

BESSIE WETZELL
U OF ORE
NEWSPAPER LTD
EUGENE OR 97403

HEPPNER

Tazette imes

50¢

VOL. 115 NO. 37 8 Pages Wednesday, September 11, 1996, Morrow County Heppner, Oregon

Four new teachers hired in Heppner schools

By April Hilton-Sykes

The Morrow County School District has hired four new teachers in the Heppner Schools. Elizabeth "Beth" Slottee will teach music at Heppner Elementary (HES) and Heppner High School (HHS), as well as in the Ione Schools (story in the Aug. 28 G-T, page 1); Glenn Zollner will teach vo-ag and will also be the new FFA advisor at HHS; Chuck Matteson will teach alternative education at HHS, a newly-created position; and Sherry Matteson will teach a combined first and second grade classroom at HES.

agricultural education from Oregon State University. After college he was picked up by private industry and worked in developing wood treatment equipment and agricultural application equipment, was a project engineer with a chemical company, sold farm equipment and worked in on-the-road sales as a marketing manager for a company that sold harvestors and a broad line of other agricultural equipment.

Through his long and varied career, Zollner discovered that what he really enjoyed was teaching. "I have always taught in one form or another," he said. He then became a substitute teacher in the Roseburg school district, mostly in business, vo-ag and welding. He was also an instructor at Umpqua Community College in Roseburg, where he taught GED classes, and taught alternative education at a high school. This past summer, Zollner taught students in computers and language arts in an Upward Bound Program. "I'm really excited about living in this area. I like the small town ethics and I like the pace of life here better," commented Zollner about his move to Heppner. "I'm looking forward to meeting a lot of the farmers and becoming a part of the community."



Sherry Matteson

Although Chuck and Sherry Matteson are new teachers in the Heppner schools, they are not new to the community.

Sherry, originally from Condon, was actually born at the hospital in Heppner. Her grandparents, Lawrence and Alice Jones, homesteaded on a ranch between Condon and Ione. The Matteson family had also come to the Heppner area before to cut poles.

"We liked the Heppner area," said Sherry of their decision to move to the communi-



Chuck Matteson

ty. "We decided we wanted to live here," added Chuck, "and sometimes it's worth the sacrifices to get what you want."

So, they took a chance, packed up their four children, Justin, now 17, Lexi, 16, Ryan, 13, and Lacey, 11, and moved to Heppner in June of 1994, at that point without jobs.

But, the Mattesons had a lot of experience to fall back on. Sherry, 43, who graduated from Redmond High School, has a bachelor of science degree in elementary education from Eastern Oregon State College. She and Chuck were married while both were still in college and were both hired right out of college to teach in the Ferndale District outside Milton-Freewater. She taught first grade there for four years before their first child was born. She then substituted 17 years, first in the Ferndale District, then for eight years in Redmond and finally in Heppner, while raising their children. She also tutored students in math last year. She will be teaching a combined first and second grade classroom at Heppner Elementary School.

Chuck Matteson, 44, was born and raised in Benton City, WA, graduating from Kiona-Benton High School. He attended Columbia Basin Community College (CBC) at Pasco and then enrolled at Walla Walla Community College (WWCC) for one year before transferring to Eastern. He and Sherry had both been in junior rodeo and rodeoed in college and, later, professionally. Chuck received rodeo scholarships to all three schools. He also played basketball for CBC and WWCC.

He taught junior high science, social studies and PE at the Ferndale district for 12 years, in addition to coaching

Continued Page 2

Community comes through in time of need



Cindy and Mike Doherty on new porch addition of their home.



Gary Watkins and Simon Winters prepare cement walkway and ramp for the Doherty home.

By April Hilton-Sykes
Mike and Cindi Doherty of Heppner know exactly how they survived a devastating family crisis last month—with the help of their friends and neighbors.

On July 11, the Dohertys received a call in the middle of the night that their 16-year-old son, Adam, had been severely injured in an automobile accident, along with four other Heppner boys, Brian Knowles, Shaun Hisler and Bill and Jim Schlaich.

Adam sustained severe spinal injuries; Brian, critical head injuries; Bill, severe injuries to his arm; Jim, bruises and lacerations; and Shaun, a knee injury.

Cindi and Mike say that as soon as the community heard about the accident people stepped in with money, food, cooking, house cleaning and moral support. The Bank of Eastern Oregon set up an account for donations for the families and people organized an auction-fund raiser.

"It's such a great community. You just can't do anything to repay these people," said Mike, "except be there when they need it." "And you pray that they will never need it," added Cindi.

The Dohertys say that help started to arrive while they were still at the hospital with Adam. "At one time in the hospital there were over 50 people in the waiting room," said Mike. "He was never without company any weekend."

Over \$6,000 was raised for the boys' families in a lamb auction held at the Morrow County Fair, organized by Ken and Kaedene Bailey and Sherry Matteson. All Cindi's lodging while she stayed at Good Samaritan Hospital and the Ronald McDonald House to be near Adam while he recuperated in Portland was paid by Kinzua Resources, Mike's employer. Morrow County

Courthouse employees donated their leave pool to Cindi and Lorrie Fox, Bill and Jim's mother, (both Cindi and Lorrie work for the county) so that they could still have a paycheck while they were away from work.

Kinzua employees also donated money to help with

expenses and Kinzua management matched that amount. In addition Kinzua has donated materials for a remodeling job to make the Doherty house wheelchair accessible. And now, Kinzua employees and others have been donating labor for the remodeling.

Continued Page 4

Physician begins work at PMH/PMC



Dr. Bill Bitsas

By April Hilton-Sykes

Dr. William "Bill" Bitsas, newly-hired physician at the Pioneer Memorial Clinic and Hospital in Heppner, has lived all around the U.S. and in Europe, but has always intended to have a rural practice.

"I have been interested in rural family practice since I was in high school," said Dr. Bitsas. "I have always wanted to live in the country."

Bitsas began working for the Morrow County Health District Sept. 3. He has purchased a home in Heppner and he and his fiancée, Katherine Dale, have six horses—two thoroughbreds, three appaloosas and a quarterhorse. Dale teaches riding and trains horses.

Dr. Bitsas, 40, was born in Chicago where he lived until he was seven, when the family moved to Missouri. When he was 15 his family moved to Italy where his father had busi-

ness. He says that the move brought the family closer to relatives in Greece. Both his father and mother are of Greek heritage.

Dr. Bitsas attended Reed College and received a B.A. in biology in 1978. He attended medical school at Oregon Health Sciences University and received his medical degree in 1984. He also completed a family practice residency at OHSU.

Following his residency, he worked at the VA nursing home in Vancouver, WA, and established a private practice at St. John's Clinic in Portland. From there, he moved to Ilwaco, WA, where he worked for Pacific County Health at a hospital and clinic. He was then employed at Milton-Freewater for around six months in a temporary job, before moving to Spokane three years ago.

Dr. Bitsas has a nine-year-old daughter, Elizabeth Rose, who lives in Portland and will be visiting Heppner often.

Besides riding, Dr. Bitsas enjoys music, playing the banjo, guitar and mandolin, gardening, bicycling and fishing.

A reception will be held to welcome Dr. Bitsas and to give appreciation to Dr. Ernie Atkins on Thursday, Sept. 19, from 5 to 6:30 p.m. at the Home Health office at Pioneer Memorial Clinic.

Dr. Atkins has been the sole physician at the clinic since the departure of Drs. Ed and Jeanne Berretta, who are establishing a practice in Walla Walla.

Hunters Special
15% OFF Danner Boots
Sale Thru September 21, 1996
Morrow County Grain Growers

Lexington 989-8221 1-800-452-7396