

HEPPNER

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Willow Creek Baptist VBS comes to a close



Volunteers and children attending the Willow Creek Baptist Church vacation Bible school at the Heppner City Park last week assemble with the food they brought and planned to donate to the Heppner Neighborhood Center. "This week has been really great," said Angie Hanson, VBS organizer. "We saw lots of kids, sang lots of songs and had lots of fun." Hanson also fed the volunteers, many of whom came from the Tri-Cities area.

"It was awesome," added Rachel Owens, 13, one of the volunteers coming from Kennewick. "I liked it a lot more than I thought, but it's also a lot harder than I thought. I'm having a lot of fun."

Lexington councilmen withdraw resignations

Duane Disque and Pat Baker changed their minds Thursday night and withdrew their resignations from the Lexington city council less than a month after they had declared they were off the town's governing body.

Both of the men had resigned by letter prior to last month's town council meeting, a meeting at which Mayor John Renfro and councilmember Marsha Kemp also submitted resignations and walked out. That action left only councilmember Glenn Anderson on the council and raised questions about the financial future of the town.

Without a governing body the town's budget could not be approved and, according to accessor Greg Sweek, would result in the town not being able to draw tax money in the coming year.

Because of the looming financial crisis Disque and Baker agreed to come back, and Thursday they and Anderson approved the city's budget for the coming year.

Disque and Baker were allowed back on the council because their resignations had not been officially accepted.

Thursday the remaining councilmembers accepted the resignations of Renfro and Kemp and then appointed Anderson as "moderator" of the council meeting.

The town's attorney Bill Kuhn said he asked Disque and Baker to rejoin the council in order to pass the budget.

"You have a huge breakdown in the ability to work together in the city of Lexington," Kuhn said. "These people I thought were the ones who could work together." Kuhn said he also spoke to Renfro but did not contact Kemp.

Kuhn announced that he had also spoken with county assessor Sweek, who indicated if the city did not pass a budget Sweek would be forced to report it to the Oregon Department of Revenue. Municipalities are not supposed to collect taxes without a budget.

In other business:

It was announced that Richard Kempas was hired as the new maintenance man for the city, and that Jean Brazell would work through the summer as city recorder.

The council voted to approve the city budget.

The council heard that Shirley McCarl had resigned from the budget committee.

The council decided not to release the results of a Oregon Department of Justice investigation into the town's finances that was recently completed. The report may be released to the public at a later date.

Horse show

The Morrow County Open Horse show will be held Saturday, July 22 at the Morrow County Fairgrounds starting at 9 a.m. Entry forms are available at the fair office, 676-9474, or from Ruby Shear, 422-7290. For more information, contact Ruby Shear.

Local fire fighters help with Hanford blaze



(left-right) Steve Rhea, Rusty Estes, Andrew Johnson and Tom Wicklund helped battle Hanford fire

Four Heppner Volunteer Firefighters were mobilized to respond to the huge grass fire on the Hanford Nuclear Reservation in the Tri-Cities area last week.

The four, Fire Chief Rusty Estes and firefighters Steve Rhea, Tom Wicklund and Andrew Johnson, left Heppner at 11:30 p.m. on Wednesday, June 28.

They traveled first to Hermiston where they met others from their strike team, which consists of the Heppner Fire Department, the Hermiston Fire Department, the Pendleton Fire Department, the East Umatilla County Rural Fire Department and the Boardman Fire Department. The group, which is

on call from the 15th to the 31st of each month for conflagration, then traveled on to the West Richland area where they were assigned to protect the Hammer Facility, an industrial training center, and the police academy. Estes said that the five area departments were the first team to respond for Oregon.

The men worked in 12-hour shifts, mopping up hot spots after the big air tankers dumped water on the blaze. The firefighters worked in extreme heat, with temperatures around 101 degrees with six percent humidity and sustained 30-mile-an-hour winds.

"The fire, at one time, was traveling 300 feet a minute," said Wicklund, 49. "Before we got there they told us it blew 20

miles in 90 minutes."

"My hat's off to the local departments from over there," said Rhea, 45. "They're the ones who took the brunt of the fire. To only lose 64 structures was amazing for that type of fire behavior. They're the ones to be commended."

All the Heppner fire fighters agreed that the people in the Tri-Cities area gave them a very warm reception.

"The people there loved us," said Johnson, 34. "They brought us food, they waved."

"We were very well received," added Estes, 42. "It was unbelievable."

"The community support was tremendous," added Wicklund. "They donated food, water, produce."

Improvements made on Pro Rodeo

A new announcer's box, a warm up arena, new bleachers, fencing, lighting and new handicap access is a great deal to improve on in a few short years at the Oregon Trail Pro Rodeo Arena but the improvements are not done, says Sue Gibbs, media chair.

A new pole building will be constructed before rodeo time this year at the east end of the arena.

The pole building can be used during fair and rodeo where the old tent has been put up in the past. The pole building will have a roof and will be excellent for shade and shelter this year in place of the tent, says Gibbs. The building will be 30 by 40 feet with 10 foot eaves.

The committee raised enough money for materials through fund raisers and the labor will be donated by Eckman Construction. This pole shed will be a multi-

purpose building for other activities as well such as football, biking, 4-H or other equine events.

There are also plans for the building in the future. This year it will be a simple pole building, however if more funding is raised, the committee hopes to enclose the building and add plumbing, a kitchen and bathrooms. If these features are added it can also be used for snack shacks, an office area or meeting room, says Gibbs.

"Improvements are a great way to enhance our community," she said. "The committee members of the Oregon Trail Pro Rodeo continue to strive for quality facilities at the arena. The facilities can be used for local events safely and comfortably, yet the rodeo arena attracts out of town people into our community to use the arena and equipment because of the outstanding quality and improvements."

Echoes of the Past Fair theme 2000

"Echoes of the Past" will be the topic as the Morrow County Fair gets underway August 16 for four days of entertainment, contests, wine-tasting and the Oregon Trail Pro Rodeo.

The premium books will be available the week of July 10 at the local post offices, fair office and Extension Service. Contact the fair office for an exhibitor's number and premium sheets.

"There is a category for

everyone so see how many exhibits you can enter this year," said fair secretary LaRae Kindle. "How about challenging a friend to see who can bring in the most exhibits? It is a proven fact that a person enjoys the fair more if they are an active participant. If you haven't entered an exhibit in previous year stop by the fair office and I will be happy to help you with your forms," said Kindle.

Meeting set on charter schools

An informational meeting on formation of charter schools will be held on Tuesday, July 18 at the Elks Lodge in Heppner beginning at 7 p.m.

The meeting will be conducted by Joanie Gillis, Oregon Dept. of Education, and John Nelson, Or-

egon Charter School Service Center.

All parents whose children attend Heppner schools and all other interested persons are invited to attend and find out about the rules governing charter schools.

HARVEST HOURS

Starting July 5th: Weekdays, 7 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Saturdays, 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. • Closed Sundays

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