

Beaie Wetzell
U of O Newspaper Library
Eugene, OR 97403

HEPPNER



VOL. 118 NO. 35 8 Pages Wednesday, September 1, 1999 Morrow County, Heppner, Oregon

School started Monday for Morrow County students



Two-year-old Justin Raver won't get to go to school this year, but he did get to accompany his dad, Darrell, and brothers, Chance, 5 left, and Colter, 7, on the boys' first day of school at Heppner Elementary Monday.

Assisted living study prompts plan scale down

By Doris Brosnan

A preliminary study on the proposed Willow Creek Valley Assisted Living Facility indicates that the area population can only support a facility of 12-14 apartments, according to the Willow Creek Valley Assisted Living Facility Corporation.

Preliminary work included a telephone survey and a demographics study of the Willow Creek Valley.

The state of Oregon and other potential sources of funding for such an endeavor do not consider an assisted living facility of less than 30 units financially viable, said a spokesperson from WCVAL.

Since that "roadblock," the board met with James Rippey of James Rippey and Associates, Spokane, who specializes in helping communities of 700-1700 populations build 10-14 unit assisted living facilities.

According to WCVAL Corporation, Rippey has successfully brought together partnerships between health facilities and assisted living facilities in several small Eastern Washington communities. "WCVAL hopes that he can help us be successful, as well," they said.

In June, WCVAL, represented by Suzanne Jepsen, president, received unanimous approval from the board of the Morrow County Health District to work with its administrator in exploring the details of such a partnership. Partnering with an existing health facility would

minimize expenses for administration, purchasing of supplies and food items, accounting, janitorial services, grounds keeping and a dietitian.

Another benefit for WCVAL would come from the use of the Pioneer Memorial Hospital shuttle bus.

Should the assisted living facility prove feasible, it would be sited in South Heppner on land donated to the corporation by the Port of Morrow. It would not be located adjacent to Pioneer Memorial Hospital. The identified property for the facility lies above Highway 207, offering a view of Willow Lake and the city of Heppner. Of four possible sites, it is the location recommended by consultants because of comparatively lower building costs, space for expansion and its view.

Rippey will be in Heppner on

September 8 for two "town meetings" at the St. Patrick Senior Center, one at 12 noon and one at 7:30 p.m. His photographs and handouts will offer information about the type of assisted living facility he helps to build. He will discuss his ideas and answer questions.

The WCVAL Board has indicated that if it receives enough support at these meetings to continue its efforts, the members will travel to Wilbur and Odessa, Washington, in October to view two of Rippey's successful projects.

The board reports that it is at a critical point, one from which it will move toward completing a facility it believes the Willow Creek Valley needs, or cease its efforts and dissolve the corporation. The members say that at the meetings they must see solid support for an assisted living facility.

Gilliam County rodeo features local high school competition

The 1999 edition of the Gilliam County High School Rodeo will take place September 4-5 at 1 p.m. at the Gilliam County Fairgrounds in Condon.

The competition is sanctioned by the Oregon High School Rodeo Association and will feature over 160 high school aged youth from throughout the state.

Local participants will include Ryan Matteson and Blake Knowles of Heppner, who finished first and second in the

OHSRA 1999 year-end steer wrestling standings and competed at the National High School Rodeo Finals in Gillette, WY, this past July. Other area competitors will be Lacey Matteson, Meghan Bailey and Jerid Penturf of Heppner; Ann Shear, Katie Bacon, Tracie Griffith and Sybil Krebs of Lone; Marnie Wilkins, Travis Carmine and Amber Johnson of Condon and Travis Yutzie of Arlington, along with Joe and Chris Irzyk of Moro.

Proposed ordinance gives city impound authority

Drivers within the city of Heppner had better watch their Ps and Qs or they may find that their car has been impounded, if a proposed ordinance is passed by the Heppner City Council.

The council, at its September 13 meeting, will consider enacting an ordinance which would authorize the city to impound motor vehicles for specific requirements and offenses.

Such offenses include driving an uninsured vehicle; driving with a driver's license that has been suspended or revoked; driving under the influence of intoxicants; driving without a license or driving in violation of license restrictions.

If a vehicle is impounded, the city must notify the owner by certified mail within 48 hours.

The owner of a vehicle which has been impounded will be subject to pay towing and storage costs, charges that accrue upon impoundment, daily storage costs of the vehicle and a fee to the city to cover administrative charges.

The vehicle and its contents are subject to a lien for payment of the towing and storage charges and will be sold to cover the charges if the charges are not paid by a specified date.

The owner of the vehicle is entitled to a hearing to contest the impounding and the charges accrued, although, if the judge finds that the impounding is valid, or the owner does not show up at the hearing, the owner may be liable for the costs of the hearing, including cost of the judge and any witnesses. The owner must request a hearing not more than five days from the mailing of the notice (not including holidays, Saturdays or Sundays) and must state in writing the grounds he believes the impounding was not justified.

If the judge decides in favor of the owner of the vehicle, then he is not liable for towing or storage charges resulting from the impound and the city will be ordered to satisfy the towing and storage charges.

An impounded vehicle may be released to the owner if towing storage and administrative costs have been paid and the owner shows proof of ownership, proof of insurance; and a release from the Heppner Police Department which indicates a valid vehicle registration. If the vehicle is to be driven, the driver must also present a valid driver's license. The city will then issue a

certificate indicating that requirements have been met. Certificates, however will only be issued during regular city hall business hours.

A person (such as a towing company) who, at the request of the Heppner Police, impounds a vehicle, shall have a lien on the

vehicle for "reasonable towing and storage charges" and may keep the vehicle until charges are paid. They may also sell the vehicle at public auction to satisfy the lien. If the appraised value of the vehicle is \$750 or less, the vehicle may be disposed of.

County appoints Lexington gets \$21,000 payment

Morrow County Court, under direction by Judge Terry Tallman, recently appointed the Morrow County Bicentennial Planning Committee to develop an annual recognition of the Lewis & Clark visit on October 19, 1805. The 1999 October recognition will focus on the Morrow County Columbia River Heritage Trail, a recreational path being developed on the banks of the Columbia River, and will take place on Sunday, October 17.

A Lewis & Clark Corps of Discovery camp site on Sand Island near present day Irrigon has been selected by the Oregon Historical Society to be marked with an educational kiosk/panel depicting a member of the corps entertaining native people with a fiddle.

The journal entry for October 19, 1805, is one of the few describing interactions with the native people along the Mid-Columbia river. According to scholars, the Corps of Discovery, in the fall of the second year of their exploration, were anxious to follow the great river of the west to the Pacific Ocean as quickly as possible.

It is a source of pride for Morrow County residents that the expedition of exploration and diplomacy, commissioned by President Thomas Jefferson, traveled along the river's edge in what is now north Morrow County. The corps camped for the night and noted the visit in their journals.

The Morrow County Columbia River Heritage Trail will pass the educational kiosk and island viewpoint as it moves east toward the Umatilla County Line.

The Morrow County Columbia River Heritage Trail Advisory Committee, organized by Morrow County Planner Tamra Mabbott, has been working with a resource team from the National Park Service Rivers Trails and Communities Assistance Program for nearly a year to prepare a trail "Concept Plan."

The concept plan is a document that demonstrates how the trail can be used for non-motorized recreation: educational purposes, resource conservation, honor the many aspects of pre-European and pioneer heritage as well as increase understanding of the river's significance to agriculture and food production.

The public is invited to observe on Sunday, October 17, at 2 p.m. at the Irrigon Marina Park.

For information, contact the Morrow County Planning Department at 541-922-4624.

Cardinal Boosters plan potluck

The Lone Cardinal Booster Club will sponsor a back-to-school potluck on Thursday, Sept. 9, at 6:30 p.m. at the lone school cafeteria.

Table service and beverages will be provided. Those attending should bring a potluck food item such as a main dish,

salad or dessert.

This is an opportunity for parents and the community to meet new staff members and teachers. Site Council elections will also be held, as well as a brief report on upcoming club activities.

Everyone is welcome to attend.

Little League wrap up planned

A Heppner Little League "year wrap up" meeting will be held on Thursday, September 2, at 6:30 p.m. at the Heppner Neighborhood Center.

All coaches and managers are

encouraged to attend.

All gear must be turned in, including All Star uniforms. Selection of All-Stars will be discussed.

Refreshments will be provided.

It's Your Last Chance To Save!

TIRE SALE

Sale ends
Sept. 4th

We will be closed Monday, Sept. 6th Have a great Labor Day!

MORROW COUNTY GRAIN GROWERS

Lexington 989-8221 • 1-800-452-7396 For farm equipment, visit our web site at www.mcggn.net