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**Teachers earn funds for MCEA opportunity fund**

Morrow County teachers from Heppner and Lone tackled another Forest Service planting contract to earn money for the Morrow County Education Association Opportunity Fund, Sunday, May 5. Nine teachers, three spouses and three students worked from 9 a.m. until 2:30 p.m. planting willow trees in the Bull Prairie and Porter timber sale areas.

MCEA has used the money earned to award \$786 to students for activities such as Hands on Science, the Centennial Exchange and sports camps in addition to sponsoring the three on three volleyball tournament recently held at Heppner High School. Money from the Opportunity Fund will also sponsor a local T-ball team this summer.

"The work activities have been fun as well as rewarding for both teachers and students and future plans are to continue the program," said an MCEA spokesperson.

**Stew feed, game night at Stokes Landing Center**

A "stew feed" and "game night" will be held at Stokes Landing Senior Center in Irrigon, on Friday night, May 31.

The meal will be served from 5 to 7 p.m. and will include monkey bread and a dessert for \$2.50. Game night will follow with card games and table games for all ages. Residents of Irrigon and neighboring communities are welcome to attend.

**Ione Topic Club hears book review**

Members of the Ione Topic Club spent an enjoyable afternoon at the home of Margaret Troedson in Pendleton on Wednesday May 22. Following a lovely luncheon served by Margaret and Helen Proudfoot, the book, "It Was on Fire When I Lay Down on It" by Robert Fulghum, was reviewed by Helen.

"This is a humorous book of sermons-turned-essays with a playfulness to delight the reader," said a club member. "It shows Mr. Fulghum as a natural-born storyteller who can pluck at your heart strings, tickle your funny bone and point up a moral all at the same time."

Members had a book shower of new and entertaining books that will be placed in the library soon.

At the business meeting the group decided to have a "trash and treasures" table at the Ione Fourth of July celebration to benefit the Ione Public Library. Sue Proudfoot was appointed to compile the club scrapbook.


**Garden club to meet June 3**

The Heppner Garden Club meeting will be held Monday, June 3 at the senior center.

The evening will get underway with a potluck at 6:30 p.m. followed by a meeting at 7:30 p.m.

The agenda will include flag etiquette by Arnie Hedman and recitation of a poem on the flag by George Roger of Hermiston.

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**St. Patrick's Senior Center Bulletin Board**

A large crowd attended the farewell party for Seth and VoJean Forquer at the Senior Center Sunday afternoon May 19. We wish them well in their retirement, and will miss them. Chairpersons Shirley Haugan, Harriet Batty and Helen Gilliam and the activities committee hosted the party.

There were 107 people present for the Senior dinner May 15. Five dinners were taken out. Members of the Seventh Day Adventist and Nazarene Churches served. The meal ticket was won by Ed Haugsvar. Darrell Vinson won the door prize and Irene Gonty won the guest prize.

Pam Sagely gave an interesting and informative presentation on rural health May 22 before the Senior dinner. There were 107 people present for dinner and three meals were taken out. Thirteen seniors from the nursing home and three out of town guests were present. Merri Reamer won the free meal ticket, Anna Ball the door prize and Georgiana McDaniels and Gladys Robby of Nevada, the guest prize. Serving was done by members of the Baptist Church. The Nutrition Site Committee met after the dinner. The election of committee members has been postponed to June 12.

The menu for June 5 will be beef stroganoff with noodles, beans, tossed salad with carrots and tomatoes, French bread, pears and cookies. Members of the Episcopal church will serve.

There will be a five county transportation meeting in the dining room June 5 from 9 a.m. to noon.

Mr. and Mrs. Heard, former Heppner residents now living in Milton-Freewater visited the senior center in the afternoon of May 22. They were given a tour of the building.

The public hearing of the senior transportation budget was held in the dining room May 23.

Quilters and Company meet Mondays 1 to 4 p.m. Three ladies have cut out quilt pattern pieces for the new quilt. They will soon be ready to start making the blocks. Anyone wishing to help is welcome to join them.

Exercise class is Tues. & Thurs., 10-10:30 a.m.

Hobby time is Tues, 1-4 p.m.

**Off the Wall** By Merlyn Robinson

Water water everywhere--sometimes there's too much in some places and not enough where it's most needed. But presently the area has been blessed with much-needed moisture.

I also learned that Heppner water is wetter than other well water. Just ask David Winters. With his waterworks wisdom, he told city council that city workers have ways of working wonders with wanton water by using "water wetter" an additive that keeps water from beading.

There are interesting facts to be learned at city council meetings as elected officials wrestle with major utility problems impacted by budget cuts. But it's good to live where people work to surmount obstacles and where there is enough water even for swimming pools. And also it's a place where residents care enough about summer youth activities to donate over \$6 thousand for replacing the city pool filter system.

For the most part, it's business as usual here as several Oregon counties and other states wrestle with water shortages. But since we have so many regulatory agencies already involved in water resources, I fail to comprehend Senator Mark Hatfield's thinking when he says, "It's time for Congress to examine the need to implement a national water policy which will provide the balance necessary to wisely manage what is our most important resource."

I, for one, am a little leery of Hatfield's proposals after he backed the endangered species act which will continue to have repercussions for everyone.

What we do need is Hatfield's influence to get the U.S. Corps of Engineers moving towards building a recreational vehicle park at the Willow Creek Dam lakeside.

The Willow Creek Park District board pounds heads against walls trying to make progress with that project while the bureaucratic wheels, supported by tax dollars, grind very slowly. And other volunteer boards such as the Morrow County Tourism Committee strive at helping to promote local attractions.

It makes sense that travelers will use the scenic by-way and that they will stop over wherever they can find campgrounds. Even if they travel with self-contained travel trailers, the purchase of gasoline could help keep our local service stations in business.

Individually the average citizen doesn't have much clout, but we need to take a page from organized environmentalists' tactics. Numbers do count. And there should be a massive local letter-writing campaign to both Hatfield and other representatives as well as the Corps.

There was a lot of energy used in opposition to the dam being built. But now that it is a permanent fixture, that same type of energy could help capitalize on use of this water resource.


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