

The Official Newspaper  
of the City of Heppner and the County of Morrow

Heppner  
**GAZETTE-TIMES**  
U.S.P.S. 240-420

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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

### Gary Lee Kemp



Lexington— Gary Lee Kemp, 73, peacefully passed away on October 24, 2024, at Trios Hospital after a long battle with health challenges. Born on June 30, 1951, in Heppner, Oregon, he was the son of Stanley M. Kemp and Wilma (Billie) Harshman.

Gary graduated from Lexington and Heppner schools in 1969, then went on to Blue Mountain Community College. In 1970, he proudly enlisted in the United States Army and was stationed in Germany, later serving in the Oregon National Guard upon his return to the states.

Back in Heppner, Gary met the love of his life, Marcia Bedortha Kemp. Together, they built a beautiful life, celebrating 50 years of marriage and raising two amazing daughters. Gary retired in June, 2007 from the Morrow County Road Department.

A lifelong member of the Heppner Elks Lodge and American Legion Post-106, Gary also served as a city councilor and enjoyed his time at the Willow Creek Country Club. His commitment to community and service was evident in everything he did.

Gary was preceded in death by his parents, grandparents, and several aunts, uncles, and cousins. He is survived by his wife, Marcia Kemp of Lexington, and their daughters, Tina (Philip) Joyce of Hermiston and Toni Parish of West Pasco, WA. Gary's legacy also lives on through his grandchildren: Julianna Joyce (WSU-Pullman), Kellen Joyce (MSU-Bozeman), Megan Joyce (OSU-Corvallis), Madison Parish (Woodbury-Burbank), and Natalie Parish (Tri Cities Prep-West Pasco). He is further survived by his brother, Steve Kemp of Paterson, WA, his sister, Sherry Kemp of Pendleton, OR, and his brother-in-law, Tom (Carrie) Bedortha of Pendleton, along with numerous nieces and nephews.

The family wishes to

express their deepest gratitude to the Morrow County Health District, Home Health, Lexington and Heppner Fire Departments, Pioneer Memorial Hospital, Pioneer Memorial Therapy Services, and Trios Hospital for the exceptional care and support they provided during Gary's final months.

A celebration of Gary's life will take place on Saturday, November 30th, at 4:00 PM at the Heppner Elks Club. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to BPOE Lodge 358, Heppner, Oregon. Join us in honoring a remarkable man whose spirit touched so many lives.

Private burial Lexington Cemetery with military honors officiated by Stuart Dick.

Sweeney Payton Mortuary has been entrusted with the arrangements. Please leave your condolence messages for the family at [sweeneypaytonmortuary.com](http://sweeneypaytonmortuary.com).

### Melba Lovena Cecil



April 19, 1928  
November 5, 2024

Melba Lovena Cecil, aged 96, passed away peacefully on November 5, 2024, in Heppner, Oregon. Born on April 19, 1928, in Heppner, Oregon, Melba was the oldest of 10 children. She was a beloved figure in her community and an integral part of her family's life. It has been said many times by her family members that they wish they could be half the person Melba was. She was compassionate, loving, understanding, hardworking, and had a quiet sense of humor.

Melba spent her early years attending schools in Heppner, Kinzua, and Spray, Oregon, completing her education in Spray. She married her best friend and love of her life Frank Cecil on March 17, 1944. Together they raised two daughters Jan and Judy. Throughout her life, she was deeply involved in a variety of crafts and activities that not only brought joy to her but also benefited those around her. An adept gardener,

## Obituaries

seamstress, knitter, painter, leatherworker, and woodworker, Melba was known for her quilts, paintings, and handmade furniture. She raised a large garden each year and canned lots of fruit and vegetables. Her culinary skills were appreciated by many, especially at the Spray School where she worked as a cook, ensuring students and staff enjoyed wholesome meals.

Alongside her husband, Frank Cecil, Melba was a cornerstone of their ranch, assisting with everything from driving tractors, changing sprinklers, and tending to livestock. She enjoyed raising her bumper lambs and was known to have a bumper calf in the basement keeping warm from time to time. Her life was characterized by open arms and an open door, always ready to offer help or a home to those in need. After retiring, she and Frank cherished traveling to Ireland, Washington D.C., and New York exploring new landscapes and experiences while making many new friends. Melba enjoyed the outdoors; camping and fishing when time allowed. She was often heard saying that they could not pass a gym if the lights were on or a softball field in play. Melba enjoyed watching the Spray Eagles in various sports. She also traveled to watch her grandchildren and great grandchildren in their school events, 4-H, and rodeo.

Melba is survived by

her daughters, Jan Strober (Don) and Judy Alford (late Web); extended family Tim (Tammy) Walawine and Kay (Craig) Braseth; grandchildren, Shelley (Mark) Hill, Cindy (Brett) King, Christy (Mike) Correa, Jason (Besty) Alford, and Justin Alford. Her legacy extends to her great-grandchildren, Shelbi, Cassidy, Colton, Makenzie, Morgan, Sierra, Lily, Keili, and Cheyenne; and great-great-grandchildren, Gracie, Beau, Paisley, and Paxton. She also leaves behind her siblings, Fairy Mae Caldera, June McClellan, Dwanye Caldera, and Marvin Caldera; dear friend Ellie Mann; and numerous nieces and nephews that always stayed in touch. Melba was preceded in death by her husband, Frank Cecil; parents, Alfred and Elsie Caldera; siblings, Frank Caldera, Dean Caldera, Otho Caldera, Pat Morrin, and Juanita Medlock; and son-in-law Web Alford.

A graveside service was held at the Haystack Cemetery in Spray, Oregon, at 11:00 a.m. on November 11, 2024. A celebration of life and dinner followed at The Rock in Spray, OR. Melba's life was a testament to her kindness, resilience, and the deep love she had for her family and friends. She will be profoundly missed by all who knew her.

Memorial contributions may be made in Melba's honor to the Spray Ambulance, PO Box 155, Spray, OR 97874

## Death Notice

### Frances L. Morris

“Frances L. Morris, 84 of Arlington, passed away on Nov. 12, 2024. Services will begin at 11 am on Saturday, November 23, 2024 at the Arlington Methodist

Church with a graveside and reception following. Sweeney Payton Mortuary is handling the arrangements ([sweeneypaytonmortuary.com](http://sweeneypaytonmortuary.com)).

### Karen J. Olsen (Winter)

Karen J. Olsen, born on December 11, 1957, passed away at the age of 66 on November 16, 2024, after a courageous three-year bat-

tle with cancer. Surrounded by her loved ones. Karen requested no memorial services be held, in accordance with her final wishes.

## Fall Food Boxes

Hopeful Saints Ministry will be giving away Food Boxes this Sunday, November 24th from 2-4pm. Hopeful Saints is located on the Corner of Church and Gale Streets in Heppner. We have filled 30 boxes, each box contains a variety of canned and boxed food items, some hygiene items and a ham. One box per family or individual can be picked up at the back door of the church between 2-4pm. No early pick-ups.

To pick up a box enter the parking lot off Gale Street, stop outside the back door and we will bring a box out to your car. This will help keep the line moving. If you are unable to pick-up a box you may call the church office an ask for a delivery 541-676-9970. Please leave your name, phone number and physical address for delivery. May this be a bit of nourishment to those that receive this gift.

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SUBMIT NEWS, ADVERTISING  
& ANNOUNCEMENTS  
LETTERS TO THE EDITOR  
SEND US PHOTOS  
START A NEW SUBSCRIPTION

### Attention Lexington Residents!

The weekend of November 23rd a door to door income survey will take place to help fund our new well sight.

For any questions call Autmun Crumpton  
541-989-8515 at Lexington Town Hall.



Town of Lexington

## Good News Only by Doris Brosnan

Cori Jo Lindsay, daughter of Joe and Leanne Lindsay, will be hanging up her pointe shoes after her “farewell” performance as the Sugar Plum Fairy in *The Nutcracker* next month at the Bob Clapp Theater at BMCC. Cori Jo has been in Ballet since she was three. Some of her lead roles have been the Sugar Plum Fairy, Scarecrow (in *Wizard of Oz*), and Cinderella. She is now a massage therapist so she will not have enough time to commit to ballet, but she will continue to help the Pendleton Ballet Theatre behind the scenes. Her performances will be on Dec 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> at 7PM, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> at 2PM.

The Paytons, who recently moved to Heppner, are great examples of adopting and adapting to a new home and community, and last Saturday's football game offered one example: Joshua's and Rachel's voices were among the loudest encouragements from the stands, every bit as enthusiastic as relatives of the players and long-term residents. They even know the words to the cheers! (That might be because their daughter, Rebecca, has attended the camp for “junior cheerleaders” and continues her interest by following the cheers with movements and pompoms.) The Paytons' son, Lucas, also seems comfortable with his new life, which appears to include a new “bestie” he joined during the game. Heppner is fortunate to have such upbeat, interested, and interesting citizens!

Good luck to the Mustangs this Saturday when they will play St. Paul in the State Semi-final Championship football game!

Hats off to the Heppner-Ione cross-country runners who represented their schools at the State Championships in Eugene. In the field of 69 women runners, OSAA lists Riley Archer, Brooklyn Hendricks, Kadie Henrichs, Hailley McDaniel, and Lily Nichols, who placed 6<sup>th</sup>, just 40+ seconds behind the first-place runner. And Jake Wilson was listed among the top 69 men runners. Impressive endurance!

Who has paused long enough to list the retail businesses in Heppner? The list starting at the north end of town at Pettyjohn's and going south – or vice versa – might surprise some people. This Friday, designated “Pink Friday,” will encourage us to show support for our local businesses by “shopping at home” from 3 PM to 7 PM.

Then the crowds are encouraged to head for Heritage Park and the Ag Museum at 7, for the lighting of the Park trees and the voices lifted in seasonal songs echoing from the museum.

A new opportunity for veterans to gather with veterans and to talk to the veterans' services representative now occurs on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of each month: A free lunch at noon will be provided at the new “Innovation Hub” on Willow Street (the renovated building that once housed the *Gazette Times* and many, many years ago, City Hall).

Watch for signs about town, *GT* information, and social media - if you are a participant - about the many entertaining holiday-season events coming in December! One example: included in renewed events will be a house/yard-decorating competition!

Yes, many readers enjoy the Good News of pleasant happenings contributed by others, and they will enjoy yours when you take a few minutes to send to [dbrosnan123@gmail.com](mailto:dbrosnan123@gmail.com) or call 541-223-1490. Those few minutes – birthday-wedding-anniversary happenings, visitors, trips, witnessing acts of kindness – can brighten a day! Here's hoping that good news comes to everyone reading this.

**BUCKNUM'S TAVERN**  
146 N Main Street  
Heppner  
541-676-5274

## Lunch & Dinner Menu

Specials 11/21 - 11/27

**Thursday** - Frito Burrito with Chips  
**Friday** - Ham & Pepper jack Hoagie with Chicken Dumpling Soup  
**Saturday** - Pork Fajita Salad  
**Sunday** - Hot Dog with Chili Fries  
**Monday** - Pulled Pork Nachos  
**Tuesday** - Grilled chicken Hawaiian Burger with Jojos  
**Tuesday night** 6-9 pm \$2 Hard Shell Tacos  
**Wednesday** - Hot Pastrami Sandwich with Potato Salad

## THE UNDERGROUND OASIS

BREAKING THE BONDAGE OF ADDICTION AND FINDING FREEDOM IN CHRIST  
WE MEET FRIDAY NIGHTS AT 7 PM  
FELLOWSHIP HALL AT THE HEPPNER SDA CHURCH  
ALL WELCOME

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