

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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Chris Sykes ..... Publisher  
Annalynn Black ..... Editor  
Cindi Doherty ..... Advertising

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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

### Elizabeth Ann Sheff Barber Gene Douglas Orwick



Elizabeth (Bettie) Ann Sheff Barber was born February 29<sup>th</sup>, 1932, in Pendleton, Oregon, the first child of Donald Alexander Sheff and Ida Cora Ullman Sheff. Bettie was joined in the family by brother Donald Allen, and sisters Patsy Marie (Vincent), Nancy Ruth (Rogers), and Josephine Kaye (Flitner).

Bettie lived most of her life in and around Ukiah, with short times in Dale, Oregon, and Central Point, Oregon. She graduated from Ukiah High School in 1950.

Bettie married Wayne Richard Barber in June of 1950 at the Ukiah Presbyterian Church. They became parents of Arla Marie Gammond (Pendleton), Donald Wayne Barber (Heppner), Clinton Earl Barber (Ukiah), and Pamela Elizabeth Steinke (Terrebonne).

Bettie was employed by the United States Postal Service for 29 years, from 1962 to her retirement in 1992.

Bettie was known as an organized homemaker and an amazing cook. Bettie read cookbooks as many people read novels! She was an accomplished seamstress, sewing not only for her family, but also for friends and neighbors who needed her skills. She took oil painting classes, and her home was decorated with her landscape paintings.

Bettie was a cherished friend, and was known to write letters regularly to her childhood friends, and to send greetings to acquaintances often. She knew and remembered everyone's birthday, sending cards for anniversaries, graduations and other special occasions in their lives.

Bettie moved to Pendleton in 2019, where she participated in a variety of activities and excursions. She enjoyed sitting at the fireplace at the McKay Creek Estates entryway and liked to greet all those who came and went through the days.

Bettie passed away on September 6<sup>th</sup>, 2024. Bettie is preceded in death by her husband, Wayne, her parents, her brother Allen, and her sister Patsy. She is survived by sisters Nancy Rogers (Irrigon) and Jodi (Mark) Flitner (Lyman, Wyoming), her children, nine grandchildren, 20 great-grandchildren and one great-great grandchild.

Memorial services are scheduled for October 13<sup>th</sup>, 2024, at 1:00 p.m. in the Ukiah School Gymnasium. Burial will be a family event at the Ukiah Cemetery, in Ukiah, Oregon.



December 19, 1929 – September 27, 2024

Gene Douglas Orwick, 94, of Lexington, Oregon, passed away peacefully on September 27<sup>th</sup>, 2024, in Terrebonne, Oregon, surrounded by his family. Born on December 19<sup>th</sup>, 1929, in Lonerock, Oregon, to Frances and Roy "Rusty" Orwick, Gene was a dedicated community leader, small business owner, and proud Army veteran.

A lifelong resident of Lonerock, Heppner, and Lexington, Gene served as an Honor Guard for President Harry Truman during his military career. After his service, he married Dona Marlene Gayhart in 1950, and together they raised two children, Lynda and Mike. Gene owned and operated several businesses, including the Lexington Chevron Station and Pendleton-Heppner Freight Lines. In the 1970s and '80s, he and Dona expanded into lumber and snowmobile sales.

Gene was deeply committed to his community, serving over 72 years with the Heppner Elks Lodge, including roles as Exalted Ruler and District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler. He was also the first elected mayor of Lexington and served as City Recorder and Councilman for over two decades. A member of the Heppner Masonic Lodge, the Al Kader Shrine Temple, and the Tri-County Shrine Club, Gene's contributions spanned multiple organizations.

Gene is survived by his children, Lynda and Mike, and his grandchildren, Douglas, Liz, and Sarah. He was preceded in death by his wife, Dona, and his siblings. A Celebration of Life will be held at Heppner Elks Lodge #358 on October 10<sup>th</sup>, 2024, at 11:00 am. Arrangements are by Sweeney Mortuary.

Gene will be remembered for his love of family, service to his community, and passion for the outdoors. He will be greatly missed.

Sweeney Payton Mortuary is handling the arrangements. Please leave your condolence messages for the family at [sweeney-mortuary.com](http://sweeney-mortuary.com).

You are invited!  
**Christian Life Center Church**  
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## Gazette Correction

In the Health District story in Sept 25th issue, Greg Greenup was the one speaking, not Greg Grant.

## Heppner churches host bake sale for hurricane relief

The Heppner churches are working together to host a Bake Sale on Saturday, October 26, 2024, from 9:00 am until 12:00 pm in front of the Heppner Market Fresh. All proceeds will go 100% towards relief funds to help those affected by Hurricane Helene in Western North Carolina. Many people have lost their homes or have damages due to flooding and some have lost loved ones. If you would like to donate

baked goods, please bring them to the Bake Sale at 8:45 am during set up or contact Julia Finch at 252-382-4450 to make alternate arrangements. Monetary donations will also be accepted. Please make checks out to Willow Creek Baptist Church and mail to PO Box 661, Heppner, OR 97836. Be sure to write "Hurricane Relief" on any checks. Thank you for your support!

Thank You,

## Bank of Eastern Oregon reported 3rd quarter

Bank of Eastern Oregon (OTCBB) and its subsidiary, Bank of Eastern Oregon, reported 3rd quarter 2024 consolidated net income of \$3.72 million or \$3.03 per share, compared to \$3.6 million or \$2.99 per share for the same period in 2023. Total assets were \$835.7 million, a 0.5% decrease year-over-year. Net loans grew by 8.4% to \$557.2 million. Deposits decreased by 2.7%, standing at \$741.8 million. Shareholders' equity increased by 38.2%, reaching \$79.2 million. YTD earnings are up 7.5% compared to 2023. Return on Average Assets (ROA) for the quarter is 1.76%, and Return on Average Equity (ROE) is 19.72%. Other Comprehensive Income for the nine months ending 9/30/2024 is \$18.34 million, compared to \$7.39

million for the same period in 2023. The securities portfolio decreased by 3.5% due to maturities, increasing liquidity for loan funding. A slight decrease in deposits is expected to have reached a seasonal low. Regulatory approval has been received for a new full-service branch in Pendleton, expected to open in December 2024. 2024 harvest yields were good, but grain and hay prices are lower than in 2023. The cattle markets remain strong due to record-low cattle inventories. Wildfires in the Pacific Northwest may impact the region, but the extent is not yet clear. Loan portfolio quality remains strong, with growth across the system, although there is some expected tightening of margins during the renewal season.

## Heppner FFA to serve drive-through barbecue again

The Heppner FFA is going back to Indiana! Beth Dickenson is taking nine students to Indianapolis, Indiana for the National FFA Convention. The group travels October 21 through October 28 and has a packed schedule with educational opportunities and fun activities along the way. In a fundraising effort for this trip they will be selling tickets for a drive thru

barbecue. Dinner includes a pulled pork sandwich, baked cowboy beans, coleslaw and choice of potato or macaroni salad finished off with a homemade dessert. Dinners can be pre-ordered for \$20 by calling or texting Beth at (541) 980-8677 or Ashley at (541) 379-4079. Dinner will be this Sunday, October 13. Pickup at St. Patrick's Parish Hall 3-5 pm.

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## Spiritually Speaking

Father Thankachan Joseph



## Go, sell what you have

This week's readings remind us that we possess nothing in our lives that we refuse to surrender to the Lord. Instead, most of these things possess us. We have really made "our things" top priorities. Thus, we violate the first commandment of God: give absolute and unconditional priority to God. The first reading advises us to use the God-given virtue of prudence and to seek true wisdom in preference to vanishing realities like riches or political and social influence.

The Book of Wisdom (7:7-11) relates that in the first-century B.C., the Jewish community was a minority in the cosmopolitan city of Alexandria, Egypt, cut off from the comforting religious institutions of Jerusalem and subjected to great cultural pressure from the pagan Greek society. They were in danger of losing their identity because of the temptation to follow Greek philosophy and morality rather than their faith traditions. The Book of Wisdom teaches, somewhat analogously, that one should prefer wisdom to every other good thing. It quotes King Solomon's personal valuation of wisdom: "I preferred her (true wisdom) to scepter and throne and deemed riches nothing in comparison with her." In his prayer for wisdom, this Alexandrian Jewish teacher identifies wisdom as the greatest possession of all and contrasts it with material possessions. True wisdom comes from God, the ability to see and understands things as God sees and understands them. Only divine wisdom can teach us how to live wisely and successfully, making wise choices. We are also invited to see Jesus as Wisdom incarnate and to give Him priority over everything else in life.

The Gospel of Mark (10:17-30) tells the story of a truly good young man who wants to follow Jesus and who has been deeply faithful to the teachings of God in his Jewish faith. Yet, when Jesus asks the young man to give up all his wealth and follow Him, the young man goes away sad. What a strong teaching. God is always asking things of us. In so many ways, we are like the rich young man: good and not yet totally committed. We don't know what the young man did later on. Perhaps he ended up selling everything and giving it to the poor and following Jesus. But his first response was only sadness. From today's Gospel let us draw some conclusions:

1) **"Do something beautiful for God" by reaching out to others.** Let us give ourselves lavishly. Mother Teresa puts it in a different way: "Do SOMETHING BEAUTIFUL for God. Do it with your life. Do it every day. Do it in your own way. But do it!"

2) **An invitation to generous sharing.** Jesus was so generous; He gave us His very self. To follow Jesus, we must have a generous heart and be willing to give our belongings away to express our generosity. In the heart of every Christian there should be a desire to give. Martin Luther says that the man who has given his heart to God will also give God his wallet. We must manage our possessions wisely so that they do not gain control over our hearts. Let us also ask the question: "How do I use my God-given talents for the good of others?" God gives us talents; He lends them to us to be used in this world.

3) **"You are lacking one thing."** In each of our lives something serves as a major obstacle to happiness and peace. We must recognize this and address it head-on. It may riches, anger, holding grudges, drugs, lust, apathy, lies, unfaithfulness, theft? Let us invite God into our lives and into our efforts to face that one obstacle to holiness. We have a decision to make: go away sad like the rich young man or follow Jesus and be happy.

4) **We need to follow Jesus on His terms, not on ours.** This involves step one: giving up whatever in our lives is evil. Sometimes it may involve giving up good things. As parents, we might consider personal recreation and relaxation (good things) which we have given up over the years for the sake of the children. As a mother or father who is also a disciple of Jesus Christ, this was required of us, and we made the sacrifice. When we follow Jesus on His terms there may be certain crosses to bear, but in the core of our being are peace and joy because we know that we are doing our best to carry out God's perfect will in our lives.

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