

The Official Newspaper of the
City of Heppner and the
County of Morrow

Heppner
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Lexington News

By Delpha Jones

-- Faye Ruhl is a patient at St. Charles Medical Center in Bend, where she underwent major surgery. She was flown out last week.

-- Letters are out concerning the Morrow County Historical

Society trip. Call Ruth McCabe or Delpha Jones to sign up.

-- The Rebekah regular pinochle party will be held Saturday, March 2, starting with a chili supper for the public from 6-7:30 p.m.

PMNH residents enjoy Valentine's Day



Peggy J. (left) and Ida Lynn

Residents of Pioneer Memorial Nursing Home (PMNH) were treated to a party on Valentine's Day last week. PMNH staff members chose a resident as their Valentine for the day.

Rooms and wheelchairs were decorated and the residents were treated with chocolate,

stuffed animals, balloons, and flowers, as well as special lunches. Some residents dined out, some lunches were brought in and some were treated with special favorite foods prepared by staff.

"All residents and staff enjoyed this special day," said Tonya Jones, PMNH activities director.

Umatilla Basin Watershed meeting set

The Umatilla Basin Watershed Council will hold its regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, Feb. 27 at 7 p.m. The meeting will be held at the Pendleton Convention Center next to the Round-Up Grounds in Pendleton. The program will be on the new Water Quality

Standards and TMDLs presented by Department of Environmental Quality personnel.

The Watershed Council meetings are open to the public and all interested parties are invited to attend. For more information, contact Luise Langheinrich, 278-3836.

Golf classes to begin March 7

Beginners Golf Instruction, sponsored by Blue Mountain Community College, is slated to begin Thursday, March 7, for a six-week run at Willow Creek Country Club (WCCC). The class is scheduled for Thursday evenings from 5-6:30 p.m.

The class is intended for people with little or no prior golfing experience. It will cover the basics of the rules, play and etiquette of the game. The skills of putting, chipping, pitching,

approaching, fairway shots and teeing-off will be covered. School students in grades five and above may enroll in the class with the instructor's permission on a space available basis and if an adult enrolls in the class with them.

Cost of the class is \$20 plus \$20 for a temporary membership to WCCC for all non-members. John Edmundson will be the class instructor.

To register for the class, contact Anne Morter, 422-7040.

Letters to the Editor

Opportunistic grab for power

To the Editor:

From the beginning of the Morrow County Home Rule Committee, the majority of its members have sustained a constant assault on the present form of Morrow County government. They have never defined the shortcomings of our present system nor, really, the virtues of the proposed new charter. Neither have they pursued any intelligent discussion of what good government is and does, but most importantly we have collectively failed to stimulate the open discussion that a measure of this importance deserves.

To me, the whole tone of the majority's position has been an opportunistic grab for power. Further, the committee's program seems to have been orchestrated by "a mover and shaker" from Boardman, who is not even a member, and energized by the three members who refer to themselves as the "Boardman Contingent." The focus seems to have been to destroy a government that is uniquely suited for a rural county and to reap the benefits of the resultant disarray.

After about a year and a half of undisciplined leadership, we went to public hearings with a proposed charter more worthy of Rodney Dangerfield than us.

It divided the county into five districts and judging from the arguments that surrounded that issue, one would have gone to Boardman, another to Boardman's rural area, and one each to Irrigon, Heppner and the rural heartland of the county.

Unfortunately, the voters of Morrow County stayed at home in droves and only a very few came to our public hearings. The majority of those who did attend were county officials or county employees or relatives of committee members. In

Vote yes for home rule

To the Editor:

This week ballots will be going out and you will have an opportunity to vote on Home Rule for Morrow County. I have some refreshing news in regards to drawing each end of our county closer together. The Home Rule Committee by an overwhelming number (the vote was 8-1) is recommending Home Rule for Morrow County. This committee, made up of myself, John Prag, Bill Brown,

my opinion, we would have best served the county by declaring them and there that we had discovered a profound lack of interest in changing our county government. The most often voiced opinion I have heard is, "If it isn't broke, don't fix it."

Nevertheless, the majority of the committee has decided that the county should vote on whether the people want a new charter or not, and that will take place on March 12. The charter that is now being offered is a greatly diluted version of the monstrosity that seven of our nine members fought so valiantly to achieve, but I really believe that it is probably just a "damage control" compromise version of what is really wanted. If it passes, I anticipate that county government will be under continued frivolous assault by future opportunistic would-be politicians.

Our present county court system of government is about as close as we can get in modern times to Thomas Jefferson's ideal of democratic government. Anyone can run for office and we vote almost directly on every issue as implied in the classic model. I like the concept of a county juvenile judge and the hands-on government and management we now have. I have serious misgivings about the proposed system that would be more expensive and modeled after the school board-superintendent theme.

Voting no in this election would not destroy Home Rule forever. It will always remain possible, but I hope it will happen, if ever, after a thoroughgoing give-and-take discussion befitting its importance.

Sincerely,
(s) William H. Dinkins
member, MCHR charter committee
Heppner

Reduce taxes, bureaucracy

To the Editor:

Morrow County has a chance to change our form of county government. A yes vote for Home Rule will move our county from rule by Oregon statute to local control. Just as importantly, our county commission (with salaries and benefits) will move from a troika running day-to-day operations and vested in the county bureaucracy, to a five-person commission (nominally compensated) with the appropriate distance to govern the county's business. The day-to-day management will be turned over to professional management serving at the will of the commission.

Home Rule will open the door to reduced taxes and reducing the bureaucracy. The elected positions of treasurer, clerk, assessor and surveyor

will no longer be elected, or even have to exist if efficient management finds ways to consolidate their functions. Historically, these elected positions have been filled by the same person for a full career. They generally are elected without opposition and answer to the county commission only on budget matters. This leads to limited accountability and a constant desire to have bigger departments by adding employees to the county payroll.

No form of government is perfect, but keeping the taxpayers in charge and opening the commission to citizens who want to be involved, without looking at it as a career move, has to be an improvement.

Please join me in voting yes for Home Rule.

(s) Jerry Rietmann
Ione

Lions raffle rifle



Lion Club member Jim Wishart shows rifle to be raffled by the club. Wishart holds a Ruger M77R Mark II Rifle 25.06 with a 3-12 x 40 mm scope. Only 400 tickets will be sold. Cost is \$5 per ticket or five tickets for \$20. To purchase a ticket contact Wishart, Steve Rhea, Bob Kahl, Mike Mills or David Sykes.

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DAVID HARPER
APRIL 25, 1992

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St. Pat's Auction Committee will be soliciting items for the St. Pat's Auction on Feb. 27 from 3-5 p.m.

We will be driving through town to pick up these items.

Please support our main fund raiser for the St. Patrick's Celebration!

For earlier pick-up, please call Steve Rhea, 676-9113; Dan Brosnan, 676-5382; Mike Mills, 676-9141; or John Murray 676-9158