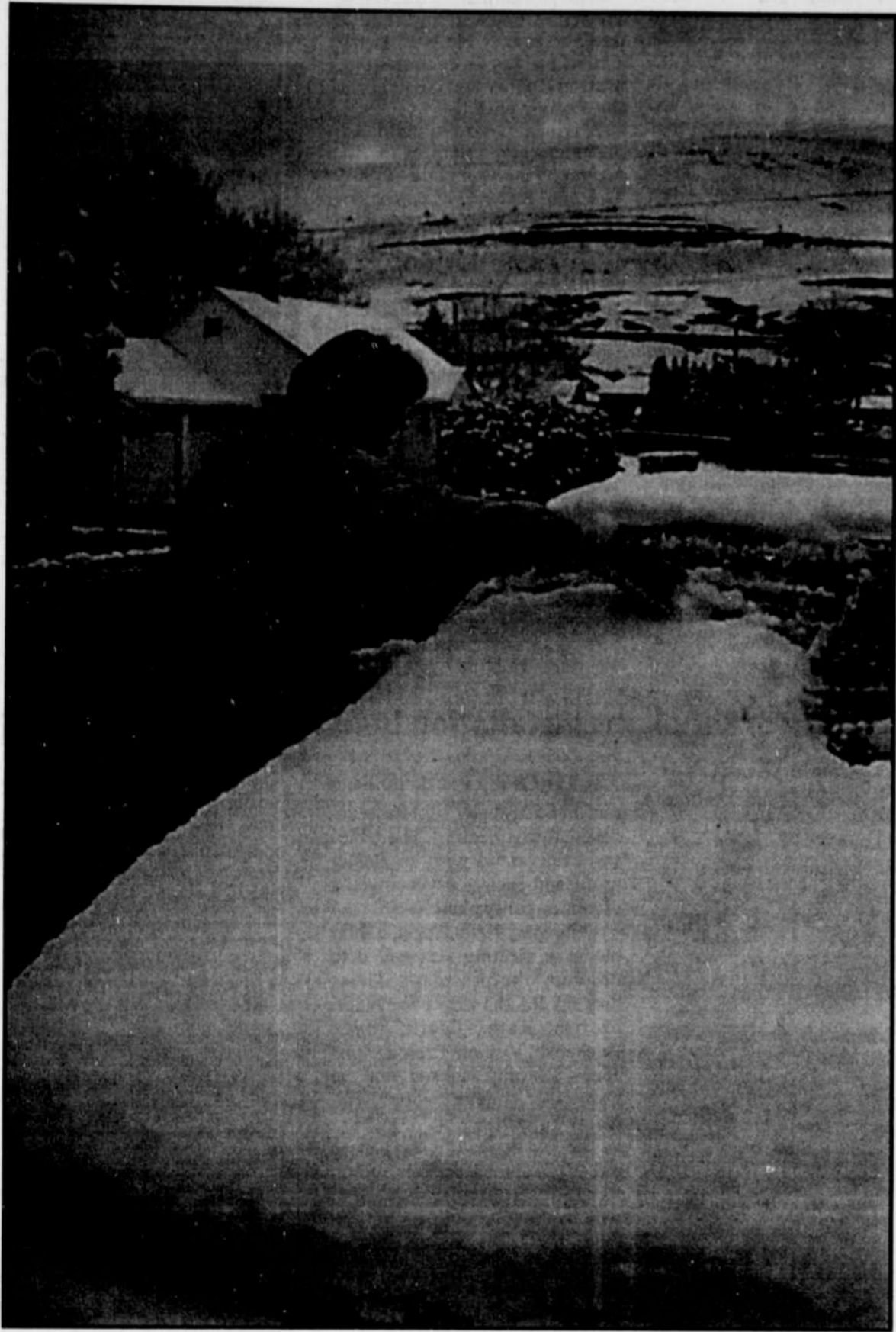


Spring snowfall an April Fool's joke Chamber Chatter

By Claudia Hughes, Chamber Manager



Although it's now officially spring, you couldn't tell it by the weather as Trish Sweeney of Heppner scrapes snow off her windshield Friday, April 4

One thing about this time of the year, if you don't like the weather, blink and it will have changed when you open your eyes. Change is a huge part of our day-to-day existence, like it or not. Webster's definition: to make different, alter, replace, substitute, pass from one condition or state to another; variety, and novelty. Change seems to be happening all around us.

Looks to me like those who choose not to accept change are in for real trauma unless they retreat to a hideout or try to "catch that alien space ship".

With the Internet, the tranquility of rural life has moved into the fast lane. It's common to fax a letter two blocks down the street rather than catch a few rays or have human contact walking down the street to deliver it.

This is the danger. Everyone needs to accept progress, but keep it in perspective. Every individual has the choice to bury themselves in "moving forward" and never stop, or put on the brakes just a little to "stop and smell the roses". (Incidentally, the Chamber is grateful for those who participated in the rose sale and hopes they are enjoyed by recipients.)

Exciting change in Heppner is the beginning of the Main Street Renovation. Like all change this project will require patience, a bit of alteration in routine, maybe a block more to walk, a positive attitude and much empathy for our local businesses. As we experience some inconvenience we need to keep the end result in sight ... a tree-lined street, safe sidewalks, new street lights, and an enhanced community pride.

The Chamber hopes to offer some novel and varied events to assist in the transition and a big celebration upon completion.

There is still an opportunity to "own" a tree on the new tree-lined street with an engraving at its base. Call the Chamber office for more information.

Looking ahead on the Chamber agenda: April 15, "Power Deregulation/ What it means for Heppner and the surrounding area"; April 22, Bring your secretary to lunch for music and Economic Development Forecast; April 29, Committees Communicate.

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK:
"Life is like a jigsaw puzzle except you don't have the picture on the front of the box and sometimes you're not even sure you have all the pieces."

Lexington Grange has initiation

The Lexington Grange held an initiation on Sunday afternoon, giving the four degree to Jeff and Missy Cutsforth, Archie and Jeanette Padberg, Darlene Clark, Mathew Clark and Bob Ployhar. The master for the afternoon degree work was Dot Halvorsen; pianist was Margaret Thorpe; and visiting was Freida Wolvertson of Hermiston.

Preceding the initiation, a potluck dinner was held. The tables were decorated with copper pots and artificial spring flowers. Also present for dinner from out of town was Jeff Cutsforth's mother, Karen.

Suspect nabbed in vandalism case

Boardman police have arrested a suspected Boardman gang member as a suspect in the March burglary and vandalism of a disaster safety storage shed. Because the suspect is under 18, his name is not being released. He has been charged with Theft by Receiving and Carrying a Concealed Weapon.

Police Sergeant Ron Beemer and Officer Dan Swart made the arrest this week after tracking the suspect through the department's gang response unit. When the officers caught up with the suspect, he had some of the stolen items in his car, they said.

Flashlights, batteries, first aid kits and stop/slow paddles were taken from a storage shed between Boardman and Irrigon on March 23. During an emergency, authorities would use the items, along with other materials, to

block traffic in case of an accident involving chemical weapons stored at the nearby Umatilla Chemical Depot.

Morrow County Emergency Management director Casey Beard said, "We're grateful to the police for their outstanding work in catching the suspect and recovering the equipment."

Sergeant Beemer says the department is part of a bi-county gang task force that is made up of Morrow and Umatilla county sheriff's departments, the Oregon State Patrol, and 12 local police departments. The task force has a "zero tolerance" policy on gang activity. "We will not tolerate gang activity within our communities and the public needs to know we're doing something about it," said Beemer. Beemer says the case is still under investigation and more suspects are being pursued in the case.

St. Patrick's Senior Center Bulletin Board

Seventy-three people were present for the senior dinner April 2. Members of the Nazarene and Seventh-day Adventist churches served. Eight meals were home delivered. Hearing aid assistance was given and blood pressures taken before the meal. The Nutrition Site Committee met at 1 p.m. A dinner for the church volunteers who serve at the dinners through out the years has been planned for Thursday, April 24 at 6 p.m.. All churches were sent invitations, and are asked to RSVP by Apr. 15.

The menu for April 16 will be ham and beans, cottage cheese with pineapple, coleslaw, corn bread and pudding. Members of the Episcopal church will serve.

One table of pinochle was in play Friday afternoon, with several other people visiting. Nine seniors watched the movie, "Matilda", Sunday evening.

Several senior bus trips are planned to meal sites around the area. The bus will travel to Arlington on Apr. 8, Hermiston, April 24 at 10:30 a.m., and Spray, May 8 at 10 a.m.. Sign up sheets are in the Senior Center office. Stop by to sign up or call 676-9030.

Other dates to remember are as follows: Tues. and Thurs., exercise, 10 a.m.; Wed., blood pressure clinic, 11 a.m., senior meal, noon; Friday, cards 2 p.m.; Sunday, movie, 7 p.m.



Heppner was a picture postcard, blanketed with snow on Friday, April 4

Happy Birthday, Andy!

From Len, Marg, Bill, Nola and Helen

Heppner Little League
has outfield fence advertising
available for your business or ranch.

Your personally designed sign will help support Youth Baseball and Softball in Heppner, plus give your business recognition for that support during the season!

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See brochure available at Oregon Lottery Service Centers for details.

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Send four consecutive nonwinning Megabucks tickets for drawings dated November 13, 1996, through June 14, 1997, with this entry for a chance to win! Enter as many times as you like. This entry is good for one drawing only.

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Name & location of store where you bought your ticket(s): _____

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