

Chamber Chatter

By Claudia Hughes, Chamber Manager

As I drove home from the office last week, huge billowing clouds moved across a brilliant blue sky, a sign that spring wasn't far behind. This reminded me of childhood days spent laying on my back in a bachelor button field discovering any number of faces, animals, and shapes in the sky overhead. Summer wasn't television and full schedules then; it was mud pies, the library, climbing trees and time to use your imagination. In today's high-tech world of deadlines and over-scheduling, I recommend looking for shapes in clouds periodically. If adults can't quite justify it, then grab a child and teach them. You won't be sorry.

Calls are coming into the Chamber office asking about events in Heppner this year, and of course, the next is our St. Patrick's celebration. Lakeview, who also has a celebration, called for ideas.

Most important is that the community have fun with the various events, be it a day of green, history, parade, music, dog trials, auction; a day of celebrating Heppner with sidewalk sales and music; a Motorcross event; or the ever-growing Oregon Trail Rodeo, Morrow County Fair and the Christmas Light parade. These are all about Heppner and the people who live here and in the outlying areas. They are about working hard to show off our communities; they are about putting this area on the map in a positive way. They are most definitely about hard-working volunteers whom we hope can still have fun in the process.

Some opportunities for children this year will be the parade, experiencing all types of music, the chance to join with the cloggers step dancing, the dog trials, the DayCare sponsored children's activities between the Shoe Box and Post Office, the hoop shoot, and The Trail Band. Next week during Chamber, vice president Chris Meyer will head the meeting. It will be an open meeting with continued opportunities to discuss Chamber's action plan and specific concerns in the community. President Sharon Harrison and I will be attending a Northwest Chamber Leaders Conference in SunRiver. It provides a chance to learn about how other communities are dealing with situations such as school funding, advanced technology, etc., and to come back energized with new ideas.

Thought for the week: "Sometimes facing opportunity is like staring at the knees of a giraffe. Keep looking up."

Heppner honor roll released

Heppner Junior/Senior High released their honor roll for the first semester, 1999-2000. To be on the honor roll, students must earn a grade point average of 3.5-4. To be on the honorable mention, students must earn a GPA of 3.-3.49. Following are the students who qualify:

Heppner Junior High School

Seventh grade: honor roll-Shanna Rietmann, 4., Madison Bailey, Cara Kennedy, Jessica Wainwright, Terra Wilson; honor-

able mention-Chelsea Britt, Jode Coil, Kylee Disque, Kyle Huddleston, Trampas Jeffreys, Blair Keithley, Joshua Lankford, Linsey Mitchell, Elizabeth Orwick, Grady Penturf.

Eighth grade: honor roll-Luke Murray, 4., Blake Allstott, Juan Elguezabal, Brian Haguewood, Stefanie Hanson, Danielle Loosie, Courtney Nelson, Sheena Shank, Jessica Westberg, Jessie Woodward; honorable mention-Tanner Britt, Justin Botefuhr, Lindsey

Lutheran, Episcopal churches form youth group

The churches of All Saints' Episcopal and Hope and Valby Lutheran have extended their ministry with the formation of a youth group.

A meeting was held Sunday evening, Feb. 20. Opportunities for activities, education and service were discussed and

planned.

The group's first activity will be an evening of bowling at Corbin's Bowl in Heppner on Friday March 10, at 6 p.m. The youth group also plans to walk in the MS Walk on Saturday, April 15.

Council discusses parent survey

Ione School Principal Dick Allen, at the Ione Site Council meeting February 9, reported on the Ione responses to the district-wide parent survey.

With 48 responses, the majority answered the questions positively concerning areas such as student safety and academic standards.

School report cards were discussed, although results for Ione were delayed. Allen explained that any school receiving a "poor" rating would be visited by a state team who would attempt to help the school remedy the situation. He also reported that a district report card would be issued soon.

Budget cuts and changes were discussed. Allen informed the council of changes to the budget procedure where each building would be accountable for planning and implementing their own budget. Capital outlays have been removed from Ione's budget due to shortfalls.

The proposed staffing cuts were discussed with Ione losing a tech ed position, an elementary position, elementary art, part-time office assistant and a part-time custodian. The nearly \$1 million in cuts were necessary to bring the district's budget back to a break-even point.

The local option levy tax was discussed and declared to be most confusing. Allen reported that the assessor has figured that \$1 million must be levied in order to collect the \$500,000 and taxes are assessed on the difference between market value and assessed value. According to reports, since most industrial property has equal market and

assessed value, they may pay little, if any, local option levy tax.

The Matrix Group was to hold another facilities meeting at Ione on Feb. 15. John Rietmann explained that this group is determining what facilities are needed for the next 25 years or so. The school board will then decide about floating a bond levy for additional school construction, possibly on the November ballot.

Linda Jones and Betty Rietmann requested funds for reading workshops. The council approved their requests.

In honors and recognition, the junior high boy's basketball team and coach Dale Holland were honored for their character.

During a basketball game in Ione, a Helix boy had his CD player stolen. The Ione boys decided to raise money to replace it and presented the player to the boy at the Helix Tournament. The team was commended publicly by the father of the player who wrote a very complimentary letter to the editor of the East Oregonian. Holland also reported that both he and the school have received calls and notes praising their actions.

Finally, Debbie Radie reported that the Cardinal Booster Club provided the funds to buy letters for the first round of academic letter winners. It was reported that over 30 students met the criteria for an academic letter.

The next meeting of the Ione Site Council will be March 8, starting at 5 p.m. at Ione High School. The public is invited to attend.

Clough, Tasha Hlavinka, Amy Majors, Kiel Nairns, Tiffany Piper, Danielle Prindle, Brooke Rust, Adam Wight.

Heppner High School

Freshmen: honor roll-Daniel Jepsen, Lacey Matteson, Douglas Orwick, Darren Van Cleave, all 4., Sally Calvert, Marcy Miller, Whitney Sherritt; honorable mention-Brad Adams, Donald Adams, Dawn De Boer, Cindy Gall, Megan Healy, Tyler Henderson, Rachel Howard, Conor Kilkenny, Ashley Ward, Nicole Wilson.

Sophomores: honor roll-Jonathan Bennett, Shelley Rietmann, both 4., Meghan Bailey, Brad Bowman, Jodie Carlson, Jessica Gutierrez, Paula Spicerkuhn, Sam Van Liew; honorable mention-Claire Anderson, Brett Barber, Kevin Drake, Kelsey Greenup, Stefan Matheny, Julie Proctor, Leland Rill, Codi Rosecrans, Brian Rust, Tammy Smith, Molly Turrell.

Juniors: honor roll-Krista Adams, Lindsey Ward, both 4., Kelli Bates, Amber Flaiz, Blake Knowles, Marissa McCabe, Danielle McDowell, David Piper, Melinda Smith, Amanda Sneddon, Scott Van Winkle; honorable mention-San Juanita Elguezabal, Kyle McDaniel, Jennifer Patton, Maria Saenz, Craig Scott, Brandon Young.

Seniors: honor roll-Trisha Adams, Casey Ingraham, Macy Rhea, Ashley Ropp, Michael Schonbachler, Matt Van Liew, all 4., Clint Bellamy, Cody Bellamy, Leah Denton, Amy Drake, Kristen Marshall, Laurie Michael, Justin Nelson, Kim Pointer, Jeffrey Sneddon, Alea Strouse, Alan Woodward; honorable mention-Joe Bourrie, Stephanie Clough, Jeff Currin, Levi Geer, Kim Hansen, Abby Kahl, Mitch Mathews, Corey Miller, Takahiro Morita, Amy Papineau, Tracy Rankin, Jake Roy, Luiza Saenz, Katie Sherritt, Heidi Turrell.

Legion, Auxiliary plan meeting

American Legion and Auxiliary will meet Monday, Feb. 28 at the United Methodist Church basement with a 6:30 p.m. potluck.

Plans will be made for the Legion's 81st birthday, March 15-17.

This is the largest veterans' organization according to a spokesperson.

Births

Zachary Earl Ferguson-a son Zachary Earl was born to Honey and Sean Ferguson, Jr. of Boardman on February 2, 2000 at Good Shepherd Community Hospital. The baby weighed 7 lbs. 10 oz.

We Make POSTERS
Heppner Gazette-Times

Telecommunications group to meet Feb. 25

The Morrow County telecommunications planning group will meet Friday, Feb. 25, at 10 a.m. at the Port of Morrow Conference Center in Boardman.

The goal is to improve telecommunications services for Morrow County businesses and agencies.

The agenda includes

presentations by education and health care providers on their use of telecommunications as well as a discussion of top county priorities for funding under Senate Bill 622.

Anyone interested in improving telecommunications in Morrow County is invited to attend.

Call Lisa Breckenridge at (541) 276-6745 for more information.

Spray Rodeo queen tryouts slated

Tryouts for the Spray Rodeo will be Saturday, March 25, at 4 p.m. at the Spray rodeo grounds.

Contestants do not have to be local or Wheeler County residents. They must be a least 15 years old and never married.

The queen will be announced that evening and crowned by 1999 Queen Kira Glithero at the

rodeo kick-off dance at the Spray School gym beginning at 9 p.m. Music will be by The Juke Box Cowboys from Hermiston.

The rodeo will be held May 27-28.

For more information and applications call (541) 468-2442.

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