

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.
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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

Judith "Judie" Lue Spaulding Laughlin



Judith "Judie" Lue Spaulding Laughlin, 82, of Heppner passed away peacefully on August 24, 2023, at Chinook Place in Madras, OR. A funeral mass will be held for Judie on Saturday, September 30, at 11 a.m. at St. Patrick's Catholic Church in Heppner. A graveside interment for Judie and Butch Laughlin will follow at the Heppner Cemetery, followed by a luncheon at the St. Patrick's Parish Hall.

Judie was born November 23, 1940, in Long Beach, CA to Bette Simpson Spaulding and Carl F. Spaulding, Jr. Carl was in the Army and was stationed in Long Beach when Judie was born. They moved to The Dalles, OR in 1946, where she attended grade school and junior high. She took piano lessons as a child and regretted not continuing with that skill, only to replace it with her love of dance at an early age. She took dance lessons from Eleanor Borg in The Dalles. Judie graduated from Heppner High School in 1958, where she had moved in her sophomore year. She quickly became a loved member of the class and was cheerleader for the Heppner Mustangs. The class of 1958 was a very close-knit group and stayed that way throughout their lives, raising their children together even if they moved out of Heppner.

She was married to William W. Brannon and had a daughter Tamila Kay in 1958. They soon divorced, and Judie and Tami moved to Eugene so Judie could attend the University of Oregon art school. They lived with Judie's Aunt Barbara (Simpson) and Erv Larsen. Her high school classmate, Butch Laughlin, came back into the picture, and they married in 1963. The family was completed with the arrival of Lottie Lynn in 1963 and Robert Shane in 1964.

Funeral Notice

Sharon E. Arntt, 81, of Hermiston, formerly of Heppner, died July 3, 2023, in Hermiston. She was born December 24, 1941, in Portland, OR. A memorial service will be held at 10

Judie had a love for her family, friends and community that filled her life to the fullest. She belonged to Soroptimist International, Willow Valley Service Club, 4-Corners Snowmobile Club, St. Patrick's Celebration Committee and St. Patrick's Catholic Church, where she served many of the officer positions. She was a 4-H Leader for many years and even taught Shane how to sew.

She was the office manager for Heppner Cable TV, which her father Carl started in 1956. Judie also worked for Columbia Basin Electric and the Morrow County Judge's office.

Judie was best known for her artistic abilities and shared them throughout her life. Many of the St. Patrick's Day decorations used yearly in Heppner, she made. The St. Patrick's Day buttons sold during the celebration, she designed and made for many years. She loved stamping and created beautiful cards that were given to family and friends and shared with the Hospice Program in Morrow County. There was nothing she couldn't craft, paint, sew or draw.

Judie was proceeded in death by her husband, Butch, in April of this year. They were fortunate to celebrate their 60th wedding anniversary in March.

She is survived by her sister, Janice Harper of Pendleton, and her children, Haylee and Willie; daughter Tami and husband Rodney Berthold of Mosier and their children, Jarren, Nick and Wes; daughter Lottie and husband Kirk Holcomb of Madras and their children, Melissa, Keri and Kevin; son Shane from Heppner; five great-grandchildren; and one great-great-grandchild.

Contributions in Judie's memory can be made to the National Alliance on Mental Illness, 147 SE 102nd Ave., Portland, OR 97216; American Heart Association, 4380 S Macadam Avenue #480 Portland, OR 97239; the St. Patrick's Catholic Church Memorial Fund, PO Box 633, Heppner, OR 97836; or a charity of your choice.

Sweeney Mortuary of Heppner is in charge of arrangements. You may sign the online condolence book at www.sweeneymortuary.com.

a.m. on Saturday, September 9, at St. John Episcopal Church in Hermiston. Sweeney Mortuary of Heppner was in charge of arrangements.

Obituaries

Shirley Hazel (Wilkinson) Rugg



Shirley Hazel (Wilkinson) Rugg passed away peacefully in her own home in Heppner under the care of Pioneer Memorial Hospice on the morning of Monday, September 4, 2023. She was 94 years old. A casual celebration of life will be held on Saturday, September 9, at 2 p.m. at the St. Patrick's Senior Center (190 N. Main St in Heppner) for any who would like to attend. Light refreshments will be provided. Please bring memories to share.

She was born on April 22, 1929, in Heppner, as the third child of Bercia Wavel (Ball) and Frank Wilkinson. Shirley was born and raised in Heppner and the Willow Creek area, breaking and riding horses on the Wilkinson ranch(es) from a young age. She served on the local rodeo court in 1947 before being crowned Queen of the Morrow County Rodeo in 1949, the same year that she married George Raymond Rugg. They raised two daughters: Gedola "Jody" Jean, born May 20, 1952, and Jillene "Jill" Wavel, born December 9, 1953. The couple later divorced in 1967.

Tragically, their daughter Jody passed away in a single-car accident in October 1970.

Shirley gained a reputation throughout her life as a tough cowgirl and a strong-

willed, independent woman as she spent her working years as a sheep and cattle rancher along Willow Creek and throughout eastern Oregon. Morrow County Livestock Growers Association named Shirley as "Cattleman of the Year," or alternatively, "Livestock Grower of the Year," in 1969.

Shirley was later featured in the 2011 book "Tough by Nature: Portraits of Cowgirls and Ranch Women of the American West" by Linda Lanker. In addition to sheep, cows and horses, Shirley owned and loved a great number of cattle and herding dogs over the years, sometimes having as many as five or six accompanying her in her signature flatbed pickup.

Earlier this year, Shirley was featured in the Summer 2023 issue of Range magazine as part of the "Confessions of Red Meat Survivors" article.

Shirley intermittently attended All Saints' Episcopal Church throughout her long life.

She was preceded in death by parents Bercia Wavel (Ball) and Frank Wilkinson, sister Frances (Wilkinson) and Walt Oslund, brother Richard "Dick" and Virginia Wilkinson, and daughter Gedola "Jody" Rugg, among others.

She is survived by daughter Jill (Rugg) and Dick Schoenberg of Kennewick, WA, granddaughter Josie (Camarillo) and Tom Congdon of Roseburg, OR, niece Carol Sue (Oslund) Hanson of Gillette, WY, niece Pamela (Cochell) and Mark Wunderlich of Heppner, OR, and other extended Wilkinson relatives living primarily in Canada.

Sweeney Mortuary is in charge of post-mortem care and cremation services per Shirley's wishes.

Umatilla National Forest Public use restrictions eased

-Continued from PAGE ONE

erators are required to have an axe (minimum 2-pound head, 26" length), shovel (8" wide, 26" length), and fire extinguisher (minimum ABC 8 oz.) in their possession. Chainsaw operation associated with commercial and personal use firewood permits are regulated under the conditions of the permit and are not impacted by this public use restriction.

Smoking is allowed only in enclosed vehicles, buildings or cleared areas.

No off-road/off-trail vehicle travel or travel on roads not cleared of standing grass or other flammable material; no vehicle travel on those Forest Service roads where access has been impeded or blocked by earthen berm, logs, boulders, barrier, barricade or gate, or as otherwise identified in the fire order.

The public is also encouraged to practice safe campfire principles when recreating in dispersed and developed campsites. Forest officials recommend the following campfire safety precautions:

Campfires should be in fire pits surrounded by dirt, rock, or commercial rings and in areas not conducive to rapid fire spread. All flammable material shall be cleared within a three-foot radius from the edge of the pit and free of overhanging material. Use existing pits wherever possible. Campfires must be at-

tended at all times and completely extinguished prior to leaving.

Persons with campfires should carry a tool that can serve as a shovel and one gallon of water in their possession. The intent of this recommendation is to ensure individuals with a campfire have the tools necessary to completely extinguish their campfire.

The public's awareness of the fire danger and cooperation is essential to a safe fire season. Recreationists, firewood cutters, hunters and other forest users can all help by closely adhering to restrictions, operating safely and cautiously, and keeping up to date on the latest orders and regulations.

Regulated closures may be in effect on State and private lands protected by Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) in northeast and central Oregon. Please check with your local Oregon Department of Forestry office for PURs on lands protected by ODF.

For more information about the Umatilla National Forest's Public Use Restrictions, contact the Umatilla National Forest Information Hotline at 1-877-958-9663 or visit our website at www.fs.usda.gov/umatilla/.

DEADLINE: FRIDAY AT 5PM

Bentz to hold town hall tonight

U.S. Rep. Cliff Bentz will hold a Morrow County town hall tonight, Sept. 6, at 5:30 p.m. at the Morrow County Fairgrounds

annex in Heppner. Members of the public are invited to bring their questions and concerns to this event.

Morrow County Republicans to meet Sept. 14

The Morrow County Republicans will meet at 6 p.m., Thursday, Sept. 14, at the Don Adams Conference Room in the Morrow County Government Center, Irrigon. Precinct Committee Persons (PCPs) and anyone interested in the county Republican Party are encouraged to come and join the discussions.

MCRP will look at the 2024 election calendar year and begin planning for events and candidate support. The group will finalize participation and representation at the Oregon Republican Platform meeting in Pendleton Oct. 19-21. Other agenda items

include PCP appointments and 2024 budget construction.

PCP positions are open for Lexington, Boardman and Irrigon. Individuals interested in one of these positions are encouraged to attend this meeting to learn about the positions. PCP appointments can be made during MCRP meetings.

The Republican Party is open to individuals interested in conservative ideals and values. The Republican Party platform can be found at <https://oregon.gop/>. For more information on the Morrow County Republican Party, contact mocoreps@gmail.com.

Morrow SWCD to meet

Morrow Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) will meet Tuesday, Sept. 12, at 6 p.m. at the Ag Service Center in Heppner.

To join via Zoom or conference call, please contact the SWCD beforehand at 541-676-5452.

Meetings of the Morrow SWCD are open to the public.

Starting September 6th!

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Ione Education Foundation Dinner & Auction

September 23, 2023
Ione American Legion Hall

SOCIAL HOUR - 5 PM
DINNER - 6 PM
AUCTION - 7 PM

TICKETS
\$30 Adult
\$15 age 7-12
Free age 6 & under

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