

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

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Chris Sykes.....Publisher  
Andrea Di Salvo.....Editor

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.

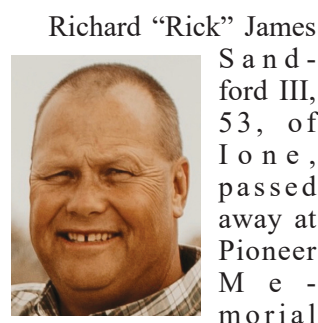
For Public/Legal Notices: public/legal notices deadline is Monday at 5 p.m. Dates for publication must be specified. Affidavits must be requested at the time of submission. Affidavits require three weeks to process after last date of publication (a sooner return date must be specified if required).

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.

**Obituaries**

**Richard "Rick" James Sandford III**



Richard "Rick" James Sandford III, 53, of Ione, passed away at Pioneer Memorial Hospital on Dec. 6, 2022. A Celebration of Life for "Sandford" will be held after the first of the year.

He was born in Honolulu, HI on Nov. 11, 1969, to Richard J. and Sandra L. Sandford, Jr. while his father served in the U.S. military. Rick was a 1989 graduate of Pendleton High School, and he married his best friend, Sylvia M. Ladd, on April 29, 1995, in Ione amongst hundreds of friends and family members. They were blessed with two daughters, Lillian (Lilly) and Ivy, who kept his love of supporting his family very busy. He shared in their love of music, movies, raising animals, sports, travel and having celebrations for all holidays and achievements as often as possible. He was friend to many, brother, nephew, son, grandson, uncle, daddy, but never a stranger.

Rick worked several years for Les Schwab Tires in Hermiston, making lifelong friends from co-workers and customers. While working at ODOT-Heppner and then, most recently, PGE Boardman Coal Plant for the last 13 years, he continued his strong work ethic and love for doing things right (The Sandford Way). No matter where he went, he said good morning and tried to help people, putting himself second but living life to the fullest.

He had a wonderful knack for creating "amazing automobiles," whether classic restoration or his new love of building "Rat Rods" with his closest friend, Robert Hill. They created Half Ass Rat Rods car club, sharing their builds on Facebook and YouTube. They were always looking at old car parts and thinking of how to make them into something amazing to share at car shows and build-offs they attended. He loved designing and fabricating metal and sharing this with his friends and his two daughters. He always said, though, his best creations were his "girls." In every photo and video of Rick you can see his huge smile, hear his contagious laugh and see his love of life. He had a magical way of sharing that positivity with all he met.

He was a member of the Heppner Elks Lodge #358 and the Willow Lodge, No. 66 of the Independent Order of Oddfellows. Rick loved his community and has ever since he and Sylvia moved to Ione to join her family in 1994. They worked side by side in several small businesses, and soon his daughters will add one in his honor for Fighting Heart Disease.

Rick is survived by the love of his life and wife of 27 years, Sylvia; his daughter Lillian Sandford (fiancé Kyle Bender); daughter Ivy Sandford; his sisters Lisa Forsythe (Tom), Amy McMahon (Patrick) and Heather Reyes (Joseph); uncle Danny Martindale (April); uncle Jack Prince (Darla); aunt Barbara Robinson; aunt Judy Moll; sister-in-law Christine Sullivan (James); brother-in-law Richard Ladd; sister-in-law Lara Triplett (Kirk); brother-in-law Clayton Lissow (Angela); mother-in-law Barbara Lissow; father-in-law Alex Lissow; and many, many nieces, nephews, cousins and honorary family.

He is preceded in death by both his parents, all grandparents, and several other family members. "All who knew him, loved him. All who met him, understood him. All will mourn him." -Sylvia.

Sweeney Mortuary of Heppner is in charge of arrangements. You may sign the online condolence book at [www.sweeneymortuary.com](http://www.sweeneymortuary.com).

**Heppner AWANA takes Christmas break**



Heppner AWANA Commander Dale Bates (left) and visiting AWANA missionary Jerry Berheim speak to club members at the Dec. 13 meeting in Heppner.

-Photo by Andrea Di Salvo

The Heppner AWANA Club wrapped up the first part of its club year Tuesday, Dec. 13, with a celebration of Jesus's birth, an invitation for parents and guardians to join the fun, and a visit from regional AWANA missionary Jerry Berheim. The club will take a break over Christmas and resume normal meetings Tuesday, Jan. 3, with Twins Night.

Heppner AWANA Club is a free Christian children's club for kindergarten

through sixth grade. Serving all of South Morrow, it engages area kids through songs, Bible stories, games and Bible memory verses. The club meets Tuesdays from 6-7:30 p.m. at the Christian Life Center in Heppner.

It's not too late to join for the 2022-23 club year. For more information, email [awana.heppner@gmail.com](mailto:awana.heppner@gmail.com) or call or text club secretary Andrea Di Salvo at 757-285-5792.

**HHS outdoor club holds first outing of year**



The Heppner High School Outdoor Club had its first outing of the year recently. Pictured are: New advisor Ryan Gerry with students Jacob Finch, Ava Gerry, Hailey Wenberg, Lily Nichols, Ryan Haugen, Teagan Ramsey, Trevor McLaren, Caden George, Trevor Nichols, Cade Cunningham, Owen Cunningham, Adan Guerra and Nick Wenberg. Not pictured: Advisor Dave Fowler. -Contributed photo

**Hopeful Saints plans Christmas Eve Service**

Hopeful Saints Ministry is planning a Christmas Eve service Saturday, Dec. 24, at 5 p.m. at the Hopeful Saints Church on the corner of Gale and Church St. Rev. Jaime Cardona is officiating. All are welcome.

**Area Christmas Eve Services**

- Heppner Christian Church – 5 p.m.
- Hopeful Saints Church – 5 p.m.
- St. Patrick's Catholic Church – 9 p.m.
- Willow Creek Baptist Church – 5:30 p.m.
- Valby Lutheran Church – 6 p.m.

**Area Christmas Day Services**

- Christian Life Center – 9 a.m.
- Heppner Christian Church – Children's program at 10:45 a.m.
- St. Patrick's Catholic Church – 10 a.m.
- Willow Creek Baptist Church – 10 a.m.

**Good News Only**

Doris Brosnan

A big OOPS! and apology to Ginger and Stacie O'Brien. Last week's Willow Creek Terrace news included a note about Stacie celebrating her birthday, but, of course, Stacie's mother, Ginger, was the birthday girl yesterday! The good news is that Ginger was able to share her birthday celebration with Stacie.

On Monday, Gene Orwick turned 93 years old. One celebration of this milestone was the early one with all of his family who were able to come wish him well.

This past weekend was an early holiday for this writer: My Salem family—Darci, Angie, Katie and Amy (plus Maggie Dog)—came for the first time in several months. Schedules that include schools and work often interfere with EO trips, but good fortune let us enjoy a great visit just

before Christmas. 'Tis the season to bring good cheer, so the Readers hope that everyone with a cheer-filled tidbit will send it to [dbrosnan123@gmail.com](mailto:dbrosnan123@gmail.com) or call 541-223-1490.

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

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

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OUR NEWLY UPDATED WEBSITE MAKES IT EASY TO:

- Submit news
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Weekly deadline for all news and advertising is Monday at 5pm.

**NORTH & SOUTH TRANSFER STATIONS**  
**CLOSED**  
**SUNDAY, JAN. 1ST 2023**  
**\*NEW YEARS DAY\***  
**HOPE YOU HAVE A FUN & SAFE NEW YEARS!**



May Your Holidays Be Merry & Bright

As your electric cooperative, our core mission is to keep the lights on, but our passion is our community. This holiday season, we wish you and your loved ones peace, joy and prosperity. Your team at Umatilla Electric Cooperative knows the future will be bright because of you.



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