

HEPPNER



50¢

New county offices plan open house

Morrow County announces that an open house will be held on Friday, October 24, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. to celebrate the move of some departments into the new Family Service Center in the Gilliam and Bisbee Building in downtown Heppner.

The opening comes after over a year of planning and several months of renovations to the historic building, according to the project, which was made possible through a Welfare Reinvestment Grant from the Adult and Family Services Division of the State of Oregon, enabled Morrow County to consolidate several "human service" departments into one convenient location.

The Public Health Department, Juvenile Department, Behavioral Health Department (formerly Mental Health) and the Children and Families Department are now all located in the upstairs of the Gilliam and Bisbee Building as well as the Oregon State University Extension Service. In the downstairs offices, which are on the main Street level behind the Coast to Coast store, are the Veterans Service Office,

the Umatilla-Morrow Head Start and CAPECO's Area Agency on Aging. These agencies also correlate with the other human service departments. The county court maintains that consolidating like services into one location is not only cost effective (eliminating separately rented spaces) but also significantly increases the accessibility of services to the public.

Morrow County now boasts consolidation of all services in the Heppner area into a few basic

categories: administrative offices-courthouse ground floor; judicial services-courthouse second floor; emergency services (CSEPP and Sheriff's Office) are at the Emergency Operations Center; human services are at the Family Service Center; support services (accounting, information systems/GIS and county counsel) will be at the Pioneer Annex where Behavioral Health, Justice Court and the Juvenile Department were formerly located.

Special election ballots mailed

By Nova Rietmann

The ballots for this year's Oregon Special Election were sent out Thursday, October 16. The ballots are due at the Morrow County Clerk's office on Tuesday, November 4 by 8 p.m.

The ballots may be mailed, dropped off at the courthouse in Heppner or put in drop boxes located at the Morrow County Road Department in Lexington, the Lone Bank of Eastern Oregon, the Morrow County Annex building in Irrigon and the

Morrow County Health Department office in Boardman.

Election day hours for the courthouse will be from 7 a.m. until 8 p.m.

If the ballots are mailed in they must be received by the clerk's office by November 4 before 8 p.m.

The two state measures are on the ballot--51 and 52. Measure 51 repeals the law allowing terminally ill adults to obtain a lethal prescription. This measure repeals Measure 16, which was adopted in 1994 and allowed adults in Oregon to obtain a physician's prescription for lethal drugs when physicians predict a patient's death within six months. Measure 52 allows the Legislative Assembly to establish a state education lottery bond program. It would provide up to \$150 million for state education projects.

Morrow County Clerk Barbara Bloodworth says that information she received from the Election Administration Reports, Washington, D.C., indicates that "vote by mail works well in Oregon because of capable and experienced election administrators and a political climate that is basically honest," according to elections scholar Michael Traugott. Traugott is a senior research scientist at the University of Michigan's Center for Political Studies who recently participated in a day-long conference in Washington, D.C. on vote-by-mail.

According to Traugott, voting by mail "stimulates turnout in lower turnout elections like primaries and referenda and it seems to have its greatest impact among groups who are ordinarily least likely to vote".

Sign for basket

Low and fixed-income individuals may sign up for the annual Thanksgiving basket at the Heppner Neighborhood Center. The deadline for sign up is Nov. 7.

Halloween contest underway

Heppner merchants are sponsoring a Halloween creative writing contest for youth kindergarten through high school age and a "Guess the Ghoul" contest for adults on Halloween, Friday, Oct. 31.

In the writing contest, youth will enter participating businesses and locate the "scavenger" item located in the store. They will write down the items and then include all of them in a story in 250 words or less. The stories should be Halloween stories and will be judged 50 percent on creativity and interest and 50 percent on correct grammar (depending on age).

The age groups are kindergarten-second grade; third-fourth; fifth-sixth, seventh-eighth and high school.

Each age group will have a winner receiving a \$25 gift certificate redeemable at any participating business. The grand prize winner will have his or her story published in the Gazette Times. All stories will be displayed by the businesses.

Deadline for stories is Friday, Nov. 7, by 6 p.m. at the following merchants: Gazette-Times, Shoe Box, Gardner's, Coast to Coast, Northwest Motel and Murray Drugs. Winners' names will be posted in the newspaper the following week.

In the "Guess the Ghoul" contest, 'ghouls' pictures will appear in the Oct. 29 issue of the G-T. Participants in the contest will match up the ghoulish faces with the businesses where the ghouls work.

Deadline for entries in the "Guess the Ghoul" contest must also be turned in by Nov. 7 at 6 p.m. at the same drop-off locations.

All correct answers will be pooled and a winner drawn. The winner will receive a \$25 gift certificate.

For more information, contact Ann Murray at Murray Drugs or David Sykes of the Gazette-Times.

Auction raises record amount

Around 277 dinners were served at the annual Heppner High School Booster Club annual steak feed and auction, according to Booster Club Chairman Sonja McCabe.

McCabe said that an estimated 300 people attended the auction which brought in a record \$14,000. McCabe estimates that the evening will raise around \$12,500, after expenses, to benefit youth programs at Heppner Junior and Senior High Schools. "It was a big success," said McCabe.

She said that there were about 43 items in the auction, 34 in the silent auction and 37 in the raffle. The group also received cash donations in addition to auction items donated.

The event was chaired by Greg and Erika Grant, Cyde Estes, Chuck and Sherry Matteson and John and Sonja McCabe.

Mike Reyes was the winner of the television given away as a door prize.

Taco feed set for HHS game, Friday

A taco feed, sponsored by the Heppner High School (HHS) senior class, will be held at the Morrow County Fairgrounds annex building in Heppner on Friday, Oct. 24, from 5:30-7 p.m. before the HHS-Pilot Rock football game. The game will get underway at 7:30 p.m. at the fairgrounds.

The cost for one taco with all the fixings, dessert and drink will be \$2.50. Two tacos, dessert and drink will be \$3.50.

Everyone is invited to attend.

Leann Rea announces bid for county commissioner



Leann Rea

Morrow County native Leann Rea, 56, has announced her candidacy for Morrow County Commissioner.

Rea, a Democrat, resides outside Boardman. The daughter of Darrell and Alvina Padberg of Ione, she was raised on a farm homesteaded by her great-grandfather, Henry Padberg, about seven miles outside Ione.

Rea attended Ione Elementary and High School, except for the eighth grade when she attended Heppner Elementary. She attended Blue Mountain Community College as a full-time student in 1986 and '87, after which she took numerous classes on a part-time basis.

Rea has been married 38 years to Jerald Rea, the son of Clell and Norma Rea of Ione. The Reas have four children, Darla Wishart, Heppner, Rick, Baker City, Terrell, Boardman, and Robb, LaGrande, four grandchildren and two step-grandchildren.

She is currently employed by Shroeder Law Offices in Hermiston. Rea says that the office will move to Boardman within the next month or two. Rea has been employed by the West Extension Irrigation District, Irrigon, as bookkeeper and manager; by the U.S. Census Bureau as a crew leader and enumerator; by H&R Block as a tax preparer; and by Highland Machinery in Condon. She and her husband also operated Jerald and Leann Rea Farms.

She has been on the Morrow County Extension Advisory Council since 1994; has co-chaired the Rural Residential Sub-Committee for the Lower Umatilla Basin Groundwater Management Area since June 1995. She has been a member of the Morrow County Planning Commission since June 1995.

"I know all the ends of the county," said Rea. "I have lived all over. I'm aware of a lot of the problems in the county and I have a good background to deal with those problems." Rea added that she feels that water issues are going to be of vital importance in the future.

School board hears testing report

Morrow County School District assistant superintendent Mike Keown reviewed, at the regular monthly school board meeting Oct. 13, statewide assessment tests and Stanford Achievement Tests administered to Morrow County students.

Chris Ellis, a representative from the Oster Group, presented the 1996-97 district audit report. Ellis indicated that the audit was "clean" and the district was in compliance in all areas.

Bob Baker gave an update on the district's bond projects. He said that as of Oct. 13, the projects are underway with footings poured at Heppner High School and preparation for pouring the footings underway at Heppner Elementary School. Classrooms will be constructed at the schools.

Morrow County School Superintendent Chuck Starr reported that the state-set substitute pay was increased to \$113.51 per day and \$122.58 per day for any sub working more than 10 consecutive days in the same position.

The following three year budget committee appointments, ending in June 2000, were made: Dave Hirai, Shelly Riekkola, and Bruce Young.

In other business, the district accepted resignations from: Frances Fremault, from her art teaching position at A.C. Houghton and Sam Boardman Elementary schools; Jodi May, from educational assistant position at SBE; Hans Magden, from extra duty contract as head Riverside High School wrestling coach; Susan Lankford from her

one-day per week position as inventory clerk at the district office;

-approved a request for leave of absence from: Maria Aguilar from her position as English as a second language education assistant at ACH for maternity leave;

-approved transfer for: Lorna Botefuhr from her three-hour special education assistant to a full-time one-on-one special ed assistant at Heppner Elementary School;

-approved employment for: Annie Patton, temporary contract to teach art at ACH and SBE; Jamie Baker, three-hour special ed assistant at HES; Kari Keown, and Sarah Britt, both 1/2 time cheerleader advisors at Heppner High School; Dennis Stefani, head boys' basketball coach at Ione High School; Juan Elguezabal, assistant softball coach at HHS;

-heard the first reading of a policy which will eliminate exceptions to entry age requirements. Starr said that the district's experience was that children enrolled in school early and younger than their peers tended to eventually encounter social or psychological problem in junior high or high school, regardless of their scholastic ability. Kindergarteners must be at least five years old by Sept. 1; first graders must be at least six years old by Sept. 1;

-approved a resolution accepting and appropriating \$10,898 in unanticipated revenues. Over seven thousand of those funds is earmarked for Title I instruction.

Man dies of self-inflicted gunshot

An Irrigon man, William D. Martin, 82, was discovered dead Friday, Oct. 17, of a self-inflicted gunshot wound to the head at 209 S.E. 4th St. in Irrigon, according to the Morrow County Sheriff's Department.

The Morrow County Sheriff's Office was dispatched to the scene on a report of a residential fire with a person still inside the house. When Irrigon Rural Fire

Department arrived on the scene they discovered Martin deceased inside the residence.

An investigation by the sheriff's office and the fire department determined that Martin died of the self-inflicted gunshot wound and that the fire was apparently set by the victim.

The case is still under investigation by both departments.

MC Arts and Crafts club to meet

Morrow County Creative Arts and Crafts Club will meet on Thursday, Oct. 23, at Yaw's Restaurant in Heppner at 1 p.m.

Members will discuss the show and sale on Saturday, Nov. 1. All members are asked to bring cookies to the show.

Almost to hit the bricks



Area pedestrians will soon be "hitting the bricks" on downtown streets. Installation of the bricks, as part of the Main Street Project, began Tuesday, Oct. 21.

Fencing Sale Ends Saturday
Last Chance to Stock Up on Fencing Materials
MORROW COUNTY GRAIN GROWERS
Lexington 989-8221 1-800-452-7396