

Neighborhood Center lends helping hand

by Elane Blanchet

The Heppner Neighborhood Center, located in crowded quarters on West Willow St., is a place with a heart.

For senior citizens, single parents struggling to make ends meet, unemployed persons needing temporary assistance or any low income family in Morrow County, the Center offers a helping hand.

The Center, acting as a liaison between all social service agencies and administering a myriad of federally funded service projects in the county, is, indeed, a center.

An overflowing storage area provides donated clothing, carefully sorted, washed and mended by volunteers. Also, there are shoes, toys, household goods, and a stock of emergency food on hand for those who need them.

The Center is also used as a meeting place for a senior citizens, craft group, social security advisors, Legal Aid, adult education classes, and Comprehensive Employment Training Act and Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (CETA and DVR).

One large project administered through the Center is the serving of hot meals to senior citizens of any income at three sites in the county—twice a week in Heppner and once each in Ione and Irrigon.

The dinners give the seniors a chance to enjoy the companionship of their peers over tasty, nutritious meals for a nominal donation. Eleanor Gonty, assisted by Nellie Jones, is the cook supreme in south Morrow County for meals prepared in the Center kitchen and transported back and forth to the Elks Lodge in Heppner on Tuesdays and Wednesdays and to the United Church of Christ in Ione on Wednesdays; feeding about 75 persons total at both sites.

Meals served in Irrigon each Monday in the Lions' Club building are cooked by Opal Cleaver and assistant Carol Sweeney; 50-65 seniors attend each week.

Trays for shut-ins and transportation to those who need it is also provided.

Pat Brindle, director of the Neighborhood Center, said she received only 20 cents per meal per person from federal money to buy food; the rest of the meal is paid for by the donations at the door and the use of donated and USDA commodity foods. This year generous donors gave to the Center 45-50 deer, some elk meat and fish, stocking six freezers, three refrigerators and three lockers. Locally grown fruit and vegetables are also donated, with lack of storage space a limiting factor.

A popular ongoing program operating out of the Center and administered by Community Action Project office in Pendleton, is the weatherization of homes for low income persons. A two-man crew, Steve Duncan and Jere LeDoux, has weatherized twen-

ty-odd houses in the county so far with more applications still being received. A handyman, Mike Stickney, does minor repairs, garden work and other jobs required around the house.

The Tri-County Homemaker Service, an ECOAC program directed by Suzanne Jepson, uses the Center as a communication and referral source, and provides domestic help according to need to the bed-ridden, sick, elderly or other persons who qualify. Morrow County now has three homemakers: Charlotte Gray in Heppner, with 11 clients; Fern Marvin, Ione, One; and Carol Sweeney in the Boardman-Irrigon area, who serves five clients. Cost for the service is determined on a sliding scale.

Pat Wright, Morrow County health nurse, regularly conducts blood pressure clinics throughout the county for seniors and others who need to keep a close check on their blood pressure, with the Center being a major referral source.

Volunteers from the Center go to Pioneer Memorial Hospital each Wednesday to introduce craft projects, play games and visit with nursing home residents. Mrs. Brindle feels there is a real need for other groups and individuals to spend time in personal contact with seniors in the nursing home.

"People there would like to see someone besides other senior citizens once in awhile. Some patients don't even have family around here," she commented.

During the Christmas season, activity at the Neighborhood Center reaches a peak. It accepts donations of clothes, food, toys and money from individuals, groups and businesses for the 40 or so Christmas boxes given annually to families who need them, in cooperation with the Children Services Division. The Center coordinates all volunteer labor involved in making the boxes and delivering them to all parts of the county.

This Christmas, the Juvenile Advisory Council, under the direction of Carolyn Holt, repaired toys in the old Library building, while Maxine Gray put in 174 hours cleaning and dressing 47 dolls. In emergency situations, the Center is also a place to turn.



Cook Eleanor Gonty serves up a tasty, hot meal to one of the many Heppner senior citizens who take advantage of the low-cost, twice-weekly dinners. Meals are also served to seniors in Ione and Irrigon once a week.



Free blood pressure clinics are conducted by Morrow County Health Nurse Pat Wright at three different locations in the county, with many referrals coming from the Neighborhood Center. Check schedule for times and places.

Pat Brindle: "Storage space is nil"

For example, last week a family with three children and no money were stranded in Ione with car trouble. Mrs. Brindle was contacted and she got medicine and food, including formula for an infant, to the family to help them through a difficult time. Last fall, a young, retarded hitchhiker, in rags and barefoot, was brought by the police to the Center, saying he had been rolled. He was provided with clothes, shoes, food and \$5 from the emergency fund and sent on his way.

Many of the 12-15 volunteers who man the Neighborhood Center office during weekdays and do a multitude of other

services, are signed up in the Retired Senior Volunteer Program, directed by June Wagner of Pendleton. Nine paid employees, including the cooks, weatherizers, handyman, and part-time office help, complete the staff.

In addition to services outlined above, the Center provides emergency fuel and medical aid, makes referrals to such agencies as Morrow County Mental Health and Children Services Division, and tries to connect all eligible persons with programs designed to help them.

One project Mrs. Brindle would like to see get started in Morrow County is an 'adopted

grandparent' program which would match children and senior citizens in a rewarding grandchild-grandparent relationship.

"We just need someone to be the organizer," she said.

A chronic problem at the Center, which moved from its spacious headquarters in the Gilliam-Bisbee building to remodeled rooms on Willow Street last year, is the lack of room. "Storage space is nil," Mrs. Brindle commented.

Crowded or not, the Heppner Neighborhood Center is a warm, friendly place that provides services indispensable to any community with a heart.

Lexington news

• Delpha Jones • 989-8189

Pine Thornburg and daughter, Linda King, were Lexington callers Friday, visiting friends and relatives. They make their home in Pendleton.

Tom Bradd of Ontario was a weekend caller at the William J. Van Winkle home. Mrs. Bradd, who has been visiting her parents, returned home with him.

Mike Kane is spending a few days with his wife and visiting other relatives enroute to Newfoundland, from Alabama

with pancakes a flappin'... Episcopalians to host Shrove Tuesday fete

An annual congregational effort by the members of All Saints Episcopal Church, the Shrove Tuesday Pancake luncheon and supper, will be presented to the community Tuesday, Feb. 7.

Lent, the forty day period of fasting and preparation for Easter begins on Ash Wednesday, Feb. 8, as Easter this year falls much earlier than usual on March 26, instead of in April.

Traditionally households prepared for the Lenten period of fasting by eliminating any fats and dairy foods from their kitchens. The name Shrove Tuesday, comes from the ancient custom of confessing (being shriven) on that day. It is a time of rejoicing in many countries and communities. It is the last day of the carnival season of southern Europe, corresponding to the Mardi Gras of the French and the Pancake Tuesday of the English.

The public is invited to rejoice at luncheon from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. and at supper from 5 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. in the All Saints Church Parish Hall on Gale Street. The meals will consist of pancakes, ham, various fruits and a choice of beverages.

Adults will pay \$2, high schoolers, \$1.50 and youngsters under 12, \$0.75. There will be a family rate of \$5 for the entire family.

Father Kenneth Miller said any profit realized from this congregational effort goes to the ECW (Episcopal Church Women) to use for their various charities. He added there will not be a traditional pancake race in Heppner this year, as is customary in England, but that this activity may be considered as a future possibility.

The slides shown were indeed beautiful as well as educational. He spoke of cross breeding, to produce a better string of easy calving animals which would decrease deaths at birth.

Preceding the program, business was conducted by the Master Bryce Keene. Out-of-county visitors were Alice Jackson, Myra Banks, Ethel Study, Amy Skiles Nathan and Margaret Thorpe.

Jojean Stevens was installed as musician, Delpha Jones, secretary, and Art White, overseer. The Master Bryce Keene spoke to the group about the activities of Morrow County Road Committee and told the group

cont. on page 12

Business Directory

MEDICAL SUPPLIES HERMISTON DRUG Free Prescription Mail Service Open 9a.m. to 7 p.m. Gifts for all occasions	TITLE INSURANCE MORROW COUNTY ABSTRACT & TITLE CO Title Insurance Office in Peters Bldg. 676-9912 481-9261 Heppner Boardman	SHOE REPAIR ROHDE'S SHOE REPAIR HARVEY & FERN RONDE 131 S.W. Emigrant Pendleton, Or. Open 8-5:30 Mon.-Fri. Sat. 8-1	MACHINERY REPAIR MILLER & SONS WELDING, INC Fabrication & Repair of Steel & Aluminum Steel & Bolts in Stock 123 Lynden Way-Heppner Open 8-6 Shop 676-9613 or 676-5519 Mon-Sat
INSURANCE RAY BOYCE INSURANCE AGENCY Heppner Health, Fire, Auto, Marine, Group Plans Ray Boyce 676-9625 676-5384	LAUNDROMAT HEPPNER Main St Open Mon.-Sat. 8:30a.m.-9:00p.m. & 12:30p.m.-9p.m.	BEAUTY PARLOR TUESDAY, DONNA'S WEDNESDAY, FRIDAY Appointment not needed... ...but appreciated 360 E. Aiken 676-65393 676-9909	HOME REPAIR UMATILLA READY-MIX Open Every Weekday, and Saturday & Sunday if Necessary 676-9406 989-8467
AUTOMOTIVE SHERRELL CHEVROLET INC. Chevrolet Complete Sales & Service 3rd & Main Hermiston	BREEDING CATTLE Ladd Farms Polled Herefords 422-7513 Box 197 Ione	FLOOR COVERING M&R FLOOR COVERING Carpet, Linoleum, Ceramic Tile, Kitchen Cabinets Free Estimates All Work Guaranteed Matt Hughes 422 Linden Way 676-9418 Heppner	FURNITURE Rich's HOUSE-DISCOUNTS Curtis-Mathes TV Quasar TV, Norge & Admiral Appliances Largest Selection Of Furniture in The Area 2200 N.F. Hermiston 567-8960
BUILDING SUPPLIES TUM-A-LUM LUMBER CO. See us for all your building supplies. We feature Boyson Paints. Tim Moore, Mgr. 432 SE Doriann Pendleton 276-6221	THIS SPACE FOR RENT \$8 PER MONTH CALL 676-9228	MEDICAL SUPPLIES MEDICAL CENTER PHARMACY Free Mailing Service On Prescriptions Hospital Supplies Open Mon.-Fri., 9-6p.m. Sat. 9-1p.m. Located in the Medical Center, 1100 Southgate Pendleton 276-1531	THIS SPACE FOR RENT \$8 PER MONTH CALL 676-9228
OPTOMETRIST DR. E.K. SCHAFFITZ Next To Hotel Heppner Entrance 676-9465 Heppner	AUTOMOTIVE JONES RADIATOR SERVICE Serving all this area for over 20 years. 567-6916 1315 N. 1st St. Hermiston	MONUMENTS SWEENEY MORTUARY Cemetery, Grave Markers Granite, Marble, Bronze 24-Hr. phone 676-9600 or 676-9226 Also Serving Ione & Lexington P.O. Box 97 Heppner	PRINTING WEDDING INVITATIONS BUSINESS FORMS PRINTED ENVELOPES BUSINESS CARDS GAZETTE-TIMES 676-9228

Neighborhood Center Calendar

- Monday**
Senior Dinner, Irrigon, Lions Club, 4:30, weekly
3rd Monday, Meal Site Council, Irrigon
4th Monday, Senior Citizens Advisory Council, Columbia Basin, 1 p.m.
- Tuesday**
Senior Dinner, Heppner Elks Lodge, 4:30, weekly
Legal Aid advice (with appointment), at Center, 1-4 p.m.
4th Tuesday, Nutrition Project Council-Triple A, Columbia Basin, 9 a.m.
- 4th Tuesday**, Heppner Site Council, 3 p.m.
3rd Tuesday, Blood Pressure Clinic, Degree of Honor Bldg., Heppner, 2:30-4:30 p.m.
- 2nd and 4th Tuesday**, BP Clinic, Irrigon, County Offices, 1-4
- Wednesday**
Senior Dinner, Heppner, Elks, 4:30 p.m.; Ione, United Church of Christ, 5 p.m.
1st Wednesday, BP Clinic, Ione United Church of Christ, 4-5 p.m.
Pioneer Memorial Hospital volunteers, weekly, 2-3 p.m. (help welcome)
- Thursday**
Senior Citizen social group, 2-4 p.m., at Center
Adult High School and GED classes, 7-10 p.m., at Center
2nd Thursday, Neighborhood Center Advisory Council, 7:30 p.m., Christian Life Center
- Friday**
2nd Friday, Social Security, 10-12 a.m., at Center