni basketball tourney to be held

The 10th Annual Heppner High School Alumni Basketball games will be held on Thursday, December 23 and signups are now open. The cost is \$25 and includes a t-shirt.

The women's game will start at 6 p.m. with the men's game to follow. The games are open to any Heppner High School alumni and their spouses/significant others. They typically play two, 20 minute

halves with a running clock. Sometimes additional time is added if there is a large turnout. Teams are split depending on numbers and age of participants.

The admission fee for spectators is \$2. This is a fundraiser for the men's basketball program. Please encourage former teammates and friends to play and attend. For more information call the high school 541-676-9138.

**YOUR AD
COULD
BE
HERE!**

**Call
541-676-9228
Or Email**

graphics@rapidsolve.net

**We also offer
design and
printing services**

**Heppner Gazette-Times
Sykes Printing**

**ALL NEWS AND ADVERTISEMENT DEADLINE:
MONDAYS AT 5:00 P.M.**

20% off Montana Silversmith Jewelry



Morrow County Grain Growers Green Feed & Seed
Heppner - 242 W Linden Way - 541-676-9422



Free Throw Shooting Contest

When: Sunday, December 19, 2021
Where: HES Gym
Time: 1:00 pm
Who: Girls and Boys Ages 8-13 (as of April 1, 2022) from Heppner, Ione or Lexington – parents do NOT need to be members.
Cost: FREE, sponsored by the Heppner Elks Lodge

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 than rest and shoot 15 more for a total of 25 – 8-9 year olds will shoot closer to the basket and 10-13 year olds will shoot from the standard free throw line. Winners from each age group will advance to the District Hoop Shoot in Hermiston on January 9.

Questions? Contact Corey Sweeney at 541-256-0355

The Heppner Gazette-Times wants to share the holiday spirit! Please send us photos of Christmas lights and decorations. We want to share the wondrous beauty of the season with our readers and spread some Christmas cheer.

Please send your photos to editor@rapidsolve.net
Include the city where the photo was taken.