

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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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.  
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**Obituaries**

**Brian Louis Sullivan**



Brian Louis Sullivan died February 29, 2024 near Long Creek. Brian was born August 4, 1953, the fourth of nine children to Robert and Marilyn Sullivan of Pasco, Washington. He began working on the family's farm alongside his dad, uncle, and siblings as soon as he was old enough to hold a tractor steering wheel steady. His hands often stained green from early morning weeding, he attended St. Patrick Catholic School, his mischievous spirit keeping the nuns busy.

From an early age, he loved anything outdoors – he could often be found with his brothers, cousins and friends hiking down the bluffs at the family farm to the Columbia River to fish and hunt. He liked the classroom less and struggled to learn to read, so his mom bought him "Field and Stream" magazines, which he studied carefully. In those pages, he found his dream to one day buy land in the mountains and build a cabin.

He went to Pasco High School, where he played football, caused some more trouble, and eventually met the love of his life, Lorie. After she graduated from Washington State University School of Nursing, the two married and moved to a farm in Oregon, where Brian primarily grew alfalfa seed.

In farming as in life, he was meticulous. Alfalfa seed was a finicky crop to grow anywhere, but it was especially difficult in the sandy, windblown soil. He sped around the 1,000 acre farm on his dirt bike, stopping to walk the fields and measure soil moisture, bug count, and crop development.

By the time they were 27, Brian and Lorie had three daughters. A loving and protective father, Brian had seemingly endless energy for his girls, and loved working with them in his huge backyard garden, taking them fishing in the irrigation ponds, riding

horses, and even piling all three on his dirt bike, popping wheelies on the farm's dirt roads as they squealed in delight and terror.

As his father had done, he hired his kids for farm jobs early. Starting with picking potato bugs out of the garden for nickels, they worked their way up to weeding the fields, scaring birds off the leaf cutter bees, keeping deer out of the fields, bookkeeping, and eventually driving tractor and combine.

He was driven to find new and better ways of farming, and took careful notes over the years to document mistakes and learnings. One summer, he noted that he thought he might be able to someday grow 1,200 pounds of seed per acre if he stayed on top of every detail and "got his (stuff) together." He surpassed that, ranking among the top 1 percent of growers nationally.

As his girls grew older, the proud father became a doting grandfather. In his retirement, he realized his lifelong dream of owning a cabin in the woods, and he began spending weekdays watching his grandkids and long weekends in the mountains outside of Long Creek.

On Thursday, February 29, Brian was driving near Long Creek when his heart suddenly stopped. Fitting his adventurous spirit, the state trooper described his truck as doing a "Dukes of Hazzard" jump before settling on a logging road. First responders described him as so peaceful he appeared much younger, which he would have found funny.

He is survived by his wife of 47 years, Lorie, as well as their three daughters and their families: Alison and Jarrod Ogden, parents to Grace, Isabelle, Olivia, and Brodie; Jenny Sullivan and Kurt Staley, parents to Lane Staley, and Niki and Jeff Reading, parents to Vivian and Evan. He is also survived by his mother, Marilyn, siblings Bernadette Such, Rosemary Wilson, Kevin Sullivan, Karen Elliott, Arleen Campbell, Maureen Vincent, and Patrick Sullivan, as well as their families. He is preceded in death by his father, Robert Sullivan, brother, Robert "Guy" Sullivan, and nephew Luke Sullivan.

Brian's celebration of life will be held Sunday, March 17 at 2 p.m. at the Maxwell Center, 145 N. First Place, Hermiston, Oregon, with a meal to follow.

**St. Pats weekend bull riding**



The talented musical entertainment for the event, the Brass fire Band. – Photo Contributed

St. Patrick's weekend bull riding festivities are set to take place at the fairgrounds this year, promising a thrilling experience for cowboy enthusiasts and partygoers alike. To ensure everyone stays warm and comfortable, the event organizers have arranged for a heated party area inside the arena. One of the local taverns, Bucknums, has been chosen to tend the bar, serving up refreshing beverages to keep the energy flowing throughout the event. In addition, a beverage stand will be available, offering a variety of energy drinks and snacks to keep attendees fueled.

Musical entertainment will be provided by the talented Brass Fire band, creating a lively atmosphere that will surely get everyone's boots tapping. For those eager to hit the dance floor, a designated area has been arranged where visitors can dance their hearts out, sheltered from inclement weather conditions.

The highlight of the event will undoubtedly be the bull riding competition. A total of 25 skilled bull riders, accompanied by a group of junior bull riders, will show off their bravery and skill, aiming to conquer the challenging beasts. Over 30 bulls will be bucking during the performance, guaranteeing a heart-pounding spectacle that will leave spectators on the edge of their seats.

Adding an element of humor and entertainment to the proceedings, a clown will also be present, providing laughter and amusement between rides. Attendees will even have the opportunity to meet and obtain autographs from their favorite bull riders and the hilarious clown, creating lasting memories of this exciting experience. The festivities don't

end with the main event, as an after-party will be hosted at Wilkinson's Arena. Various vendors, including popular establishments like The Grizzly Grill from Hermiston and Yeps from Prineville, will be present, serving up delicious food and beverages to satisfy any cravings.

The event owes its success to the generous support of its sponsors. Watt Construction, a prominent local company, stands as the main sponsor, recognizing the importance of promoting and preserving such thrilling events. Other key sponsors include Les Schwab and Wheatland Insurance, both contributing to ensuring an unforgettable experience for all attendees. Additionally, Community Counseling Solutions sponsors the Out Gate, while Bank of Eastern Oregon sponsors the Announcer stand, highlighting their commitment to supporting the community.

With all of these exciting features and attractions on offer, the St. Patrick's weekend bull riding event promises to be a sensational occasion that will captivate attendees, leaving them with cherished memories and a longing for the next thrilling ride.

**Senior Class Fundraiser**

The senior class of 2024 would like to invite everyone to stop by our Ewe Do Bingo St. Patrick's day fundraiser on Saturday March 16th, 2024. The booth will be located in the lot next to the Bank of Eastern Oregon building. Ewe Do Bingo is a fund-

raiser where people are able to purchase squares for \$10 a square. At 12:00 pm, a ewe will be let out into the pen and wherever she first poops, the winner will get half of the pot. Again we would like to invite everyone to our event. We hope to see you there!

**Heppner Elementary presents 'Disorder in the Court'**



The Heppner Elementary 6<sup>th</sup> grade Class

The 6th grade class would like to invite the community to their play performance of Disorder in the Court Thursday March 14th at 2pm. and at 7pm in the Elementary school gym.

**Critters with Attitude upcoming fundraisers**

The Critters With Attitude 4-H club has been busy at work with planning all their new fundraising ideas. The club is fundraising for new supplies as the group grows into different projects, and we are finding we need some club money to offset the cost. They are planning on doing two fundraisers on the 16th for the St Patrick's Day celebration. The first fundraiser will be starting on Friday, we will have a basket raffle going on. There will be nine

different baskets raffled off! The drawing will be at 3:00 pm on Saturday, March 16th, 2024. The second fundraiser will be a 50/50 raffle. You can buy tickets at the vendor fair OR next to the Ewe Do bingo. Our Cloverbuds of the CWA group will be doing their own fundraiser with their very own bake sale right next to the 50/50 raffle. We are so excited to see everyone in their green this St Patrick's Day weekend.

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**Bullriding HEPPNER**

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HEPPNER, OREGON GATES: 2PM | STARTS: 4PM

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