

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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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

Juanita Mary Hale Proctor

Juanita Mary Hale Proctor passed peacefully on March 10, 2023, at Good Shepherd Medical Center in Hermiston at the age of 93. A graveside service will be held on March 16 at 1 p.m. at the Irrigon Cemetery, followed by a celebration of life at the senior center.

Juanita, better known as Nita, was born an identical twin on May 22, 1929, in Heppner to Vier and Mary (Hirl) Hale.

Nita spent her early years on a 3,500-acre ranch outside of Heppner in McDonald Canyon, where she lived with her twin sister, Margaret; her mother, Mary Hale; her Uncle Charlie Hirl; and her Irish grandparents, Phil and Mary Hirl. On the ranch, the family raised sheep, a few cows, pigs, and grew a huge garden that provided an abundance of food for canning. They also grew and harvested wheat with horse-drawn combines, of which Nita and her sister helped gather. Growing up in the canyon provided for a wonderful life.

Nita's first seven years of education were attending a one room schoolhouse in McDonald Canyon. She later moved to Heppner, where she graduated with the class of 1947. During those summers in Heppner, both Nita and her sister worked at the local laundromat downtown beside their mom, Mary.

After graduation, Nita and her extended family sold the ranch in the canyon and moved to Hermiston where they opened and ran a small restaurant, "The Bluebirds." It was there at the Bluebirds where Nita met the love of her life, Le-

roy "Rocky" Proctor. The couple was married March 6, 1950.

Nita and Rocky made their first home in Umatilla at the Shady Rest Trailer Park and soon thereafter moved their trailer to their newly-leased service station, The Flying A. At The Flying A, Rocky worked as a mechanic while Nita pumped gas and operated the station.

Then in 1952, Nita and Rocky's first child, Clarence Leroy was born. At that time, the young couple decided to make a move from their home at the station to a newer one outside of Umatilla on Hwy. 730.

Later in 1953, they added a daughter, Patricia Ann, and gave up the lease on the Flying A to take on a new adventure with the purchase of the Phillips 66 station.

After a few years, they added a third child, Phillip Michael, and that was when the couple made their move to an 80-acre farm outside of Irrigon. At their new home, the Proctors took on new challenges of milking cows, raising chickens, and later beef cattle to sell for profit, while adding a fourth child, Mary Ann, in 1958. During those years, Rocky worked road construction until he eventually ended up at the Umatilla Army Depot, while Nita continued to work at the farm. Nita loved a challenge and knew how to make ends meet, so this was the perfect fit for their growing family.

Finally in 1960, their youngest child, Theresa Ann, was born. During that year, the Proctors made their final move to a home just down the road. The new home provided 80 more acres where they lived until their retirement years, raising cattle and ranching along with many hours spent roping and riding in the "Barking Dog Rodeo Arena" with family and friends. Nita had a passion for team roping and was well known for her double hock swing where she tied on hard and fast.

Obituaries

She could also barrel race with the best of them and loved a fast horse. She was quite the cowgirl and won many buckles and awards throughout the years.

Nita was well known for her kindness, ability to bake, her generosity to her neighbors, her passion for animals (especially dogs and horses), and her work ethic. She was one of a kind and loved her life on the farm with both her children and many grandchildren.

Nita was a member of Our Lady of Angels Catholic Church, a lifetime member of the Umatilla Sage Riders, past chaperone for the Morrow County Rodeo Court, and a member of both the American Quarter Horse Association and the Northwest Old Timers Rodeo Association. Nita was also one of the founding members of the Hermiston Area Barrel Racing Association (HABRA), later known as the Greater Columbia Barrel Racing Association (GCBRA).

Nita is survived by her four children, Patricia

(Karl) Smith of Boardman, Phillip Michael (Kay) Proctor of Heppner, Mary Ann (Barry) Munkers of Lexington, and Theresa Proctor-Reece of Boardman. She is also survived by 10 grandchildren, 13 great-grandchildren, and one great-great-grandchild.

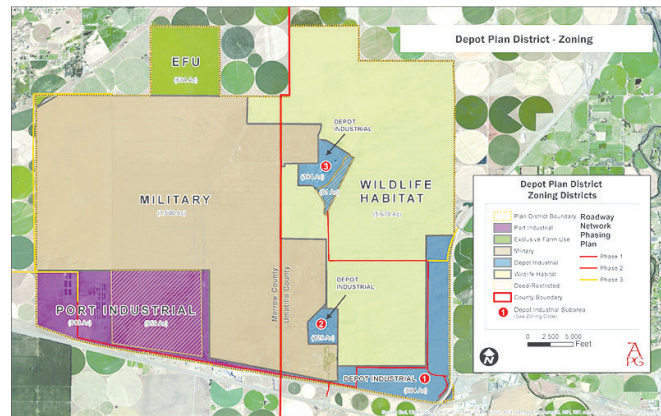
She was preceded in death by her husband, Leroy "Rocky" Proctor; her son, Clarence Leroy Proctor; her twin sister, Margaret Bunten Pieper; her son-in-law, Lester Steven Reece; a granddaughter, Rebecca Smith; her father, Vier Frank Hale; and mother, Mary Ella Hirl Hale.

Anyone wishing to make memorial contributions may make them to Fanconi Anemia Research Foundation, 360 E 10th Ave Suite 201, Eugene, OR 97401, www.fanconi.org.

Please share memories of Juanita with her family at burnsmortuaryhermiston.com

Burns Mortuary of Hermiston is in charge of arrangements.

Army depot now in the hands of counties, tribes



Zoning plans for the former Army chemical depot, now owned by the Columbia Development Authority.

-Contributed

By Andrea Di Salvo

As of Friday, March 3, the former U.S. Army Umatilla Chemical Depot is now under the ownership of the Columbia Development Authority.

The CDA is made up of representatives from five entities involved in the transfer—Morrow and Umatilla counties, the ports of Umatilla and Morrow, and the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation (CTUIR).

At a Feb. 28 meeting, CDA Director Greg Smith told the board he would sign the closing documents Feb. 29 and anticipated that the transfer of the deed would be complete by March 3.

CDA Assistant Debbie Pedro last week confirmed that was the date the deed was transferred.

Smith said the CDA will partition 4,019 acres of depot property to CTUIR within 180 days of the transfer of land from the Army to CDA.

"That's going to be a

fast timeline," said Smith, "because we still need to do some survey work. We need to do some partition work. We need to work with our planners."

While the official documents have been signed and the deed is now in CDA hands, a ceremonial signing is yet to be held at the Pentagon on March 20.

As part of the deed update, Smith also reported that the Oregon Military Dept. had agreed to allow CDA access to the property through the front gate. However, he said they made it clear that there would need to be a separate entrance to the property ready and open by the time any industry starts developing on the site.

"They're being very good neighbors with us, allowing us to continue access, but understandably they are not looking for industry to be tromping through their training grounds," said Smith.

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Lunch & Dinner Menu
Specials 3/16-3/22

Thursday- Chicken noodle soup and a jalapeño popper grilled cheese with bacon for \$9.

Friday- Grilled chicken breast sandwich and potato salad for \$9.

Saturday- soup is vegetable beef.

Monday- Tater tot casserole and fruit for \$9.

Tuesday- Sw corn chowder, salad, and breadsticks for \$9.

Tuesday night 6-9pm \$2 hard shell tacos

Wednesday- Meat loaf, green beans, and mashed potatoes with brown gravy for \$9.

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