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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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**Obituaries**

**Rolf M. Prag**



Rolf M. Prag

Erevia. During their teenage years, the “pack” could be found in the Prags’ garage, dismantling old pickups and motorcycles.

He married Susan in 1987 while living in Phoenix, AZ. They later moved to Boardman and adopted Kode Lyle Prag. The couple later divorced.

He worked at the Port of Morrow for 26 years, where he was supervisor of utility, maintenance, and site. He enjoyed volunteering with the Boardman Fire Department. In 2022 Rolf began work with the City of Boardman as special projects coordinator and later became public works director; he remained there until his passing.

Earlier in his life, he was an avid hunter, spending much of his time hunting deer and elk.

He was preceded in death by his father, John A. Prag.

He is survived by his mother, Anne Jay of Keizer, OR; his stepmother, Lynn Prag of Boardman; his sister, Dana Prag Burk (Alan) of Keizer; his sister, Jenny Aleta Gonzales (Brent) of Gilbert, AZ; his wife, Kristin Elaine Prag, at their home in Boardman along with his son, Cooper John; his son, Kode L. Prag of Pendleton; his stepchildren, Devin Rea (Hannah) of Roundup, MT, and Taylor Rea of Boardman; his grandchildren, Lakelynn Rea and Ryleigh Prag; and many nieces and nephews.

Rolf Marshall Prag, 59, passed away on Jan. 18, 2025, at his home in Boardman, OR. A private family burial will take place. A Celebration of Life will be held on Sunday, Feb. 2, from 2-5 p.m. at the Riverfront Center at the Port of Morrow in Boardman.

Rolf was born in Portland, OR on Feb. 12, 1965, to John A. Prag and Anne E. Marshall Prag. He joined older sister Dana.

The family moved to Joseph, OR when he was a toddler and remained there until 1974, when the family moved to Boardman.

Rolf attended school in Morrow County, graduating from Riverside High School in 1983. He attended Mount Hood Community College for two years and graduated in 1987 from DeVry Institute of Technology in Phoenix, AZ.

Rolf made many friends during his school years, retaining those friendships throughout his life. Special longtime friends include Marty Broadbent, Everett Westmoreland, Earl Connell, Sal Erevia and Joe

**Ione wastewater project**

-Continued from PAGE ONE

dirt and rock with the help of Morrow County Public Works.

The boring operation under the highway was completed. The four-inch, high-density polyethylene (HDPE) line is finished under the highway and up Johnson Grade Rd.

The Swaggart team is currently installing both four-inch HDPE line and six-inch gravity flow line along the south side of the Morrow County Grain Growers yard.

New elevation GPS readings throughout town have been double checked for flow accuracy. The recheck of individual lots is nearly complete.

The city also said there have been a handful of individual lots with their “own unique challenges.” All challenges will be addressed prior to excavation.

There are also some unresolved issues at the east side of the high school, which are currently being addressed.

The city is also currently focusing on the need to pump out the pit at the main lift station.

Finally, the cultural monitors from Plateau Cultural Management visited Ione a few weeks ago. They were shown the additional areas to monitor, but their field survey produced no significant finds.

Also in Ione news, the city has announced that Main Street will be closed from Hwy. 74 at the MCGG fertilizer plant to Surething Ave. by the MCGG gas station. The closure was slated to begin as early as Jan. 27 and may be in effect for as much as a month

Local traffic will have access to their facilities from Hwy. 74 only.

**AARP offers free tax assistance starting next month**

Morrow County residents needing help with their taxes will be able to receive free assistance beginning next month through the AARP Foundation Tax-Aide program.

Workshops will be held in Boardman and Lexington in Morrow County, as well as Heppner and Pendleton in neighboring Umatilla County.

The Boardman site is at the Port of Morrow, 2 W. Marine Drive. It will be open Mondays from Feb. 10 to April 7 and will provide services in both English and Spanish.

In South Morrow, tax help is available at Lexington Town Hall, 425 F St., on select Fridays from Feb. 7 to April 11.

Appointments are required and are available on designated days between 9 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. To schedule an appointment, call 541-701-9326.

People do not have to be AARP members to participate. While the focus is to assist adults 50 and older with low to moderate incomes, others may utilize the program.

IRS-certified volunteers will prepare federal tax returns or offer guidance for taxpayers to file their own.

Umatilla County locations are New Hope

Community Church, 1350 S. Highway 395, Hermiston, Tuesdays through Thursdays, Feb. 4-April 15; and Pendleton Community Room, 501 SW Emigrant Ave., select Mondays, Feb. 3-April 14.

What to bring to appointment:

-All correspondence received in 2024 from the IRS and your state/local taxing authority, including a copy of 2023 tax returns filed;

-Photo identification and Social Security cards (or other official documents with the Individual Taxpayer Identification Number) for everyone on the return;

-Banking information for direct deposit refunds or to pay direct-debit tax due;

-W-2 forms and 1099 forms reporting unemployment compensation, state/local tax refunds, interest, dividends, pensions, annuities and IRA distributions; and

-For itemized deductions: documentation of home mortgage, medical expenses, charitable contributions, property tax bills paid and 1095A, if coverage purchased from the Health Insurance Marketplace.

For more information, including descriptions of what to bring to the appointment, visit [www.aarp.org/money/taxes/aarp\\_taxaide](http://www.aarp.org/money/taxes/aarp_taxaide).

**Oregon legislature considers two Greater Idaho bills**

The 2025 Oregon Legislative Session has begun, and this year legislators will have two different Greater Idaho bills to consider.

In the Senate, a memorial similar to the one introduced in 2023 has already been introduced. This bill invites the Idaho legislature to begin formal talks with Oregon about a border change.

On the House side, Rep. Mark Owens (R-Crane) will be introducing a bill that will require the state to create a task force to investigate moving the border.

“Passage of either bill would be a tremendous win for the people of Eastern Oregon and would move us one step closer to becoming part of Idaho,” said a statement issued by Greater Idaho.

Oregon and Idaho aren’t the only states talking about moving their borders.

Earlier this month, two other states besides Idaho introduced bills regarding changing their state borders to include rural counties of neighboring states.

A bill in Indiana would take in the 33 counties in Illinois that have already voted to separate from Chicago, while a bill in Iowa proposes buying several counties from neighboring Minnesota.

This is all happening while President Donald Trump is talking about getting Greenland from Denmark and making those people American citizens.

“People across the country and the world are ready to get better government and more self-determination for their citizens, and we believe that the more these movements succeed, the better chances that ours will as well,” said the Greater Idaho statement.

**Happenings at the Holly Rebekah Lodge**

Holly Rebekah Lodge members have announced that the lodge is keeping busy.

Members are continuing with their bottle and can drive. If anyone has cans and bottles to donate, they may call LaRae Kindle at 541-310-9499 or Edith Papineau at 541-215-9460 or simply drop them off at the Lodge Hall in Lexington.

Lodge members say they are grateful to everyone that has and continues to donate bottles and cans for the Holly Rebekah building fund. The friendly meal and Bingo are still being held on the last Sunday of the month starting at 3 p.m. The cost of the meal is only \$5. This month the meal will be bean

and ham soup, tomato soup and cornbread.

Those who don’t wish to stay and play Bingo are welcome to come and eat. And one doesn’t need to eat to play Bingo. The game starts at approximately 3:30 p.m., and the cost is \$5 for a 10-game packet.

The ladies of the lodge are also cooking up something new. Starting Feb. 5, the Lodge Hall will be open from 1-3 p.m. every Wednesday for people to pop in to visit, or to play cards or games.

Wednesday afternoons will be free, and coffee, tea and water will be provided. If anyone has games to donate, it would be appreciated.

**Good News Only** by Doris Brosnan

Familiar cliches inform us that “all good things come to an end;” “it was fun while it lasted;” “nothing lasts forever.” The implication is that we should enjoy and appreciate the good things while we have them.

*Good News Only* seemed a good thing to some readers, and it was fun to put together for a few years.

Unfortunately, getting “tidbits” for the weekly column became a challenge. Even prodding and cajoling were less and less successful. That is not fun.

We certainly appreciate the many contributors who kept the *Good News Only* something to look forward to reading these past few years. Many people volunteered their feel-good items that gave us a brief respite from news less positive. Thank you, Contributors and Faithful Readers.

Remember that good news is everywhere, all the time! Here’s hoping that good news comes to everyone reading this.

**Correction**

In an article in the Jan. 15, 2025, issue of the *Heppner Gazette-Times* entitled “Kotek declares state of emergency in Morrow and Umatilla counties,” the second paragraph incorrectly stated, “The emergency declaration makes an exception to the Port of Morrow’s current wastewater permit with the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), authorizing the Port to apply wastewater if necessary to fields within

the Lower Umatilla Basin Groundwater Management Area (LUBGWMA) that are either down gradient from any domestic wells or designated as ‘low-risk.’”

The sentence should have stated “...fields within the Lower Umatilla Basin Groundwater Management Area (LUBGWMA) that are either *not* down gradient from any domestic wells or designated as ‘low-risk.’”

The editor apologizes for the error.

**SMCSM February menus**

South Morrow County Seniors Matter has announced the following meal menus for the month of February:

Feb. 4—Pork and hash brown casserole, buttered carrots and dessert.

Feb. 11—Mini pizzas, garden salads and dessert.

Feb. 18—Beef Stroganoff over mashed potatoes, green beans and dessert.

Feb. 25—Tacos on a plate and dessert.

South Morrow County Seniors Matter hosts free weekly meals for seniors at St. Patrick’s Senior Center. Meals are provided every week on Tuesdays from 11:30-12:30. Meals are at no cost for seniors over 60 and \$5 for those under 60. Each week, a new speaker hosts our luncheon. Donations are accepted.

The veterans’ meal on Feb. 12 will be chicken pot pie and peach cobbler.

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