

HEPPNER

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Senator Smith presents award to Nikki McElligott



Senator Gordon Smith (right) presents an American Red Cross Certificate of Merit to Nikki McElligott of Lone in a ceremony in Pendleton June 26. McElligott was honored for saving Lee Ansoategui (left) Heppner, from drowning in 1997. The certificate is Red Cross' highest lifesaving award. McElligott, 17, is the daughter of Jeri and Joe McElligott, Lone.

Town of Lexington getting finances in order

A group of volunteers is assisting the town of Lexington in getting their financial information in order, according to Jean Brazell, who is acting as volunteer city recorder.

Brazell said Tuesday that the files have been updated, but the information has not yet been reviewed by an accountant.

"I really feel like we're getting somewhere," said Brazell. "The decisions we've been making have been based on upholding the law."

The town of Lexington is now seeking applications for a town council person and a permanent city recorder.

The council is asking that those interested in applying for the council position submit a resume and a letter indicating interest in the position hopefully by this Friday, July 23, but at least by Monday, July 26. The council intends to appoint a councilor at

their meeting Tuesday, July 27, which begins at 7:30 p.m. at city hall.

Mayor John Renfro says that the council plans to appoint a city recorder at their first August meeting with applications due prior to that date.

Brazell said one major issue facing Lexington is the on-going project concerning the town's water supply system. City officials are planning to consult with an engineer on updating the system, but they don't expect to be able to work on the system until next spring. The town has been seeking a grant for the project, but, said Brazell, they have been told by officials that the prospects are not good because of the town's low water rates and the economic situation of the town's residents.

The town's system needs an update because the water pressure is so low that some

people cannot get water, said Brazell. "We do have a problem," she said.

She said that the water rate will go from \$15 to \$25 with the next billing, but the town may be looking at additional increases down the road to fund the system updates.

In addition to Brazell, others have volunteered their services following discovery of discrepancies in the town's bookkeeping. Volunteers include: Betty Christman, who has been cleaning city hall; Sherron Woodside, who has helped get the accounting system into the Quicken computer program; council person Marcia Kemp, who has donated one day a week to provide office help; John Edwards and Bob Taylor, who have worked on water rights issues; and Lorraine Montgomery, who helped out in office support earlier.

Tri County All Stars advance to state tourney



Hermiston Nationals in another close game which Tri-County won 9-7.

On Wednesday, July 14 the stage was set for the championship game between the Tri-County All-Stars and the Pendleton Nationals. Both teams took to the field ready to win and played hard, but the Tri-County All-Star team took the win, 5-4, and will advance on to the state tournament in Burns.

"It was a total team effort," says coach Juan Elguezabal. "This was baseball at its best," stated George Nairns, mother of player Kiel Nairns.

The players who made up the All-Star team are: Luke Murray, Kyler Lovgren, Juan Jesus Elguezabal, Kiel Nairns and Adam Wight, all of Heppner; Billy Gates of Lone; Zack Lantis of Condon; Michael Sallee and Jeremy Rosenbaum of Arlington; Josh Kegler and David Harris of Boardman; Russell Madison and Jordan Russell of Umatilla and Dustin Swindler of Irrigon.

The coaches are Juan Elguezabal and Tony Pupo of Heppner and Dean Kegler of Boardman.

The Tri-County All-Stars will now move on to the North Oregon Babe Ruth Baseball State Tournament in Burns. Their first game will be on Saturday, July 24, at 3 p.m. against the District 8 champions.

If they lose they will play on Sunday at 5:30 p.m. and if they win they will play on Monday at 9 a.m.

Hunter ed classes slated

A hunter education course has been scheduled for the Heppner area. The course will be held on August 3, 6, 7, 10 and 11. The sessions (except the one on the seventh) will be from 6-9 pm at the Forest Service office in Heppner.

The August 7 session will be a field day from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. As a general rule, all sessions must be attended for the student to pass. Another class will not be offered in the area this summer and young hunters who need this class should attend this one.

In addition to learning safe and responsible hunting techniques, students taking the class will learn proper hunter ethics, wildlife management and outdoor skills. The course is required for all hunters younger than 18 (unless they hunt on their own property) in Oregon.

Anyone interested or for more information, call Russ Morgan at 676-5230 or Tom Wolff at 676-5114. A \$5 donation is requested to cover the cost of ammunition and targets for the field day.

Fair tab story, ad deadline July 30

The deadline to submit news articles and ads for the Fair Tab, the Gazette-Times special edition, will be Friday, July 30, at 5 p.m.

The Fair Tab will come out August 11, the week before the Morrow County Fair and Oregon Trail Pro Rodeo.

Advertising Deadline
12 noon Tuesday

On Friday, July 9, boys who make up the Tri-County 13-year-old Babe Ruth All-Star team traveled to The Dalles with one thing on their minds...to play tough baseball.

The boys first game was on Saturday, July 10, against Columbia. After nine innings the

Tri-County team came out on top with a score of 3-2.

The second game for Tri-County was on Monday, July 12, vs. the Hermiston Americans which the Tri-County boys won easily, 18-1, in five innings. They then had to play again on Tuesday, July 13, against the

Health district approves contract with Dr. Boss

The Morrow County Health District, at a special meeting Thursday night, July 15, in Boardman, approved a four-year contract with Dr. Robert Boss.

The board, who had been at odds with Boss over contract negotiations for years, voted to give him \$50,000 a year to provide medical care in Boardman and another \$75,000 a year to pay the salary and benefits for a physician's assistant to work in Boss's office.

The board said that the \$125,000 will help Boss provide care for people in the area who have traditionally had difficulty affording medical care, including the Hispanic population, Medicare and Medicaid patients, the indigent and the charity-care population.

Boss, who has a loyal following in the Boardman area, had also been criticized by some for not providing adequate health care for those populations.

According to the contract, if the physician's assistant doesn't generate \$90,000 in annual revenue, the district will pay the difference to Boss. If the physician's assistant generates more than the \$90,000, the district will pay an additional \$5,000 for additional clerical work for Boss. Boss will retain receipts from the clinic, but will submit to an annual audit of his financial records, which had been a bone of contention with Boss in his previous contract negotiations with the district.

Dedication, dance set at fairgrounds



With the 1999 Morrow County Fair and the Oregon Trail Pro Rodeo fast approaching August 18-22, a building dedication and kick-off dance are scheduled for the evening of July 30 at the fairgrounds.

A ribbon cutting ceremony at 7:30 p.m. that day will dedicate the new Wilkinson Arena. This large covered 125 x 225 foot building, which was completed this year, will provide ample space for all livestock exhibits and show rings. The building was constructed to also accommodate year-around community events.

The building is named for major donors, Dick and Virginia Wilkinson, who will be on hand

After contract negotiations with Boss broke down several years ago, Boss, who had been practicing in the district-owned Boardman Medical Clinic, built an office next door to the clinic. The clinic and Boss' office, the Boardman Healthcare Center, operated in competition until the district shut down its clinic July 2 of this year.

In Boss' previous contract with the district, he was paid \$130,000 a year and was provided medical offices free of charge. In the previous contract, as in the contract currently proposed, Boss kept the clinic receipts. In 1996 Boss asked for an additional \$2,000 a month, above and beyond the \$130,000. The board agreed to the raise if Boss agreed to a comprehensive audit. Boss declined to submit to the audit; however the board, in March of 1996 agreed to extend his contract.

Contract negotiations again broke down in 1997 and Boss declined to accept the district's offer. The district hired another physician and Boss established his own clinic next door.

Boardman area residents, complaining that the district treatment of the north Morrow County populace unfairly, and dissatisfied with the district's financial status petitioned to be withdrawn from the district. The petition was denied by the Morrow County Court in January of this year.

for the ceremony.

The public is invited to attend. Prior to the dedication of this building, the Morrow County Livestock Growers are holding a brand board party. Cattle brands and logos of clubs or individuals who contribute to the Wilkinson Arena are being imprinted on prepared brand boards. These plaques, along with sponsored banners, will be permanently displayed inside this new building, in recognition of contributors.

A fair and rodeo kick-off dance will follow the dedication, featuring the music of entertainer Zac Grooms. This composer and singer is a teenager from Arlington, whose recordings have soared on the country-western music charts.

Former resident injured in rodeo

Former area resident Gail Papineau was injured Sunday, July 18, while barrel racing at a LaGrande rodeo.

According to relatives, she was life-flighted to Boise, where she remains in a coma. However, they said that her vital signs are good, she is now responding to touch and is expected to regain consciousness.

Harvest Hours

Monday - Friday 7-6

Saturday 7-5

Closed Sunday



MORROW COUNTY GRAIN GROWERS

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