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of the City of Heppner and the County of Morrow

Heppner
GAZETTE-TIMES
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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 \$15

Obituaries

John Robert McConnell



John Robert McConnell, a longtime resident of Heppner, passed away on February 9th, 2024, at the age of 65. John was born April 15th, 1958, in Dickenson, North Dakota to Charles and Vivian McConnell. The family lived in Myrtle Creek, and Elgin Oregon, before moving to Dallesport, Washington in 1964. The family lived in Myrtle Creek and Elgin Oregon, before moving to Lexington in 1968. John was a graduate of Heppner High School, class of 1976. The family moved that year to Wallowa Valley. During this time John attended Boise Bible College with the desire to serve God and minister to others. The family returned to Heppner in the winter of 1983. John was a member of the Oregon Carpenters Union and worked as a carpenter much of his life. He was also a member of the boiler makers union and built and repaired boilers. John was very much a man of the forest. He liked to hunt, fish, camp, backpack, and pick mushrooms and Huckleberries. John was a prolific writer of poetry, short stories, and even a children's book. Several of his works have been published. He was often self-employed as a wood-cutter, and logged Hop Poles in the early 1990s, employing several other people in those ventures. John was married to Sylvia Westrom, for a period of five years from 1994-1999. This union brought no mutual children. Sylvia had two adult daughters Lori and Lisa who didn't live with the family except Lisa for a brief time, and son Andrew, that John helped her raise. John maintained contact with his stepchildren after he and sylvia divorced. Andrew returned as an adult and lived with John for a period of time in Heppner. John was preceded in death by his parents, his brother James E. McConnell, and niece Kimberly (McConnell) Eldridge. He is survived by six siblings, Cindy Summer (Charlye), Susan Hargrove (Bryan), Kathleen Adams, Tom McConnell (Margie), Richard McConnell, and Robert

McConnell. He also leaves behind fourteen nieces and nephews and 22-grest nieces and nephews. He will be greatly missed by his entire family. A celebration of life will be held of Saturday March 30th, 2024, at the Lexington Community Bible Church 150 East E Street, at 2pm.

Janice Rosalie Skaggs



Janice Rosalie Skaggs passed peacefully away at home surrounded by her beloved family on March 19th, 2024. She was born to Fred and Thora Rose Land Gibbs on March 12th, 1938, in Joseph, Oregon, where she spent her childhood. After graduation, Janice married Frank Skaggs on June 15th, 1956, in Joseph. They had their first two children, Kim and Donna, in Joseph before moving to Sunnyside, Washington where their second two children, Rob and Brian, were born. After spending time in Boardman, Frank and Janice settled in Heppner where Janice would spend her final years where she was the administrator of the Neighborhood Center - being such an integral part that she even returned after retiring to help support the community she loved.

Janice loved being with her family and supporting her children, and later her grandchildren and great-grandchildren, in their many activities and life events. Her home was a gathering place for holidays, and you could count on coffee hour and visiting every day.

Janice leaves behind the legacy of family and community. She is survived by her husband of 68 years, Frank, and her sister Deva Duke. She is also survived by her daughter, Donna (Jim) Roy of Heppner, and two sons - Brian of Heppner and Rob of Helix, Oregon, along with seven grandchildren and numerous great-grandchildren, nieces, nephews, and great-nieces and nephews. Preceding Janice in death were her parents, two brothers, her oldest son Kim, her grandson Darin, and recently her sister Glennave.

Obituaries

Carol Ann Welborn

Carol Ann Welborn, 69, of Lonerock, Oregon died March 23, 2024, in Culver, Oregon with family by her side. A graveside service will be held at 11 a.m., Friday, March 29, 2024, at the Heppner Masonic Cemetery in Heppner, Oregon, with a potluck dinner in Lonerock at 2 p.m. at the Community Center.

She was born October 9th, 1954, at Beaverton, Oregon, the second child of Shirley Mary Greene Phillips and James Terry Phillips. Carol graduated high school and did two terms at Southern Oregon College, and after deciding college was not for her, she became a CNA.

Carol met her husband Timothy Patrick Welborn when she took care of his dad while he was in the hospital. The couple married in Portland, Oregon on February 6th, 1982. After they married, they moved to a house in Lonerock and then on to the family farm, where they raised their 2 amazing sons, Timie and

Clark.

She worked on the farm with her family and was a wonderful wife and mother. She was a wonderful friend to many, and never met a stranger. She loved people and loved to visit and get to know others. She was so loving and caring with such a big heart. She loved cats, books and spending time with her family and friends.

Survivors include her son Clark Welborn and his wife Jessica, brothers Dan Phillips and his wife Cathe, and Brian Phillips and a niece Haley Grubbs. and a niece Haley Grubbs.

Carol was preceded in death by her husband Tim and a son Timie and her parents.

Memorial contributions may be made to St. Jude Childrens Research Hospital, 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, TN 38105-1942 or to the American Cancer Society, Great West Division Inc., PO Box 3366, Portland, OR 97208-3366.

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

Friends Helping Friends

Many "friends" will benefit from the success of this year's "Friends Helping Friends St. Patrick's Remembrance Walk/5k Run."

"Boy did the sun ever shine on our Remembrance Walk/Run event this year!" reports a spokesperson. It is the first event listed on the weekend celebration brochure, so the "welcome mat" was out, and the Remembrance Committee members were ready to meet and greet in grand style with Eats and Treats furnished by the committee members. At 9:30, both groups took off on "their merry ways."

"Our committee feels so blessed and thankful for our local participants, for everyone who lives away from Heppner, and for everyone who comes to our event that morning to add their financial contributions to our 'Pot of Gold,'" say the committee members. All proceeds are to be disbursed with time to those with healthcare needs and those needing a financial boost to help them get back on their feet.

Before this event can take place, many hours of work have prepared for it. Janelle Ellis takes care of putting up and taking down the 5K run signs. On Friday, helpers were putting up the handmade memory shamrocks, which represent countless creative hours, along the walk route. Of 700-plus shamrocks, over 600 go outside and around the streets. The rest are used for the social hour hosted in the basement of the Methodist Church. Peggy Fishburn has spearheaded the "Eats and Treats" for sixteen years, with all committee women sharing their favorite party foods. Sandy Matthews and Kirsten

Harrison assisted. At the end of the walk/run, participants return for more refreshments and visiting before heading uptown for the rest of the celebration festivities.

Sunday was time for boxing up the church decorations and all the shamrocks on the route. Friends who put up and took down were Patty Matheny, Kaedene Bailey, Meghan Golden, Kathi and Kord Dickenson, Susan and Hal-lee, and Healy Hisler, Travis and Kirsten Harrison, Sandra Rice (Hermiston) and her sister Judi Gabriel (Irrigon), Earl and Peggy Fishburn, Mark and Amy Fishburn (Kennewick), Shelly and Anson and AJ McCabe, Tami Reitman, Jacque Wilson and childhood friend Sheri Warnock, and HHS students: Cam and Caylan Proudfoot, Mason Orem, Jackson Coiner, Jaime Cavan, Loren Trujillo, and Katie Spivey.

These many, many friends who helped deserve a big SHOUT OUT of appreciation! Flood Town Bookstore is thanked for selling event T-shirts. And participants in the walk and run were spectacular! Placing first this year in the 5K Run's 19-and-under age group was Lyle Peck (Helix), son of Chris and Angela Peck; second place went to Ketch Fernern; and third place was won by Jace Wilson. The top times in the 20-40 age group went to Katie Sundbaum, Kevin Sundbaum, and Callahan Britt. For the 41-and-over group, John Qualls placed first and D. Cannon took second.

The Remembrance Walk/5K Run Committee members again thank everyone for taking part in the 2024 event. "2025 plans have started!"

Ione Legion Hall to host BINGO

Ione Legion Hall is hosting 'Spring BINGO' April 21st. The doors open at 3:30pm and the game starts at 4pm. The admission price is \$15 and includes 2 books of BINGO cards, 1 dauber, and 3 blackout BINGO cards. Additional regular

cards are \$1 for a single or \$5 for a book. Additional blackout cards are \$2 for single or a pack of 3 for \$5. There will also be a 50/50 raffle, tickets are \$1 each or 6 for \$5. Bring your own snacks and beverages.

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SMC Seniors Matter launches senior activity center.

South Morrow County Seniors Matter is proud to announce the launching of a vibrant Senior Activity Center, to be known as "The YOLO!", because You Only Live Once! Aimed at enhancing the lives of seniors in our community. The Center, located at St. Patrick's Senior Center, 190 N. Main, Heppner, promises a diverse array of activities and support groups tailored to meet the needs and interests of our beloved seniors.

The Senior lunches will continue to be on Tuesdays at 11:30. The YOLO activities will be every Thursday from 8 am to 5 pm, beginning April 4th. YOLO will serve as a hub for social interaction, physical fitness, and educational engagement. Among the offerings, participants can expect:

1. Exercise Classes: Seniors can kickstart their day with chair exercises designed to promote mobility, flexibility, and overall well-being.

2. Visiting Hour with Coffee and Donuts: An opportunity to mingle, share stories, and enjoy delightful refreshments in a warm and welcoming atmosphere.

3. Rhythm and Movement Classes: Let loose and groove to the rhythm with our dancer-size classes, combining dance and fitness for an enjoyable workout session.

4. Craft and Art Classes: We will be offering enjoyable activities targeted at the beginning skill level.

5. Table games: Join us for table games and social interaction, whether you are a seasoned player or looking to try something

new, there is a place for you at our table!

6. Support Groups: Offering invaluable emotional support and companionship, our support groups include Grief Share for those navigating loss, and COPD support for individuals managing respiratory challenges. Additional groups will be added depending on the needs of our community.

7. Workshops on Caregiving, Alzheimer's, and Dementia: Empowering seniors and caregivers alike with knowledge and resources to navigate the complexities of caregiving and address the unique challenges of Alzheimer's and dementia.

8. Tech Savvy classes: Internet safety, Apps on your smartphone, accessing Facebook, and our local grocery store app!

9. Community outings: Sage Center, Boardman Aquatic Center, Wildhorse, Underground Tours, Cutsforth Park, and more ideas to follow!

We invite all seniors in South Morrow County to join us at The YOLO center for enriching experiences and meaningful connections. Together, let us celebrate the vitality and wisdom of our senior community because You Only Live Once!

For more information find us on Facebook at South Morrow County Seniors Matter, check for articles in the Heppner Gazette Times, or come to the meal site on Tuesdays!

For more information, please contact Molly Rhea: (541-399-3420) Molly.Rhea@gmail.com




**We will be closed on
Sunday, March 31,
for Easter!**

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ANNUAL EASTER EGG HUNT
Saturday, March 30th
Heppner Football Field

8:30 a.m. Pictures with Easter Bunny
9:00 a.m Easter Egg Hunt Starts



Age groups:
0 thru 3, 4 thru 6,
7 thru 9, and 10+



HEPPNER ELKS 358
676-9181 "Where Friends Meet" 142 North Main