

1949 Fair and Rodeo Court's appearance on horseback to highlight 1999 parade



A highlight of the 1999 Morrow County Fair and Oregon Trail Pro Rodeo Parade is the appearance of the 1949 fair and rodeo court, who will ride in the parade on horseback. Court members included (pictured above, left to right) Ingrid Hermann, Betty Walker, Shirley Wilkinson, Faye Cutsforth and Dorothy Wigglesworth. Below are the court members' current photos. The parade begins at 10 a.m. Saturday, August 21, in downtown Heppner.



Ingrid Hermann Crawford



Betty Walker Edwards



Shirley Wilkinson Rugg



Faye Cutsforth



Dorothy Wigglesworth Graham

County retirement plan checks out ok for Y2k

By Doris Brosnan

County finance director Lisanne Currin and a representative of Pacific Life presented information on the status of the county's retirement plan. Pacific Life reports being prepared for Y2K, having tested many times over the last two years. Currin also reported that life insurance rates are guaranteed not to change until October, 2001.

The court approved payment of some fairgrounds- and rodeo-related claims. Assurance of completed electrical and sprinkler work will be required before release of payments.

Public works director Guy Van Arsdale reported finishing work on the shoulder of Patterson Ferry and putting rock on Redding Road. Van Arsdale will schedule a tour of roads for the court. He reported that the location and maintenance of the fence by Valby Road has been decided by the property owner and the county. The court and Van Arsdale discussed the possibility of a gravel road near Montana Avenue and Sixth Street.

The court, upon hearing a presentation of the planning department, approved a new intergovernmental agreement with the Building Codes Division. Planning director Tamra Mabbott reported on a meeting with Boardman representatives about the building permit program, during which she answered some questions and clarified some issues. The court and Mabbott discussed the question of using the state building inspector or the city of Boardman's inspector. The court authorized the judge to sign a letter of support in an application for a grant to complete the Heritage Trail between Irrigon and Boardman. Mabbott previewed the Congressional hearing scheduled for Monday, August 16, and submitted some presentation material for the hearing.

Assessor-zone manager Greg Sweek suggested that the court start considering reapplication for a new enterprise zone in South Morrow County, though new applications are not yet being accepted. He referred to a map that includes Lexington airport, the city of Heppner and the Kinzua mill site.

The judge reported that the property owner who had placed a fence on a public access road had previously agreed in a letter to the court to move the fence. He will again be contacted.

The court discussed the use of the Doeken Building. They discussed preparedness for an emergency operations center activation. They agreed to hold a public hearing on the formation of the Liberty School Livestock District. They briefly discussed the question of a county fire district and a meeting on the topic on August 12. They discussed some computer networking problems and agreed to allow the computer department to pursue contracting for some technical help.

(The reports on county court meetings are compiled from the detailed notes provided by Andrea Denton. The Gazette Times' decision to by-line Doris Brosnan is not intended to disregard Denton's precise minutes that Brosnan interprets, summarizes and paraphrases for the newspaper.)

Colt signups Aug. 30-31

By Rick Paullus

Heppner Colt football sign-ups for fifth and sixth graders will be held at the Colt football equipment room at the old middle school building on Aug. 30-31 from 5:30-6:30 p.m.

The equipment will be checked out at this time so players and parents need to attend. The first practice will be held after school on Wednesday, Sept. 1.

Road Construction Status Report

Notice to the citizens who utilize and enjoy the Willow Creek (Coal Mine Grade) area:

The U.S. Dept. of Transportation lists its planned construction activities on Willow Creek Road for the week of Monday, Aug. 16:

This week, Tidewater has reduced the construction activities for a few days to await results from their testing laboratory that is conducting the testing for the design of their asphalt pavement for the project. They have finished hauling all of the base aggregate material from the Summerfield Ridge quarry site to the project.

As stated last week, the next course of material that needs to be placed will be the emulsified aggregate base, a four-inch layer of aggregate mixed with one percent asphalt oil, to seal the base aggregate. After the emulsified aggregate base course has been laid, the asphalt running surface will be placed.

The surveyors have completed the necessary staking and will not be back for about a week. There will not be any trucks from the construction site hauling material to the 20 mph corner waste site this week.

The concrete barriers that were placed at the end of last year's construction season will be replaced this week, along with a cable attached between two barriers so that emergency access through the project can be maintained throughout the construction season.

Willow Creek Road will remain open to local traffic only, as far as Cutsforth Park. The park will remain open through the normal season. The detour route through Shaw Creek Road to the four corners, to Penland Lake and Ukiah, is and will remain open to all traffic.

During the 1999 construction season, Willow Creek Road (Coal Mine Grade) (FS 53 Road) will remain closed to all through traffic, from Cutsforth Park to the intersection of FS Roads 5321 (Penland Lake Road).

Watch for travelers, campers and wood cutters, observe the warning signs, including the speed limit, on the Shaw Creek Road detour route, and observe the barricades at both ends of the construction zone. Have a safe summer and remember that the barricaded road closures are for the traveling public's safety.

Federal Highways asks the traveling public for their patience, consideration and cooperation, and appreciates input from the public.

Contact Robert G. Toops, project engineer, at (541) 676-5904 in Heppner for additional information.

Chamber Chatter

By Claudia Hughes, Executive Director

A great big "Heppner hello" to all of you visiting Heppner for the first time and those of you returning for a reunion with family and friends. The Heppner Chamber of Commerce welcomes you and hopes you enjoy our rural area where you're invited to recreate, relocate, retire, relax and renew.

We're glad you've come "A Scootin' and A Bootin'" to the Morrow County Fair and Oregon Trail Pro-Rodeo. Enjoy the fair, parade, and rodeo performances, because this week, that's what Heppner is all about. And what else is there to do? Go for a refreshing swim at Willow Creek Waterpark, play a round of golf at Willow Creek Golf Course, visit our historic Morrow County Courthouse or the Morrow County Museum or throw a line into Willow Creek Lake, where the fishing is always good. Take a drive on country roads and reminisce, walk the historical building walk, tour the display at the Ag Museum, browse along Main Street, enjoy some good food and libation, take home a Heppner souvenir, think about moving here and starting a business and, above all, have a great weekend.

And next week it's back to business as usual. The Chamber will meet at Cal's at noon on August 24 to hear a presentation on the Willow Creek Valley Diversification Study. This Chamber meeting is open to the public and will begin with lunch and end at 2 p.m. The purpose is to share information ranging from workforce, industrial sites, marketing, to recruitment and potential company identification. This tool, initiated by the Heppner Economic Development Corporation, with assistance from the county and OEDD, is aimed at replacing lost jobs and bringing new opportunities to Heppner. Please attend.

Also, mark your calendars for the Willow Creek Valley Assisted Living Public Meeting scheduled for September 8 at noon and 7 p.m. at the senior center. Interested visitors should stop by their display during fair week for more information.

Thought for the week: "It is good to have an end to journey toward; but it is the journey that matters in the end." Ursula LeGuin.

McNary district meeting discussed

By Delpha Jones

Plans are being made for the McNary District meeting of the Rebekahs which will be held at Lexington Holly Lodge Saturday, Sept. 11.

This meeting will include Integrity, Sunbeam, Pauline and Holly lodges. Geri Martin is the chairman for this meeting and Marlene Gray, Noble Grand of Holly Lodge.

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