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of the City of Heppner and the County of Morrow

Heppner GAZETTE-TIMES

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Morrow County's Home-Owned Weekly Newspaper

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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.

Murrays provide beautiful garden spot

To the Editor:
Cheers and hats off to Murray's Drug Company for the cozy, delightful little rest park area that they created right on Main Street for the public to enjoy. The landscaping is a talent of art. To combine so many different kinds of flowers in bloom at the same time is a real accomplishment and a joy to all who pass by, a beautiful spot to meet friends and have a miniature picnic or just sit a bit and be surrounded by all of the growing plants and trees, even grapes for the birds this fall.

If you haven't taken time to stop and smell the flowers, you're

missing an exceptionally joyous experience. A splendid view of the cross on the hill can be seen when you sit in this beauty spot.

Credit is due to the Garden Club for the colorful flower decorations on the bare brown walls and space next to the post office. Seniors are also enjoying large pots of flowers on both sides of their doorway.

(s) Lois Winchester
Heppner

P.S.: The flower man who has put in so much time and work to beautify the rock drinking fountain out by the rodeo field deserves much credit too.

Put timber receipts land on tax rolls

To the Editor:
I would like to address the issue of "payments in lieu of taxes", specifically timber receipts that the county roads and schools do not receive any more. The "payments in lieu of taxes" is a well-established principle. Why don't we simplify that procedure by putting the land on the tax rolls of the taxing districts it is located in. Then the people and agencies could decide to either manage the land to pay the taxes, or pay out of their pockets like every other landowner. I am not talking about lands that the U.S. is authorized by the constitution to own (i.e., forts, arsenals, and public buildings). I am talking

about former homestead land. The original idea of the Homestead Act was to get the land in private ownership so that it could be managed and taxes paid on it. When homestead lands were reserved, they should have been added to the tax rolls at that time.

This move would solve a number of other agency problems - road maintenance, law enforcement and recreation maintenance. The agencies always seem to be short of funds for this. I think the counties could manage fine in these departments with the added tax base.

(s) Chuck Phegley
Baker City

Hunter ed class planned

A hunter education course has been scheduled for the Heppner area. The course will be held July 25, 27 and August 1, 3, 5 and 10. The sessions, except on August 5, will be from 6-8 p.m. at the Forest Service office in Heppner. The session on August 5 will be a field day from 8 a.m.-1 p.m. As a general rule, all sessions must be attended for the student to pass.

Another class may not be offered in the area this summer and young hunters who need the class should attend this one.

Ione Preschool hires teacher

Kelly Christman, a native of Ione, has been hired as Creative Care Preschool's teacher beginning with classes this fall.

Christman has extensive teaching experience in church settings and with home-schooling her own children. She is working toward a degree in elementary education.

In applying for the Ione position, Christman wrote, "I prefer a loving, simple and traditional approach to teaching." Classes at Creative Care will begin September 5. An orientation meeting for new and returning families will be held in late August.

Parents of children who will attend for the first time this year may call Lisa Rietmann, 422-7181, or Lea Mathieu, 422-7215, for a pre-registration packet.

Town-wide yard sale a success

The town-wide yard sale in Lexington was a "big success," according to the Lexington Fire Department Auxiliary, sale organizers.

Organizers and participants say they hope to make the event an annual affair.

Sherron Woodside won the handmade treasure chest.

Boardman 4th winners listed

Winning entries and categories in the 2000 Boardman 4th of July Parade were lead by "Ticket to Tomorrow," by Friends of the Boardman Library, who earned the Sweepstakes (Most Patriotic) award in 1999; "Kids Just Wanna Have Fun," by the Boardman Park and Recreation District, who earned the Mayor's Choice award; and "Fitness for Life," by the Boardman Health Care Center, who received the Most Patriotic Award.

Best of class winners were as follows: Arlington Saddle Club Queen Nicole Marshall, Mounted Royalty; "Lewis and Clark Canoeing the Columbia," Morgan & Parker Snook, Other Royalty; "I'm a Yankee Two, Springdale Arabians, Adult Single Horse; 1937 GMT Fire Truck, Kegler's SENTRY Markets & American West Properties, Commercial Business; "Country Afternoon - 55 Years of Community Service" Tillicum Club, Community Service Float; Amazing A's 4-H Youth Development Project Club, Youth Group Award; North Morrow Vector Control District, Commercial Vehicles Award; Blue Mountain "A"s, Antique Cars - 1900-'38; Ernie Ferguson, '60 Mercedes Benz Convertible, Classic Car Award; Badoux Racing, 1977 Toyota Celica, Modified Stock Award; Frederickson Farms Hay Wagon & Belgians, Draft Horse Group; State Representative Bob Jensen, State Senator David Nelson, Morrow County Commissioner John Wenholz and Retain Verlin Denton, Morrow County Sheriff, Political Awards; and "Just Because" Award: Scoopers, Bob Boss and Rod Flug.

Parade judges were: Kathy Cash, Boardman City Council; Dan Daltoso, Boardman Park & Recreation District; and Terry Tallman, Morrow County Judge.

The Yamaha 2000 Waverunner and trailer was won by Don Hayworth, Hermiston. Carol Dalton, Boardman, won the Tillicum Club quilt raffle. Liz Morris, Boardman, won the Lucky Button drawing and the opportunity to assist pyrotechnist Jeff Bipes light the first fireworks shell signaling the beginning of "Feel the Thunder."

The fireworks show consisted of 1500 shells, 900 pounds of explosives for a 30-minute display of "thunder" over the Columbia River.

Horseshoe tournament team winners were: Mike Hensley and Steve Ulrich; and Charlie Tappo and Don Archele. Nineteen teams participated in "Hoop & Holler" three-on-three basketball tournament. Winners were: Echo Goonies, youth division; and Chocolate City, adult division.

"Fantastic weather, great community involvement, activities for all ages and spectacular fireworks all combined to create a wonderful celebration of America's Independence Day on the river in Boardman," said Carol Michael, Boardman Chamber of Commerce manager.

Justice Court Report

The Justice Court office at the courthouse annex building in Heppner reports handling the following business:

Brian Lee Atkinson, 26, Edmonds, WA.-No Operator's License, Driving Uninsured, Violation of the Basic Rule, 72 mph in a 55 mph zone, \$465 fine; Aimee Allison Simmons Arps, 20, Edmonds, WA.-Providing a Vehicle to an Unlicensed Driver, \$79 fine;

Rick Lee Osmin, 27, Union-Violation of the Basic Rule, 73 mph in a 55 mph zone, \$111 fine;

David D. Dyer, 36, Hermiston-Violation of the Basic Rule, 76 mph in a 55 mph zone;

Craig R. Koeller, 34, Hermiston-No Operator's License, Failure to Register, Driving Uninsured, \$413 fine;

Evelyn M. Carroll, 54, Heppner-Violation of the Basic Rule, 81 mph in a 55 mph zone, \$132 fine.

Volunteers keep museum open

By Robin Krebs

Since July 1 volunteers have kept the Morrow County Museum open. The days and hours remain the same. Tuesday through Friday, 1-5 p.m. and Saturday, 11 a.m.-3 p.m.

Volunteers are all working and learning together to maintain the professional standards the former staff worked so hard to establish. Each of the volunteers has something unique to offer, from computer skills to gun cleaning, and more volunteers inquire every day.

The museum hopes to have a dedicated volunteer group of at least two dozen people to work on Morrow County Museum projects and the Morrow County Museum Agricultural Collection just down the street.

The museum board members have been volunteering on Saturdays, which gives me a little time off.

The \$3 admission for adults, and \$2 for school age and senior citizens hasn't deterred visitors at

all.

The genealogy library is free to researchers, and many people have come in to research family members who once lived in Morrow County.

Everyone is welcome to browse through the library or their family file.

Genealogists who have come in from Texas and British Columbia are just thrilled with the collection.

I encourage every family in Heppner to stop by for a visit. We still are looking for volunteers. Call or come by and get involved. The museum phone number is 676-5524.

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Assisted living facility plans move forward

By Doris Brosnan

The reality of an assisted living facility in the Willow Creek Valley (WCVL) has become more strongly assured this month.

After what have been frustrating months for the WCVL board, the questions of financing seem to have been answered and the answers indicate that the project can go forward. The board is pleased to now have something positive to report to the communities.

Financing has become the key issue and a low-cost loan is essential to the success of the small, not-for-profit facility. Several months ago, the board members were pleased to hear that they could receive a \$680,000 Rural Development loan from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). The low 5.5 percent interest rate on this funding would mean that the month-to-month operation of such a facility would be possible. The remaining \$220,000 for building the facility would come from conventional local sources.

This news was soon followed, however, by USDA's change to an offer of only \$580,000 funding. The impact of

borrowing the additional \$100,000 at a conventional interest rate would be strong enough to make operation of the facility impossible.

Meetings with representatives of USDA ensued. Members of the WCVL board and local banks pleaded the case and convinced USDA to offer its original loan amount of \$680,000. Application was made, and the papers were to be delivered to the Washington, D.C., headquarters last week. The Oregon USDA office has told the committee to expect 30-40 days for D.C. to process the application.

Impatient members of the WCVL Board are discovering that each step of the project requires weeks and must be completed, with no shortcuts available. As the pre-construction time line is laid out, it includes the bidding process and selection of a contractor, acceptance of a design proposal and a construction review by the state and lenders.

The WCVL Board expects that the "shovel will hit the ground" next spring, but that beginning of construction will be dictated not only by regulations but also by the elements,

dependent upon the spring warming of the ground. Hopes are high and positive for having the facility ready for tenants by the fall.

As the need for the assisted living facility remains high in the Willow Creek Valley, the board feels the urgency that has motivated it since the project's inception. The members are more and more eager to see the project to completion and continue to be encouraged by the individual offers of moral and financial support and the ongoing purchases of the paving bricks that will help meet their funding goals.

W.C.C.C. Golf

WCCC Barbecue
Sunday, July 16
Low gross: Gene Sonstegard and Jan Paustian.
Low net: Bob Montgomery and Lorrene Montgomery.
KP #5: Earl Norris and Lorrene Montgomery.
Long drive #6: Bob McDonald and Jan Paustian.
Hosted by Lorrene and Bob Montgomery, Carol and Earl Norris, and Jan and Bob McDonald.

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