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HEPPNER

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Gazette Times

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Ione Youth Group honored for charity work



Back row L to R: Aaron Tworek, Adam McCabe, Adam Neiffer, Diana McElligott, Natalie McElligott, Salli McElligott, Jeremy Rietmann, Caitlin Orem. Middle row: Amelia Peck, Adrienne Swanson, Nikki McElligott, Allison Halvorsen, Shelby Krebs, Andrew Rietmann, Jacob Neiffer. Front row: Bill Gates, Karl Morgan, Mark McElligott, Korey Morgan, David Mansfield.

The work Ione Youth Group has done for the poor of the Burnside area of Portland caught the attention of the Portland Trail Blazers organization.

Youth group leader Cathy Halvorsen and her daughter, Allison, attended a kick off breakfast for the Human Race, a benefit walk for non-profit

agencies in July. The event, sponsored by the Portland Trail Blazers, gave Halvorsen the opportunity to share the Ione youths' participation in the Human Race and the other charitable work the group has done. The publicity agent for Rasheed Wallace was so impressed, she offered to give

the Ione group tickets to a Blazer game.

Halvorsen received 25 tickets to the Utah-Blazer game in the "Sheed's Squad" section of the Rose Garden. Adults transporting the youth to the game were Frank and Cathy Halvorsen, Jim Swanson, Virgil Morgan, and Jeri McElligott.

Radio station project unable to get off the ground

After a year of trying to get a local community radio station off the ground, organizers have decided to drop the project.

"It was a difficult decision," says Monika Hunter, coordinator for the project. Hunter cites inability to raise sufficient funds and inability to get enough committed adults to form a board as reasons for dropping the

project. "Now just isn't the time," said Hunter.

"It was a fun idea and particularly the young people were really motivated to see it happen," added Hunter. "We're all really disappointed. But this won't be the last project I help out with to benefit the community. I've been able to get to know lots of people I otherwise wouldn't have and

have grown to love the community even more."

Hunter said that those who donated time and effort to the project will be thanked in the local paper and the money raised will be refunded or donated to the Heppner High School Drama Program, which will perform the Shakespeare play, "Midsummer Night's Dream," on Mother's Day, May 14, at Heppner High School.

Motorcross race rescheduled April 16

The Oregon Trail Pro Rodeo Committee has scheduled the Oregon Trail Motorcross Race for Sunday, April 16, at the Morrow County Fairgrounds in Heppner.

Races for four-wheelers, three-wheelers and motorcycles will be offered for riders, both young and old. Special children's races, both heat and barrel, for 15 years and under will be awarded trophies for first place. Races for women will be held also.

The even will be a jackpot motorcross race. The participants will be allowed two runs on the barrel race with the best time recorded for awards.

Helmets are required.

The OTRP committee will charge a \$1 gate admission.

Sponsors include Lexington Auto Body, United Rentals, Lexington Polaris, Oregon Power Sports, Honda Yamaha Cyletown and Power City Polaris.

Pre-entries will be taken by telephone on Saturday, April 15, from 4-9 p.m. for participants to avoid congestion on Sunday. Call Marlene Currin at 676-9711. The office will open on Sunday, April 16, at 8 a.m. Entries will be taken at that time. A racer's meeting will be held at 9:30 a.m. Races will begin at 10 a.m.

"The OTRP committee is looking forward to entertaining motorcross races in Heppner again this year," said a spokesperson. "Everyone is invited to watch and enjoy the day at the races."

Senior Center to revive dinner

The Senior Center is reviving the Memorial Day dinner tradition and has planned a dinner on Sunday, May 28, at the center at 1 p.m.

For more information call the center, 676-9030.

Garden Club donates toward tree purchase



Garden Club members on hand for the dedication of a new tree planted at the Heppner City Park turnaround: Back (left to right)-Jeanette Padberg, Daisy Collins, Chuck Bailey, President Peggy Connor, Jeri Sly; Front (left to right)-Verna Brinda, Dorothy Jackson, Ida Farrah, Jane Rawlins, Bebe Munkers.



Heppner City crew members and city manager Jerry Breazeale (center) position tree for planting at the Heppner City Park.

The Heppner Garden Club donated \$40 toward the purchase of a new tree for the Heppner City Park turnaround.

The tree, a red scarlet oak, was planted Monday in the spot where the former trees had been. The old trees, which had been

damaged by Dutch Elm Disease, lived for 67 years, before their removal in November. At their planting, they were dedicated to George Washington, who also lived for 67 years.

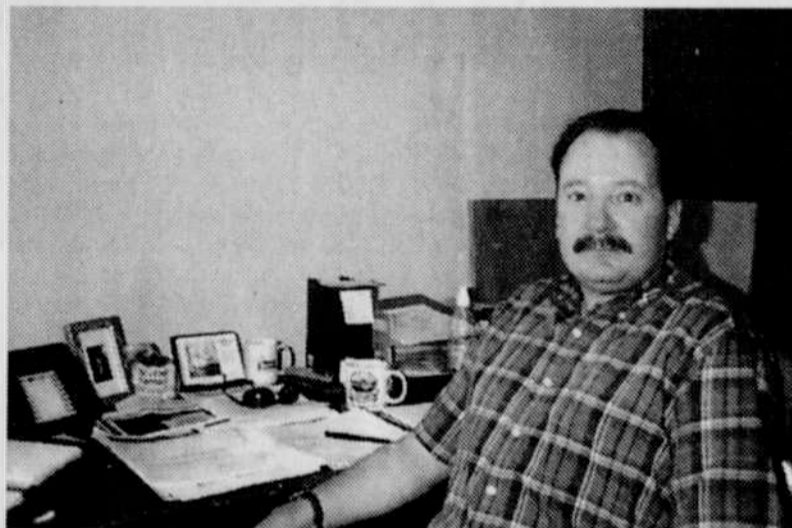
On hand for the dedication ceremony April 3 were Mayor

Bob Jepsen, city manager Jerry Breazeale, Garden Club members and city crew.

During the planting a bird's nest was found in the tree's branches.

The fountain that was in the turnaround has been relocated to the mini-park.

New ranger starts work at Heppner District



Andrei Rykoff

Heppner Ranger District's new ranger, Andrei Rykoff, will be experiencing a change of pace and a change of scenery with his new appointment.

Rykoff, who began his new job on March 13, was most recently the acting district ranger for the South Fork Management Unit on the Shasta-Trinity National Forest in northern California.

Rykoff, 42, was born and raised in San Francisco in a close-knit Russian community. Russian is his first language and he attended Russian schools, learning to speak, read and write Russian.

Rykoff's mother, Lillian, and father, Victor, were both of Russian descent and both were born in China. His mother, whose family was from Estonia, lived in Shanghai, and his father,

whose family was from Vladivostok in far eastern Russia, lived in Harbin. Lillian moved to the United States with her mother around 1933-34 when she was five or six years old. Victor came to the U.S. with his mother and grandmother after graduating from high school. Both families ended up in San Francisco, because it had a large Russian population.

Rykoff attended the University of California at Berkeley, receiving a bachelor of science degree in forest management in 1980. Following graduation, he worked for Diamond International, a private timber company near Chico, CA, as a forester laying out timber sales.

From there he was employed as an inventory forester by Southern Pacific Land Company at

Weaverville, CA. In 1983, he was hired by the Forest Service as a tree improvement forester on the Weaverville Ranger District, Shasta-Trinity National Forest.

In 1988 Rykoff began working for the Winema National Forest where he served as environmental coordinator and logging systems engineer on the Klamath Ranger District.

In 1995, because of his experience and fluency in Russian, Rykoff answered a call from Washington, D.C., to manage all Forest Service programs for Russia, Europe and the former Soviet Union.

In 1998, he returned to Shasta-Trinity, as Hayfork Adaptive Management Area coordinator. He was responsible for coming up with "new and innovative" forestry techniques.

As acting district ranger of the South Fork Management Unit on the Shasta-Trinity, he oversaw the management of 650,000 acres of forest land. The Heppner Ranger District is approximately 250,000 acres.

"This is a great place for me to learn the challenges of becoming a district ranger," says Rykoff. "It's something I wanted to do since I was first with the Forest Service."

Rykoff will also be closer to his daughter, Marina, 10, who lives in Eugene.

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