

The Official Newspaper  
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.  
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## Obituaries

### Judy Gaye Lazinka Currin (2/7/1940-5/18/2024)



Judy G. Currin (age 84), a longtime Heppner resident passed away on May 18, 2024, at Guardian Angel Homes in Hermiston, OR. She was born on February 7, 1940 in Pendleton, OR. Judy was the fourth of five children born to Henry Lazinka Jr. and Jennie (Johnson) Lazinka. Judy was a true country girl and cowgirl at heart, growing up on a ranch near Ukiah, OR. Her grandfather Henry Lazinka Sr. sailed around the Horn of South America not once, but twice. He left Poland with the dream and determination of a better life. He made his way to Ukiah after many hardships and started his dream of building a cattle ranch.

Judy's family bought a home in Pendleton to live in during the school year, but they would spend summers, school breaks, and weekends at the ranch. Judy graduated from Pendleton High School in 1958. She was president of the Pep Club, served on several different committees and clubs, played on the tennis team, and excelled in athletics. She was strong and known for lifting more than the boys could during weight class in school.

Judy competed at Mustangs in Pendleton, horse shows, and many rodeos. She was the queen of the Pendleton Round-Up and Miss Rodeo Oregon in 1958. Being a huge country music fan, Judy loved knowing that she presented a saddle to Clark McEntire with his daughter Reba sitting on the saddle during her reign as the Round-Up Queen. Her favorite part of the Round-Up was the grand entry, watching the court jump the rail and fire up the crowd for the big show. She competed for Miss Rodeo America in Las Vegas in 1958 where she won the horsemanship competition. Her family has been told that Judy was so strong that she was able

to manhandle the unbroke horses during the Miss Rodeo America competition.

Judy was introduced by her sister Jean to Ron Currin at the Ukiah Rodeo Dance in 1955. Ron and Judy started dating shortly after that. She attended Oregon State in the fall of 1958, only lasting one term before getting engaged that December. Ron and Judy got married three short months later on February 14, 1959, in Pendleton and settled into ranch life. Ron bought a ranch with a home on Little Buttercreek outside of Heppner and continued to ranch with his father George and brother Tom. Ron and Judy shared a working relationship, and she was absolutely not afraid of some hard work outside with the men. They raised cattle, sheep, quarter horses, alfalfa, and dry land wheat. She loved her dogs and always had loyal border collies that followed her around while working and moving cattle. Judy absolutely loved the ranch life.

Ron and Judy had four sons and one daughter, so she was extremely busy being a homemaker and working on the ranch. Ron's mother Helen was a lifesaver when it came to helping with the kids! Work was a family affair, raising cattle, haying, harvesting, moving sprinkler pipes, training colts, and so much more. Their kids were involved in Wranglers, Mustangs, 4-H, FFA, rodeo, and many sports in school. Judy served as the Morrow County Rodeo secretary for many years and was very active with the Morrow County Fair and Livestock Auction. Ron and Judy were married 64 years before his passing in 2023.

Judy loved nothing more than cheering on her children in their athletics and the rodeo arena. Her four sons were very successful Pro Rodeo Cowboys and Judy loved every minute following them on their rodeo journey. Her four sons won six championships at the Pendleton Round-Up and her daughter Jennifer was queen in 1991. The entire family was inducted into the Pendleton Round-Up Hall of Fame in 1996; an accomplishment that Judy was always proud of. You could always find her sitting in the stands taking the times and scores of every rodeo contestant. She was also a huge basketball fan, and you could hear her hollering and cheering from a mile away! Their family vacations were going to

## Obituaries

a rodeo somewhere. Judy always had her son's championship saddles, buckles, trophies, and other awards on display in their home on Buttercreek. Additionally, being part of the larger rodeo family, the home was always open to cowboys and cowgirls who were traveling through the Northwest during the summer rodeo season.

Judy is survived by her sons, Tony (Kelli) Currin, Steve (Lisanne) Currin, daughter Jennifer (Shane) Gutridge, daughter-in-law Judy (Curtis) Walchli Currin-Pederson, daughter-in-law Rayanne Engle Currin; eight grandchildren; sister Mary Lou (Bob) O'Rourke, brother Robert (Sandy) Lazinka and numerous nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Henry and Jennie Lazinka; husband Ron Currin Sr.; sons Mike and Ron Currin Jr.; sisters Jean Lazinka Barboletos and Kathryn (Kite) Lazinka Healy Thorne.

A celebration of life Catholic Mass will be held on Friday, May 24th at 11:00 am at St. Patrick Catholic Church in Heppner.

Please consider a charitable contribution to the following: Vance John Memorial Hospice 645 W. Orchard Ave. Suite 500 Hermiston, OR. 97838 or The Justin Cowboy Crisis Fund, 101 Pro Rodeo Rd., Colorado Springs, CO 80919 (jccfinfo@prorodeo.com).

Sweeney Mortuary of Heppner is in care of the arrangements. The online condolence book is available at [www.sweeneymortuary.com](http://www.sweeneymortuary.com)

### Betty Breeding

Betty Blanche (Wilson) Breeding passed away on May 16th, 2024, in Boise, Idaho. A graveside service will be held at 1 p.m. Thursday, May 23, 2024, at the Lexington Cemetery in Lexington, Oregon.

Betty Blanche Wilson was born in Monument, OR on May 22nd, 1939, to father, Perry Wilson and mother, Lydia (Cox) Wilson. Betty was the 6th child out of 8. She lived mostly in Hardman and Monument in her younger years. After her dad Perry passed away in

a car accident near Spray, Oregon in 1957 they moved to Heppner.

She married Max Breeding on February 25th, 1959, in Heppner, Oregon. The couple moved to Portland, Oregon in 1960, and then moved to Gresham, Oregon in 1964 where they raised their 3 children. Son, Donald Maxwell Breeding was born in 1964, son Dale Cecil Breeding was born in 1965, and daughter, Janet Renee (Breeding) Myers was born in 1969. Later they cared for their 2 oldest grandchildren Jennifer Renee Breeding and Christopher Dale Breeding because their son Dale was Active in the Navy. They were happily married for 65 years.

Betty worked different jobs throughout her life. She worked at a nursing home. When her children were in school, she ran her own daycare at her home in Gresham, Oregon for many years. Later she worked in the cafeteria of the school where her children and grandchildren went.

After Max retired, they moved to Monument, Oregon in 2004. Betty started working for a while helping keep the cooking area clean for the hunters and farmers. Betty loved Bingo night at the senior center in Monument and Spray. She loved dancing and loved going to see the Old Time Fiddlers.

Betty is preceded in death by her parents Perry and Lydia (Cox) Wilson. Her sisters Grace and Lolah, and brothers John, Tom, Billy, and Ronald.

She is survived by her lovingly devoted husband, Max, three children, sons Donald, and Dale, (wife) Tiffany and their children Jennifer, Christopher, Savannah, and Sierra, and daughter Janet, (husband) Steve, and their children Alliesha, Sarah, Trevor. Great grandchildren Ryan, Brailyn, Renee, Felicity, Mary, Henry, Nova, Lyla, and Karson, and her brother Floyd Wilson.

Memorial Contributions may be made to Monument Senior Center, 269 Main St., Monument, OR 97864.

Sweeney Mortuary is in care of arrangements. You may sign the online condolence book at [www.sweeneymortuary.com](http://www.sweeneymortuary.com)

### Good News Only by Doris Brosnan

Last weekend, it was Sharon Harrison and Trish Sweeney's good fortune to have a hotel room in Spokane immediately next to the parade route of the Lilac parade. Originally this was an armistice parade. Every branch of the military was represented as well as veterans, and many beautiful floats would rival those of the Rose Parade in Portland.

Hardman clean up "A round of Kudos to our local Odd Fellows members for their volunteer efforts in once again mowing and tending to the historic Hardman Cemetery. These hardy fellows take on this annual chore each Spring before Memorial Day in remembrance of pioneers dating back to 1888. Many thanks to you folks - your efforts are noticed! See related story in this week's edition".

Mike and Cindi Doherty, Jerry, and Ione Martin, Scott and Kelly Martin, and Chad and Alicia Doherty went to Lincoln City last week for Jerry's 92 birthday on May 18th. Cindi's brother, Scott, came from Roseville, California. They all went out to dinner for his birthday celebration.

Morgan Correa graduated from Boise State University on May 4th with a master's degree in accountancy. Her family, including her parents, sister Makenzie (Brandon), niece Paisley, nephew Paxton, Grandpa Don Stroeber, Grandma Jan Stroeber, Aunt Cindy, Cousins Shelbi, Cassidy, Colton, Gracie, and Beau, attended the graduation ceremonies. After graduation, Morgan's family went to a Kane Brown concert in Eugene and then on to Manzanita for a family vacation to celebrate. The family is very proud of Morgan for completing her master's degree while working full-time at Connected Professional Accountants as a staff accountant in LaGrande. Morgan plans to continue to work at Connected Professional Accounts in LaGrande. She enjoys LaGrande and living near her sister. She will begin studying for her CPA exams in August. The family would also like to express their thanks to the Heppner Community. The number of scholarships and support that Heppner provides to its kids is truly a blessing.

## Spiritually Speaking

### Father Thankachan Joseph



#### HOLY TRINITY: MODEL OF RELATIONSHIP

Holy Trinity Sunday is celebrated on the first Sunday following Pentecost, a solemn celebration of the belief in the revelation of one God, yet three divine persons. Our God is far beyond the grasp of our intellect. All we can say is that we have the Father the Creator, Son the Redeemer, and the Holy Spirit the Sanctifier and Counselor. The doctrine of Three Persons in one God, equal in Divinity yet distinct in Person, is not explicitly spelled out in the Bible. Even the very word "Trinity" is not found in the Bible. Holy Trinity explains the plurality of godhead and the one-only God.

The Trinity has prominent importance in our Christian life. All prayers in the Catholic Church begin in the Name of the Holy Trinity and end glorifying the Trinity. When we are baptized, confirmed, anointed, our sins forgiven, our marriage blessed, and our bishops, priests, and deacons ordained, it is in the name of the Holy Trinity. We bless ourselves, and the priest blesses us, in the name of the Holy Trinity.

The first letter of St. John states: "For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one" (1 John 5:7). The scriptures present God as one, Co-eternal, Co-existing, Inseparable, which, I am sure, is rather difficult to comprehend by our human minds. Some theologians are of the opinion that God is beyond all comprehension and understanding. We can only speak of the Trinity with analogies and allegories: Trinity is like water, which can be in three forms, Liquid - Ice - And gas. An Egg is like the Trinity, with three parts in one egg, Shell - White - and Yoke. Another example is that of St. Patrick of Ireland's shamrock, a trifoliate leaf he used to explain the Trinity to the people of Ireland.

#### The Holy Trinity teaches us the following:

**Communion.** Father, Son and the Holy Spirit are inseparable. This scriptural passage describes their unity: "But when the Comforter comes, whom I will send unto you from the Father, even the Spirit of truth, which proceeds from the Father, he shall testify of me" (John 15: 26). This communion we need to acquire for our family life, as well as in our society. We need to uphold everyone with respect and enrich them with our ways of living, and we need to become models after the example of the Trinity.

**Community of loving persons.** We are created in love to be a community of loving persons, just as the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are united in Love. When a new family is formed through the sacrament of Marriage, this peculiarity of the Trinitarian God begins to exist. Two different people come together to live in intimacy. Their conjugal love brings children into the family. All of them will have their own identities and individuality, but they begin to appreciate, love, and forgive one another, an example of a Trinitarian family. How privileged we are to belong to the Family of the Triune God. The love, unity, and joy in the relationship among the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit should be the supreme model of our relationships within our Christian families. Our families will become truly Christian when we live in a relationship of love with God and with others.

**Relationship of love with God and with other people.** Man, a social animal, needs the model of the Trinitarian relationship in order to grow as a human being. We see in the Trinitarian relationship mutual love, care, and affection for one another. Individualities are respected. No one is a hindrance to anyone else and there is perfect union. Our human relationships should be built in this pattern. Like God the Father, we are called upon to be productive and creative persons by contributing to the fabric of life and love in our family, our Church, our community, and our nation. Like God the Son, we are called upon to reconcile, to be peacemakers, to put back together that which has been broken, to restore what has been shattered. Like God the Holy Spirit, it is our task to uncover and teach truth and to dispel ignorance.

We are made in God's image and likeness. We read in the book of Genesis, "God said, let us make man in our image, after our likeness" (Gen.1: 26). Just as God in the Trinitarian relationship, we can be fully human only in a horizontal relationship with all other people, and in a vertical relationship with God. On Trinity Sunday, let us ponder with joy and thanksgiving what the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit have done to accomplish the salvation of humanity. It has brought to mind how Christians should respond to the love God has shown for us, praising Him and giving Him glory. Let us remember the Father as our Creator, the Son as our Savior, and the Holy Spirit as our Comforter, and live in mutual love, care, and affection for one another.

## Morrow County Seniors Matter awarded \$29,600

SMCSM announced at its May 14th senior lunch that it has been awarded a \$29,600.00 grant from Oregon Community Foundation to support its YOLO Senior Center Project! "This fund will benefit the older adults in South Morrow County by providing healthy activities and opportunities for education and support, and we're grateful to OCF for their generous assistance," said Jerry Conklin, Chairman of South Morrow County Seniors Matter. He also noted how the wonderful involvement and support of

this community have made it possible to seek and secure additional funding for our programs. The funding was from "An Anonymous Fund of Oregon Community Foundation."

The YOLO Senior Center is in the Meeting Room at the St. Patrick's Apartments in Heppner, Oregon (190 N. Main St.). Exercise classes for seniors are offered on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 8:30 AM. Other classes and activities take place on Thursdays. Contact Deb Green at 541-314-3185 for further information.

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