

HEPPNER



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Concern for kids turns into 21 year career for Pat Edmundson

Concern for her own children brought this young elementary school teacher to Morrow County. This concern turned into a 21 year career of love and caring for over 400 area first graders. And now, after all those kids and all those years, Heppner Elementary School first grade teacher Pat Edmundson has announced her retirement at the end of the school year.

"That's a lot of kids—to touch their lives," said Pat. "But more than that they touch yours."

Pat and her husband, John, first came to Morrow County 21 years ago when he was hired as principal at the Ione school and she began teaching at Heppner. "We wanted our children to have the same freedoms we did when we were growing up," said Pat. Gaining those freedoms meant a move from the Salem area to a more rural environment. After three years in Ione the family moved to Heppner where they have been ever since.

"Teaching is still exciting," said Pat, whose high school experience as a teacher's aide led her to a career in education.

Pat completed her early education at Hoisington, Kansas. After the fourth grade the family moved to Hood River where she met her husband to be. They dated in junior high and knew they wanted to be married even then, she said. When Pat was in the eighth grade her family moved to The Dalles where she graduated from high school. Both she and John attended Willamette University and then, certain that she wanted to become a teacher, transferred to Oregon State and then to Oregon College of Education at Monmouth. She student taught at a lab school at OCE where children are taught in a classroom on a college campus and often are observed by many teaching students.

Before coming to Morrow County Pat taught a different grade level each year. "I thought to stay interested and motivated I had to change every year. But then I came here and each year has been different."

Pat says that many teaching methods used many years ago have come full circle and are being used again. But so much more learning is being compressed and children are expected to know so much more at an earlier stage. "It's amazing what they know at the end of the first grade," she added. "Society expects so much."

Pat stresses a warm positive environment and her classroom is



Pat Edmundson

decorated with bright displays of the children's own work. "I know that I like to be in a pleasant, comfortable, non-threatening environment and the kids do too. Not all children learn in the same way," she adds, so she includes sign language, visual and oral lessons.

Contrary to stories of parents lack of concern about their children's education, Pat says that parents are interested and supportive. She also says that working mothers are getting a lot of criticism and feel a lot of guilt that they don't deserve. "I was a

working mother," said Pat. "And I still had time for my children."

One thing that disturbs Pat is the loss of freedom for children nowadays. "Children don't have the freedoms they used to enjoy—the joy of meeting strangers. We now have to teach children a certain amount of fear."

Pat says that technology has brought great changes both to the classrooms and to the children's futures. "Technology opens up so much more material in the classroom and so many more opportunities. It's so much more open ended. In some cases we don't even know what's waiting for them. We just need to get the skills in place."

As far as Pat's future, she says she plans to get more involved in the community, perhaps get in a little more golf and most importantly, spend time with her granddaughters, Jordan, 4, and Jillian, 2, the daughters of Pat's daughter, Kristi Smalley, who is an elementary school teacher at Hermiston; Erin, 7 and Kirsten, 4, the daughters of her daughter Vicki Brookshire, who is a pharmacist in Baker; and Emily, 9, the daughter of her son, Jeff, who is a building contractor in Pendleton.

Mike McGuire named postmaster



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Mike McGuire, interim Heppner postmaster since the retirement of Ken Nairns July 31 has been named permanent postmaster, effective May 1.

McGuire, 32, formerly from Tygh Valley, started his career with the post office six years ago as a clerk at Dayton. After seven months there, he transferred to another clerk's position at McMinnville. He was named postmaster at Tygh Valley, which is around 30 miles south of The Dalles, in September of 1990. McGuire was born in Baker and has lived in Bend, Mitchell and Amity.

McGuire and his wife, Nancy have three children.

McGuire will be installed in a ceremony on May 27 at 11 a.m. at the post office.

Signups being taken for Babe Ruth

Heppner, Ione, and Lexington girls and boys between the ages of 13 and 15 interested in playing Babe Ruth baseball this summer should contact Rick Johnston, 676-5562, by May 15.

Johnston says that if there is not enough interest in the program, they will not be able to field a team this year. "It is very important that we continue to have Babe Ruth baseball because it is through the summer baseball programs that our high school programs are formed," said Johnston. "Our high school programs have been very successful the last few years and should be

Murray Drugs joins pharmacy cooperative

Murray pharmacies in Heppner and Condon as well as Prairie Pharmacy in Prairie City have joined United Drugs, the largest cooperative of independently owned pharmacies in the west.

As United Drugs members they will benefit from the cooperative's base of more than 450 drug stores in 11 states and be able to provide increased service and product selection to customers, said a news release. The pharmacies will also be link-

ed to United's headquarters for pricing updates on hundreds of products through the cooperative's "ESP" customer savings program.

John Murray, owner of the three pharmacies, said the cooperative is the ideal way for independent pharmacies to match the volume buying of large chain stores and increase their service without losing individual ownership and management. He can now continue to offer the high

level of personal neighborhood service that has been the hallmark of the independent pharmacist while passing along the benefits of United's purchasing power and management assistance, the release said.

United Drugs, owned by its members, was formed in 1977. It served pharmacies in Arizona, Alaska, California, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington and Wyoming.

Tour of South Morrow County set

The Morrow County Association for Family and Community Education is sponsoring an educational tour of South Morrow County on Tuesday, May 11. This tour is designed to help newcomers, old-timers, visitors and anyone interested to learn more about Morrow County.

The tour will begin at the Morrow County Museum, with registration and coffee from 9 to 9:30 a.m. The museum will open early, so that tour participants may view the exhibits devoted to the Heppner flood of 1903. Buses will take tour members to the top of Willow Creek Dam to see the little creek that destroyed more than 200 lives in just a few minutes back in 1903.

The tour party will go south toward Ruggs and Anson Wright park. The wild flowers along the

route should be especially beautiful in May, said Carol Michael Bennet, Extension agent. Lunch will be served in the "almost a ghost-town" of Hardman in the restored IOOF Hall.

After lunch, the busses will travel back roads to historic school sites, Valby church and century cemetery. A visit to the TREO game bird aviary will be the final stop before returning to Heppner. Those interested may tour the Morrow County Museum in greater detail at that time.

The 1993 tour is in recognition of the annual Homemakers' Day. Several long time members will receive 50 year membership pins. The tour, organized by Morrow County Extension Study Groups, is open to everyone. A tour registration fee of \$6 includes

coffee at the museum and lunch in Hardman.

Cost of bus transportation will vary according to the number of people on the bus. The Stokes Landing Center bus will be available to bring participants from Irrigon to Heppner, as well as carry participants on the tour route. The St. Patricks Center bus will also take participants on the tour route.

"Anyone interested in a fun spring tour of Morrow County on May 11 can reserve a spot by sending a check for \$6 payable to Morrow County Advisory Council, P.O. Box 397, Heppner, OR 97836" said a spokesperson.

Registration is required by May 7. Call the Morrow County Extension Office (503) 676-9642 for more information.

Ione July 4th plans being made

This year's Ione Fourth of July celebration will be bigger, and last longer than last year, co-chairman Jim Swanson said Tuesday.

The July 4th committee held a meeting April 21 and decided to increase the size of the fireworks display, and hold some of the activities on Saturday, July 3.

The recent addition of a three on three basketball tournament has proven to be very popular and will be held on Saturday. There will be a junior high division in the tournament this year says Swanson, who along with Michelle Raible is chairing the annual Fourth of July celebration.

Other events planned for Sunday, July Fourth are a fun run, continental breakfast, bed race, dance at the Legion Hall, and of course the big fireworks display.

Another meeting of the committee is scheduled for Wednesday, May 19 at Beechers restaurant, and anyone wishing to participate in the celebration is urged to attend, Swanson said.

Community CPR classes scheduled

A community CPR class sponsored by Pioneer Memorial Hospital will be held Saturday, May 22 at the hospital.

Four sessions are planned, with classes to be held at 8 a.m., 10 a.m., 1 p.m. and 3 p.m.

To register call PMH 676-9133 weekdays from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. or write to the hospital. There is no charge for the class.

Signups being taken for Babe Ruth

for at least the next couple," he said.

Johnston stressed that once Babe Ruth programs are dropped in a community it is very difficult to get them started again in future years.

"I feel this is a very good program and I urge parents to get behind their kids and encourage them to participate," Johnston added. "Baseball is on the upswing in Heppner so let's not let it die."

Missing nine year-olds found

Two nine year-old Irrigon girls reported missing around 7 p.m. on May 1 were returned home unharmed the following day around 8 a.m.

According to Morrow County Sheriff Roy Drago the girls had apparently gotten into trouble

earlier and then spread their clothes out on the beach at the Irrigon Marina in order to fake a drowning. Drago said that a diving team was about to be dispatched from the Tri-Cities area when the girls were discovered in a boat at the marina.

Young entrepreneurs gain experience



L-R: Amy, Matt and Daniel Jepsen with their tomato plants and Hot Kap

M.A.D. Tomatoes are the latest enterprise for three Heppner area children. M.A.D. is an acronym for Matthew, Amy and Daniel Jepsen's Sub Arctic Plenty Tomatoes. The project is an outgrowth of the family's search for an extra early tomato variety. According to their parents Bill and Nancy Jepsen, the Sub Arctic Plenty is the world's earliest maturing tomato variety. The family tried the variety last year in their garden west of Heppner and had their first fruits by July 4. This variety will mature one to two weeks earlier than Early Girl varieties.

Because plants of this tomato variety are not available to purchase in this area, the family thought it might be a good learning experience and one with some profit potential for the three oldest

children. After some experimentation with grow lights, fertilizers and potting methods, the children started seedlings earlier this spring in their basement. They started selling their tomato plants about 10 days ago. M.A.D. Tomatoes also feature a king size "Hot Kap" to cover the newly transplanted vines. This allows gardeners to plant earlier without fear of losing the plants to frost. Matthew also helped to put together an information sheet to hand out to each buyer.

So far, the children have had good success selling their plants to neighbors and friends they've come in contact with. Their grandparents, Bob and Suzanne Jepsen, also have some available at their house in Heppner. They hope to expand their sales next spring.

Ballots due in clerk's office May 18

Ballots were mailed to county voters this week.

Voters will decide whether to approve a \$3,277,550 operating levy outside the tax base.

The levy will provide funds to

balance the county operating budget.

Ballots must be returned to the clerk's office by 8 p.m. on Tuesday, May 18.

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