

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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Andrea Di Salvo.....Editor
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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 \$5.50 per column inch. Cost for classified ad is 50¢ per word. Cost for Card of Thanks is \$15 up to 100 words. Cost for a classified display ad is \$6.00 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.

Ag, forestry communities crisis help line open

A crisis help line dedicated to serving Oregon's agricultural and forestry communities is now open.

The Oregon Agristress Helpline – 833-897-2474 – is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week by call or text. The voice line can be accessed in up to 160 languages with the help of interpreters, and the text line services English, Spanish and Vietnamese.

The AgriStress Helpline is unique because it is completely dedicated to serving Oregon's agriculture and forestry communities, which includes farmers, farm workers, ranchers, fishermen, foresters and their families.

In June, the Oregon Legislature passed Senate Bill 955, sponsored by Sen. Bill Hansell, R-Athena, which provided a one-time \$300,000 general fund appropriation to the state Higher Education Coordinating Commission to distribute to the Oregon State University Foundation to establish an endowment for Oregon State University Extension Service to implement and operate the helpline in Oregon.

Gov. Tina Kotek signed the bill into law in a ceremony in Prairie City in July, making Oregon the seventh state to link into the AgriStress Helpline. Nationally, OSU is the first academic institution and the first land grant university to partner with a state on the helpline.

"This is an important milestone in the effort to provide mental health assistance for folks who are vulnerable to suicide," said Allison Myers, associate dean for Extension and engagement at the OSU College of Health. "I want to express my enormous gratitude for the numerous people and organizations who got behind this and were able to make it a reality."

A coalition of 27 farm groups and health care organizations advocated passage of SB 955. Myers, who also leads the OSU Extension Family and Community Health program, and Todd Nash, a Wallowa County rancher and president of the Oregon Cattlemen's Association, were instrumental in building support for the helpline.

The issue of mental health for farmers and ranchers has become a "top subject" in rural Oregon, Nash said.

Elks state president to visit Heppner

"The Heppner Elks Club has the honor of holding this year's State President Nick Bettencourt's visitation to the East District on Saturday, September 16," said an Elks Club news release. This is an official visitation to the East District which includes 11 lodges throughout Eastern Oregon. An average of four dignitaries from each of the 11 lodges, along with several state vice presidents and dignitaries from Idaho, including past National Grand Exalted Ruler, Keith T. Mills, will be in attendance.

Saturday's events kick off with an encore play at 3:30 p.m. at the Heppner Cemetery titled "Days of Sorrow" which was last performed in 2003. "Everyone is encouraged and welcomed to attend this wonderful play to hear the harrowing tale of the Heppner flood and its victims in the 1903 disaster, organized by Doris Brosnan and Sharon Harrison," said a news release. The play is free and guests are asked to take the second exit into the cemetery for parking.

Following the play, cocktails will be served at the Heppner Elks Lodge, followed by the banquet dinner to be held at 6 p.m. The dinner, for members and guests only, will be catered by Elkhorn Grills out of Baker City and features a tri-tip or chicken dinner with sides and dessert for \$20.

"All members are encouraged to attend the Saturday night dinner to show support for this prestigious visitation," said an Elks news release.

Obituaries

David L. Mitchell



David was known for his humor in nicknaming friends and family, his grandchildren were especially fond of their special nicknames. Sarah – (Little Miss), Jon Jr.- (Backpack), Jake – (Porkchop), Ethan – (Goat Burger), Nikki – (Snickerdoodle), Cason – (Buckshot) Marlee – (Popcorn Belly), and Landon – (Hickenlooper).

Many thanks to the family and friends that visited, sent prayers, and brought goodies for David, along with the outstanding staff at Eastern Oregon Cancer Center at Pendleton and especially, Tammy Rolfe of Pioneer Memorial Hospice.

Survivors include his wife Carol of Heppner, children: Jon Mitchell of Pendleton, Joni Maasdam (Mark) of Enterprise, Slater Mitchell (Darcee) of Heppner, a sister, Charlotte Eskildsen of Helena Montana, grandchildren: Sarah Rice, Jon Mitchell Jr., Jake Maasdam, (Afton), Ethan Maasdam, Nikki Delancey (Rob), Cason, Marlee and Landon Mitchell, great grandchildren, Otto Rice and Kennedy Maasdam and many nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Dale and Charlee and great nephew Brady Lawson.

Memorial contributions may be made to Pioneer Memorial Home Health and Hospice, PO Box 9, Heppner, OR 97836.

Sweeney Mortuary of Heppner is in care of arrangements. You may sign the online condolence book at www.sweeney-mortuary.com.

David L. Mitchell, 79, of Heppner died, July 19, 2023, at his home surrounded by his family. A celebration of life will be held from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m., on Saturday October 14, 2023, at the Heppner Elks Lodge with light refreshments.

He was born on November 30, 1943, at Granada, Colorado, the son of Dale and Charlee Mitchell. He was raised in Pilot Rock where he graduated from high school.

David joined the United States Navy right after high school. He was stationed in Japan. Upon returning to the states, he returned to Pilot Rock. On April 17, 1967, he married Carol at Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, the couple moved to Heppner in 1977 where they remained.

He was a licensed electrician, holding licenses in Oregon, Washington, and Colorado. David worked in all three states.

David was a member of the Willow Creek Golf Club. He found enjoyment in golf, reading and spending time with his grandchildren, and attending their various sporting

events. David was known for his humor in nicknaming friends and family, his grandchildren were especially fond of their special nicknames. Sarah – (Little Miss), Jon Jr.- (Backpack), Jake – (Porkchop), Ethan – (Goat Burger), Nikki – (Snickerdoodle), Cason – (Buckshot) Marlee – (Popcorn Belly), and Landon – (Hickenlooper).

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Funeral Notice

Charles Lawrence Lutch

Services have been scheduled for October 14 for Charles Lawrence Lutch, who died late last year at the age of 88 in Evans, GA.

A memorial service will take place Saturday, October 14, at 10 a.m. at St. James Episcopal Church, 719 Pierce St., Milton-Freewater, OR. Inurnment with Military Honors will immediately follow at Mountain View Cemetery, 2120 South 2nd Ave., Walla Walla, WA. Everyone is invited to join the family for a luncheon at the Walla Walla VFW Hall, 102 N. Colville St.

Dr. Lutch grew up in Milton-Freewater and spent his early career

in the Pacific Northwest before relocating the family to Augusta, GA. He leaves three children, Larry, Heppner; Shawna, Evans, GA; and Derk, Los Angeles, CA.

Ione camera installation update

LTT Partners and Columbia Basin Electric Company installed Verkada cameras starting September 6.

The cameras will be placed at the entrances of the city, one on top of Emert, one on 'H' and 3rd Street, one on Main Street, and one in the park.

For more information, contact Ione City Hall at 541-422-7414.

Rebekahs plan dinner, BINGO

Holly Rebekah Lodge will be holding their monthly dinner and BINGO the afternoon of Sunday, September 24, at the Odd Fellow Lodge Hall on Main Street in Lexington. Dinner, which will start at 3 p.m. will be chicken enchiladas, green salad and a dessert.

Dinner is \$5 and BINGO is \$5 for a packet of 10 cards. Prizes of gift cards and baked items will be given.

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Hopeful Saints Ministries

Will be hosting a Safe Halloween event October 31st from 5:30-8pm at the Hopeful Saints Ministry Church on the corner of Gale and Church Street thanks to funding from the Morrow County Unified Recreation District. This is a free community event for area residents. Inside the building there will be a junk food walk, movie playing, and free food and drink available. Trunk or Treat will be set up outside in the parking lot. We have 15 spots available if any businesses or individuals would like to participate in the trunk or treat. Please contact George Nairns at 541-571-6519 or Cody High at 541-256-0847 to reserve a trunk or treat spot. Treats will be provided for trunk or treaters to hand out if needed.