

Tri-Cities ministry team assists in VBS, community service



A ministry team from two Tri-Cities area Baptist churches, Kennwick Baptist Church and Quinault Baptist Church, is in town this week working on community service projects around the city of Heppner, in addition to assisting the Willow Creek Baptist Church with their vacation Bible school.

Volunteers pictured above, in addition to Willow Creek Baptist Pastor Brent Waldrep and Stephanie and Colton Hanson, Heppner, include Kennwick Baptist Youth Pastor Rick McLaughlin and Marilyn, Lara and Nik McLaughlin, Joy and Kathleen Simpson, Josh Wilhelm, Rachel Owens, Katie Hughey, Jared Pengra, Janis Matheny, Jeremy Todd, Hannah Benfield and Windy Williams, all from the Tri-Cities.

Willow Creek Baptist VBS will be held this week from 9 a.m. to noon at the Heppner City Park. Children three years old to sixth grade are invited to join in playing game, singing songs and listening to Bible stories. The theme, Ocean Odyssey, is complete with pools and sand, said Pastor Rick McLaughlin.



Volunteers spruce up the streets as a community service during the Willow Creek Baptist vacation Bible School.

Town-wide yard sale set in Lex. OTRP Court keeping busy

The first ever Lexington town-wide yard sale will be held Saturday, July 15, from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. The sale is sponsored by the Lexington Fire Department Auxiliary.

Those planning to join will set up their own lawn or garage and the Auxiliary will advertise the sale. To sign up or to donate items call Luella Taylor, 989-8508, Kelly Boyer, 989-8510, or Betty Christman, 989-8534, by July 8.

A sale location map may

be picked up at city hall on sale day. Several other events will also be held that day. A drawing for a wooden chest made by Jake Haynes is planned at 2 p.m. Tickets are still on sale at \$1 each or six for \$5. You need not be present to win.

Several merchants are joining in on specials--R.J.'s Cafe, Doubleshot Espresso and MCGG C-Store.

"Everyone is invited to come out for lunch or a yard sale treasure," said an Auxiliary news release.

The Morrow County Fair and Oregon Trail Pro Rodeo Court has been busy promoting Morrow County.

The 2000 court consists of Queen Tracy Rankin, Princesses Salli McElligott and Rachel Faber. Pennant Bearers are Megan E. McCabe, Gemia Grant, Jessica Wainwright, Nicole Wilson, Megan Healy, Lacy Davis and Crystal Wessman.

In May the girls and their families went to Arlington and Spray for parades, luncheons and grand entries.

In June they traveled to Sisters and Prineville. This group of young ladies has a very busy schedule of activities in July. They will be in Ione on the Fourth of July; in Athena July 8; Elgin July 9; The Dalles, July 15 and Joseph, July 29. They will also be in Heppner July 22 for the open horse show.

County implements new building inspection program

The Morrow County Commissioners have taken final steps to implement a new county building inspection program.

In a unanimous vote June, the county court adopted a resolution accepting responsibility to issue all building permits and to provide inspections for all construction in the county.

The new county-run program will not include electrical permits.

As part of the new program, the county entered in to an intergovernmental agreement with the city of Boardman to provide inspection services. Inspections for building permits are currently conducted by the state of Oregon.

Effective July 1 all building permits will be sold at city hall in Boardman. Permit forms may also be picked up at the planning department in the North Morrow Annex in Irrigon.

According to Commissioner John Wenzel, goal of the new program is to provide a better service and have a quicker turn-around time for inspection requests. "We're very optimistic about this new locally controlled, locally operated program," said Wenzel. "We will now have the same local inspector for all of Morrow County, including the cities."

The new county program is also an opportunity to keep revenues within the county rather than return permit fees to the state, according to Tamra Mabbott, Morrow County Planning Department director.

Under the new arrangement with Boardman, according to Mabbott, the city will retain 75 percent of the permit fees and the county will retain 25 percent.

"It's a great partnership between the city of Boardman and Morrow County," said Judge Terry Tallman.

Best county pickle to head to state fair

The best home-made pickle in Morrow County and its maker will be headed for the Oregon State Fair this summer where Steinfeld's Products Co. is waiting with a tasting fork and \$250 in cash.

County fairs throughout the state will judge the best pickle in the county, sending their winner and the blue ribbon jar to the ultimate state-wide pickle competition.

All pickle recipes using cucumbers entered in the county open-class division are eligible and the winning pickle-maker will receive a free ticket to the Oregon State Fair to be honored on Steinfeld's Grand Champion Pickle Day, Thursday, August 31.

Cucumber pickles, sweet or sour, should be packed in a sealed quart jar and shipped, along with the recipe, to Salem for the Steinfeld's Oregon Grand Champion Pickle Contest for judging.

Oregon county winners will be on exhibit at the Jackman Long Building.

For complete entry rules for the contest which opens August 16, contact the Morrow County Fair office.

Letters to the Editor

Editor's note: Letters to the Editor must be signed. The Gazette-Times will not publish unsigned letters. Please include your address and phone number on all letters for use by the G-T office. The G-T reserves the right to edit. The G-T is not responsible for accuracy of statements made in letters.

Contribute to assisted living fund

To the Editor:
I am writing to urge those of you planning to make a contribution to the Willow Creek Assisted Living Fund to do so soon. Every contribution takes us closer to our

goal.
Let's take our thermometer to the top. The Willow Creek Assisted Living Project can happen-it just needs you.

(s) Pat Edmundson
Heppner

Initiative to halt steel traps

To the editor:
Letter-writer Greg Smith trots out a host of falsehoods in his screed against the ballot measure to restrict the use of inhumane and indiscriminate steel jawed leghold traps and poisons.

To begin, the measure will likely be the only ballot initiative that will qualify for the ballot with the use of volunteer petitioners - demonstrating the grassroots nature of this campaign. Mr. Smith is incorrect, also, when he states that the ballot measure amends the Oregon Constitution. Rather, it revises Oregon statutes.

On the substance, the ballot initiative is carefully balanced to halt the use of inhumane steel traps and snares used to kill animals for their fur, but allows their selective use of body-gripping traps under permit to protect livestock, public health and safety, or threatened or

endangered species, or to conduct legitimate research.

Eight-nine nations have banned the use of the steel jawed leghold trap because it is such a barbarous device. It has been declared inhumane by reputable groups such as the American Animal Hospital Association and the American Veterinary Medical Association.

Animals like bobcats and otters languish in traps not just for minutes, but hours and even days. The misery they endure sometimes causes them to resort to chewing off or twisting off a leg to escape its vise-grip. And it's all done just for someone to collect \$30 or \$40 to sell the pelt to the international fur trade. That's called animal cruelty, and that's why this initiative is so necessary.

(s) Dr. Larry Peetz
Veterinarians Against
Inhumane Traps
Salem

Don't go there

To the Editor:
Imagine that someone lies about and condemns a person you love that they don't even know. What do you do? If a current ballot drive succeeds, it will be illegal for public school teachers to defend homosexual friends and family members, regardless of what is said about them. Such defense would "condone" homosexuality, and if

the initiative succeeds, that kind of support would be illegal.

I find it appalling that some citizens think the state should control what public employees say about any group of people. As any history teacher can tell you, that's a dangerous road to travel, and I urge anyone asked to sign this hate-motivated agenda to not go there.

(s) The Rev. Lea Mathieu
Ione

Salutes Gordon Smith

To the Editor:
Recently Senator Gordon Smith expressed his well-considered decision on the hotly debated issue of whether or not doctors should actively participate in assisting with suicides. Whether or not I agree with his position on this issue, I salute him for standing firm to his personal convictions, when so many politicians hays no conviction at all.

Citizens need to vote for statesmen with intelligence, wisdom and integrity, then trust

them to make wise decisions based on all the information they have available. Too many voters want politicians who lift their wetted fingers into the winds of public opinion before taking a stand on any issue.

I hope Senator Smith stands firm and stands tall. We all should have the courage to do what we believe is right and let the consequence follow. History will ultimately salute all who do... and mock the rest.

(s) Dennis Richardson
Central Point

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Ione's 4th of July and BLUES FESTIVAL

FOUR DAYS OF ACTIVITIES! July 1-4 • Special Events Include:

Sunday, July 2: INLAND NORTHWEST MUSICIANS performing "Patriotic Pops" at the amphitheater at 3:15 p.m.

Monday, July 3: Golf Tournament at WCCC at 10 a.m.

Tuesday, July 4: "Horses to Horsepower" Parade with THE BLUES CRUISE CLASSIC CAR SHOW at 11 p.m.

and BLUES MUSIC starting at 2 p.m. featuring four blues bands:

John Koontz and The Gas Hogs; Sweet Juice; The Power Band with Sunny Hess and Megan James;

and headliners THE STRAT DADDIES

with Randy Lilya, Robbie Laws, Jimmy Lloyd Ray, Kenny Blue Ray and featuring guitarist Jim Mesi, plus special guest Paul deLay

SPECTACULAR FIREWORKS at dusk!

PLUS MUCH, MUCH MORE! DON'T MISS IT!

For more information, call 422-7410



THANK YOU

Marsha and Tami, we would like to say THANK YOU for developing our outstanding Morrow County Museum & tending it with loving care. Your expertise will be missed!

New museum schedules will soon be posted. Volunteers will be available to give the public access to the displays, the family history files and the genealogy programs.

Sponsored by the Morrow County Museum Board of Directors

FAX - Send or Receive
Gazette-Times 676-9211