

## Mural planned to celebrate former town of Kinzua

A mural project to celebrate the former townsite of Kinzua has been proposed for the city of Fossil and met unanimous Fossil City Council approval last week.

A \$25/benefit (five for \$100) fund raiser gets underway this week with the annual Kinzua reunion, where Lyn Jensen Craig, Wheeler County's economic development coordinator and Fossil mayor John Kautenberg will present the project to the group of former Kinzua residents Saturday, June 20 at 1 p.m. at Isobel Edwards Hall at the Wheeler County Fairgrounds in Fossil.

Each year more than 200 former residents of the company mill town return to Fossil to share their memories. In its heyday from 1930s-1960s, Kinzua boasted a company store where one could purchase anything from eggs to shoes to an automobile. Kinzua also had a thriving hotel, school, taverns, churches and huge saw-mill.

When the mill closed, the former town was torn down in the early 1970s and Kinzua residents were forced to move. Many Kinzua families and their descendants are scattered across central and eastern Oregon.

Railroad memorabilia from the Condon-Kinzua-Southern Railroad will be awarded to the top benefit winner drawn by the city council at its Oct. 13 meeting. Pieces from the former railroad include a track switch and whistle stop, provided by former Kinzua resident Jim Huff, now of Condon. The railroad pieces are valued at more than \$300.

Another six benefit winners will also be drawn. These winners will have their faces painted on characters in the mural, similar to the 1870s mural at Canyon City,

which sports a local business-woman as a former dance hall girl, and various other locals as outlaws and gold miners.

The Kinzua mural will feature a scene from earlier this century at the former company mill town in the background with loggers, mill and railway workers in the foreground.

The proposed mural would measure approximately 20'x45' and would be hand-painted by a professional mural artist, Larry Kangas of Portland, on the side of the Fossil Cafe facing the city's pocket park. Renditions by Kangas showing other murals he has done may be viewed at Fossil City Hall beginning next week.

Cafe owners John and Jane Kautenberg have offered the side of their building for the mural. A 99-year lease would be signed giving ownership of the mural to the city of Fossil, Kautenberg told the council.

Under the terms of the lease, owners of the building would be responsible for maintenance of the mural, similar to the provisions for the murals at The Dalles and Canyon City.

"I think this is a wonderful idea," said councilwoman Kris Poole. "I think the people from Kinzua would be pleased by this."

Fund raising will continue throughout the summer. The cost of the mural is estimated at just under \$6,000, and at least half of that will have to come from fund raising donations in order to solicit grants for the balance, Craig said, adding, "So much of Fossil's history and its family ties are entwined with those of Kinzua."

"It's important to preserve that history for future generations. Local people as well as visitors will enjoy the mural and it will be a

nice connection to the Kinzua display at the Fossil Museum across the street from the mural site," Craig said.

Tax-deductible donations of any size may be made payable to the City of Fossil, P.O. Box 467, Fossil, OR 97830. Forms are also available throughout Fossil and at city hall for the benefit drawings for the railroad items and face paintings. For more information, contact city hall at 763-2698 or Craig at 763-2355.

## Musicians sought for community band

The Community Band is seeking musicians to join together for Ione's 4th of July.

On Friday, July 3rd at 6 p.m. a community Band made up of local Morrow County residents will premiere as the RWB Band (Red, White and Blues Band).

The music selected will be the same as the Big River Community Band that performs in Arlington at the end of June for the River Band Festival. There is a core of musicians from this group, including several from South Morrow County that will be joining up here with local musicians interested in playing. Directing will be Debbie Wryn who plays with the Big River Band.

The band is looking for woodwind, brass and a few percussions players. Musicians with ability to play easy to mid-level high school music are needed.

Those interested will be given music to practice. Musicians will need to attend at least one to two rehearsals in Arlington. This does not mean a commitment to the River Band Festival. They meet on Tuesday and Thursday from 7:30 to 9 p.m. at the grade school. There will be two rehearsals in Ione on Tuesday, June 30 and Thursday, July 2, at 7 p.m. The place will be announced later.

"This is an opportunity to get out that instrument, dust it off and have fun making music," said Wryn. There will be a variety of styles too, including some marches, pop and other concert music.

Anyone interested or for more information call Wryn at 422-7017, for information and music, or show up in Arlington. Wryn needs to know final numbers by Friday, June 18, so T-shirts can be ordered, and to ensure that there is enough time to practice the music independently.

## HHS class of 1999 plans car wash

The Heppner High School class of 1999 will hold a car wash on Saturday, June 20, from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. behind the Les Schwab in Heppner.

Cost for a car wash will be \$8 for the outside only and \$10 for cleaning inside and outside. Refreshments will be provided.

## Births

**Peyton Guy Nansel**-a son Peyton Guy was born to Tom and Robin Nansel of Forsythe, Montana on May 18, 1998. The baby weighed 6 lbs. 8 oz and was 19 1/2" long.

Grandparents are Joanne Nansel of Forsythe, Montana, Jan Bothum, Pendleton, and Jim Bothum, Prineville. Great-grandparents are Guy Ralph and Mary Beemer.

## Construction underway on Wilkinson arena

Have you been past the Morrow County Fairgrounds lately?

Construction of the new Wilkinson Arena is underway. Over the next few weekends volunteers from Northwest Metal Fabricators will be busy putting up the steel shell of the building and volunteers will work on the ground. Then it will be time for the roof and siding to be attached. If everything goes as planned the building will be erected in time for the 1998 fair and rodeo, August 19-23.

"There have been many stumbling blocks but with the determination of some very devoted individuals construction is proceeding," said LaRae Kindle, Morrow County Fairgrounds office manager. "Support of this facility has been incredible," she said.

Keeping in mind the fair theme "One County-All Communities Working Hand In Hand" over \$80,000 has been donated so far. Because of increased costs for permits, electrical, plumbing, concrete work and state requirements for a sprinkler system, between \$40,000 and \$50,000 is still needed to complete the project.

"Consider supporting this endeavor," said Kindle. "A donation of any amount is extremely appreciated. Checks may be made out to the Morrow County Fair & Rodeo Building Fund to P.O. Box 464, Heppner, Oregon."

## Ione Legion Auxiliary holds meeting

The Ione Legion Auxiliary met at Beecher's Restaurant on June 2 with 10 members present. Reports were given on the poppy sales, which were reported to be the best ever. Final results on the bike riders' dinner and election day dinner were given.

New blinds have been ordered for the Legion Hall. Work on refinishing the floor will begin as soon as school is out.

All members present were treated to lunch and ice cream sundaes in thanks for all the hard work this past year.



Work continues on the Wilkinson arena

## Workshop planned on wheat industry

Sagging wheat prices and a dim outlook for demand in the short term are creating an economic crisis in the wheat industry. World wheat stocks have rebounded from low levels two years ago to ample supplies today, due to strong production in virtually all of the wheat-producing countries of the world, says an Oregon Wheat Growers League (OWGL) news release. These supplies, coupled with weak Asian currencies and the uncertain outcome of nuclear tests on the Indian subcontinent, have pushed prices to the lowest levels in over a decade, said the release.

OWGL presents a series of "Thriving in \$3 Wheat" workshops, beginning Friday, June 19, responding to the need for short term survival of wheat farms. The workshops will include presentations on several subjects, including:

- Marketing-using the futures and options markets to reduce price risk;
- Crop insurance-information on crop insurance products, including the new revenue products;
- Marketing loans-information on the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture marketing loan and loan deficiency payment program.

Five workshops will be held in the Columbia Basin counties: Morrow County, Wednesday, June 24, 9 a.m., Elks Lodge, Heppner; Wasco County, Friday, June 19, 9 a.m., Cousins Restaurant, The Dalles; Sherman County, Friday, June 19, 3 p.m., Parish Hall, Wasco; Umatilla County, Tuesday, June 23, 3 p.m., Pendleton High School auditorium; and Gilliam County, Wednesday, June 24, 3 p.m., Elks Lodge, Condon.

OWGL encourages grain growers and agribusiness representatives to attend these workshops. Additional information is available on the OWGL web page (<http://www.owgl.org/>) or from the OWGL office at 276-7330.

## Chemical disposal facility is now 20 percent complete

With the one-year construction anniversary of its chemical agent disposal facility on June 10, the Army is one year closer to destroying its stockpile of chemical weapons at the Umatilla Chemical Depot, near Hermiston.

Construction of the Umatilla Chemical Agent Disposal Facility is approximately 20 percent complete, according to the chemical demilitarization program manager. The project is on schedule for destroying the depot's chemical nerve and mustard agent munitions by the end of 2005.

However, while the focus has been on meeting deadlines, this isn't the top priority. The Army's project manager, Raj Malhotra, says, "We are working hard and keeping our schedule. At the same time, I want to reassure the public that safety and environmental compliance come first. We're going to continue to be diligent in those areas."

On May 1, 1997, Army, government and contractor officials broke ground. Later that month, workers prepared for construction by removing topsoil. The site, when fully constructed, will cover about 30 acres. The estimated 14,000 dump truck loads of topsoil removed during construction will be piled nearby and used to re-landscape when disposal operations are complete.

June 10 was the day in 1997 when the Army gave the systems contractor, Raytheon Demilitarization Company, the full notice to proceed with construction. "Twelve months later, the disposal facility is taking shape and we're on track so the Army can begin systemization in April 2000," says Raytheon's project manager, Sam Kasley. Systemization means testing the facility to make sure everything works properly.


The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is overseeing the construction project. The Corps' resident engineer, Charles Galloway, says, "We have a design that has been proven to safely dispose of chemical weapons and the construction quality being accomplished is of the highest caliber."

In January, the systems contractor's payroll for 1997 totaled nearly \$7.25 million. More than \$4 million was paid to employees living in Umatilla and Morrow counties. Slightly more than \$2 million was paid to personnel living in the Tri-Cities


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