

## Man's bone marrow transplant could save life of ill child

Gene Wallace, Heppner, doesn't say too much about his special donation, but it may have saved the life of a child.

Wallace went through a rigorous screening process, including blood tests and medical exams and was eventually determined to be a match for a patient needing a bone marrow transplant. To protect the anonymity of the recipient, he cannot say when the donation took place.

Wallace doesn't know who received the bone marrow, except that it was a one-year-old child with "Hurler's Syndrome", an inherited enzyme deficiency that results in mental retardation, heart disease, skeletal deformities and eventual death. To be effective the transplant must be made before the victim of Hurler's Syndrome turns two years old.

Before the transplant, the patient, in this instance, would receive high doses of

chemotherapy to suppress the immune system so the marrow would graft. The patient's own bone marrow cells would probably be destroyed by the chemotherapy, so a donor must be located ahead of time. Death of the patient may occur if a marrow transplant is not made.

After the prospective donor is determined to be a match and he passes medical and other tests, he can sign the intent to donate form. After signing the form, the donor

can still back out of the procedure, but if he does, once the patient has begun the pre-transplant therapy, the patient's life could be jeopardized.

The donor is then admitted to the hospital, usually placed under general anesthesia and then the bone marrow is withdrawn. The physician inserts a large hollow needle through the donor's skin into the pelvic bone. A syringe attached to the needle then draws out the marrow. The donor typically stays overnight in the hospital, but in some cases is discharged the same day.

After the transplant occurs,

there may be indirect communication between a donor and a patient, such as cards or letters that have no geographical or other identifying information. In some cases the donor and the patient wish to meet, but in others, either the donor, the patient, or both, do not want contact. According to information released by the National Marrow Donor Program, some recipients wait several years before meeting their donors. One year after the transplant, if both parties agree in writing, the donor and recipient may meet or communicate directly. Most donors and recipients never meet.

## Lutherans celebrate Rural Sunday

The congregations of Hope and Valby Lutheran churches will celebrate Rural Life Sunday, May 15 with a festive service of Holy Communion and a blessing of the fields ceremony. "The Bountiful Provider" will be the theme of the morning sermon based on scripture reading of Psalm 147. Coffee hour will follow the services.

Valby will hold service at 9 a.m. An adult Bible class on the Book of Hebrews will meet at 8:15 a.m.

Hope Lutheran church will hold service and Sunday school at 11 a.m.

Rural Life Sunday is a spring observance that grew out of a calamity occurring in France in the middle of the fifth century. The devastation to a small village was by earthquakes, fire, rioting and looting. The bishop called the people to observe a solemn fast and make public supplication for their sin. Over the centuries the idea spread and developed into a three-fold emphasis of prayers for forgiveness of sins, prayers for protection from calamities and prayers for a bountiful crop.

"This year the Evangelical Lutheran churches in America in the state of Oregon are paying tribute to the life and work and ministries that small town and rural congregations are doing as well as recognizing the life-giving power of God in the use of natural resources," says pastor Stan Hoobing.

Members and friends are urged to bring their empty beverage cans and bottles to church on or before Sunday, May 22. Lutheran Brotherhood Blue Mountain Branch will match up to \$2,000 for monies collected by May 22 for youth related programs.

## Ione students present plays



Kindergarten class



First grade class

## Bike-a-thon Sunday May 15

By Anne Morter

The annual Ione St. Jude Bike-A-Thon is scheduled for this Sunday, May 15 with registration to begin at noon near the Ione Fire Hall.

Two courses are available. "Youngsters" will ride a one mile circuit route within the Ione city limits and "oldsters" (defined as anyone up to undertaking the project) will travel the 22 scenic miles between Ruggs and Ione. Participants may register at either site. Transportation to Ruggs will be available for bikes and riders, leaving Ione at approximately 12:30 p.m. The ride will start at 1 p.m. from both locations.

Pickups will monitor and provide support to riders on the Ruggs route. Walkers and bike riders will monitor the group in town. Volunteer helpers are welcome and very much appreciated, said a spokesperson for the event.

All riders will finish at the Ione City Park where photographs will be taken and refreshments served. Collection envelopes may be picked up at the conclusion of the ride. Return transportation to Ruggs will be available for those leaving their vehicles there. Please notify ride coordinator Anne Morter, in advance if you will need a ride.

The St. Jude Bike-a-thon raises funds for the St. Jude Children's Hospital in Memphis, TN. St. Jude is the largest childhood cancer research and treatment center in the country. It is non-sectarian, interracial and provides medical care for over 3,200 active patients, regardless of ability to pay.

Pledge sheets are still available at area businesses. For more information contact coordinators, Morter, 422-7429 or Janet Thompson, 422-7549. "This is such a good cause that I hope we see a great turnout. Every little bit helps," says Morter.

## Coordinating council to meet

The next meeting of the Heppner Coordinating Council will be Tuesday, May 17 at 7:30 a.m. at the GEODC office. This meeting will be a work session to continue updating the Heppner Strategic Plan.

The next regular meeting of the council will be May 24. The

agenda will include discussion of county school facilities and medical services.

The public is welcome to attend the meetings of the Heppner Coordinating Council. The regular meetings are on the second and fourth Tuesday mornings of the month at 7:30 a.m. at the GEODC office.

## Court begins busy summer

The Morrow County Fair and Oregon Trail Pro Rodeo Court took home top honors at the Arlington Rodeo this past weekend.

Queen Staci O'Brien, Princesses Char Coe, Jossie Evans and Kimberly Bedortha, along with pennant bearers, Bobbi Rankin and Krista Adams, all participated in the parade, attended the queen's luncheon and rode in the grand entry for the rodeo.

Two weeks ago the court traveled to The Dalles for the


Cherry Festival. "They had a great time in the parade, then attended a photo session at the Ayres residence on Cherry Heights," said court chaperone Julie Ashbeck.

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The Ione Kindergarten and first grade classes taught by Betty Rietmann presented two plays recently, to family and friends. The first play, "The Big Carrot" was taken from the first grade reading textbook. Katie Vosberg starred as "Mother" and Arthur Ekstrom played the part of the "Mouse".  
The second play "Smokey and His Friends", was a one-act play teaching fire safety. Kasie Peterson starred as Smokey Bear and the class acted as animals and trees in the forest, who were endangered by children playing with matches. Pat Pettyjohn, member of the Ione Garden Club, obtained script and mask costumes from the U.S. Forest Service.

**Death Notice**  
**Marie McQuarrie**  
Word has been received of the death of former Heppner resident Marie McQuarrie, Roseburg. Funeral arrangements are pending. A complete obituary will appear in next week's Gazette-Times.

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