

Letters to the Editor

Editor's note: Letters to the Editor must be signed. The Gazette-Times will not publish unsigned letters. Please include your address and phone number on all letters for use by the G-T office. The G-T reserves the right to edit.

Celebration has little to do with community

To the Editor:

Every year I look forward to going home for the 4th of July celebration in Lone as it has always been family and community-oriented. I've boasted to many of my friends who are from Portland and other big cities that haven't experienced a community event. My boyfriend was excited to accompany me and experience personally what I had been bragging about.

Much to my extreme disappointment very little was as I described to him. This year's celebration had virtually nothing to do with family or community. The blues festival was nice, but way too loud especially during the fireworks. The kids' activities were limited and short-lived. No bed races, no auction (though someone said a few items did get auctioned off between bands and even this time was resentfully given), and few adult activities like there has been in the past. Local people didn't know the location and time Bingo was being held, as the usual building was unavailable. How can we infonn

our visitors if those who live here aren't informed?

This is supposed to be a community event, but it appeared to me that the committee didn't care. My aunt and uncle come from Portland especially for the auction and golf tournament to support a community they don't even belong to. They grew up in small towns, so they are aware of how important it is to give to their community. The auction is held especially for a local scholarship trust to support the further education of our children.

This celebration is a time for family and community. I have been looking forward to returning to this community with my children so they may experience the benefits of a family and small community as I have. I'm all for change and progress but not at the expense of our family and community. After all, isn't this importance what we are trying to teach our children? So why is it difficult for the committee to continue this tradition?

(s) Wendy Anderson
Portland

Keep up the good work

To the Editor:

Recently I was able to make one arrest for illegal possession of a 78-inch sturgeon in Irrigon, three arrests for illegal possession of an antelope from Willow Creek Road and four arrests for illegal possession of a deer from Butter Creek.

In all of these cases at least one local resident was concerned enough to make a telephone call to report the violation. Without their help,

these crimes would have gone unpunished. It is great to see these people take an interest in "their wildlife."

With the huge areas, lack of funding and time constraints, there is no way for any police agency to effectively protect the wildlife resources on its own. So, keep up the good work.

(s) Dave Rzewnicki, Trooper
Oregon State Police
Heppner

Historical Society Plans potluck

Plans are underway for the Morrow County Historical meeting Oct. 4. A potluck turkey dinner with turkey, potatoes, dressing and gravy furnished will

be held at 1 p.m. with a program by Jay Christin of Baker City as speaker. The Chronicles and local and state membership will be available at this time.

Port meeting rescheduled

A regular Port of Morrow Commission Meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 16 at 1:30 at the Boardman Senior Citizens Center, 305 Olson Road.

The meeting has been rescheduled for the third Wednesday of the month rather than the second Wednesday because of a commission conference.

Foster home recruiter named; foster homes needed



Kathy Skinner

Kathy Skinner has accepted the position of foster home recruiter as part of the Early Start Project for the Foster Care Program within the State Office for Services to Children and Families' (formerly Children's Services Division) Morrow/Gilliam/Wheeler Branch office located in Boardman.

In her new position, Skinner will recruit foster homes in Morrow, Gilliam and Wheeler counties.

The state office for Services to Children and Families is the child protective service agency for the state of Oregon and provides assessments of children's safety in their homes as well as services to assure children are safe within their families, said Skinner.

The Early Start Project has been created to assist Services to Children and Families' branches to meet a pressing shortage statewide of foster homes available to children who are unable to live in their own homes due to abuse or neglect they have been subjected to.

Currently, says Skinner, because of the shortage of foster homes, it is often necessary to place children in foster homes out of their home areas making it necessary for them to change schools and be away from friends and family. More local foster homes would make it possible to keep more children in their local areas allowing more regular and frequent contact between them and their families and allowing them to stay in familiar surroundings.

"There's a real need for foster care and adoptive families," said Marcie Anderson, foster home certifier/adoption worker. "There hasn't been a lot of information out there and a lot of kids need homes."

Anderson said that those interested need to complete 15 hours of pre-certification held

through Blue Mountain Community College every term. She said that the 2-1/2 hour classes are held once a week. She added that she will do pre-certification training on Saturdays in outlying communities.

Skinner and her husband Robert have been residents of Gilliam County for 10 years and are currently living on 20 acres they purchased in the Olex area. She has two children, Scott who lives at home and works for Weimar Farms, and Jaime, currently living in College Place, Washington.

Skinner began her career with Services to Children and Families in 1991 as a part-time office specialist working in the Condon office. Since September, 1997, she has worked full-time in the agency's Boardman office as a human services assistant and homemaker, a position that has allowed her to provide services to families in Morrow, Gilliam and Wheeler counties.

Skinner says she plans to take her message to all the communities in Morrow, Gilliam and Wheeler counties and will share the need for foster and adoptive homes with all who will listen. She wants to hold informational meetings in each community for those who would like more information about becoming foster or adoptive parents. Watch for notices for public meetings.

Anyone who has an interest in becoming a foster or adoptive parent may call Skinner at (541) 481-9482. "I am happy to schedule meetings for groups of interested people or visit with individuals about the foster care program," she adds.

Strategic plan meeting scheduled

The kick-off meeting for the development of the updated Heppner Community Strategic Plan will be held at the Heppner High School cafeteria on Tuesday evening, Sept. 15.

Invited speakers and topics include Judge Louis Carlson on county services and economic conditions, Oregon Economic Development Dept. regional development officer Dave Harlan on state economic conditions, programs and opportunities, and USDA Rural Development coordinator Steve Dubé on funding levels and programs.

For more information, contact Rick Minster, Morrow County Economic coordinator, 989-8200.

Padbergs selected yard of the month



Jeanette Padberg

The yard of Archie and Jeanette Padberg was selected the September yard of the month by the Heppner Garden Club and Green Feed & Seed. The Padbergs moved into their newly built house shortly before thanksgiving.

Missionaries to speak at Church

Dougg and LeAnn Custer, missionaries to Austria serving with CBInternational of Wheaton, Illinois, will speak about their ministry at the Lexington Baptist Church on Wednesday, September 16, at 7 p.m.

For more than 11 years, the Custers have been involved in planting and developing the Baptist Church in Villach, Austria, which was started by CBInternational missionaries Tim and Joan Cumings. This ministry of evangelism, discipleship and leadership training reached its desired conclusion in the spring of 1994 with the appointment of elders to take over all the leading and teaching responsibilities. When

they return to Austria in the fall the Custers will continue in their second church planting effort in Spittal. Their main concentration will again be teaching and leadership training.

LeAnn Custer serves as treasurer for the Austria field. Along with mothering three children, she has been heavily involved in teaching ministries, including one-on-one Bible studies, a women's group and Sunday school.

Dougg Custer is teach chairman for the Austria field. He sits on the national board for the theological education program and is helping form a new ministry in Austria that is designed to provide counseling help to national church leaders.

Denton to replace Drago

The Morrow County Court has passed a resolution appointing Undersheriff Verlin R. Denton as Sheriff to replace retiring Sheriff Roy Drago. The appointment is effective Thursday, Oct. 29. Denton will complete the two years left on Sheriff Drago's term of office.

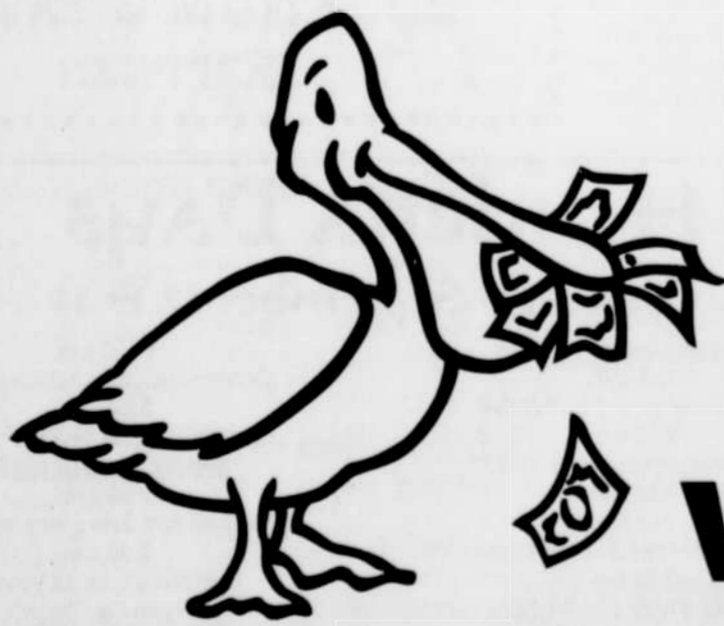
Denton is a 26-year veteran officer, joining the Morrow County Sheriff's Office (MCSO) in 1983 as a patrol deputy. He has worked at the MCSO for over 15 years, 13 as undersheriff. Denton was promoted to detective sergeant three weeks after joining the department and then was promoted to undersheriff in October 1985.

Before joining the MCSO, Denton worked for the Curry County Sheriff's Office (CCSO) for nine and a half years at Gold Beach on the southern Oregon coast. At Curry County, he

worked his way up through the ranks to detective sergeant. He started his law enforcement career as a patrolman for the Gold Beach Police Dept. in 1973 before joining the CCSO.

Denton holds management and executive-level certification from Oregon's Dept. of Public Safety Standards and Training and has extensive experience in the administration and operation of a sheriff's dept., said a MCSO news release.

Denton, 51, is an Eastern Oregon native. He was born in Walla Walla, WA, and raised in the mill town of Kinzua in Wheeler County. He attended eight years of grade school in Kinzua and three years of high school in Fossil. He graduated from Brookings-Harbor High School in 1964. He is married and has two children and two grandchildren.



Want free money?

At Klamath First Federal we're so sure that our service is better than the other guys, we're willing to put our money where our mouths are. The first 100 people to open a business or personal checking account at each branch will

get an instant cash bonus. And anyone who opens an account before September 30th will be entered in a drawing for \$1,000. A bank that's giving away money. Now that's a refreshing attitude! Come in or call and we'll

show you how easy it is to transfer your account. Open a business or personal checking account for the money. Stay for the service that's kept our customers happy for over 60 years.



Heppner
111 N. Main Street
541-676-5407

OFFICIAL RULES: Promotion ends 9/30/98. Min. deposit of \$100 required. Business trust accounts excluded. Must be at least 18 yrs old to participate. Prizes (FD insured). All new customers are verified through ChexSystems and must have no adverse information reported to open a checking account. Klamath First Federal employees and their household families may not receive cash bonuses over the \$1000 prize. Cash bonuses and prizes are considered interest income paid. First order of bank check check provided without charge. Cash bonuses paid at account opening in the first 90. Checking accounts opened at each branch. Bonus amount determined by customer drawing a bonus coupon or coupon from their first deposit at the branch. Initial bonus coupon supplies at each branch \$1-49, \$10-19, \$20-4, \$30-4, and \$100-1. Limited to one cash bonus per household or business. Drawing: Odds of winning \$1000 drawing depends on the number of checking accounts opened from 8/25/98 through 9/30/98. One entry per new account. Drawing to be held 10/5/98 (account must still be open to be eligible) at the Main Office of Klamath First Federal, 349 Main Street, Klamath Falls, OR 97601.