

HEPPNER



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VOL. 118 NO. 5 8 Pages Wednesday, February 3, 1999 Morrow County, Heppner, Oregon

Matt Jepsen Voice of Democracy winner



Nancy Jepsen of Heppner. He was also the first place District 8

winner last year, so this will be his second chance to compete at the state level.

Ione booster, Cardinal Clubs merge

Ione Booster Club met Monday, February 1, at the Ione High School library.

President Debbie Radie reported work is ready to begin on the lettering for the state volleyball board. There is enough lumber left to make three district boards. The club agreed to replace the poster board sign for the 1980 district champion boys' team. Members of that team are asked to make donations to the club to help defray the cost of the lettering.

Dean Robinson, athletic director, contacted Debbie Radie about making state championship flags for the gym. The smaller size would cost approximately \$70 each. Members agreed to look into other options.

Club members voted to merge the booster club with the Cardinal Club. Jannie Allen has agreed to continue emceeing the fall teacher reception to encourage parents and staff to volunteer for Cardinal Club

projects. The club agreed to continue with the community calendar money making project. They are currently looking for someone to supervise that activity. Members voted to change the name of Ione Booster Club to Cardinal Booster Club.

The basketball quilt made by Loa Henderson will be raffled during the Helix game Saturday. Laurel Cannon is organizing a shopping cart raffle for the Friday game with Condon. Community members are asked to bring a food item to help fill the cart.

Radie mailed out 168 letters asking community members to designate what activities they could help with. Club members encourage people to respond to the survey. Extra copies are available from Radie.

Robinson and coach Dennis Stefani have used football and track shoes available for students to use. Anyone with good quality shoes their children have outgrown or no longer use, are encouraged to donate them to the school.

Stefani will order a plaque for the boys' basketball program to show stat leaders every year. He will be in charge of updating the engraving.

Robinson announced that starting next year, the Ione basketball teams will play each team on the other side of the district once in a league-

counting game. They will continue playing the east side teams twice. League play will start January 2.

The baseball dugouts have been condemned. It has been proposed to rebuild them at the north end of the field so the pitcher's mound doesn't interfere with the football field.

The lack of spirit at ball games was discussed. Several suggestions were made, including the creation of a pep squad to lead cheers.

Radie presented the volleyball video she made. Members agreed to take orders for the video at \$10 for one and \$15 for two.

The next meeting of the Cardinal Booster Club will be Monday, March 1, at 7 p.m. at the Ione High School Library.

Siren set off by mistake

The CSEPP siren system in Morrow and Umatilla counties was accidentally activated this morning during a routine maintenance check on January 29.

The sirens sounded for about 45 seconds before the system could be shut down. Ed Higuraea, the state communications coordinator, said the event occurred at 6:36 a.m.

Higuraea said that the event occurred as he was logging onto the system. A full activation system check is a normal part of the maintenance program on the siren system, but this is the first time the sirens have been activated accidentally.

Tom Worden, the state CSEPP public information officer, said that a number of people called dispatch centers concerned about the siren activation. The state is in the process of updating the activation system.

Mills wins GT football contest

Larry Mills came out on top in the GT football contest, picking 136 correct games versus only 59 wrong.

Second place ended in a tie between George Koffler and Kim Gutierrez, both ending with a 133 right 62 wrong record.

Maci Childers a princess on 1999 Pendleton Round-Up Court

By Merlyn Robinson

Princess Maci Childers is a member of Queen Josilyn Evans' 1999 Pendleton Round-Up court. She is the 18 year-old daughter of Harvey and Bobbi Childers, Ione, and also a South Morrow County native.

As a former pennant bearer, princess and the 1998 queen of the Morrow County Fair and the Oregon Trail Pro Rodeo, this will be Maci's fourth summer of promoting western traditions and events that stem from her heritage.

Maci's great grandfather, Antone Vey, Jr., was a rodeo buff and held rodeos at his Buttercreek ranch until 1936. He was also a long-time contestant at the Pendleton Round-Up and at Heppner and other rodeos where he roped calves and steers on horses that he had trained. Tony was known as colorful, cigar-smoking cowboy who flew airplanes to help manage his vast holdings ranging from Big Buttercreek to the Starkey region. At one time his ranches supported large bands of sheep, but in later years he turned to cattle ranching. In the late 1960s, Tony was selected as grand marshal of the Pendleton Dress Up Parade.

Maci's grandfather, the late Robert Schiller, was a nephew of the Vey's and he was raised on the Vey ranches. The Schillers continued the ranch operation after Tony and his wife, Mabel Schiller Vey, both passed away. Maci's grandmother, Marilyn Schiller and family members carry on with this ranching tradition. So it's there that Maci spends her summers helping with ranch activities. However while attending college, Maci has been employed part time as filing clerk with the firm of Kottkamp and O'Rourke in Pendleton.

Maci is a Heppner High School graduate and currently attends Blue Mountain Community College with an eye on a nursing degree. During high school, Maci received the 1998

Citizenship award, was a prom princess, a member of the National Honor Society and an FFA Outstanding Ag student. She also participated in volleyball, basketball and tennis. She says in her spare time she enjoys all ball sports, horseback riding and water skiing. During summers, her family often takes to the water in their boat. She also enjoys shooting trap with the dad and brother, Kacy.

Maci has also been an involved 4-H member through the years with cooking, swine and horse



Pendleton Round-Up Princess Maci Childers

projects. Her community service included volunteering with class members to participate in community functions. She has also taken an active role in Ione's annual church auction and the July 4th celebration.

Maci's aunts, Bonnie Grant, Verina Schiller and Laurie Barrow, are former Morrow County royalty members. Her family also includes paternal grandparents, Cleo and Marilyn Childers of Ione.

For her Round-Up court appearances on horseback, Maci will be mounted on a registered Quarter Horse, Chuck's Fritz, affectionately nicknamed "Baby." Baby is wise to the ways of parades and grand entries since this is his third year of appearing with Maci. It will be easy to spot this vivacious, pretty brunette who says she is excitedly looking forward to a whirlwind of events to promote the Pendleton Round-Up and the heartland of her roots.

Heppner in the eyes of a visitor

Merna DeBolt, the 1999 Town and Country speaker who portrayed Lucy Meriwether Marks featured Heppner in her "Museum Musings" column in the Skamania County Pioneer (Stevenson, WA) newspaper. She mailed the enclosed to the Heppner Chamber of Commerce. "It's good to have a reminder of what we have right under our noses as seen through the eyes of a visitor," said Claudia Hughes, chamber manager.

"Museum Musings"
Skamania County Pioneer
Jan. 27, 1999

By Merna DeBolt

Hometown gatherings have a special charm. I rediscovered this recently when Lucy Meriwether Marks was invited to speak in Heppner, Ore. The Chamber of Commerce was putting on their yearly Town and Country Banquet and honoring their outstanding citizens.

Awards are given for Man of the Year, Woman of the Year, Businessman of the Year, Educator of the Year, and Lifetime Achievement.

One hundred and ninety people crowded the banquet hall, and many who had put off purchasing their tickets had to be turned away at the door.

One said he supposed the youth of today see as their heroes those with lots of zeroes in their salaries; but, he reminded them, the real heroes are here tonight. These everyday citizens who regularly volunteer their time and talents without any thought of recognition or monetary reward. Every recipient received a standing ovation. I could actually feel the love of that audience reaching out to those they had chosen to honor.

Heppner had just received notice that its lumber mill would close. The rumors were true. It

was official. The mill would shut down in 60 days. Larry Mills, the master of ceremonies, broke the news to the crowd. I'm not sure what I expected him to say. I suppose I thought he would express his anger and bitterness. Heppner sits way off the beaten path. Driving to the Tri-Cities or to Pendleton for employment will not be practical.

Much to my surprise, his words contained no anger, no whining or even any disrespect for the environmentalists. His words were full of hope.

"It's a big blow to our economy," he said, "but we can survive by helping the people most affected by this closure. We must come together as a community and seek new ways to develop our future economic growth."

I was amazed at their reaction to this most discouraging news. They seem to think they can survive. Like the unsinkable Molly Brown, they ain't down yet.

These are descendants of Irish immigrants who came to this area as a result of the potato famine in Ireland. I learned a lot about these Irish Oregonians. I learned of their love and respect for one another. I learned they are a positive people. For a few minutes I wanted to move to Heppner.

The museum was closed when we got there, but they offered to open it so Merle and I could see the heritage they are preserving. They are proud of their past. They are accepting their present situation, and they are bravely looking ahead, confident about their future.

Could there be a lesson in all this for us?

NEWS DEADLINE
5 p.m. Monday

GROWERS CHEMICAL MEETING

Friday, February 12 ~ 8 a.m. to noon with lunch following
at Willows Grange, Ione
(Chemical Applicator Credits Applied)

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