

'Pony Express' rides again

By Elane Blanchet

Turning a new crop of seventh and eighth graders into journalists every nine weeks would challenge the expertise—and patience—of any veteran newspaperman, but Linda Murray is beginning her second year of accomplishing that task at Heppner Junior High School.

Pony Express, the junior high newspaper, was born last fall when Mrs. Murray, an English teacher, with no background or training in journalism, decided to offer a publications elective. She studied several books on the mechanics and techniques of news writing and has passed on her newly acquired knowledge on a different, enthusiastic class each term since.

After learning the fundamentals of the 'who, what, where, when, how's', young reporters are 'turned loose' on the school, covering beats, setting up interview appointments and researching stories in the library. All have special Pony Express passes.

While Mrs. Murray acts in an advisory capacity, she encourages the student journalists to take complete responsibility for the Pony Express. Gross errors may be corrected but misspellings are left in on the theory that seeing a misspelled word published in a story serves as a strong incentive to avoid that embarrassment again.

The product of student enthusiasm and enterprise, the Pony Express is surprisingly polished for a junior high school level paper, especially considering the lack of continuity and experience in the young staff. It covers both the elementary and junior high grades, school sports, student council, special activities, the library—anything of interest to its readership. Bylined feature stories range in topics from fashions to teacher personalities to the inner workings of the school office.

A favorite experience for many students is their first exposure to the typewriter. Mrs. Murray mentioned in passing that if anyone in the

community had an extra typewriter to donate to a good cause, the gift would be gratefully accepted.

The seventh period publication class tries to produce a Pony Express every three weeks, but since it takes awhile to break in a new staff,

Rick Klaus was chosen editor for this term because the other students said "he is a better speller than Mrs. Murray."

The rest of the staff, now hard at work on the second paper of the year, includes Mary Arbogast, Marti Baker, Jennifer Johnson, Denise Ken-

First publication marks National Newspaper Week, October 9-15

the first of the year will come out at the end of this week—a very appropriate recognition of National Newspaper Week.

Mrs. Murray said that while each student does a little of every thing involved in the production of a newspaper, he or she tends to specialize as abilities and preferences are acknowledged. One journalist may be better at writing stories while another prefers to work on illustrations for the paper and still another enjoys typing most.

nedy, Patricia Morley, Irene Pennington, Melvin Rachor, Stephanie Sams, Melanie Seitz, Teresa Skow, Jody Terpening and Elizabeth Zita.

The popular publication class is limited to 15 students per term and there are always a surplus of eager would-be journalists clamoring to get in. For this reason, a student may only work on the paper for one term a year.

"I wish we could take it every semester," one staff member commented wistfully.



At Heppner Junior High School, this term's Pony Express staff is wrapping up their first issue of the year which is being published during National Newspaper Week, Oct. 9-15. The "junior" newspaper was thought of and is advised by Mrs. Linda Murray. All of the work on the paper is done by her students, with only technical advice coming from the teacher.

Day care gets 4-H Annex use

At the Oct. 10 meeting of the Morrow County fair Board, the board voted unanimously, with many reservations still unresolved, to allow the Heppner Child Development Center the use of the 4-H Annex building at the fairgrounds for six months and no longer.

Members of the day care center's Board of Directors Dawn Stuchell, Monica Swanson and Kathy Hazen presented the case for the immediate need for a building until permanent lodging could be found for the center, which was forced to close on Oct. 1. They requested use of the annex until Fair time next fall to allow them enough time.

Objections expressed by the Fair Board included the fear

that the center wouldn't try to find another building once they were settled in and also that the Annex would be impossible to heat.

Floyd Jones pointed out that the 4-H building was erected for the use of the public and he felt it wouldn't be right to give it away for the use of a few.

The day care advocates assured the Fair Board that they would be flexible enough to accommodate regular usage of the Annex by others by folding up cribs and equipment for scheduled meetings or closing for a day when necessary.

The women also promised the board that they would not request an extension when the allotted time expired.

Marion Abrams, a Heppner resident, spoke to the board of the need for day care facilities in Heppner and asked that the request for a temporary building be granted.

The Fair Board and the Development Center Board will meet with the County

Court on Wednesday, Oct. 19 to sign a contract for six months use of the 4-H building and outlining details such as rent, utilities, damage liabilities and other particulars.

On Tuesday, the day care group was arranging to have the building certified before the court meeting on Oct. 19 so the center could move into the Annex as soon as possible after the contract is signed.

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FIFTEEN CENTS

Moonlight Madness coming

Moonlight Madness is again coming to town as Heppner Merchants plan for a super fall sale on regular merchandise Thursday, Oct. 27.

Meeting last Friday, the Merchants Committee, an

arm of the Chamber of Commerce, set the date and the time from 7 to 9 p.m. that evening.

Most stores will close their doors at 5 p.m. that day to

prepare for the two-hour sale, opening again at 7 p.m.

Shoppers are urged to check the Oct. 27 issue of the Gazette-Times for many special bargains from Heppner Merchants.

Ag trials in progress

Several new experimental agriculture trials are now underway in Morrow County in addition to the long time variety trials that have been tested in experimental stations, according to Harold Kerr of the Extension Office.

Trials involving a new no-tillage method of seeding are located on the Pat Cutsforth and Bob Jepsen ranches under the direction of Floyd Bolton. Kerr said the new method of spacing five inches of tillage between 15 inches of untilled soil is probably "Quite a few years away from general acceptance by growers".

Chemical trials to evaluate the effect of injecting liquid and dried seed as well as trials evaluating watering variations at seeding time are being conducted at the Pendleton experimental station.

Fred Nelson's Baseline Road ranch is the site of trials involving cheatgrass control chemicals. Chemicals are being tested at the pre-planting stage, pre-emergence stage and post emergence stage with Don Rydrych in charge.

Kerr said future tests are planned to evaluate the effect of early spraying for rot leaf and thistle in December instead of March. A site for the tests has not yet been determined.

The long time variety trials are being continued at the Frank Anderson ranch with new areas seeded on the Tad Miller ranch. Agronomist Chuck Rhode is again in charge of the trials.

G-T announces staff changes

Terry Hager, Managing Editor of the Gazette-Times this week announced two staff changes at the Morrow County newspaper.

Elane Blanchet, 29, has been hired to fill a new position with the Gazette-Times and will split her duties between advertising sales and news reporting.

Chloe Pearson, a Heppner resident, has been hired to replace Patti Saling in the photocomposition department. Mrs. Pearson's husband, Frank, is employed by Kinzua Corporation.

Ms. Blanchet comes to the

Gazette-Times with past experience as a writer for the Burns Times-Herald. She spent six years at Linn-Benton Community College and Oregon State University before entering the newspaper profession.

Ms. Blanchet has a daughter, Jenny, age 11 months.

Hager said the addition of Ms. Blanchet to the staff will enable the Gazette-Times to provide more coverage of local news events and human interest feature items as well as meeting the increasing advertising and promotion needs of area merchants.

News Briefs

Board to meet

The regular October meeting of the Morrow County School Board will be held at Ione High School October 17 beginning at 7:30 p.m.

The Board will hear a progress report from the Ione Boosters on the football field lighting project at the high school.

Also on the agenda will be consideration of a request for

an additional staff member at Riverside Jr. High School, a report on teacher turnover in the school district and appointment of a member to the Budget Committee to fill the position of Don Bennett, Heppner, whose term has expired. The Board will consider authorizing the Supt. to ask for bids on three new school buses.

PGE awards plant contract

Portland General Electric company has awarded Combustion Engineering, Inc., a contract to erect the boiler and related structural steel for the utility's Boardman Coal Plant. Contract cost is about \$16.5 million.

Work under the contract is to begin by mid-October and will extend until shortly before

the \$500 million plant goes into operation in 1980. The contract is expected to require a peak work force of 140 persons.

PGE began work on the 530,000 kilowatt coal-fired power plant in February 1976. The project, located about 13 miles southwest of Boardman, is about 15 per cent complete.

Hunter dies

Roy L. Husk, 67, a Bay City, Oregon, man was declared dead on arrival at the Pioneer Memorial Hospital on Tuesday, Oct. 11 after suffering a massive heart attack at his hunting camp a few miles south of Hardman. He had been hunting for the last two

weeks, accompanied by two sons and a daughter-in-law, names unknown. Husk, born April 8, 1910, was a retired railroad man.

Burial arrangements will be handled by Portland Memorial Mortuary.

Cooley wins!

Upsets upset prognosticators in this week's Gazette Times Football Contest with two completed entry forms picking six correct winners.

Craig Cooley beat out Dave Harrison for first place by selecting Heppner over Sherman County in the tie-breaker. Cooley picks up \$10 for his efforts and Harrison nailed down \$5 in second place. Both men can pick up their

checks at the Gazette-Times office.

A new contest appears on page seven of this issue and entrants will find the games straying from the beaten path of Pac-8 and major college ball games.

Readers are urged to make their picks and return the entry form to the G-T office before 5 p.m. Friday.

Rummage: One man's junk is another's treasure...



Vi Lanham (l) and Marlene Peterson helped move this mountain of rummage from storage to the Fair Pavilion at the fairgrounds where the annual Soroptimist Rummage Sale is slated for Friday, Oct. 14 from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., and Saturday, Oct. 15, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Grab Bag time starts at noon Saturday.



Car wash due Nov. 1

Bud Englert, owner of Black Mt. Arctic Car & Repair, announced this week a Nov. 1 target date for the opening of the Heppner Car Wash at the north edge of town behind Green Feed & Seed Store.

Englert said the high-pressure wand-type car wash will have two covered bays and an

outside bay for larger trucks and trailers.

In addition to the wash and rinse cycles, a wax cycle will be provided and instead of the usual four minutes of time, five minutes of time will be provided here.

Englert said the all-steel building will be surrounded by

a paved area with a high suction vacuum located on the lot.

An added feature of the car wash is individual gas-fired water heaters for each bay. "This gives patrons assurance of hot water all the time and is also an energy conservation measure," said Englert.