

Construction underway at Wilkinson Arena



Allstott & Gentry Construction is busy putting on the siding and roof of the Wilkinson Arena at the Morrow County Fairgrounds in Heppner. The arena will be ready to welcome all livestock during this year's fair.

"Many hours of volunteer labor have gone into the erection of the building and is appreciated by the fair board."

said fair secretary LaRae Kindle. "There are obstacles that have arisen which is normal for a project of this size but we are very excited about having the Wilkinson Arena finished in time for the 1999 fair. This is a huge asset the entire county can be proud of."

Kindle reminds those who haven't already purchased their

brand board, plaque or banner that time is running out to have them ready to be on the wall of the Wilkinson Arena during fair. Contributions are needed to pay for the loose ends that arise during the completion of the arena, she said.

One may contact the fair office, 676-9474, or any board member for more information.

Matt Van Liew earns achievement award

The United States Achievement Academy (USAA) has announced that Matthew Van Liew from Heppner has been named a United States National Award winner in English.

This award is a prestigious honor few students can attain, according to an USAA news re-

lease. The Academy recognizes fewer than 10 percent of all American high school students.

Van Liew, who attends Heppner High School, was nominated for the award by Linda Dutcher, a teacher at the school. Van Liew will appear in the USAA official yearbook, which is published na-

tionally.

The Academy selects USAA winners upon the recommendation of teachers, coaches, counselors and other qualified sponsors. The criteria for selection are a student's academic performance, interest and aptitude, leadership qualities, responsibility, enthusiasm, motivation to learn and improve, citizenship, attitude, cooperative spirit and dependability, said the news release.

Van Liew is the son of Dan and Sandra Van Liew of Heppner. His grandparents are Roger and Shirley Palmer of Heppner, and Ray and Johanne Van Liew of Medford.

BMCC recognition dinner set May 8

The 10th Annual Blue Mountain Community College Recognition-Reunion-Retirement Dinner is set for Saturday, May 8.

This year's dinner will be held at the Pendleton Double Tree Hotel, with a no-host social hour beginning at 5 p.m. and dinner starting at 6 p.m.

Staff members, including those employed part-time, who have been employed at the college for five, 10, 15, 20, 25 and 30 years are recognized, as well as retirees.

Tickets are now on sale for \$15 per person. They can be purchased in the Instructional Deans Office by calling 541/278-5853 or from the President's Office at 541/278-5951. Current and former staff members, and other college supporters are invited to attend.

Soroptimists hold senior girls luncheon



(Left to right) Heppner High School senior Jaclynn Hughes, her mother Joyce Hughes, senior Janelle Healy and her mother Carmen Healy enjoy the Soroptimist annual Senior Girls Luncheon at All Saints' Episcopal Church in Heppner Thursday, April 8. Each year the Soroptimist International club holds the luncheon for the senior girls at Heppner and Lone schools. Carrie Brownfield Grieb was guest speaker and Rick and Cecelia Drake provided music. The luncheon was catered by All Saints' Episcopal.

Learning Center, BMCC Foundation receive funds from sale of lone farm

Blue Mountain Community College Foundation and BMCC's proposed Morrow County Learning Center received a financial boost when BMCC Board members approved allocation of the funds received from the sale of the "lone farm property".

The lone farm was donated to BMCC by Earl Wilson in the mid 1980's. Wilson was a Nevada resident whose granddaughter attended BMCC. Since then lone farmer Joe McElligott has leased the property from the college.

The foundation will receive \$363,385 and board members designated that the funds be unrestricted.

Health care scholarships offered

People who live in some rural Oregon communities struggle in the quest for access to adequate health care. In many Oregon towns, a shortage of health practitioners means residents must drive two hours or more for care. These prohibitively long trips to the doctor's office can have potentially serious health consequences, according to a news release from the Northeast Oregon Area Health Education Center.

The Oregon Statewide Area Health Education Centers Program works to raise awareness of the need for more readily available primary health care in underserved communities and encourages students in the health professions to consider working in these areas.

In partnership with underserved communities and the Federal Bureau of Primary Health Care, the AHECs are once again offering Community Health Scholarships to aspiring nurse practitioners, primary care physicians, physician assistants and certified nurse midwives. Eligible students include those from underserved communities designated by the federal government as a geographic or population health professional Shortage Area.

Students who receive scholarships are sponsored in part by a community organization in their area. In return for the scholarship support, students agree to return to their sponsoring community to practice for a minimum of two years upon completion of their professional education.

Scholarship applications are being accepted through May 24. For more information or to request an application for the Community Scholarship Program, call Carole Smith at Northeast Oregon AHEC, at (541) 962-3423 or Becki Anderson at the AHEC Statewide Program Office, at (503) 494-1165.

Karen Hill, executive director of the foundation, expressed her appreciation. "We are delighted to have unrestricted funds-this move is key in providing the foundation with the ability to be responsive." Hill said that the foundation will spend part of next year studying the needs of the college so foundation dollars can be allocated to highest need areas for students and the college.

The Morrow County Learning Center will receive \$100,000 which will be utilized to augment bond dollars targeted for the project. The learning center will be located in Boardman on a site that was donated to the college by the city of Boardman. Paul McCarrell, dean of Boardman, explained the need for extra dollars saying, "As the educational needs of Irrigon and Boardman were being assessed, it became apparent that our original plan for the learning center needed to be expanded."

Additional financial support for college technology will be provided through a \$1 per credit tuition increase authorized by

the board. The increase will bring BMCC's tuition to \$37 per credit hour. The senior citizen class fee was also raised by \$1, making the charge \$11. These changes are the first in the college's comprehensive review of tuition and fees. More change is expected as the college completes its review this fall.

The board also received copies of the initial drawing of the new science and technology building. Architect Rob Barrentine said that there is a strong level of support among those who have seen the sketches. He also noted there are nine separate bid packages to be developed for the general contractor. Some of the packages are only one building and others include a group of buildings. "I'm starting to feel some time pressure," said Barrentine. He explained that the first bid package is due in early April and more than 50 percent of the packages need to be developed prior to June 21. Barrentine noted design teams have been established for each of over 20 bond building projects to facilitate the planning process.

St. Patrick's Senior Center Bulletin Board

Ninety-one were present for the senior dinner April 7. Hearing aid assistance was given and blood pressures taken before the meal. The Nutrition Site Committee didn't meet as not enough members were there.

The menu for dinner April 21 will be baked ham, cheese croissants, potato salad, dilly green beans, tossed green salad and apple crisp. Members of the First Christian Church will serve.

The dining room was packed on April 7 for the "celebration of Sue Vinson's Life". She is greatly missed here at the center. She cheerfully volunteered wherever a helping hand was needed and helped support the center with her "Gofer" table. She brightened up dinners with her zany costumes on various occasions, such as Halloween, Easter and Mother's Day.

The Garden Club held a potluck dinner and lesson Monday evening April 5, at the center. Their plant exchange will be held in the dining room Saturday, Apr. 17, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Cards were played Tuesday and Friday afternoons and Bingo Friday evening.

The museum dinner was held Saturday evening, April 10, at the center.

Ed Baker brought the new senior bus schedules; sign-up sheets are in the office. Come in or phone 676-9030 to be put on the list.

Bus trips to meal sites are as follows: Monday, April 26, Irrigon, 10:30 a.m.; Friday, May 7, Pendleton, 9 a.m.; Friday, May 21, country ride, eat at Beecher's, 11 a.m.; Tuesday, June 8, Monument, 8:30 a.m. Friday, June 25, Umatilla, 10:30 a.m.; Thursday, July 8, Spray, 10 a.m.; Thursday, July 22, Hermiston, 10:30 a.m.; Tuesday, Aug. 3, Arlington, 9:30 a.m..

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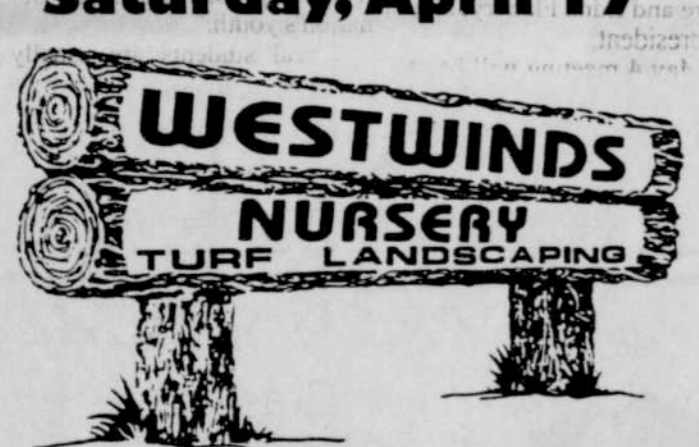


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