

Haemophilus vaccine available in county

A vaccine that can prevent meningitis in children recently has been licensed and is now available in Oregon, according to a news release from the Morrow County Health Dept. "This safe and highly effective vaccine can protect infants and young children from infections caused by the bacteria Haemophilus influenzae type b," said a spokesperson.

Haemophilus b is the most common cause of bacterial meningitis in the United States, and also causes pneumonia and sepsis or blood poisoning. Haemophilus infections can be fatal and may cause permanent neurologic damage in children who survive. Each year, an estimated 12,000 children fall ill from Haemophilus in the United States, including an average of 120 children per year in Oregon. One in 200 children become sick with Haemophilus infections sometime during the first five years of life, most often during the first year.

The vast majority of these infections can be prevented by the new vaccine. The vaccine, called Haemophilus b conjugate vaccine, is given to infants at two, four and six months of age, with a booster at 15 months of age. Previously, Haemophilus vaccine had been given

to children at 15 months of age, too late to prevent most illness. The newly licensed vaccine (Lederle-Praxis' HibTITER) is more effective because it can be given to young infants who are at highest risk.

All children in Oregon should be immunized with Haemophilus b conjugate vaccine beginning at two months of age, the age when routine childhood immunizations are started. Immunization may be given at the same time as diphtheria-tetanus-pertussis (DTP) and polio immunization.

The number and timing of doses for those older children depends on their age. Parents with children between two and 15 months of age should contact the provider of their child's immunization to arrange an appointment schedule. Immunization is also recommended for children age 15 months to five years who have not previously received Haemophilus b vaccine.

Haemophilus b immunization is available free at our regularly scheduled clinics every Friday, 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. at the Health Department in Heppner; first and third Tuesdays, 1:30-4 p.m. at Boardman City Hall; second and fourth Tuesdays, 1-4 p.m. at the Irrigon County offices.

Lexington News

By Delpha Jones

--The Card party held Dec. 1 at the Rebekah Hall was well attended with hostesses Hilda Yocom and Virginia Peck in charge. Prizes were given and lovely refreshments were enjoyed. The next party is scheduled for Saturday, Jan. 5.

--The PNG club of Holly Rebekah Lodge met at the C.C. Jones home on Friday night for the quarterly meeting and Christmas party. Dinner was served at which time each member received a lace and satin lingerie bag, after which there was an exchange of secret sister gifts. An election of officers was held with Kathy Tellechea, chairman, Leila Palmer, vice chairman, and Annetta Padberg, secretary/treasurer. The door prize was won by Geri Martin. Others present were Luella Taylor, and Joyce Buchanan. It was voted at this time to give a cash donation to the Hendricks family fire fund.

--Thursday evening several members of the Holly Rebekah Lodge motored to Pendleton to Pauline Lodge where they attended the initiation there. Two newly elected members Holly Mosteller and Susan Porter of Holly, also received the degree. Preceding the meeting the ladies all met at a cafe where they enjoyed a fine lunch and visiting. Following the initiation, coffee and cake were served at the Rebekah Hall in Pendleton. The cake was a lovely creation of pink and green carnations and doves with the word "Welcome." Those motoring over were Virginia Peck, Leila Palmer, Dorothy Jackson, Joyce Buchanan, Geri Martin, Fran Peck, Delpha Jones, Hilda Yocom and the candidates.

--Several homes in Lexington are beautifully decorated this holiday season which helps those passing through the town to really feel the Christmas spirit. Let us all get into the holiday spirit and do a bit of decorating at this time of good cheer and friendship.

--Judy Groshens of Irrigon was a Lexington and Heppner caller last week.

--Faye Ruhl motored to Portland last weekend with her son, Skip, where they watched the ball game between Tigard and Roseburg. Her grandson Rick Ruhl played on the Roseburg team.

--Bruce Eng visited last week with the Connie Eng family. He was visiting from Kansas where he is in the First Infantry of the US Army. He will leave for Saudi Arabia in the near future.

Isted receives master's degree

Bob Isted of Heppner received his master of science in teaching degree at Portland State University, it was recently announced. PSU degree candidates are announced quarterly. They are eligible to participate in one of two commencement ceremonies: spring (June) in cap and gown at Memorial Coliseum, and summer (August) in regular dress in the South Park Blocks.

Church of Latter Day Saints

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints Christmas services will be December 23, 10 a.m. at the Willow Creek Branch in Lexington. Everyone is welcome to come and enjoy the spirit of the season.

Ione United Church of Christ

The Ione United Church of Christ will have a Christmas Eve Service of Candlelight and Communion at 5:30 p.m. December 24.

St. Patrick's Catholic

Christmas schedule for St. Patrick's, Heppner will be: Dec. 24: 11:30 p.m. Christmas carols with Mass at midnight. Dec. 25: Mass at 11 a.m.

St. William's in Ione will hold Mass at 8:45 a.m. on Dec. 25.

United Methodist Church

The United Methodist Church will have a Christmas Eve Candlelight Service, beginning at 7:30 p.m. The church choir will sing "The Jesus Gift" during this service.

All Saints Episcopal

Fr. George announces that All Saints Parish will again celebrate Christmas Eve with the traditional Choral Eucharist Candlelight Service. The service begins at 11 p.m. and will include the traditional Christmas scripture readings accompanied by the singing of the familiar Christmas hymns and carols. Special music will be presented by the choir at this service. Parents are encouraged to bring their children to this wonderful worship experience and "they may come dressed in their jammies." The community is invited to attend this service as all are welcome.

A service of Holy Communion will also be celebrated on Christmas Day starting at 9 a.m. is also invited to attend this special Christmas Service.

Valby/Lutheran Church

On Sunday, December 23, Advent services will be observed at Valby Lutheran Church at 9 a.m. and at Hope Lutheran Church in Heppner at 11 a.m. Pastor Hoobing will preach on the theme "What Will People Think?" based on scripture reading of St. Matthew 1:18-25. Members and friends are urged to bring poinsettias to the worship service. Special music will be provided by the Hope-Valby Choir under the direction of Kathy Hoskins.

A Christmas Eve service of carols, scripture, sermon and candlelight will be celebrated at Valby Lutheran Church, located 16 miles east of Ione on Ione-Gooseberry Road at 6 p.m. Pastor Hoobing will preach on the theme of "God in our Midst", based on the reading of St. Luke 2:1-20.

Carols, candlelight and communion will be celebrated on Christmas Eve at 9 p.m. at Hope Lutheran Church, located on the corner of Alfalfa and Cowins Streets in Heppner. Pastor Hoobing will be preaching on the theme "God in our Midst" based on the reading of St. Luke 2:1-20.

First Christian Church

The First Christian Church in Heppner will hold their Christmas program this Sunday, Dec. 23 beginning at 10 a.m. The program will feature Sunday school children preschool through fourth grades singing songs and reciting poems with the help of puppets. Everyone is invited to attend.

Fillies lose to Union in close game

By Lisa Willman

Monday night's game, Dec. 10, with Ione was to be a repeat of Saturday's game against Union with very low scoring—except Heppner lost this time by a score of 18-21.

At halftime the score was the Fillies, nine, Ione seven, all because of turnovers, tight defense and shots unable to be sunk. The second half was a little more aggressive. With 4:08 left in the third quarter Heppner already had five team fouls and Ione had a chance to catch up with foul shots. With two minutes left April Taylor of Ione sank a foul shot to tie the game 13-13. In the last two minutes of the quarter Kara Anstogui and Donita Sharp made their foul shots to put Heppner ahead at the buzzer, 16-13.

With 6:35 left in the fourth quarter Ione tied the score, 16-16. Heppner made a basket for a two point lead but Ione made the next two foul shots to tie the game at 18-18. Ione scored again to take the lead and Ione's Heidi Nelson of sank a foul shot to beat the Fillies by three points. Chrissy Schultz was the Fillies high scorer with five points and Kris Bedorha was Ione's high scorer with seven. Sara Greenup added her four points, five rebounds and six steals for the Fillies.

In the Service

Army Reserve 2nd Lt. George A. Izzett has completed the field artillery officer basic course at Fort Sill, Okla.

During the course, students were taught basic techniques and were introduced to new weapons systems and doctrine.

He is the son of George and Maggie Izzett of Heppner.

The officer is a 1979 graduate of Andrew Jackson High School, Portland, and a 1990 graduate of Portland State University.

Chamber Chatter

By Claudia Hughes, Chamber Manager

Children's Christmas programs, Christmas cards, last minute hurrying, scurrying and worrying, twinkly lights on your tree, the fragrances of the holidays, excitement, church services, and a feeling of snow in the air all indicate Christmas is on the way, ready or not. Make some time to share a Christmas story, pause at Heppner T.V. to view the miniature Christmas village, take a drive to see all the lighted homes, sing some Christmas carols, do something special for someone who least expects it, attend a Christmas Eve church service, look at the starry sky and enjoy this season of love. Remember, Christmas lasts until January 6, so you still have lots of time to enjoy the season after the rush is over.

Heppner Chamber has enjoyed the sounds of Christmas during the last two Chamber meetings as our youth presented Christmas selections during lunch. Doorprizes were Cycle Oregon Souvenir shirts and a beef gift certificate, donated by the Morrow County CattleWomen.

Last week my husband and I were a part of the Christmas boat parade on the Willamette River. That was a fun experience, but as for taking 30 minutes to get out of a mall parking lot...I'll take shopping at home, thank you. Those people lead a different existence and I'm thankful for our less stressful small town living.

It will be next year before Chamber meets again, as Christmas day and New Year's day both fall on Tuesdays. Remember to fill out your surveys enclosed in last week's Gazette and turn in nominations for the Town and Country awards.

Thought for the week: "Use what talents you have...the woods would be silent if no bird sang except those that sing best." Remember that as you sing those Christmas carols. Have a very "Merry Christmas" and thanks for being such a wonderful community of volunteers.



Glad Tidings

Christmas is here, along with our good wishes for a happy, healthy holiday. Our sincere thanks to all.

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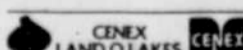
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Merry Christmas and Happy New Year
From all the employees and Directors

We will be **CLOSED** Mon.
Dec. 24 and Tues. Dec. 25 for the
Christmas holiday.

Morrow County Grain Growers
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