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HEPPNER



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Day Care purchases facility

Heppner Day Care Board president Kim Cutsforth and director Merry Brannon signed documents Dec. 21 to finalize the purchase of the Day Care building from the Cleveland Trust.

The Heppner Day Care Board has been working with the Morrow Development Corporation (Port of Morrow) and the Bank of Eastern Oregon since early fall to work out terms of a loan from both these organizations. The monthly payments on their new 15 year mortgage will be substantially less than their current rent.

Several local community organizations, individuals and families contributed money that will be used to pay new insurance requirements, property taxes and other general closing costs.

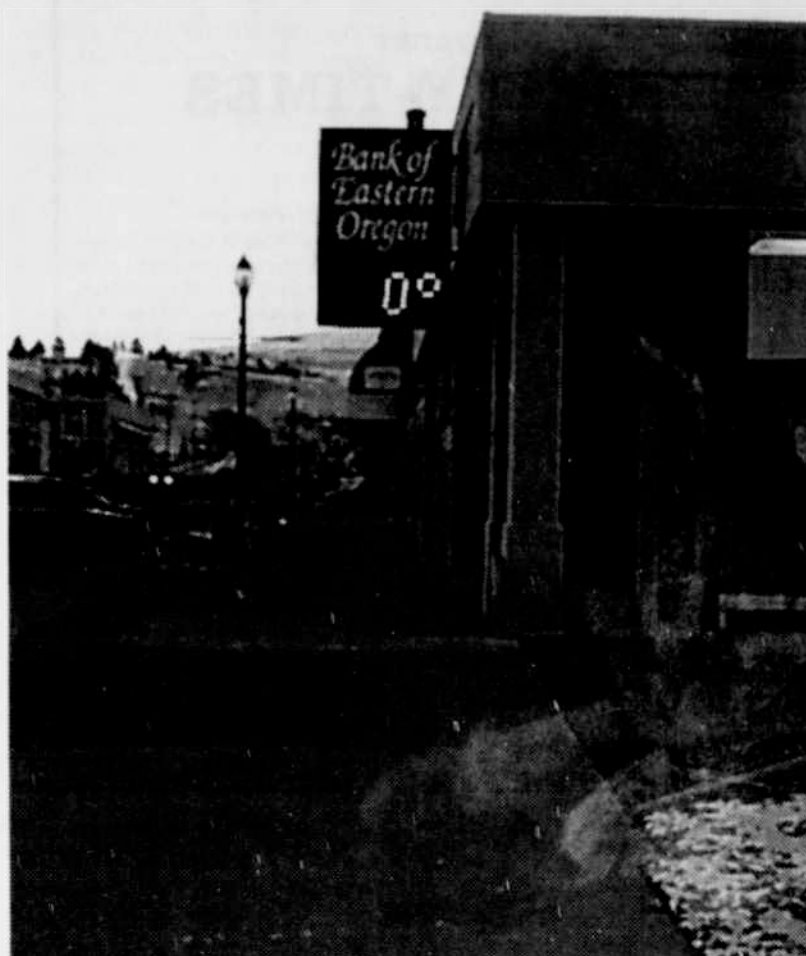
Murray Drugs recently participated in a giving tree for items the day care needs. Children were to open the presents at 2 p.m. on Wednesday, Dec. 23.

Gazette-Times closed Dec. 24-25

The Heppner Gazette-Times will be closed the day before Christmas and Christmas day, December 24 and 25.

Merry Christmas from the staff at the G-T.

Brrr . . .



A cold snap throughout Oregon brought frigid temperatures and a dusting of snow to South Morrow County. The city of Heppner reports a weekend low of around -2F. The weather forecast predicts a warming trend and possibly precipitation by Christmas eve.

Heppner man turns vigilante

A local group organized to combat the recent increase in crime in Heppner through non-violent means has apparently turned vigilante and taken the law into its own hands. One organizer and vocal proponent of the group, Lyle Verrall, attempted to assault an 18-year-old with a baseball bat Tuesday, Dec. 22, in Heppner.

According to witnesses, Verrall tried to pick a fight with a male subject and then attempted to hit him with a bat through the window of a pickup. Verrall then smashed the grill and the headlight of the pickup with the bat. The subject and the driver of the pickup reported the incident to the Heppner Police.

Police Chief Doug Rathbun said that Verrall would be

arrested and would probably be charged with disorderly conduct, but added that the Morrow County District attorney would determine the charges.

According to an August 5 Gazette-Times news story, the Heppner Crime Prevention Committee declared that they would not take the law into their own hands. "Any form of violence by residents to deter crime was strongly opposed by the committee, which felt that citizens should be the eyes and ears for local police by informing them of suspicious activity and avoiding any confrontation," the story continued.

The group was formed to deter crime in youth and young adults.

Turn in your cards for the last week of Christmas punch contest

There is one more week left in the Christmas Punch contest so be sure to have your cards punched and turned in by next Monday, Dec. 28. Next week in addition to the regular \$25 gift certificate, a grand prize winner for \$600 in gift certificates will be drawn. All entries that have been turned in during the entire contest will be eligible to win the grand prize.

The following winners were drawn out for \$25 gift certificates this week in the Christmas Punch Contest:

Arlynda Gates won a \$25 gift certificate to Lott's Electric; DeRina Howard won a gift certificate to Shoe Box; Wendy Haack to Central Market and Ed Berretta won a \$25 gift certificate to Pettyjohn's Builders Supply.

The Christmas Punch Contest runs through next week, so remember to pick up your card and then have it punched as you shop the following businesses: Gardner's Men's Wear, Coast to Coast, Les Schwab Tires, Peterson's Jewelers, Lott's Electric, Shoe Box, Central Red Apple Market, Pettyjohn's, Morrow County Grain Growers, Court Street Market, Murray Drugs/ Country Rose and Corbin's Bowl and Diner.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

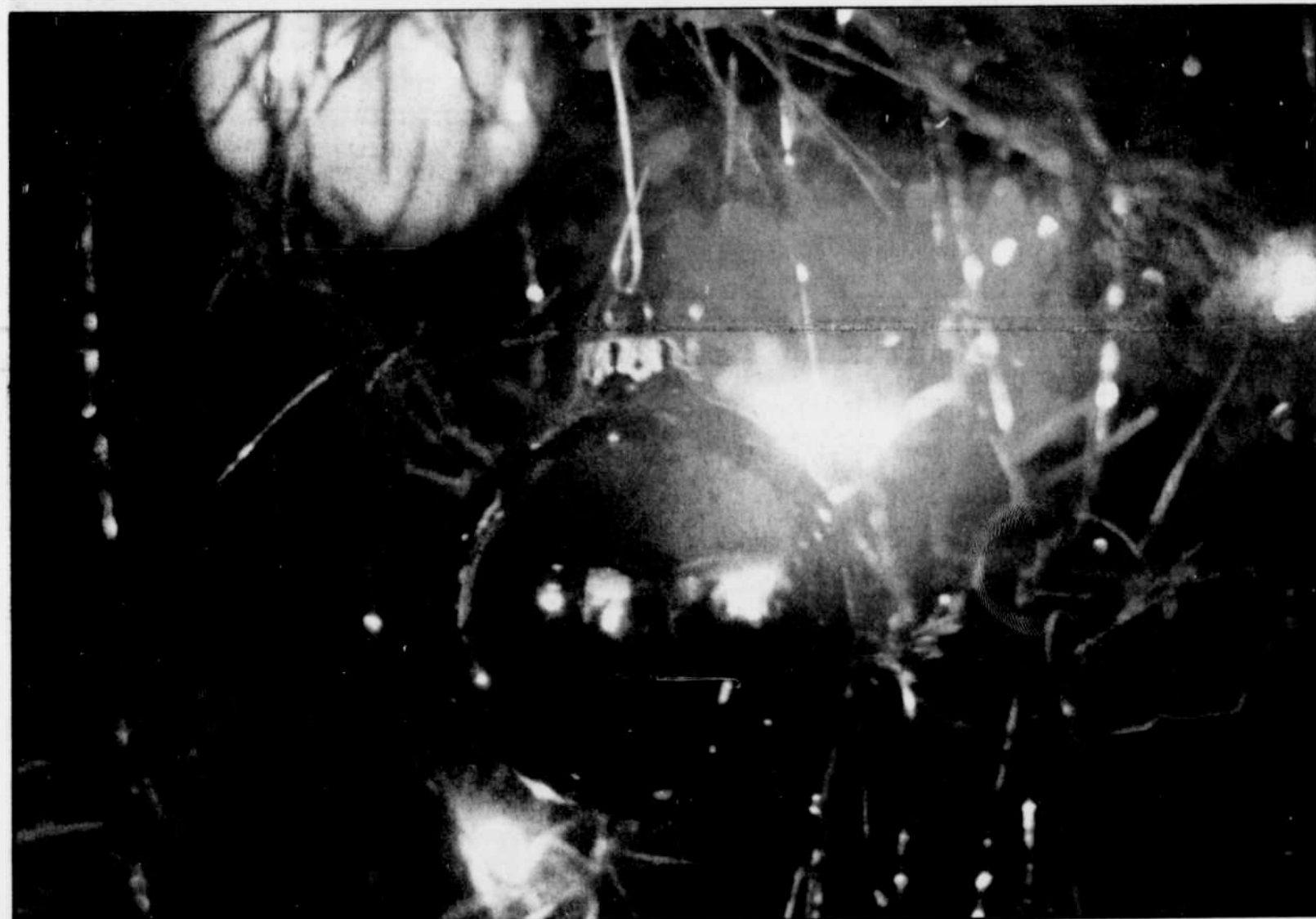


Photo by Allison Sykes

Heppner considers dog control options

According to Heppner City Manager Jerry Breazeale, the City of Heppner has received increasing complaints about dogs running at large. At the regular meeting of the city council, held December 14, 1998, the council discussed options to enforce the city ordinance dealing with dog control.

Complaints have included dogs running loose, defecating on public sidewalks and causing problems on private property. Currently, says Breazeale, city law prohibits dogs running at large and there are significant penalties which can be assessed to dog owners who allow their pets to roam freely. Enforcement has usually been initiated by a complaint being filed and a warning issued to the dog owner. After a second complaint, a citation may be issued requiring the owner to pay a fine or appear in court. According to Breazeale, the council is concerned that current enforcement provisions are not adequate and has requested staff to investigate initiating further action to get compliance with the law.

Dogs running at large can cause a lot of trouble when free to go where they please, he said. Problems from loose dogs range from getting into trash cans and

scattering garbage to attacking and injuring people. Given a chance, Breazeale added, dogs will join up with others and form a pack. "Dogs in packs present the greatest risk to the public," he said. "Even a good natured house pet can turn into a troublemaker when in a pack environment."

He also noted that there is the possibility that a free ranging pet can encounter a rabid animal and carry the disease home to the owner or others that it comes in contact with.

The city urges owners to keep their dogs in fenced enclosures, securely tied or on a leash. The options considered include requiring that all dogs be licensed, picking up and impounding stray pets and assessing fines and impound fees.

Breazeale said the costs to set up and administer such programs and would result in increased costs to pet owners.

Breazeale said the council expressed hope that dog owners would voluntarily keep their pets restrained if they knew of the problems their dogs were causing for other residents of the city and of the potential for increased costs. Should voluntary compliance of the leash law alleviate the current

problems, the city may not have to take on the additional expense of establishing and running a dog control program, he concluded.

OSU releases honor students

Oregon State University has announced the names of students who made the scholastic honor roll fall term.

To be on the honor roll, students must carry at least 12 graded hour of course work and earn a 3.5 grade point average or better.

Local students who qualify include Alison Sullivan, Ione, a junior in home economics and education, with a 3.5 or better GPA.

EOU lists honor students

Eastern Oregon University has announced its fall quarter dean's list. To qualify for the list, students must have a minimum of 12 graded credit hours and achieve a 3.5 grade point average or better.

Local students who qualify include: John Qualls, Heppner; Jake Bacon, Ione; and Tina Kemp and Becky Wagenblast, Lexington.

City council minutes now on the internet

The minutes of the Heppner city council meetings, are now available to the public on the Internet.

Open your web browser to www.heppner.net and click on the city of Heppner link and you will be on the city's new home page. A list of the city council meeting minutes will be listed on the left side of your screen. The city plans to archive the minutes of each meeting, and keep them available for viewing.

Also on the city's new home page are names of city officials, the city's e-mail address, as well as other information.

The city page was built and is maintained by the Heppner Gazette-Times.



The downtown Christmas tree was flocked with snow when Heppner residents awoke Friday morning.

WE HAVE IN STOCK: **Winter Bibs, Jackets & Coveralls!**

HOLIDAY SCHEDULE: Closing at 12 noon on Thursday, December 24th
CLOSED ALL DAY Friday and Saturday, December 25th-26th
CLOSED New Year's Day - Open Saturday, Jan. 2 until noon

MORROW COUNTY GRAIN GROWERS
Lexington 989-8221 • 1-800-452-7396 For farm equipment, visit our web site at www.mcgg.net