

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

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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**

**Beverly Jean Ann Davidson Flint**

Bev landed on her in-laws' farm, near Scholls, OR, in 1965 after she married Harlan Flint. "I've found my home," she said. It was on the farm that she died, Dec. 10, 2022, from cancer. Her husband, daughter Sadie, and dear sister Anita were with her. She was 78.

She was born Jan. 23, 1944, in Grass Valley, CA, to Robert Davidson and Mildred Pollard Davidson. The family settled in Morrow County after World War II. At Heppner High School (class of '62), Bev excelled in speech and drama, as a dance club member and choreographer. "It's all about the music," was her life-long mantra.



Bev graduated from Portland State University with a speech degree in 1967. She taught PE and coached gymnastics in Beaverton for 13 years. Bev was an early member of Sunset Athletic Club, where she played ladies tennis for many years (4.0 flights).

Bev developed as a commercial florist—the profession she claimed when asked—and as a master cake decorator. In retirement, she produced sunflowers to sell at the end of the farm's lane, and wreaths by the hundreds to adorn every Christmas.

On Mid Valley Farm, Bev spoiled many pets and had abundant room for horses, which she saddled up over 30 years. She and her beloved horse, Adida, spent 23 years with the women's drill team in competitions and parades. Bev once choreographed a technically-difficult, award-winning drill for the Team of Four during which the horses performed without bridles.

Bev and Harlan were active members of the Toe Dragers Square Dance Club where Bev was the club cuer from 1989-2020.

She developed her own cueing shorthand and choreographed, led and taught round dances: waltzes, foxtrot, rumba, cha cha, and more. Dancers agree: Bev's cueing had a flare and earned a following. She also "made the Singer sing," sewing costumes and flags for the riding club and square dances.

Bev's creativity was a thing of beauty, and a joy. She was a lifelong teacher and mentor, showing family and friends how to live with courage, kindness, spunk, ingenuity and a willingness to try new things at any age. She read books of every genre and collected rosaries from around the world.

Beverly's survivors are her husband, Harlan Flint, and their daughter, Sadie with her husband, Peter Pittock Lynn, and their son, Oscar. Other survivors are siblings Dora Sue Viall, McMinnville, OR; Robert Davidson, Jr. (HHS '61) and wife, Patricia, Milwaukie, OR.; Gregory Davidson (HHS '74) and partner, Robert Woods, San Francisco; and Anita Davidson (HHS '75) and partner, Sue Hawkins, Portland, OR. Two generations of nieces and nephews fill a list.

She preceded in death by her parents, Robert in 1992 and Mildred in 1980, and by a brother, Herbert, in 1997.

The family will host a celebration of Bev's generosity of spirit early in 2023. In Bev's honor, a donation to The Compton (CA) Junior Equestrians would be in line with her interests. And, of course, give a gift of flowers to someone today, and buy a big ol' bunch for yourself, too.

**Robert "Bob" Howard Smith Jr.**

Robert "Bob" Howard Smith Jr. died peacefully at Pioneer Memorial Hospital on Wednesday, Jan. 4, surrounded by his family. He was 63 years old. A small service will be held for immediate family members only.

Bob was born March 12, 1959, in Portland, OR, to Doreen Parret and Robert Howard Smith Sr. Bob grew up in Hermiston until his sophomore year, when his family moved to Heppner. Bob graduated from Heppner High School, where he met his future wife, Sheree Marquardt. The two were married Dec. 15, 1979.

He had various jobs

**Obituaries**

throughout the years, including mill worker, security guard and printer at the Heppner Gazette-Times. He became disabled in 1999. Bob loved gardening and yard work as well as fishing, wood cutting, hunting and being in the mountains. In his later years, his face lit up whenever his grandchildren were around.

Bob is survived by his former spouse, Sheree Smith; their children, Melinda Smith, Robert Smith III (Heather Smith), Tammy Rill (Dean Rill); grandchildren, Hagen and Bentley Smith; sister, Linda Shultz; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Bob was preceded in death by his father, Robert Smith Sr.; mother, Doreen Parret; and brother, Rick Smith.

Sympathy cards may be mailed to PO Box 442, Heppner, OR 97836. You may sign the online condolence book at [www.sweeneymortuary.com](http://www.sweeneymortuary.com).

**Kellie Renae Nelson**

Kellie Renae Nelson, 27, of Heppner, passed away on Dec. 30, after a car accident.

Services will be held at Heppner Elementary School on Jan. 21 at 1 p.m. with a meal following the service at the Morrow County Fairgrounds.

Kellie was born on July 18, 1995, in Yakima, WA. She attended Heppner Schools and was very active in many groups. She was in the chess club and AWANA in elementary school. In middle and high school Kellie found her love for cheerleading, wrestling and track. She was also in TSA, FBLA, FFA and 4-H. One of the highlights of her high school experience was traveling to Nashville for a TSA competition, where she competed with a robotic Lego lizard. Her involvement in 4-H and the Heppner FFA chapter was a favorite for Kellie, too. She started showing swine in fifth grade with the 4-H program and continued through her FFA years. She was a District FFA Officer. After graduating Heppner High School in 2013, Kellie enlisted in the U.S. Marines.

Following her time with the Marines, Kellie returned home and started fighting fires at Bruce Young Logging. She was a firefighter at heart even though the work was hard. This experience would lead her into life-long service to her community. She was a trained EMT volunteer with the Heppner Fire Department and was extremely dedicated to the firefighting family.

Kellie studied Geosciences at Treasure Valley Community College and also student taught at Eastern Oregon University weekly, driving from Ontario to La Grande while working towards bachelor's degree. She earned her bachelor's in Geosciences, with a minor in psychology, in 2019. She recently finished her master's degree in psychology in 2022 while working in the precision agriculture division at Morrow County Grain Growers.

In 2015, Kellie returned to Heppner to have her son, Jaxson Nelson, near her family. Her love of family and her community was important to her, and she wanted Jaxson to have

that same love. She valued her grandparents and the time she was able to help them whenever she could while working at Lakeview Heights, Willow Creek Terrace and with the Morrow County Health District.

Kellie loved spending time with her son and doing anything outdoors. She loved to hunt and fish, go kayaking and spend time with her family in the mountains. She was a volunteer with 4-H, AWANA, Heppner St. Patrick's celebration and Morrow County Fair. Her involvement with Jaxson's wrestling team and school activities was also always a priority.

Kellie was preceded in death by her grandparents, Francis and Vonna Schutter.

She is survived by her son, Jaxson; her parents, John and Alita Nelson; her twin brother, Tim Nelson (Makaela); and her brothers, John and Cody Nelson. She is also survived by grandparents, Stan and Linda Nelson, and many aunts, uncles, nieces and friends.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to Heppner Fire Department or Morrow County 4-H. You may sign the online condolence book at [www.sweeneymortuary.com](http://www.sweeneymortuary.com).

**Death Notice**

Mary Jean McCabe, 95, Longtime Heppner resident died Monday, January 9, 2023 in Hermiston. She was born January 3, 1928 at Ione Oregon. A graveside memorial service will be held 2 p.m. Saturday, January 14, 2023 at High View Cemetery in Ione. A complete obituary will follow in next weeks Gazette-Times. Sweeney Mortuary of Heppner is in care of arrangements.

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**Pranger retires from weed control after 33 years**



Dave Pranger

By Andrea Di Salvo  
Morrow County's long-standing "weed guy," David Pranger, retired in November after nearly 33 years helping county residents and farmers manage their weed problems. His Nov. 3 retirement was just short of the 33-year mark, which would have been Jan. 2 of this year.

Pranger, 60, has been in Morrow County a long time, but he was born and raised in Hillsboro, OR. He graduated from Jesuit High School in Hillsboro and then attended Oregon State University, where he graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in Agricultural Engineering Technology in 1984.

It was in college that he met his wife of 37 years, Anita. The couple was married in 1985.

After college, the Prangers moved to the Portland area, where Dave worked for a national lawn care company, first as a lawn care specialist and then as a branch trainer. After five and a half years there, Dave took a job with the Soil and Water Conservation District

(SWCD), and the family moved to Morrow County.

"I went from college, to doing that, to doing this," he said.

They spent the first year in Ione and then moved to Heppner and bought a home. It's where they've made their home ever since, raising sons Joe and Justin in Heppner.

After several years with the SWCD, Pranger moved to a job with Morrow County, where he was the public works weed supervisor/coordinator. There, he worked most closely with the road department.

"After five years with the SWCD, I felt like the road department would be a good mix," said Pranger. One of his primary duties in both jobs was to work to control noxious weeds. "I felt like the county had to take care of its roadsides before I could enforce it on other people."

Pranger said he enjoyed his work because, in his department of one, he was basically his own boss.

"I was pretty much a one-man show," he said.

He did help out the road department from time to time over the years, paint striping, driving truck and flagging, but much of his time and work went into finding new ways to control noxious weeds.

A noxious weed is any

-Continued to PAGE THREE

**Ione Community Church**  
470 E. Main Street,  
Ione, Oregon

Church School & Adult Study at 10:00 am  
Worship at 11:00 AM

"You will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all you heart."  
-Jeremiah 29:13  
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