

Off the Wall By Merlyn Robinson

When it comes to "Our Town, U.S.A.," Morrow County communities rate top billing. Though not in the same league with Pendleton and its recent famous Round-Up, even there many of our local participants received front-page headlines.

Recent years have seen a resurgence in community pride and the enhancement of lifestyles through the volunteer efforts of many people. In earlier years, get-togethers were more limited to neighborhood elbow-benders, grange dances, picnics and fried chicken on Sundays.

In spite of the current economic pinch for funding city services, people always seem to rise to any occasion. Communities host celebrations that range from fishing derbies and the Watermelon and Harvest Festivals in the north end of the county to Ione's Fourth of July and as far south as Hardman. Even there a very small group worked to refurbish the old hall that is seeing increased use for receptions, reunions and even a ghostly Halloween haunted house.

Like everywhere, differences of opinion sometimes led to clashes. Instead of power plays at meetings, we used to fight over important stuff like who made the best cake or who was the champion arm-wrestler. But more often now, residents seem to be able to pull together for major events.

It takes county-wide participation for the annual fair and rodeo and many active arms and legs for the St. Patrick's Day celebration. And few will forget the bedlam of Cycle Oregon.

Without community involvement resulting in a few "non-union" worker casualties, the Heppner Hotel renovation could never have been accomplished. That facility now provides a quality lifestyle for senior citizens.

Even the negative publicity about Willow Creek Dam was defeated by optimism and a wacky fun-filled celebration. Willow Creek lakeside improvements continue to be battled to enhance recreation from the hook dippers to the zany water skiers and windsurfers who think they can walk on water.

We have a terrific museum that gathers a lot more than dust; frequently updating displays and offering artists' receptions. Currently the photographic display on loan from the state is well worth a few minutes of time.

Community efforts know no seasons. Talented folks with professional sounding music collaborate as a band or a choir for many occasions. A wide variety of artisans and craft people dominate fair time exhibits and the December Artifactory.

The Heppner Main Street improvement project is an exciting idea for sprucing up store fronts, sidewalks and growing picturesque trees. Community celebrations are highlighted by fluttering street decorations upgraded by volunteers and put in place with the help of local utilities.

A new happening will be an intergenerational community play soon to be presented. This was sparked by the interest of energetic people willing to put on a good show.

And then there are those individuals who quietly enhance the town, including garden clubs, merchants and people whose yards make me green-eyed with envy. People like Eleanor Gonty continue to tend to the attractively landscaped area on the rounding corner behind the First Interstate Bank.

Before fall weddings, the frost or beggars like me desecrate the Rawlins' gardens below the grade school, it's worth a trip there to view the many gorgeous blooms that grace a one-forgotten weedy area.

By next year, the town will sport a new Forest Service building—one more positive addition to the town's core. And who knows what ingenious ideas will generate other new looks for upgrading the quality of life in this sparsely-populated county.

Equitable division of medical tax dollars topic of discussion

How tax dollars can be distributed equally for health care in Morrow County and how can supply needs be better met for the First Response Team in Irrigon were two issues raised for discussion by the Morrow County Health Care Council at its meeting held Sept. 26 in Irrigon.

Prior to the meeting, the council toured the Irrigon fire department and learned about the work of the First Response team and its four-wheel response vehicle which was purchased in 1989. This unit is owned by the Morrow County medical board and dispatched out of Hermiston along with a Umatilla ambulance, primarily used within the Irrigon Fire District areas. One of the concerns of the team was time lapsed in purchasing necessary supplies.

After the tour the council met at Irrigon City Hall where community encourager Pam Sagely said that Mountain States Institute, which oversees the health care council, along with the Morrow County Medical Board, has granted funds to the University of Idaho research group to do an economic impact statement on Morrow County. Mor-

row County is one of several areas to be studied in Oregon by the U of Idaho research group. Sagely went on to say that she will be gathering information from the state health services agency on where the people of Morrow County are going for medical services. The consensus of the council felt that this was valuable information. Grace Drake of Heppner has volunteered to help work with the Irrigon-Boardman Senior Citizens focus group until a replacement could be found, added Sagely.

A committee of three headed by Judy Brown, Irrigon, Jack Strege, Boardman and Dave Zachery, Heppner, will study the issues of better service for supplies at the Irrigon First Response Unit. A progress report will be due at the next meeting. Anne Murray, Diane Kilkenny, Pam Sagely, Ray Michaels and Pastor Stan Hoobing will draft a statement regarding equitable distribution of tax dollars for health care in Morrow County.

The next meeting of the Morrow County Health Care Council will be October 23 at 7 p.m. at the Columbia Basin Electric Co-op Board room in Heppner.

Chinese class offered for kids

A Mandarin Chinese language class for kids grades three through sixth will be offered in Heppner beginning Tuesday, Oct. 8, after school. The class, taught by Ronda Wallace, is offered through Blue Mt. Community College continuing education.

The six week course will be a language and culture survey. It is designed to give students an over-

view of Chinese language and society.

Mrs. Wallace has taught an adult Chinese language class through BMCC for the past four years. She lived in Taiwan for two years and studied Chinese at FU REN University.

Registration forms for BMCC continuing education classes may be picked up at the post office.

Family planning info session at St. Pat's

An information session regarding natural family planning will be held at St. Patrick's Parish Hall on Tuesday, October 8 at 7:30 p.m. The program will be presented by Janet McLaughlin who is the Baker diocesan director for natural family planning programs.

Natural family planning is a method of family planning based on a scientific understanding of the biology of conception, said Rev. Gerry Condon of St. Patrick's. It involves observing naturally oc-

curing signs that reliably reflect a woman's fertility, and applying proven rules to the information, he said.

Couples choose NFP for such reasons as health concerns, concern about the negative side effects of other family planning methods, desire to share responsibility for family planning, and concern for morality, said Fr. Condon. Many who use NFP do so because they see the impact on their relationship especially in the area of communication, he added.

The public is welcome to attend.

WCCC ladies elect officers

The Willow Creek Country Club ladies elected new officers for the coming year. President is Luvilla Sonstegard; secretary/treasurer Carol Norris; vice president Coral Mitchell and board member Neoma Bailey.

Eddie Skow Tournament awards were presented to Jo Pettyjohn, first

and Maggie Izzett, second. Coral Mitchell received the consolation prize.

Club championship went to Anita Boyer and most improved were Martha Peterson and Luvilla Sonstegard.

We would like to thank all our friends and relatives who helped us celebrate our 50th wedding anniversary. All the flowers, cards and gifts were wonderful.

Marj & LeRoy

Helicopter seeds timber sale units



Bell Jet Ranger with hopper seeder

Range technician Jim VanWinkle and forestry technician Candi Eighme, along with helicopter manager Greg Durfee supervised the seeding of 15 timber sale units around the Kelly Prairie on Sept. 18. The seeding was done by the Rambling Rotors of LaGrande in their Bell Jet Ranger 206 B3 with a hopper seeder.

A total of 431 acres was seeded using 2155 pounds of seed, a mix-

ture of orchard grass, small burnet, white dutch clover, yellow blossom sweet clover and winter wheat. These units were seeded to cut back on soil erosion, noxious weeds and to provide wildlife and livestock forage. The helicopter was utilized because it can quickly get the seeding done and is more cost efficient, according to a Forest Service news release.

Course aids women in handling finances



Photo by Joyce Hughes

L-R: Sharon Woodside, Cindy Osterlund, Geri Grieb and Kathy Clark look over materials to be used in financing class.

Death or divorce often forces women to face financial decisions in mid-life that they feel unprepared to make.

The new seven-session workshop series addressing their needs will be sponsored by the Morrow County Cooperative Extension Service beginning Wednesday, October 9, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the school district office in Lexington.

Although the workshop is aimed at women, men and couples are welcome too, according to Carol Bennett, Extension agent for Morrow County.

The registration fee is \$12 to cover the cost of a workbook and handouts which give step-by-step instructions on how to organize your finances, keep personal records, balance your budget, choose a bank, obtain a credit card, invest your savings or insurance benefits and plan your

Passport fees to increase

Passport fees will increase November 1 according to Morrow County Clerk Barbara Bloodsworth.

Bloodsworth said that execution fees will be raised from \$7 to \$10, in addition to passport fee increases from \$35 to \$50 for adults and \$20 to \$30 for children 18 years and under. Bloodsworth said that increases are set by the federal government. Adult passports are valid for 10 years and children's for five years.

estate.

The course is limited to the first 30 paid registrants. Mail your fee to Morrow County Extension, PO Box 397, Heppner, OR 97836.

Vicki Lang of Umatilla County Family Community Leadership Program will be the guest speaker on October 9. The program will start with "Getting Organized: Where Are You Now, Where Do You Want To Be?"

Other sessions include:

October 16: "Money Management Planning: How Does Your Cash Flow?" with guest speaker Pam Stocker, Inland Empire Bank, Hermiston;

October 23: "Banking and Credit: Tools for Your Cash Flow;"

October 30: "Managing Your Risks, Community Services, Insurance" with Marianne Kahl of VanMarter & Kahl Insurance, Heppner;

November 6: "Deciding What If...Social Security, Health Care and Medical Insurance." Guest panel, Jean McDaniel, Pendleton branch manager of Social Security Administration, and John Otis, Simmons and Fischer Insurance, Hermiston;

November 13: "Investing for Retirement" Bruce Jones of Edward D. Jones & Co. of Hermiston;

November 20: "Legal Help: Wills, Probate, Power of Attorney - Where and How to Get It" with Ann Spicer, Heppner attorney.

Morrow County Historical Society
Annual Meeting
 Sunday, October 6, 1991
 Lexington Grange
 Turkey potluck dinner 1:30 p.m.
 Program by Joyce Bagley Smith
 Special Music
 Ad Courtesy of Faith and John Jordan-Woolery House

ATTENTION GOLFERS!



WCCC Work Day

Saturday, Oct. 5
 Start at 8 a.m. Bring rakes, shovels, etc.
 Lunch will be served

Morrow County Grain Growers, Inc.
 1800 457-7395 P.O. Box 367
 Phone 989-8271 LEXINGTON, OREGON 97839

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| | \$28.56 | | DELSEY Bath Tissue 4-Pack [] White | 24/4 | \$ 1.59 | \$1.19 | \$ 9.60 |
| | \$35.64 | | KLEENEX Facial Tissue 175 ct [] White [] Assorted | 36/175 | \$ 1.39 | \$.99 | \$14.40 |
| | \$33.36 | | KLEENEX Facial Tissue Family Size [] White [] Assorted | 24/250 | \$ 1.99 | \$1.39 | \$14.40 |
| | \$32.04 | | KLEENEX BOUTIQUE Facial Tissue [] Prints [] Assorted | 36/95 | \$ 1.29 | \$.99 | \$14.40 |
| | \$23.26 | | KLEENEX Dinner Napkins | 24/50 | \$ 1.49 | \$.99 | \$12.00 |
| | \$35.88 | | HUGGIES Baby Wipes | 12/80 | \$ 3.49 | \$2.99 | \$ 6.00 |
| | \$40.76 | | HUGGIES Supertrim Diapers Bulk Pack [] Newborn 60s [] Med. 40s [] Lg. 32s | 4 | \$10.99 | \$10.19 | \$ 3.20 |
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