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of the City of Heppner and the County of Morrow

Heppner
GAZETTE-TIMES
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Morrow County's Home-Owned Weekly Newspaper

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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.

Lorraine Ruth (Potter) Bates

Lorraine Ruth (Potter) Bates, 94, of Condon, OR, passed away on July 17, 2023, at Mid-Columbia Medical Center in The Dalles, OR. Memorial services will be held on Saturday, July 29, at 11 a.m. at Condon Baptist Church, followed by a graveside service at the Condon Cemetery. A potluck meal will take place at the church afterward, with meat provided.



Daughter of Ralph and Anna (Duncan) Potter of Mikkalo, Lorraine was born on their ranch in the Ajax area on Oct. 28, 1928. When the Great Depression brought bankruptcy to the Ajax farm, the family relocated to the Ferry Canyon area, closer to Condon. Far from defeated by life's difficulties, the Potter family rebuilt and flourished in their new location. Lorraine was the youngest of four children born to Ralph and Anna; her living brothers were Clarence and Garland, while her brother Darrell Potter was tragically lost in infancy. At this new location, Lorraine attended Igo Grade School before attending Condon High School, graduating in the class of 1946.

A few short weeks later, Lorraine traveled to Union County to attend a State Grange Convention. It was there that she met the love of her life, Mr. Edward Bates, and their story began. Lorraine attended Eastern Oregon Normal School, now Eastern Oregon University, for a term until she was swept off her feet and into matrimony. The couple married on Dec. 15, 1946. For the following two years, the couple lived on Edward's family property near Union. In 1948, they purchased the Cooke Ranch east of Condon and relocated. Bates Ranches was born.

After settling in Condon, the Bates baby-boom began. In the spring of 1949, the first local Bates was born, followed by four more children, each 18 months apart. Wayne, Bruce, Shirley, Paul and Dale were raised on the ranch amongst all its activities, with horses, livestock and wheat. Lorraine was well known for her extravagant harvest meals. She also counted it an immense honor, privilege and responsibility to be asked to design their new family home overlooking the property, which was completed in 1955.

In 1953, Lorraine accepted Christ as her personal Lord and Savior and was forever changed. Ed, Lorraine and family were also central members of Condon Baptist Church for the entirety of their lives, where Lorraine served in such positions as Deaconess, Sunday School Superintendent, and a member of the praise team. Music was Lorraine's life-long passion. It began with traveling as a child with her family, playing drums in the Potter Family Orchestra at Grange events throughout the region. She went on to learn the piano and the concert bells as well. Many family evenings spent around the piano and singing hymns are cherished memories. Lorraine was also an artist and crafts-woman. She loved to sew and served her community and the wider church with her gift by sewing for missionaries around the globe with the White Cross. She also loved oil painting, especially landscapes of the surrounding scenery. But she loved nothing so much as spending time with family, and flying the region with her favorite pilot, husband Ed, and with the Oregon Flying Farmer organization, even being chosen as Woman of the Year in 1974.

In their retirement, Ed and Lorraine continued to travel, serving as camp hosts in Washington State Parks campgrounds including Field Springs State Park and Chief Timothy State Park for many years. Later, they also took to "snowbirding" in Yuma, AZ in the winter, where warmth and community welcomed them. At the time of her death, their family of seven had grown to include 12 grandchildren, 43 great-grandchildren, and three great-great-grandchildren.

Life took another sad turn with Edward's passing in 2017 after celebrating their 70th wedding anniversary. The family rejoices to know that she is now reunited with her Lord and Savior Jesus, as well as her beloved husband. She is survived by her five children, Wayne Bates (and wife Debra) of Burley, ID; Shirley (and husband Al) Burrows of Condon; Paul (and wife Donna) Bates of Condon; Dale (and wife Sheryl) Bates of Heppner; their children; and her great-grandchildren. Memorial services will be held on Saturday, July 29, six years to the day since Edward's memorial. Memorial contributions may be made to Mid-Columbia Child Evangelism Fellowship at 820 E. Third St., The Dalles, Oregon, 97058. Sweeney Mortuary of Condon is in charge of arrangements. You may sign the online condolence book at <http://www.sweeneymortuary.com>.

Watermelon festival this Saturday



Last year's Irrigon Chamber of Commerce parade entry all decked out in watermelon finery. -Contributed photo



One of the entries at last year's Irrigon Watermelon Festival Car Show. -Contributed photo

The Irrigon Watermelon Festival is back this Saturday, July 29, with all-day festivities at the Irrigon Marina Park.

Anyone looking to get an early start to the day can grab breakfast from 6:30 to 9:30 a.m. The breakfast, hosted by Columbia View Church, will feature pancakes, biscuits and gravy, ham, sausage, eggs, coffee and juice.

Next up will be the downtown parade at 10 a.m., as well as the festival car show.

Opening ceremonies at the park at 11 a.m. will kick off the afternoon's entertainment on the main stage—the Irrigon High School cheerleaders, Wade Aylett, Stanfield Taekwondo Studio, Gems and Gents, Brass Fire, Knudson Brothers, Estilo Diferente, and even a hula-hoop contest.

There will be no shortage of food, as well as lots of activities for the kids. Families can look forward to the National Guard climbing wall and more, boat rides from the sheriff's department, face painting and a giant water slide.

The Irrigon Watermelon Festival is sponsored by Bellinger Farms, Umatilla Electric, Tillamook Creamery and the Morrow County Unified Recreation District.

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Bank of Eastern Oregon collects school supplies

The Bank of Eastern Oregon branches in Heppner and Ione are collecting school supplies for local elementary students through Aug. 18. The supplies will be distributed to local schools in August.

"If you would like to help, please drop your school supply donations at the Heppner or Ione branch of Bank of Eastern Oregon," says BEO Chief Operating Officer Becky Kindler.

Each branch will feature a drawing for several

backpacks filled with supplies for a local student. Community members with elementary school students are encouraged to stop in and fill out a ticket for a student. You do not have to be a Bank of Eastern Oregon customer to donate supplies or enter the drawing, and no purchase is necessary. The drawings will be held on August 18.

The Heppner branch is located at 279 N. Main Street and the Ione branch is located at 280 Main Street in Ione.

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Hanna from Germany, 17yrs.
Enjoys spending time with her family and younger siblings. Hanna plays volleyball and is excited to learn new sports while in America.

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Loves to play baseball and spend time with his dogs. Giorgio also plays the guitar, and his dream is to join a drama club at his American high school.

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