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HEPPNER



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Gazette
Times

VOL. 117 NO. 31 8 Pages Wednesday, August 5, 1998 Morrow County, Heppner, Oregon

New minister arrives at United Methodist Church



Clockwise: Craig Strobel, Monika Hunter, Dawn Hunter Strobel, Lauren Strobel and Betsy Strobel

The Heppner United Church has a new minister as of July 1.

New pastor Craig Strobel, 42, his wife, Monika Hunter, 32, and their baby daughter, Dawn Hunter Strobel, eight months, are in the process of settling in their new home at the parsonage next to the church. Craig's daughters, Lauren, nine, and Betsy, 13, Salem, were also on hand to visit and enjoyed helping out with the baby and moving-in chores.

Craig, who is originally from Boise, graduated from Borah High School in Boise. He graduated from Willamette University in 1980 with a bachelor of science degree in biology and a bachelor of theater.

He attended seminary at Yale Divinity School and then transferred to the Pacific School of Religion in Berkeley, CA, where he received master of arts and master of divinity degrees in

1986.

The Rev. Strobel served United Methodist churches in a joint pastorate with Sheridan and Willamina in western Oregon for five years. He then was pastor at Jefferson, which is south of Salem, for one year.

After that he attended graduate school at the Graduate Theological Union at Berkeley.

In addition to serving as minister at United Methodist in Heppner, Craig will serve the Fossil United Methodist Church for the next several months. He will also be working on his doctorate dissertation.

Monika is originally from Illinois and attended Glenbard North High School in north Illinois. After high school she joined the Army and was stationed in South Korea. In military intelligence, Monika served in the Army from 1984 to 1988 when she was honorably discharged as a sergeant.

District closed for fire season

A regulated closure in the Central Oregon District of the Oregon Department of Forestry went into effect on July 31 for land protected by ODF, including the Prineville-Sisters Unit, John Day Unit and The Dalles Unit.

Activities that are prohibited include: smoking, except in cars, boats and other certain conditions; open fires, except at certain designated locations; use

of wood burning devices; non-industrial chain saw use; use of motorized vehicles, except on improved roads; use of fireworks, cutting, grinding and welding of metal from 1-8 p.m.

Possession of fire fighting equipment, an axe, a shovel and one gallon of water or one operating 2-1/2 pound or larger fire extinguisher, except on state and county roads, is required.

She then attended Pemberton Community College in New Jersey where she received an associate of arts degree in psychology. She then enrolled at Illinois State University where she received a bachelor of science degree in biology.

After graduation she, too, was called into the ministry and went to seminary at Starr King School for the Ministry in Berkeley.

Strobel and Hunter are interested in working with the youth in the area, especially in theater and the arts, and are looking forward to talking to people about the needs of the community.

"The Heppner church community was really welcoming to us," said Craig. "They've been so wonderful," added Monika. "They did so much work in the house for us. We really feel welcome."

Willow Creek Road report

The U.S. Dept. of Transportation lists its planned construction activities on Willow Creek Road for the week of Monday, Aug. 3:

Tidewater will be continuing with the cut slope excavation and placing rock embankment with materials from the cut slope, working between the beginning of the project and the end of the project at Smith Ditch. They will continue placing the new culvert at Smith Ditch and have excavated the ditch line for the unnamed tributary. Tuesday they started placing the new culvert in the ditch.

The dust abatement was completed on the Shaw Creek Road detour route on Monday. There should not be any additional traffic hold up through the completion of the project.

Willow Creek Road (Coal Mine Grade) is closed to through traffic from Cutsforth Park to the intersection of Forest Service roads 5320 and 53. This intersection will remain open, to the

Heppner Campus Life holds raffle

Heppner Campus Life, a community-supported youth organization, is holding a raffle of a Montana Silversmith jewelry set to raise money toward the purchase of a van to be used for trips and events.

Tickets for the jewelry set, which is being donated by Green Feed and Seed, are now available and will continue to be sold through Saturday, Aug. 22, when the drawing will be held. Tickets are 50¢ each.

Also, everyone is invited to stop by and check out the Campus

Man wanted following marijuana raid



Deputy Steve Myren (left) and Undersheriff Verlin Denton examine plants growing under a grow light inside the house.

A Heppner man, Daniel Alan Mathews, 43, is wanted by the Blue Mountain Enforcement Narcotics Team (BENT) after BENT discovered over 50 marijuana plants, ranging in size from a couple of inches to three feet, at his residence at 220 W. Willow Street in Heppner around 9 a.m. on Monday, August 3. A second search later that same day at the Hardman residence of Candy Kim Nantz, 42, 54901 Willow Street, turned up 20 marijuana plants, ranging in size from a couple of inches to a foot.

After a six-month investigation into the possession and sale of controlled substances in the Heppner area, officers from Bent, the Heppner Police Department and the Morrow County Sheriff's Office served search warrants on Mathews' and Nantz' residences. Plants were discovered both inside and outside the Mathews residence and in Nantz' trailer.

Mathews, who was not at the residence when the search warrant was served, is wanted by the task force for two counts of possession of a controlled substance and one count of manufacturing a controlled substance. The Morrow County Sheriff's Office said that Nantz will also probably face charges of possession and manufacture of a controlled substance.

Another man, Thomas Allen Hamman, 32, was arrested at the Mathews' residence for being a felon in possession of a firearm. He was cited and released, due to lack of jail bed space, according to the sheriff's office.



Heppner Police Chief Doug Rathbun (left) and Denton look over plants growing in the back yard of the home in Heppner.

BEO awarded housing grant

The Federal Home Loan Bank of Seattle (FHLBS) awarded a \$210,000 grant to Bank of Eastern Oregon (BEO) to help it fund the purchase, rehabilitation or construction of 30 homes for lower-income homebuyers in Gilliam County, announced James R. Faulstich, president and chief executive officer of the FHLBS.

A private, wholesale bank, the FHLBS is providing the grants through its Affordable Housing Program (AHP), which offers targeted grants and reduced-rate loans to help financial institutions support community organizations with the development of affordable housing.

BEO will use the AHP grant to help the Gilliam County Community Development Corporation (GCCDC) develop the housing as part of the Gilliam County Housing Opportunity Program (HOP). Through HOP, homebuyers will either directly purchase their homes or utilize the lease-to-own option which provides residents with time to build a down payment or a credit history. GCCDC will

both purchase existing, deteriorating housing and renovate it, and construct new homes.

Homebuyers will be required to attend homeownership training and will also have access to services such as budgeting, family counseling and job training. Homebuyers' incomes will range from 20-80 percent of the county's median income (from \$7,560-\$30,240 per year for a family of four). Most of the participants will be first-time homebuyers. Construction of the homes began in April 1998 and the 30 homes are expected to be complete by Sept. 2000.

The AHP grant will help pay construction costs and reduce the principal on a permanent loan for the project from BEO. Additional sources for the \$2.8 million project include funds from the State of Oregon's Regional Strategy and Housing Opportunity Assistance Programs, the Gilliam County Opportunity Grant Fund, county property tax rebates, Community Development Block Grant funds, Rural Development 504 grants and homebuyers sweat equity.

Football camp slated for Aug. 10-13

The Seventh Annual South Morrow County Football Camp will be held Monday through Thursday, August 10-13.

The camp is for students grades 5-12 from any area school. It will run from 5-8:30 p.m.

The coaching staff for Heppner High School, Junior High, and Colt program will be providing

instruction. The cost is \$30 with each camper receiving a hat.

Registration forms are available at Murray Drugs and Heppner High School. Late registration will be accepted.

For more information, call Les Payne at 922-3294, Chuck Matteson at 676-5250 or Kelly Fox at 676-9078.

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