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New events promise to make Ione's two day 4th of July celebration best ever

By Anne Morter

Two days of festivities promise to make this year's Fourth of July celebration in Ione one of the best ever. Following the Oregon Trail motif, the theme is "The Trail From Independence to Ione...For the Independence I Own". Betty Rietmann and her family will serve as grand marshals of the annual parade held this year on Sunday at 11 a.m.

Activities begin Saturday afternoon at 4 p.m. with a new event, a junior three-on-three basketball tournament. The tourney is open to boys and girls who have completed grades six, seven and eight. There is no entry fee and interested teams should contact Dick Allen 422-7563 or Jim Swanson 422-7162.

Following the tournament the Ken Snider Memorial Auction will take over the gym, featuring a wide assortment of items including dinners, guided hunting and fishing trips, food items and much more. Proceeds from the auction and the Ken Snider Memorial Tennis Tournament, to be played following the auction, will go to the Ken Snider Memorial Scholarship Fund. The competitive adult three-on-three basketball tournament starts at 6:30 p.m. Contact Gregg Rietmann for entry information. The evening will conclude with a youth dance at the Legion Hall. Dustin Padberg will be the DJ and there is no charge.

Another new event is first on the agenda Sunday. At 7:30 a.m. the gun will sound for the "Dawn's Early Light Fun Run and Walk". Registration begins at 6:30 a.m. for the 5K run and 3K walk. The run and walk will begin at the flag pole at the football field. Contact Jim or Michelle Raible 422-7037 for information.

A continental breakfast of rolls, coffee and juice will be served in the city park at 9:30 a.m. Prizes and awards for the run and walk will be presented at that time. The parade, which is always a highlight, starts at 11 a.m. at the MCGG elevator. Featured will be the Morrow County Court, a collection of antique roadsters, floats, equestrian groups and much more.

After the parade, it's lunch time. All sorts of delicious eats will be available in the park and surrounding area. Activities for kids will abound, like chalk drawing, a fish pond, straw money pile, face painting, and frog jumping. The afternoon will also feature many other contests including horseshoes, baseball throw, hoop shoot, volleyball tournament, cow chip toss and the bed race. Ruth McCabe, a local history buff, will lead two guided historical tours of the town. Other features include children's races at the school, an Oregon Trail presentation by Jean Nelson and a tour of the Well Springs site.

At 6 p.m. a mouth-watering chicken dinner will be served by the Cardinal Club. Kessler's will barbecue the chicken and the Cardinal Club will fill out the dinner with salads, baked beans, bread and drinks. The cost is $6 for adults and $3 for children under 12. Hot dogs will be available for $1.

Fireworks are slated for dusk. This year the fireworks are dedicated to the late Bob Rietmann, who had 45 continuous years of involvement with the fireworks before his death from a heart attack this past spring.

Following the fireworks, 14NI (formerly the Jim Ackley Band) will play at the Legion Hall. The popular group played last year with rave reviews from young to old.

School board takes no action on playground equipment request

The Morrow County School Board, at its regular meeting Monday, June 21, took no action on a $2,845 request made by Heppner Elementary principal Bryan Traylor and Parents Club president Virginia 'George' Nairns for funding for playground equipment at Heppner Elementary School. The board commended the group for their fund raising efforts, but said that the 1993-94 budget was already in place and requests for funds must be made through the budget process.

The Parents Club raised over $9,500 for new handicap accessible playground equipment through fund raisers and donations. Kinzua donated $3,671; Finley Buttes landfill tippage fees $2,500; the Odd Fellows $500; private donations $325; and First Interstate $10 in addition to $2,500 raised by the club.

According to Traylor, the old playground equipment must be replaced to make the equipment handicap accessible and for safety and insurance reasons. Board president Marcia Kemp said that the board had not heard of the status of the playground equipment prior to the meeting. "I think we should have been notified earlier than this," said Kemp. "If you know we have unsafe structures we should know about it."

If the group was not able to get funding for the entire playground package, Nairns said that they may order part of the equipment, although the club would save money if the order is prepaid and if the equipment is shipped as a whole.

Traylor said that the two most unsafe pieces of equipment, the slides and the jungle gym have already been removed. The present equipment was installed in 1954 when the school was built. The new equipment will include a multi-level platform with a spiral slide, a wave slide with a tunnel, a climbing pole, a corkscrew climber, a steering wheel and a Tic Tac Toe game. Nairns earlier said that the Lions Club will also be donating half of their proceeds from Fourth of July firework sales. Other gifts include a donation of bark chips from Kinzua and donations of labor from David Allstott, Jerry Gentry, Jim Lankford and Ken Eckman.

In other business the board:

-raised the prices for school breakfasts from 50 cents to 60 cents for students and from 50 cents to 75 cents for adults. Business manager Shirley Landauer said that the increases, along with reimbursements from the state, should cover the cost of the meals, including labor costs;

-adopted the 1993-94 school district budget of $14,549,402. Property taxes will be levied in the amount of $9,004,348;

-awarded the bids for two school buses to Western Bus Sales of Clackamas;

-approved the following transfers/reassignments and reductions:

A.C. Houghton Elementary-Beth Creason, halftime kindergarten teacher to Sam Boardman kindergarten; Anne Orcutt, assistant cook to Riverside High School;

Columbia Junior High-Ruth Sullivan, assistant cook to A.C. Houghton; one vacant assistant cook position at Columbia Junior High;

Heppner Elementary-Cherry Webber, kindergarten to first grade; Kitty Bredemeier, music Heppner elementary, middle and junior high will also teach one period of choir at Heppner High School;

Heppner High School-Gwyn Franklin counselor to counselor at Columbia Junior High; Barbara Hayes, librarian to counselor; Ginger Bowman instructional assistant to library technician; Martha Munkers, five hours instructional asst., three hours assistant cook, three hours assistant cook eliminated; Bobbi Angell six hours assistant cook reduced to four hours;

Ione Schools-Bobbi Childers, three hours assistant cook and 1.5 hours as instructional assistant eliminated; Geneva Mathews, band and choir will also include band at Heppner Middle School; Sue Warren, halftime kindergarten to Heppner Elementary fulltime kindergarten;

Riverside High School-Margaret Ramirez, four hours instructional assistant to six hours at the English Skills Center, based at Riverside, but federally funded; Marchell Downey, four hours as instructional assistant eliminated; Pat Quarisa, two hours instructional assistant to Sam Boardman;

Sam Boardman Elementary-Cheryl Costello/Marchell Downey, four hours instructional assistant to Riverside High School; Ron Prindle, grade two to grade four; Pam Files, half time kindergarten to second grade;

Approved the following employment: Bill Baker, Heppner Elementary custodian; Sharon Erk, Sam Boardman reading specialist; Norma Gaffney, A.C. Houghton teacher; Gary Hunt, Columbia Junior High, science teacher; John Thomas, Riverside social studies, language arts teacher; Judy Buck, Sam Boardman special education assistant; Jewell Delong, A.C. Houghton special education assistant Richard 'Burke' O'Brien, transportation manager; Lisa Beyeler, Riverside PE instructional assistant; Barbara Harrison, A.C. Houghton third grade;

-approved the board meeting calendar, the Umatilla ESD Migrant Program Transportation request; the Boardman Pioneer Days transportation request and site-based council requests for Heppner Elementary, Middle and High and Ione;

-adopted a district-wide art and social studies curriculum;

-heard principals' reports on the close of the school year;

-heard a report on the Saxon Mah Project by Dr. Don Holes. Dr. Holes, principal at Columbia Junior High provided data that showed an increase in math scores since the Saxon method was adopted;

-denied the Morrow County Education Association grievance for extended contract days and a personal grievance for extended contract days for the vo-ag department at Riverside High School and allowed the incoming superintendent, Chuck Starr, to proceed with negotiations concerning the grievances.

Drake, LaRue receive Soroptimist 'Women of Distinction' award

LoRayne Bowman (l) and Shelly Britt (r) present Grace Drake and Linda LaRue with 'Women of Distinction' awards.

The Rev. Grace Drake and Linda LaRue were honored as "Women of Distinction" by Soroptimist International of Heppner in a ceremony June 17 at the Heppner Elks Club.

Drake, a retired minister who still fills in as guest pastor as the Heppner United Methodist Church and other churches, was honored for her work in creating the Neighborhood Center Summer Project for area youth. When it became apparent that the Heppner swimming pool would close because of structural and financial problems, Drake created a summer program for the kids. She organized funding, volunteers, teachers, field trips, projects and lunches for up to 70 children a day. Drake is currently organizing a summer program for this year.

Drake has four grown children.

Linda LaRue is currently the mayor of Ione and also served as mayor from 1975 to 1982. She is a member of the Ione United Church of Christ and for several years has been the cashier for the church's annual auction and barbecue. She has also been a Sunday School teacher at IUCC.

LaRue is a member and treasurer of the Pioneer Memorial Hospital Foundation. She has been the volunteer scorekeeper for the Ione varsity basketball games for the past 19 years. She has also volunteered her time to deliver prescriptions from Murray Drugs to elderly people in Ione.

LaRue has been employed at the Bank of Eastern Oregon for 19 years. She was named cashier in 1990 and this year was appointed vice president.

LaRue and her husband Del, have three children and five grandchildren.

Final plans underway for summer project

Final plans are being completed for the Neighborhood Center Summer Project for children.

The project, which will get underway with a town treasure hunt Tuesday, July 6, will also include activities, crafts, field trips and lunch. The project will be held weekdays from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. beginning July 6 ending July 30.

In the first week of the project, a Native American encampment at the city park will feature beadwork, singing, story telling, exhibits of various kinds, such as regalia for horses and young men and women and possibly drumming. The encampment will be reserved for youth during the mornings but will be open to the community the afternoons.

Art classes throughout the project will include origami (Japanese paper folding), making of a diorama, clay sculpting and movement (tumbling). The kids will also visit the bowling alley three times this summer.

The Forest Service will sponsor four days of the project, teaching environmental science, the archaeology of the region and ecosystems.

The law offices of Kuhn and Spicer will again hold a mock trial for the children, with the kids acting as defendants, the plaintiff, judge and jury.

Three field trips will be held during the month-long project. Children will travel to the Oregon Trail Interpretive Center at Baker City, The Dalles Dam and Wonderworks and the Pendleton Underground. The last day of the project will feature a parade down Main Street July 30.

Project coordinator, Grace Drake, says that around 80 children have registered for the project, compared to around 70 last year. Around 45 children attended regularly last year and Drake anticipates around 60 attending regularly this year.

There is no charge for attendance, but donations will be accepted, said Drake. The basic grant for the summer children's project has been provided by the Morrow County Children's and Youth Services Commission through tax dollars, she said. Monies for food and the Indian encampment are being provided by the Meyer Memorial Trust.

Other grants and donations were received from the Mission Outreach Commission, the United Methodist Church Oregon Idaho Annual Conference, the Blazers, Soroptimist International of Heppner and other organizations and individuals, including parents of children attending the project.

Last year the whole project cost around $4,800 said Drake. This year costs will be around $9,800 because of increased enrollment, additional professional services and the Indian encampment. Funding is separate from the Neighborhood Center, she said.

Drake said that community cooperation for the project has been excellent with two thirds of the volunteer slots filled, but some volunteers are still needed, especially Tuesdays and Thursdays for the second and third weeks. Volunteers may work whole days or part time. Volunteers are also needed before and after class. Contact Drake 676-9439 or Rosalie Scharen 676-9209 to volunteer.

The project headquarters will be at the All Saints Episcopal Church Parish Hall. Some classes will be held at the parish hall and some at the Heppner Elementary School. Lunches will be provided at the Heppner Junior High cafeteria during "in town" days and will be prepared by school district cooks, Bobbie Angell and Cherie Clark.

A bus will transport children from the Ione school at 8:15 a.m. on regular days and at 6:45 a.m. on field trip days. The bus will pick up Lexington area children at the school district office around 8:30 a.m. and 7 a.m. respectively.

The childrens summer project was formulated by Drake last year as a means to fill a void created with the closure of the Heppner pool.

Weather Report

by City of Heppner

June 15 - 21, 1993

	High	Low	Prec
Tues.	70	47	.09
Weds.	76	51	.0
Thurs.	81	54	.0
Fri.	90	54	.0
Sat.	86	49	.0
Sun.	87	56	.06
Mon.	65	41	.02

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