

HEPPNER

Gazette Times

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Neighborhood Watch committee meets

The Heppner Neighborhood Watch Committee met on March 6 to receive and share information since the last meeting on September 14 under Floyd G. White, chair.

Heppner Police Chief Doug Rathbun asked members to get the word out to keep a watchful eye out for people with spray cans, especially at night, as there has been a rash of incidents.

Another area of concern has been thefts on ranches. However, the sheriff's department had a recent big bust dealing with these thefts in the Ione area, according to Marilyn Bader-Nesse, Neighborhood Watch Committee secretary.

Chief Rathbun also shared with the group information on the National Town Watch and said that this association comes with

police support. This national event will take place on August 1. Involved communities usually share a day together with such activities as a cookout, said Bader-Nesse.

Ray French offered to look into this program and bring information to the next meeting.

Chief Rathbun told the group that his department provides periodic checks on residents' homes while they are away on extended trips. Interested individuals may call the city for further information.

An informational brochure will soon go out to all new residents in welcome baskets. This brochure will give an understanding of what the Neighborhood Watch Program is about as well as extending an invitation to all residents of the Heppner area to join the committee and become actively involved in keeping neighborhoods safe.

Any resident interested in serving on this board may call Ray French at 676-5365.

Bike-a-thon set April 30

The date for the annual Ione St. Jude Bike-A-Thon is Sunday, April 30, not Tuesday as mentioned in last week's Gazette-Times.

"Participants are urged to gather pledges now to raise funds for this worthwhile cause," said ride coordinator Anne Morter.

Riders turning in at least \$35 receive a St. Jude t-shirt. Riders gathering \$75 or more receive a t-shirt and sports bag or sweatshirt. The person raising the most money over \$100 will also receive a dual cassette jambox.

"The real prize, though, is the pride everyone can take in giving children a chance to live a normal life," said Morter.

The ride will follow a similar format of past years with an in-

formational brochure will soon go out to all new residents in welcome baskets. This brochure will give an understanding of what the Neighborhood Watch Program is about as well as extending an invitation to all residents of the Heppner area to join the committee and become actively involved in keeping neighborhoods safe.

Both rides will begin at 1 p.m. with registration prior. As usual, refreshments and moral support will be offered to riders on both routes.

Pledge sheets will be available soon in several locations in Ione, at Morrow County Abstract and Title in Heppner or by contacting Morter, 422-7429.

All funds raised by this bike-a-thon go directly to St. Jude Children's Hospital in Memphis, TN, America's largest childhood cancer research center.

Anyone interested in helping with this event or for more information, contact Morter.

Corps, county to test Heppner warning system

Sirens will sound in Heppner on Friday, April 14, as the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Morrow County Emergency Management Office test the town's Flash Flood Warning System.

The test will run sometime between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m.

This is the only time this year the test will be conducted. Officials are performing the test to ensure local citizens recognize the sirens and that the system works properly. Heppner residents will not be required to do anything during the test.

The last test took place in 1998.

The siren system was installed in 1996 and is maintained by the Corps and the county's emergency management office, according to Hob Ford, acting operations superintendent for the Corps' The Dalles, John Day, and Willow Creek dams.

In the event of an imminent flood emergency, dispatchers

will activate the two sirens, which will blare a continuous tone for several minutes. During an emergency, citizens should immediately move to one of four designated rallying points; the Columbia Basin Electric Cooperative, the Morrow County Courthouse Annex, the Corps' maintenance facility on Access Road or Heppner High School.

Free softball pitching clinic set

A softball pitching clinic for ages seven to 14 will be held on Saturday, April 1, from 10 a.m. to noon at the Shad Hisler Field.

The clinic, by Tina and Linda Corbin, is free of charge.

For more information call 676-5270.

Listing of ground squirrel continues to be topic

By Doris Brosnan

Morrow County Judge Terry Tallman, at the March 22 Morrow County Commission meeting, shared with the court a letter from the law firm that is filing the petition for judicial review of the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife Washington ground squirrel listing as an endangered species and adoption of survival guidelines.

The letter specified hourly rates, estimates of expenses in filing, estimated total cost of the appeal exclusive of further challenge to the Oregon Supreme Court.

Tallman reported having heard from "a number of people" around the county who have offered to help with the appeal.

A discussion ensued which touched upon weed spraying being prohibited under the survival guidelines; a question

of how the listing might affect the county's Goal 5 amendment; the survival guidelines applying only to occupied habitat; and the question of how the incidental take permit might apply to the area that the planning department permits.

County Counsel Bill Hanlon recommended a letter of understanding with the Port of Morrow outlining how the fees will be split. He also pointed out that the letter of engagement from the law firm does not contain a limit on expenses.

Former County Judge Louis Carlson asked what the county will gain if it is successful in the appeal. Commissioner Brosnan said his understanding was that ODFW would be required to start the process over, which would take about 50 days.

Hanlon noted that no request has been made for a stay of the listing pending appeal, so the squirrel, in the meantime, remains listed.

In response to another question from Carlson, Brosnan noted that to require ODFW to justify their listing would necessitate those requiring it to hire a biologist to do the science dataover.

Tallman supported a letter of understanding with the port and suggested a letter to the law firm to require the county's authorization before proceeding on an appeal to a higher court.

Hanlon noted that the court's motion included funding of \$15,000 and he suggested that the agreement with the port should identify a dollar limit.

Commissioner John Wenholz said that the agreement with the port should occur as quickly as possible and suggested that the funding might come from the tippage fees.

Carlson asked how the listing will affect the location of dairies. Tallman reported that in an area in which no squirrels are found, no effect will occur. Hanlon noted that in an area containing squirrels, an incidental-take permit might be issued.

County Assessor Greg Sweek reported that three dairies are being located out in the circles.

In other business, Public Works Director Guy Van Arsdale submitted sealed bids for Wilson and Patterson roads asphalt work. The court awarded the bid for class C hot mix to Blue Mountain Asphalt Company.

Van Arsdale reported having all permits, except that for removing some timber for the Anson Wright Park sewer system.

Van Arsdale also reported on road work about the county: preparatory work continues on Washington; dirt was hauled to the fairgrounds; the broom work continues on some roads; some huge potholes on County Line Road require attention.

Federal legislation for airport improvement funds has been passed and Van Arsdale's request for the Lexington airport was the first one approved in Oregon. As the adjacent landowners do not

want to sell land for the airport, Van Arsdale has developed another plan for moving the fence and lowering some land.

At a public hearing on a supplemental budget, Finance Director Lianne Currin explained that six funds are being adjusted and a later adjustment might be necessary for setting up a fund for Public Health Department fees-carryovers. Currin identified the 911 funds for additional money from Wheeler, Sherman and Gilliam counties; the new Clerks Record Fund; DUII Fund for fees for a victims' impact panel; the General Fund; the Planning Department Fund for putting in tippage fees for the bicentennial committee; Common School Fund for additional revenues; and License Fee Fund for additional revenues.

Currin and the court discussed the funding for the cereals agent position, now paid by OSU. The court approved adoption of the supplemental budget.

After further discussion, the court also approved the vehicle policy. They also approved purchase of an additional modem

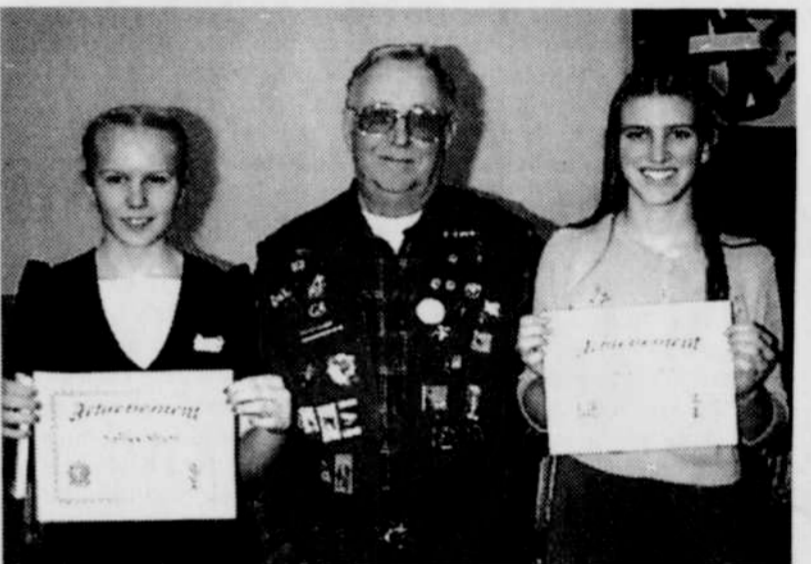
and a tape drive. The court approved the appointment of Melanie Hall to the Commission on Children and Families.

Hanlon offered the court some questions about the strategic reserve fund grant agreement with the state's economic development department. He and the court discussed a letter of understanding with Umatilla County about expenses related to the impact aid issue.

Weed Manager Dave Pranger advised the court of enforcement difficulties with Boeing, which has not filed a weed management plan. After discussion of the situation's history and of the ordinance and, after reading the recommendation of the advisory board, the court directed Pranger to cite Boeing.

Representatives of the Special Transportation Fund Advisory Committee met with the court to discuss its funding, a grant application and hopes to replace the Heppner van and purchase a van for the Boardman area. The court approved the grant application as a number-one project.

Lions speech contest winners announced

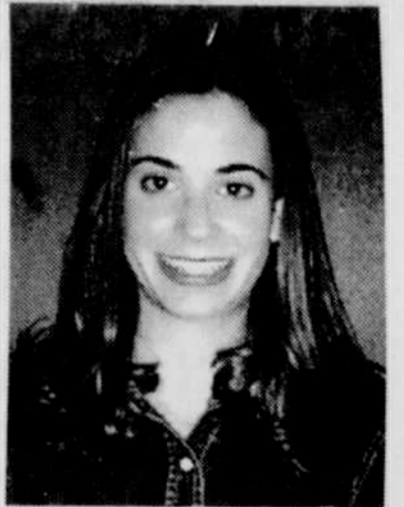


Left to right: Sally Calvert, Lions Club President Dick Paris and Paula Spicerkuhn.

Paula Spicerkuhn took first place in a speech contest sponsored by the Heppner Lions Club.

Spicerkuhn, a sophomore at Heppner High School, won a \$100 savings' bond at the contest which was held March 10. She is the daughter of Bill Kuhn and Ann Spicer.

Sally Calvert, a freshman at HHS, won second place and Macy Rhea, an HHS senior, won third place. They each won a pen set. Calvert is the daughter of Lea and Dan Calvert. Rhea is the daughter of Steve and Molly Rhea.



Macy Rhea

Morrow-Baker Partnership meeting sets mission statement

The board of the Morrow-Baker Partnership held a planning session on March 6 in Baker City. Board members worked with a facilitator to brainstorm the purpose, goals, and principles of the new partnership.

"We've already identified a list of common issues that the two counties share, such as natural resource policy and economic development. This meeting allowed us to take the next step and develop a shared vision for how we can work together," commented Judge Terry Tallman of Morrow County.

Board member Tom Sly of Heppner stated that "Our mission statement is to preserve, protect and enhance the environments of our communities. We talk about environments meaning the built environment, or infrastructure and economic development; the human environment, or social services and education; and the natural environment. We recognize that all three are

important to the survival of communities."

The group also chose their official name as the "Morrow-Oregon-Baker Partnership" and settled on a triangular logo that represents the three partners and the three environments of the communities. So far, this partnership is unique among regional partnerships in its focus on an equal relationship with the state.

Judge Tallman also commented on the excitement present in the room during the planning sessions. "There was a tremendous amount of enthusiasm about working together. It was evident that everyone in the room cares passionately about their communities and the interest in reaching solutions together was infectious. We all left very inspired."

The next partnership meeting will be held in Heppner in April, and the agenda includes further development of operating principles.

Lions Club holds rifle raffle



Heppner Lions Club member Jim Wishart shows rifle to be given away.

The Heppner Lions Club is holding its annual Ruger Rifle Raffle.

The gun to be given away this year is a M&R Mark II 6 mm with a 3-9 X 40 mm Tasco High Country scope. Value of the gun and scope is \$500.

Only 350 tickets will be sold this year and the price is \$5 each or five tickets for \$20.

The drawing will be held July 5, and you need not be present to win. You can purchase tickets for the raffle from Jim Wishart, Steve Rhea, David Sykes or any other Lions Club member.



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