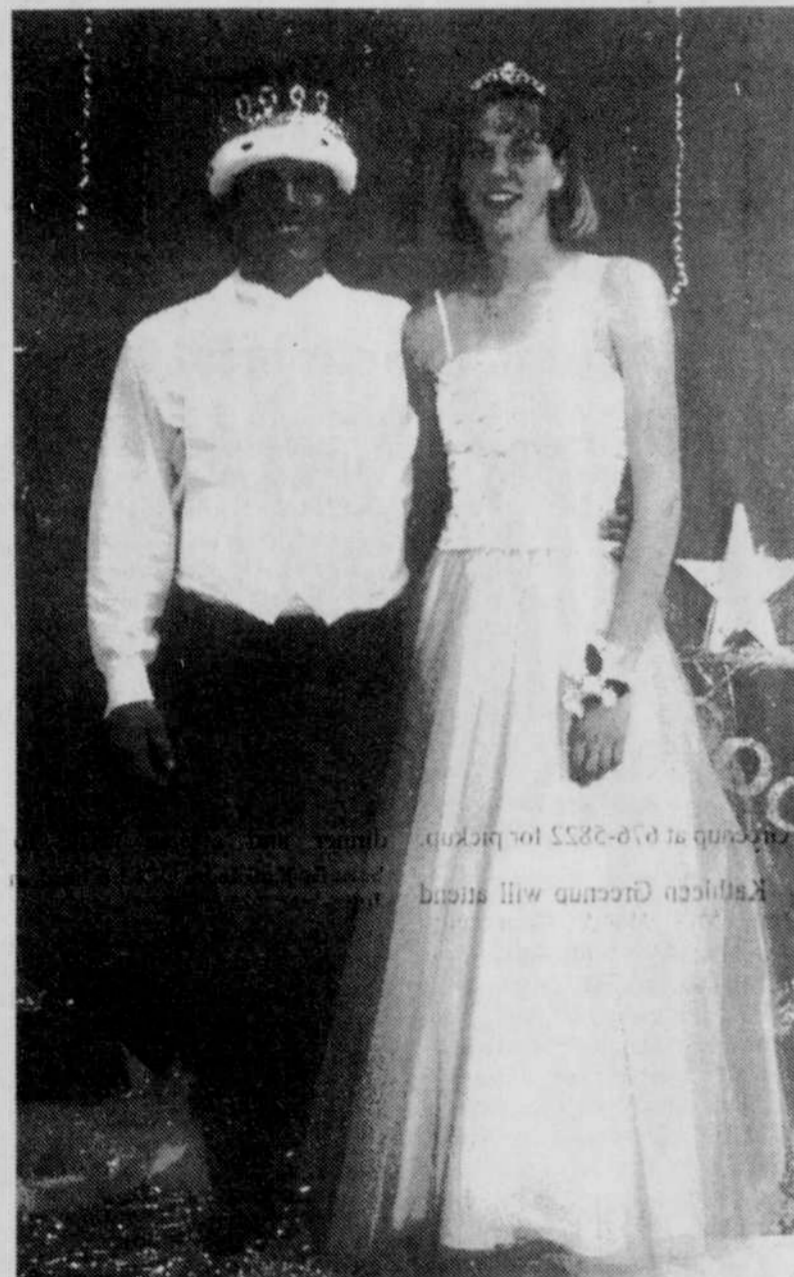


Senior girls enjoy annual luncheon



Heppner and lone senior girls and their mothers and guests enjoy the annual Senior Girls Luncheon on May 4 at All Saints' Episcopal Church in Heppner. The event is sponsored by the Willow Creek Service Club and catered by the All Saints' Episcopal Women.

Ione crowns prom royalty



Allan Gribskov was crowned king and Nikki McElligott, queen, at the Ione Prom held April 29 at the school.

Oregon East Symphony offers free concerts

A diverse group of familiar works and new and innovative family-friendly pieces will make up the program for the Oregon East Symphony's Free Family Concerts, scheduled at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, May 20, at the Vert Auditorium in Pendleton and 7:30 p.m. Sunday, May 21, at the Hermiston Community Center.

Conducted by Ken Woods, the new music director and conductor for OES, the concert will open with the lively Overture from Der Freischutz, an opera by Carl Maria von Weber.

The second piece in the concert is a contemporary piece by Mathias Bamert. Originally composed for a series of children's concerts presented by the Cleveland Orchestra, "Circus Parade" is made up of brief musical themes which represent the characters in the circus.

The third piece in the program features the 14-year-old cellist Samuel Johnson of Milton Freewater, who will perform the third movement of F. J. Haydn's Cello Concerto in C Major. Samuel began playing the cello when he was just five years old. At the age of twelve, Samuel decided he wanted a career playing the cello. Samuel's talent has been recognized by such musical greats as Itzhak Perlman, Janos Starker, James De Priest and Maestro Rostropovich. This year alone he has performed with the Detroit Symphony, the Oregon Symphony, the Walla Walla Symphony and in other music festivals.

The concert will close with one of the most well-known pieces in the classical music repertoire, Prokofiev's "Peter and the Wolf." In "Peter and the Wolf," every character in the story is represented by a corresponding instrument in the orchestra playing its own signature tune (theme or motif).

Admission to the concert is free. OES season ticket holders are guaranteed their reserved seats and the other seats are available on a "first-come, first served" basis.

Union meets with court over employee cuts

By Doris Brosnan

Representatives of the AFSCME union met with the Morrow County Court May 3 to discuss effects of the budget, which includes staffing cuts, on union employees.

It was pointed out that the contract does not provide for "bumping rights" across departmental lines, although some displaced workers might be qualified for similar work in other departments.

The union noted the court's commitment to try to have the least negative effect on employees, partly through an early-retirement option and through meetings with county officials. Union representatives said they hope to see efforts to retain qualified workers when possible. The court reaffirmed its interest in county employees and emphasized the value it places on them. All agreed that the loyalty of the court to employees and that of the employees to the county throughout this process have been appreciated and all agreed that dialogue is critical to keeping employees informed.

The court was told that the union representative on the budget committee reported to the union that the "court put people before programs." The court explained that having reached a balanced budget for the coming year means no further layoffs are anticipated.

Public Works Director Guy Van Arsdale presented and the court approved park-host contracts with Judy Horton for Cutsforth Park and Ellen Edwards for Anson Wright Park.

Van Arsdale recommended and the court approved awarding a drilling and blasting contract for May through June to J. Arlie Bryant, Incorporated. The court also approved an easement for CenturyTel to bury cable through Cutsforth Park. Van Arsdale also requested the court to make a formal decision on the position to be eliminated at the Public Works Department.

Van Arsdale reported that crews have completed blading at the Blake Ranch area and are now in the Arbuckle and Ditch Creek-Penland areas. The court briefly discussed the use of grindings with Van Arsdale and cleared with him the accessibility of roads requested for the Columbia Plateau Stage Race. They approved the race route.

Emergency Management Director Casey Beard discussed CSEPP issues with the court. A contract with the Oregon Health Division for personal protective equipment includes some issues that the county questions. The court agreed to withhold signing until concerns have been addressed. The court reviewed and approved contracts with the Heppner, Irrigon and Boardman fire districts for expenses associated with their participation with CSEPP. Beard explained some background to a contract with ESD for some services through September and the Court approved the contract.

Beard reported that Oregon Emergency Management plans to appeal findings of the recently released independent study of CSEPP.

Cyde Estes, representative of the Blue Mountain Community College Board, expressed its appreciation for the court's

cooperation in sending out a survey to gauge employees' interest in a payroll deduction for college expenses. A further discussion focused on other methods of presenting information to employees. The Court approved Estes's request to place a "thank-you for participating in the survey" in payroll envelopes.

County Assessor Greg Sweek updated the court on the conversion of the accounting and taxes software to the new computer program. Difficulty extracting data for the new program has resulted in a month's delay for "going live." Sweek reported that progress has been good in the last week, and he plans a trip to Marion County to learn how those departments transitioned.

County Treasurer Gayle Gutierrez reported that the programmer who was to be in on April 10 has not yet come, and the treasurer's office still faces the inability to balance.

County Counsel Bill Hanlon readdressed the issue of the county's say and responsibility in the handling of money by elected officials, noting the need for checks and balances.

GIS Director Mary Phillips presented for the court's consideration a memorandum of understanding between the county and the Oregon Trail Internet for 100 e-mail accounts. Hanlon voiced concern over the inclusion of an allowance for employees to have personal accounts, the five-year contract length and lack of a termination option. These issues were discussed.

Phillips also requested and the court approved the purchase of a jet-direct print server and the purchase of a line printer to replace the one in the treasurer and tax collector's office.

District Attorney David Allen and trial court administrator Bill Jones discussed with the court the status of a potential video arraignment hook-up to Umatilla County. Allen reported expected costs, including equipment, installation and T-1 line service. Grant money, budgeted county money, declining costs of the

technology, and the compatibility of Umatilla County's system with the state system were discussed.

Allen also asked about office space for his deputy, which led to further discussion about good use of county office and work spaces. A subcommittee of Allen, personnel director Andrea Denton, and general maintenance supervisor Les Paustian will study the issue and make a proposal.

Finance director Lisanne Currin presented and the court approved budget resolutions for additional appropriations for the bleacher reserve fund and for the special transportation fund. Currin also submitted a request for purchase of a 30 x 40 foot pole building for the fairgrounds.

Discussion focused on the need for plans stamped by an engineer, on the question of the State Bureau of Labor and Industries requirements, and on anticipated uses of the building. Discussion will continue.

Hanlon reported to the court that he received contracts for the Morrow County Commission on Children and Families with the state and Wheeler County. As he has some questions for the heads of the involved departments, the court agreed to delay action on the contracts. The court did, however, approve a contract between Morrow County Behavioral Health and Services to Children and Families for alcohol and drug-case management services.

Hanlon reported that he has reviewed, commented on, and forwarded to Baker County an intergovernmental agreement with Baker County and a fiscal and administrative services agreement.

Also at the meeting the court approved the purchase of some underground sprinklers for the fairgrounds and approved providing for accommodations for museum curator Marsha Sweek when she travels to speak at the American Association of Museum's annual conference. The court also appointed Sherie Smith to the Safety Committee and agreed to provide liability insurance for the annual SOLV clean-up project.

NEW CHIROPRACTIC SERVICES IN HEPPNER

Dr. Rebecca Cannon D.D.C. is expanding her chiropractic practice in Heppner to two days a week, beginning May 2. Hours are 8-10 a.m. Tuesday & Thursday. Please call for appointments, 676-5449.

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Lasagna and Spaghetti, Garlic Bread, Salad Dessert, Coffee or Soft Drink Complimentary Glass of Wine for adults

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