

# Gazette imes

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## Well traveled minister settles in Ione

By Anne Morter

Lea Mathieu has lived in many parts of the country including New York City, Seattle, Alaska and Connecticut, but as of January 1, she calls Ione home as the newly appointed United Church of Christ minister.

Just how did Mathieu land in Ione? It all started when she met a former minister from Ione, Kathy Barker, at a meeting in Cleveland, Ohio. "She raved about the community and about the church," said Lea, although at that time, she was still convinced that she was a true-blue city dweller and not interested in small towns. Well time and people change, and about two years later when Lea was conducting her own nationwide job search, she saw that Ione was listed on the denomination's national listing. Remembering her conversation with Kathy Barker, she found herself quite interested in the position. She was a candidate on December 8, and after reviewing all the applicants, the congregation voted unanimously to offer Lea the job.

Lea graduated in 1990 from the Union Theological Seminary in the Manhattan area of New York City. From there she did an internship at Hartford, Connecticut. Her most recent position was in Seattle where she was employed by Catholic Community Service working at a shelter for homeless women.

A self-described "army brat," Lea grew up in many different locations, including Alaska. Home base is Seattle, where she has lived off and on for the past 10 years.

Aside from the usual differences people notice between Ione and the big city, Lea notes the biggest change is the owner-



Lea Mathieu

ship of a car. For the first time in her 34 years, she has been forced to own a car, a bright, shiny red 1991 Subaru. Previously she got around by public transportation in the various cities.

She also looks forward to adding a cuddly canine to her family. "I can't remember the last time I lived in a place with a yard," she said.

Of her new position, Lea says, "I love it. I've been here a week and I feel totally at home. One parishioner who came to visit said it looked like I had lived here

forever," she laughed. Harold Rietmann, a member of the search committee, said that the congregation seems quite pleased with its selection. "So far, everything has been positive," he said.

For now, Lea is busy getting out and visiting all the active parishioners and finding that to be quite an enjoyable chore. Services at the United Church of Christ are at 11 a.m. and Lea stresses that everyone is welcome to attend.

## Robin Baker appointed Ione city mayor



Robin Baker

Robin Baker, 37, has been appointed mayor of Ione to fill out the term of Mark Tullis, who resigned. Tullis' term expires in Nov.

Baker has worked extensively with the Oregon Trail group and is involved with the tourism committee. She said that as mayor she will be working with the Ione pipeline project. A natural gas pipeline from Alberta, Canada to California will pass through Ione and will be installed parallel to existing pipeline. Installation is expected to begin this month.

Born and raised in Portland, Baker came to Ione 18 years ago when she married her husband, Robert, an Ione native. They have five children, 16, 15-year old twins, 11 and four.

## Pool options detailed

# City pool operation doubtful this year

Heppner City Administrator Gary Marks told members of the city pool committee Jan. 15 that the city has no money to fund the pool, but even if it did, the pool is in such bad shape that it should not be opened.

Marks showed videotapes of the pool, illustrating the deterioration of the pool, the heating system, filtering system, deck and changing room facilities. He and city crew foreman Dave Winters also expressed their concern over the pool draining system. According to state regulations, a pool of that size must have more than one drain to lessen the chance that a small child be unable to escape the force of the drain.

Winters and Marks said that pipe leakage underneath the pool is causing cracks in the cement deck. Cinderblocks, which are being used to prop up the failing foundation of the pool deck are being undermined by an ongoing washing away of the earth. Officials fear that the situation could lead to a cave-in of the pool deck.

Also of concern is the build up of sediment and corrosion in the pipes which restricts the water circulation and contributes to the water quality problems. The pool was closed 12 days last summer because of water problems.

Marks detailed several options to deal with the pool situation including formation of a new recreation district which would tax residents in Heppners four precincts for money to build a

new pool and an operating tax base. If the committee decides to go with this option the pool would probably be closed for two seasons. If they choose that option, the issue would probably be on the Nov. 1992 ballot and, if passed, construction would follow the spring and summer of 1993.

Marks estimates that construction and land acquisition would be around \$900,000 at 1.1882 per thousand assessed valuation with an operating tax base of around \$25,000 at .3565 per thousand assessed valuation. The cost for a \$40 thousand home would be around \$62 a year for construction and operating expenses. He said that a city taxpayer with a \$40 thousand home now pays around \$50 a year for upkeep and operation of the pool, a difference of about \$12 a year.

Marks and Winters also showed videotapes of several styles of pools they had visited last summer and gave ballpark construction costs for the pools.

Besides forming a new park district, other pool options detailed by Marks included:

- funding the pool and operating it in its current condition. Frequent closures should be expected and safety hazards could threaten swimmers;

- renovating the existing pool and funding it through a bond levy. Cuts would have to be made in other departments; condition of the pool would indicate almost total reconstruction; funding would require all or more of the city's debt limit and would not allow for emergencies or updating of the fire department equipment;

- funding a new pool through a city bond levy. Additional funding would be needed to make up the difference between the city's allowable debt and the cost of the

pool. Additional cuts would be made in other general fund

departments to provide operating funds; other areas of city service would not be allowed access to financing for necessary equipment; the city would use all its credit limit and place itself in a precarious position should an unexpected emergency arise requiring debt financing; the city would have to find sources for over \$200 thousand in additional funding;

- seeking a bank loan to fund construction of a new pool. Additional cuts would have to be made in other general fund departments to provide necessary operating funds; and the city does not have resources to fund the cost of a conventional loan;

- approaching the school district about picking up the provision of pool facilities. Because of Ballot Measure 5, the district would probably have difficulty in funding operation costs and viability of the bond measure is doubtful because the district would include all of Morrow County, including the north end which would not benefit from a pool in Heppner;

- approaching the Willow Creek Park District about picking up the provision of pool facilities. Since the district includes areas as far as Ione the viability of funding is questionable; and the district might not want to expand its scope beyond the current RV project.

Pool committee members are to discuss the options with the public and meet on Wednesday, Feb. 5 at 7 p.m. at the city hall. Committee members are Jean Strange, Barbara Watkins, Bob Kahl, Kay Robinson, Cara Osmin, Martha Doherty and Steve Dickenson, chairman.

## Kay Robinson reappointed Heppner mayor

Kay Robinson was reappointed Heppner city mayor to fill out the term of previous mayor Cara Osmin. Robinson will serve until the end of this year.

Osmin was forced to resign when she moved out of the city limits.

Robinson, 61, began her four-year term as a council member in January 1989. In August she was appointed to Osmin's position until Dec. 31, 1991. Both the council and mayoral positions expire Dec. 31, 1992.

The council also appointed Bob Kahl, Joyce Kay Hollomon and John Edmundson to the city budget committee and Howard Gilliam, Cara Osmin and Florence Holt to the Heppner Housing Authority.

## Two file for school board spot

Bill Doherty, Lexington incumbent, and Ed Hiemstra, Heppner, have filed for the Zone 6 at-large Morrow County School Board position, according to the Morrow County Clerk's office.

No one had filed at press time for the Zone 2 Irrigon position, currently held by Dwayne Carrol. Carrol said that he will file unless someone else steps forward. If no

one files for the school board position the board may appoint someone to fill that spot until the next election.

Filing deadline is Thurs., Jan. 23 at 5 p.m.

Jim Hankins, Boardman has filed for the Boardman-Irrigon school board advisory position #3.

## Jim Kindle named to East Shrine football team



Jim Kindle

Jim Kindle, Heppner High School senior, has been named to the East-West Shrine first team. A.K. "Lucky" Felt said that Kindle was chosen as a tackle and fullback, and added that he is a "triple threat." The East-West Shrine football game is scheduled for August 8 in Baker City.

Kindle is the son of Michael and LaRae Kindle of Heppner.

Derek Calvert, a Weston-McEwen guard and Tony Woolridge, a Umatilla halfback, were other players named to the first team. Alternates are Steve Sheller, Umatilla Guard,

Rusty Green, Umatilla quarterback, Clint Earl, Stanfield halfback; Mike Spencer, Sherman Co. guard, Chris Humphreys, Spray fullback and Trevor McCoy, Condon punter-kicker.

Players named to the Single A Big Sky Conference are Justin Bales, Dufur halfback and Don Melzer, Sherman Co. halfback.

Felt said that Heppner High School has had a player on the Shrine team for the last five years and for 31 of the 40 years the game has been held. The game, sponsored by the Association of Shrine Clubs throughout Oregon, benefits the Shrine Hospital. He added that for the last three years the game has been the fifth most successful fund raiser in the U.S.

Thirty first team and 30 alternates are chosen for the East and the West teams. Players are nominated and voted on by coaches in the conference and then players are chosen from the nominees.

Those wishing to purchase tickets may contact Felt. Felt is in his third year as statewide ticket chairman.

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