

St. Patrick's Senior Center Bulletin Board



The Senior Transportation Budget Committee met before the Senior dinner on Dec. 9, with the Senior Board meeting after dinner. One hundred ten people were present for dinner with five meals taken out. Members of the Mormon Church did the serving. Paul Warren won the meal ticket and Ed Hunt won the door prize. Bill and Winifred Cox are the host and hostess December. The high school band entertained.

Ernie McCabe, Sharon Harrison and Travis and Kirsten Harrison decorated the dining room for Christmas Monday evening, Dec. 7. Their thoroughness is much appreciated.

Ralph Walker brought a beautiful big pine tree for the Rec. room Dec. 10. It has been decorated by tenants of the apartments, with the help of Ray and Norma French.

The menu for December 23 is chicken rice casserole, green beans and apple raisin salad, rolls and pudding. Members of the Seventh Day Adventist and Nazarine Churches will serve.

Two weeks ago a pair of prescription glasses were found at the Center following the AAA meeting and Senior dinner. They are at the desk in the office.

Dates to remember: Monday 10:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m. Bible study; Tuesday and Thursday 10-10:30 a.m. exercise; Wednesday noon Senior dinner.

Give the gift of life and donate blood Thursday, Dec. 17, from 1 to 6 p.m. at the Senior Center dining room.

Off the Wall By Marilyn Robinson

If that well-worn calendar slides into the waste basket with some missed appointments this year, don't worry. There's a complete new year ahead with plenty of time for mistakes and many days to accomplish things not finished in 1992.

December is always a flurry with good intentions such as baked goods that I hoped to have stored for the holidays. Ah shucks, my good excuse is that people like me don't need all those calories.

It's difficult to determine priorities anymore, not only mine but the good intentions of others. Heppner has met major funding challenges this past year under good leadership. While the city sewer system continues to be a happy 'Hair puller' the fire-happy volunteer firemen enjoyed burning their happy home while assured of getting a new roof over their heads.

A big buck item is a new swimming pool. Fond wishes are that it could be a year-around facility. Body soakers like me would enjoy a heated spa boiling in one corner of that proposed complex. School athletes could pamper bruised muscles, aquatics would lend to year-around conditioning and maybe the road runners could ease up on tired arches and aching bunions.

But the town fathers seem to think that highest priority is for school sports costing about \$80,000. Compared to the use of the pool, football field lights are only used about six times a year for evening games.

It seems that the fair and rodeo 'gave away the farm' with field lights only used one night per year. The present set-up will shove the rodeo and stock pens farther into the back corner, although the original plan said that the two north-side light poles would be set at the edge of the grass area.

For lack of money, the rodeo people will probably have to drag many panels to town once the livestock corrals are torn down. And will older folks that are used to sitting in a covered grandstand going to want to sit on bleachers in the sun or rain?

Traffic congestion during fair at the main gate has always been a problem. Add to that the trucking-in and unloading of rodeo livestock. Now it's said that there can be no major road access to the lower end of the grounds. How come the needs of the rodeo are the last consideration when the grounds were deeded for the continuance of a rodeo?

Volunteers had already laid out a master plan that was much like the \$25,000 spent on a professional analysis. However those plans do not include any improved fair livestock facilities. Perhaps that need will be met when the wind brings to the ground the old pole-constructed livestock buildings.

In terms of dollars per use, a larger indoor fairgrounds arena would not only accommodate fair livestock needs, but it would provide a year-around activity and income source.

Getting back to personal priorities, somehow the tangle of Christmas lights isn't high on that list. After getting cards addressed and mailed, I'm tempted to buy a few goodies and hang up my Christmas stocking that seems to have developed a hole in the toe.

EMT members receive continuing ed grants

The South Morrow County EMT Association is making use of training and continuing education grants they received from the LaGrande based Northeast Oregon Health Education Center.

Nine area residents received grants that paid for a portion of their EMT certification instruction. They are all volunteers with the South Morrow EMT Association.

Those receiving EMT I certification were: Rachel Norton, certified nurse aide, Pioneer Memorial nursing home; Kim Borst, dispatcher, Morrow Co. Sheriff's Office; Judith Durkee, nurse aide; Pioneer Memorial Hospital; Dawn Garrett, CNA, Pioneer Memorial Hospital; John Collin, mill worker, Kinzua Corp.; Diane Grant, Pioneer Memorial Hospital; Tick Moulton, CNA, Pioneer Memorial Hospital; Barbara Judd, CNA, Basic life Support instructor, Pioneer Memorial Hospital; and Harvey Childers, mechanic, Ione.

The association also received a \$1,000 grant from NEOAHEC that will be used for pediatric emergency care training for EMT providers from the Heppner, Lexington, Ione and Boardman areas.

NEOAHEC is a private, non-profit organization that was formed in 1991 to attract new, and retain current health professionals in Northeast Oregon, and to educate the public on consumer health issues. In its first year, NEOAHEC's board of directors

placed a priority on training and recruitment of physicians, nurses and EMT's.

The EMT grant program was developed in response to problems that were identified by NEOAHEC in interviews with key emergency medical service contacts in the region.

The interviews revealed that the primary barriers to obtaining EMTs in rural areas included expense and time commitment for training, and a lack of qualified instructors, training equipment and educational materials. Once trained, EMTs experience frustration with maintaining their skills and meeting recertification training requirements.

Other facets of NEOAHEC's efforts to assist EMTs include obtaining grants for the purchase of training equipment and financial support for volunteer EMTs who participate in instructor development courses provided by Oregon State Health Division's Emergency Medical Section.

NEOAHEC, whose offices are located at Eastern Oregon State College, works in partnership with Oregon Health Sciences University to provide education and training through residencies and continuing education programs in Baker, Gilliam, Grant, Malheur, Morrow, Umatilla, Union, Wallowa and Wheeler counties. The AHEC program, which will eventually cover each region of the state, has been a university priority since Dr. Peter Kohler became OHSU's president in 1988.

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