

Australian exchange student visits Morrow County Oregon income tax returns on the way to state residents

Sandra Raso lives in a part of Australia that is very wet and warm so her trip to Morrow County is quite a change for her.

"I had never seen snow before or deer," she said.

Raso is staying with the John Van Winkle family in Lexington as part of the Lions Youth Exchange program



Sandra Raso

with other countries. She will be leaving Jan. 22 after a six-week visit.

The 18-year-old spoke at the Heppner-Morrow County Chamber of Commerce meeting Monday and in an interview afterwards.

Sandra Raso is the oldest of six children, three boys and three girls, in a family of eight. She just graduated from high school in December and she plans to start college about two weeks after she returns from her trip here.

She lives with her family in Duranbah, a rural town of about 200. It is located in a volcanic area named Tweed Valley on the east coast of Australia in the state of New South Wales. The state capital is Sydney.

Her father owns a seven-acre farm and what used to be a "picture theater" but it has been converted to shops.

"Pictures are not very good there and they probably are not too good here either," she said with her Australian accent.

The Rasos have lived on that farm for 5 1/2 years. She said they grow avocados, squash, corn, other vegetables and strawberries, which they sell of the side of the road.

They also raise cows and poultry.

Sandra Raso said the theater is an old building that they are hoping to convert into a restaurant. Two other buildings on the farm are being leased out as a grocery store and a bus depot.

She said the Rasos used to live 600 miles out of where they live now near Sydney on a strawberry farm. She said the "climate" there is much like California.

In high school, Sandra Raso was not a Cardinal or a

Mustang but a "Jumping Red Ant." Duranbah means "jumping red ant" and so that is the school emblem.

Sugar cane is the most popular crop in the Tweed Valley with the rainfall at 70 inches a year (Morrow County usually has less than 15 inches of rain annually.) Raso said she lives in the wettest part of Australia. She said temperatures vary little with the average about 27 degrees C in the summer and 17 degrees C in the winter.

The tennis buff said tomatoes and avocados are becoming more popular in Tweed Valley. Avocados hold the ground up for about eight years but when the crop is harvested, it is highly profitable, she said.

Aside from tennis, Raso enjoys the games of squash, net ball (which is like basketball without dribbling), hockey, rugby, cricket, surfing and water skiing.

Math is her favorite subject and she plans on going to a university in the city of Brisbane, which is the capital city in the state of Queensland.

She said it is hard to get into a college in another state but she wants to go to Brisbane because it is only two hours away from her home while the university in the state of New South Wales is 10 hours away in Sydney.

She plans on taking business computer programming in college.

The school system in Australia begins in February and ends in December with a six-week vacation in the summer. It is summer in Australia now. They also have two weeks off in May and August.

When the Rasos first moved to Duranbah, there were 11 students in the primary school (grades K-6) and it was going to be closed down. Now there are 43 kids in the school, Raso said.

The public high school in the Tweed Valley is for grades

seven to 12, but the two religious schools, one Catholic and one Seventh Day Adventist, are for grades seven to 10.

One aspect she likes about her hometown in Australia, which is as large as the contiguous United States, is the friendly atmosphere. She said the local farmers exchange products to help each other out and make expenses cheaper for everyone.

Sandra Raso said tourism is growing in the rural areas near her home, Tweed Heads, about 10 miles north of

Duranbah, is one hot spot for tourists. Another is Port Danger, which is 10 miles east of Duranbah and is the eastern-most part of the entire continent. Port Danger is the home of the only laser beam lighthouse in the world.

Tweed Valley is also called the "Valley of Contrast" because it has everything to offer—rain forests, mountains, beaches, different crops and if Sandra Raso is any indication some very friendly and warm people.

School Board positions open

Four positions on the Morrow County School Board will be open when the current terms expire and anyone who wants to run for one of the positions has until Feb. 19 to file.

The election for the offices will be March 25.

Pauline Winter's term is expiring and anyone can file for her at-large position from anywhere in the county.

Jim Wishart, who was appointed last summer to replace resigning Dr. Wallace Wolf, is leaving his position.

Someone from the Heppner school area must fill that position for one year, when that term expires, and then it will become an at-large position for anyone in the county to try for.

Jean Bennett of Heppner and John Matthews of Irrigon are having their respective terms expire. Someone living in those school areas must fill the positions.

The school board membership is being changed by a new formula that has been adopted. There will be five members, one each from the five school areas, and two members elected at large. The school board will be changed in this manner until all of the current terms expire.

Persons interested in running for any one of the four elected positions may obtain filing forms at the school district office at the old Lexington school.

Oregon income tax returns are on the way to state residents. The Oregon Department of Revenue has delivered 1.15 million copies to post offices in Salem, Portland and Eugene. The copies will be distributed around the state from those three locations.

Of particular interest to taxpayers this year are increased personal exemptions, tax credits on the short form and special property tax relief information.

Oregon's personal exemption has been increased. The taxpayers, spouse and dependents may each claim a \$1,000 exemption, up from \$750. Taxpayers who itemize their deductions will be able to deduct more of the federal tax they paid, since the federal tax subtraction has been increased from \$5,000 to \$7,000. Both changes are the result of 1979 state legislation.

Persons who use the short form (40S) will be able to reduce their tax payment through the use of tax credits this year. Seven tax credits are on the short form. They include credits for weatherizing a home, installing an alternative energy device,

paying for child care or making a political contribution.

One of the most popular tax credits—weatherization—has been expanded to include more types of homes. Owners who weatherized a mobile home, houseboat or one unit of a multiple-unit residential building can use the credit for 1979.

Another change on the tax return is the new Nongame Wildlife checkoff. Taxpayers can designate \$1, \$3 or \$5 of their refund as a contribution to Oregon's Nongame Wildlife Fund.

A special section of the packet includes information about the state's property tax relief programs for homeowners and renters.

Additional copies of the tax packet will be available in January at banks, post offices and revenue department offices throughout Oregon.

A separate tax packet for part-year residents and nonresidents who pay Oregon income tax is also being distributed. It goes to people who filed the nonresident forms last year, income tax preparers and revenue department offices.

County Court

In Morrow County Court last week, acting roadmaster Don Ball reported the problem of road signs being vandalized.

Two years ago, the county received a grant from the state for \$35,000 to purchase new signs. Some of the signs have been knocked down, stolen or vandalized and have to be replaced.

Ball asked the court to look into the possibility of obtaining CETA employees for a six-month period.

Sheriff Larry Fetsch appeared and voiced his dissatisfaction with the intergovernmental agreement being worked out between Heppner city and Morrow County officials.

Barbara Bloodsworth was sworn in as the new county clerk replacing the retiring Sadie Parrish.

Several applicants will be interviewed for the new Public Works Director position within the next two weeks.

A resolution was passed to start a Morrow County Resource Council that will determine policies and be an arm of the county court. The 18 committee members are Shirley Ruggs, chairman; Ray Alsop, vice chairman; Dick McElligott;

Raymond French, Allen Hughes, Leroy Gardner, Henry Krebs, Matt Doherty, Mike Sweeney, Warren McCoy, Allen Nistad, Dr. L.D. Tibbles, Jim Thompson, Ed Tarnasky, Don Peterson, Tom Martin, Frank Lamb, "Bus" Clough and Joanne McCauley.

The court found out Morrow County will begin sharing a district court judge part-time, one day a week, with Umatilla County beginning July 1.

The county court appointed a committee to look into the possibility of combining the justice court positions in Irrigon and Heppner. The committee will decide if combining the two positions will save the county money, if the services will be as good, and if it will be acceptable to the voters. Paul Jones will chair the committee. Other members include D.O. Nelson of Heppner, John Bristow of Lone, Dewey West of Boardman, and Harold Hadley and Max Hellberg of Irrigon.

Other county court appointments were finalized.

Charles Daly and Harold Peck will take the place of Floyd Jones and Paul Hisler on the Fair Board for three-year terms. Gladys Hobbs was reappointed to a five-year term on the Hospital Board. Kenneth Smouse and Elaine George were reappointed to three-year terms on the Museum Board.

Kenneth Smouse was reappointed to a three-year term on the Mental Health Administrative Board and Donna Bergstrom will replace Bob Abrams on the same board.

Warren McCoy was appointed to the 4-C Council and Terry Thompson will replace Barton Clark, who resigned, for a one-year term on the Budget Committee.

Jim Launer was appointed as Emergency Services Coordinator. Rodney Flug was reappointed to the board of the Vector Control District. Dr. Joseph Gifford and Mel Boyer were reappointed to the Lexington Airport Committee. Helen Proudfoot will represent Judge Don McElligott on the Blue Mountain Economic Development Council.

Judge McElligott and Bill Nelson were named to the Board of Equalization. Monica Swanson replaced Roy Lindstrom on the Planning Commission and Cecil Jones replaced Fritz Cutsforth. Gerald J. Morrell replaced Dan Creamer, who resigned. David Secl and Dorris Graves were reappointed.

SPORTS

Fillies bombed

The Heppner Fillies basketball team was bombed by the Hermiston Bulldogs 60-25 Saturday in the Hermiston gym.

Heppner was never really in the game as Hermiston raced to a 12-4 first quarter lead and trailed 31-17 at halftime. The Fillies only scored two points in the third period as they trailed 43-19 going into the final quarter.

Mary Kincaid and Lynn Dee Devin led the scoring for Heppner with 6 each followed by Alice Abrams with 4, Deann Conner 3, Shelly Mann 2, Kellie Hammond 2, Sandra Ward 1 and Lottie Laughlin scored 1 point.

The Fillies will try to get back on the winning track when they play at home tomorrow against Stanfield. The game starts at 6 p.m. The Heppner girls team plays at Riverside Saturday in another 6 p.m. contest.

Ione juniors split two

Ione Jr. High beat Riverside 29-19 but lost to Echo 27-21.

Steve Millman scored 12 points in the win with Randy McCabe scoring 6, Mark Meyers 4, Craig Hams 3, Darrin Padberg 2 and Brian Douglas 2.

In the loss to Echo, Meyers had 6, Millman 4, Padberg 4, Hams 4 and McCabe 2.

"We only scored five points in the second half, only one in the last quarter, and that killed us off," Coach Bob Deeter said. Echo did a good job running a stall, four corners offense. That was the first time I ever had to coach against that in junior high."

The Cards are 3-1 and play Arlington at home Jan. 17.

CBEC's Aho gives seminar

Rod Aho of Columbia Basin Electrical Cooperative will be giving a weatherization Seminar free of charge sponsored by Blue Mountain Community College beginning tonight.

The seminar will include tips on how to weatherize your home to get the most out of your energy that is used for heating. With the rising cost of energy, it makes sense to use it as wisely as possible, Aho said.

Anyone interested in attending the seminar may call BMCC coordinator Nancy Brownfield at 676-9696.

Lexington news

• Delpha Jones • 989-8189

Lt. Norman Williams, USCG, arrived in Lexington Dec. 23 from Alexandria, Virginia, to spend the holidays with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Clifford Williams.

Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Papi-neau, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Robinson, Mr. and Mrs. Roger Erhmentrout and family, Debbie Petit and family and Mick Sharp were all dinner guests of Mr. and Mrs. Donald Papineau in Ione on Christmas.

Mr. and Mrs. Steven Peck are the proud parents of a baby girl named Hilary, weighing 6 pounds and 12 ounces. Paternal grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Peck of Lexington, and the great-grandmothers, Emma Peck of Pendleton, and Gladys Urey of Eugene. Maternal grandparents are Mr. and

Jeanne Hunt of Pendleton visited her parents over the Christmas holidays but was confined indoors most of the time by the flu. Gary Hunt who has been teaching at the Riverside Junior High in Boardman is leaving soon for Monmouth, where he will further his education.

Mr. and Mrs. Gar Leyva from Gold Beach were overnight callers at the Eldon Padberg home on Friday and helped celebrate the birthdays of Mr. Leyva and Mrs. Padberg. They were enroute to Wilbur, Wash., to the home of their son and daughter Mr. and Mrs. Greg Leyva.

Mrs. Eldon Padberg was recently called to Asotin, Wash., by the illness of her mother, Amy Sperry, at the hospital there. At present she is reported to be slightly improved.

Florence McMillan spent the Christmas holidays at the home of her daughter and family Mr. and Mrs. G.E. Irvin of Irrigon. She was taken there by her granddaughter, Vicky Bowen of Hermiston, who with her twin children Bo and Katie were visiting in Lexington. She was accompanied by Linda Smith also of Hermiston.

Pat Wright and family and Freda Majeske were Christmas visitors at the Burke O'Brien home on Butter Creek Christmas.

Word has been received by friends in Lexington that a former resident, Melvin Moyer, underwent bypass heart surgery in Spokane Nov. 30 and has been able to return to their temporary home in Spokane and at present is reported to be doing fine. At present Mr. and Mrs. Moyer are living near his brother Ellis in Spokane until returning to their home in Union, Ore.

Mrs. Ray Gilham of Pendleton and great grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Guy Johnson of Pendleton. Hilary joins Rachel, Kevin and Jennifer at home.

Gladys VanWinkle spent the Christmas holidays with her son and family, Mr. and Mrs. Bob VanWinkle at their home in Klamath Falls.

Charlene Whitney and daughter Kim and Frank Wilcox were Christmas visitors at the home of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. C.C. Jones.

Mr. and Mrs. Aaron Klinger of Hermiston and Vic Klinger of Portland were Christmas Eve callers at the home of their Annetta Klinger.

Mr. and Mrs. Dale Chick of Pendleton have been visiting her mother, Venice Hendrickson, and their children who are making their home with her during the school term. The Chicks are from Pendleton.

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