

HEPPNER



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VOL. 119 NO. 39 8 Pages Wednesday, September 27, 2000 Morrow County, Heppner, Oregon

IUCC to worship in new church

The Lone United Church of Christ will worship in their new facility for the first time on Sunday, Oct. 1.

Members and friends will gather at 10:45 a.m. at St. William's Catholic Church in Ione, and walk together to the lone UCC church building at 395 Main Street for a special worship service at 11 a.m. "In Christ's Name" will be the title of the sermon by Reverend Paul Clay, the pastor of the church. Coffee and refreshments will be served after the service.

Children from kindergarten through sixth grade will meet at

9:30 a.m. for Sunday school in the Christian Education Building, and then join the walk to the new church at 10:45 a.m. The classes will begin meeting in the new building on the following Sunday, Oct. 8, at 9:30 a.m.

The old church building was severely damaged by a fire on April 23, 1998. After careful study, the members of the church voted unanimously in January of 1999 to replace the old building with a new facility. Construction began in March of 2000, and the interior of the building is now nearly complete. Exterior work and landscaping will continue this fall.

The new facility includes a sanctuary with a balcony, a large community room with a kitchen and a gas fireplace, Sunday school rooms, office space and a spacious entry which expands and connects all the other areas of the church. The architect, Gail Sargent of Hermiston, worked closely with the congregation to create the design.

The new church will be formally dedicated on Sunday, Oct. 22. The day will include worship at 11 a.m., followed by a potluck and the dedication service at 3 p.m. with a reception afterward.

Students gather at "the pole" for prayer

Eight students participated in the "See You at the Pole-National Day of Student Prayer" before school at Heppner High School on September 20. Adults gathered at the Morrow County Courthouse in Heppner in support of the youth.

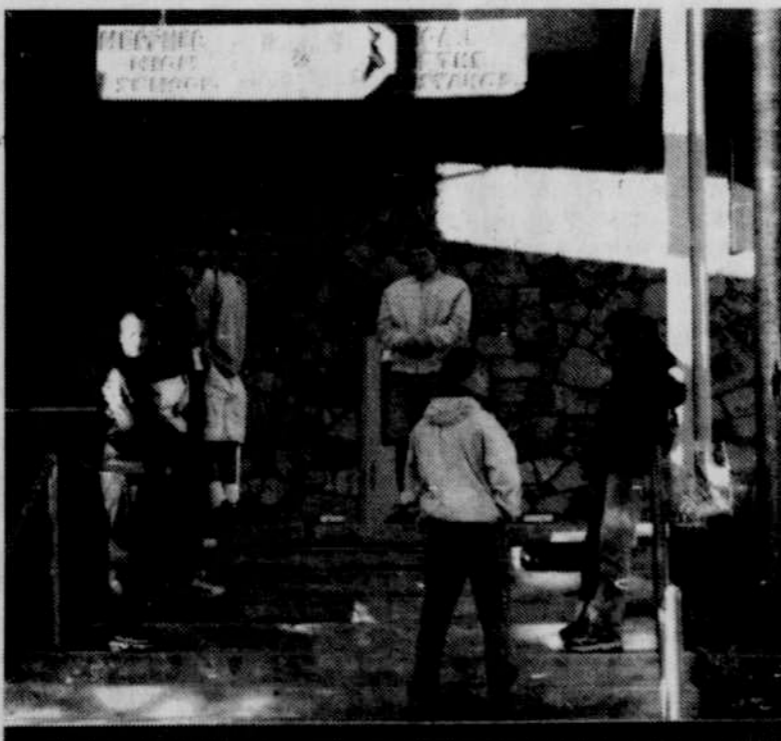
According to a news release, a prayer meeting that started with just one youth group, meeting in the dark of night in Texas in 1990, has grown so dramatically that it may have impacted 56,000 schools this year. Students in every state were expected to pray on their campuses, observing the 11th annual "See You at the Pole--National Day of Student Prayer".

Young people have been bowing in prayer at their school flagpoles around the world for 10 years as part of See You at the Pole, asking God to bring moral and spiritual awakening to their countries, the release said.

The See You at the Pole 2000 theme was "A Generation Seeking God," taken from the words of King David recorded in Psalm 24:3-6. "The passage expresses a spiritual intensity similar to what many youth workers observe today in teenagers of the "Millennial Generation," continued the release.

"Veteran church youth workers have noted that there is a greater fervency and seriousness in young people who seek intimacy with their Creator," the release said. "This is expressed in prolonged gatherings for worship and prayer, often in a spirit of repentance. See You at the Pole gatherings frequently include heartfelt times of singing and passionate prayer."

News deadline
5 p.m. Monday



Students gather around the pole for prayer

Ione graduate writes hit movie

Lisa Meyers, 1981 graduate of Ione High School, working under the pen name Darcy Meyers, has co-written "The Watcher" for Universal Studios.

The movie, starring James Spader, Marisa Tomei and Keanu Reeves, came out Sept. 8 and spent two weeks as the number

one box office grosser.

Fellow alumni Teena Hubbard, nee Lindstrom, (IHS 1981) was in Los Angeles for a chemical/biological warfare conference and touched base with Meyers shortly before the release of the film.

Drawing class scheduled

A mixed media drawing class, sponsored by Blue Mountain Community College, will begin this Thursday, September 28, at 7 p.m. at the Heppner High School art room.

The 10-week course will be scheduled between Heppner and Ione art rooms each Thursday from 7-8:30 p.m.

Instructors are Tom Shear and

Astrid Bruno.

The class is open to adults and school age students, grades four and up, who want to learn the basics of drawing or strengthen their existing skills.

For more information or to pre-register, call Anne Morter, BMCC coordinator for South Morrow County, 422-7040.

Willow Creek Valley Assisted Living receives USDA loans to build facility in Heppner



The Willow Creek Valley Assisted Living Board receives a token check for a \$170,000 Community Facilities Loan Guarantee from USDA and local bank officials. WCVL also received an additional \$680,000 Community Facilities Direct Loan from USDA. The loans will enable WCVL to build an assisted living facility in Heppner. Pictured left to right are: Jim Rippy, consultant; Sharon Harrison, Klamath First Federal Heppner Branch manager; Darrell Raver, Bank of Eastern Oregon Heppner Branch manager/loan officer; Diana Ball, Willow Creek Valley Assisted Living corresponding secretary; Sharron Woodside, WCVL treasurer; Suzanne Jepsen, WCVL chairman; Gail Hughes, WCVL board member; Bill Daniel, state community facilities specialist; and Paul Kershnik, USDA rural utilities specialist.

By Doris Brosnan

The letter began, "Rural Development is pleased to advise you that your request for a loan in the amount of \$680,000 has been approved." Though the Board of Willow Creek Valley Assisted Living had been verbally assured that the USDA would provide the funding it sought, the official word brought a sigh of relief to board

members.

Funds for the assisted living project, according to the letter from Jerry W. Sheridan, Rural Utilities Program director of USDA, were "set aside as of today." September 8.

On September 25, the promise of that announcement was symbolized in the "checks" presented to members of the nonprofit organization by representatives of the USDA and of the local banking community. The USDA loan's 5.125 percent interest rate is critical to the \$1 million-plus project. The difference between this rate and that of conventional lending rates will enable the 16-unit facility to meet its monthly obligations.

Other funding will come from loans totaling \$170,000, with Bank of Eastern Oregon and Klamath First Federal and from donations.

"We continue to seek donations," Suzanne Jepsen, board chair, explained. "In fact, we very much need donations," she continued. "We are counting on support from the community to complete our financing

package."

Citizens and organizations can donate to the assisted living project by sending donations to Box 244 in Heppner, by purchasing the paver bricks and by placing their grocery receipts in the box at Central Market. Donations are also received at City Hall and Twice upon a time... and the order forms for bricks are available at Klamath First Federal, Bank of Eastern Oregon and City Hall.

If plans go as expected, construction on the 16-unit facility, to be located adjacent to Lakeview Subdivision, will begin in March of 2001. Board members eager to "put a spade to the ground" by November have needed reminding that the bidding process and the meeting of conditions of the USDA loan will take yet more time, so a spring start on construction is a realistic plan. "We have many details to work on," Jepsen noted, "so our time will be well spent as we look forward to actual construction."

Mentors sought for youth

Morrow County Schools are seeking people who are interested in becoming a mentor in the Special Friends program. This program is designed to pair children with a positive adult role model. The number of volunteers determines the number of children served. Statistics have shown that when children receive as little as a half-hour per week of one-to-one unconditional positive regard from an adult mentor, the results are almost always positive and lasting. Negative behaviors are not as pronounced and the child has a greater motivation for learning and getting along with others.

This is how the program works: Children are referred to the program by their teacher. These children may be shy, acting out, have learning disabilities or just in need of more individual attention. They are then paired with a volunteer. Once a week, for 10 weeks, the volunteer and student will meet for 30-45 minutes of conversation, games and crafts.

At the end of the 10-week period a party is held for the volunteers and their students to celebrate their accomplishments. "It is indeed a small amount out of one's time each week, and so valuable to the children," said a Morrow County Behavioral Health news release.

These programs are great in concept, but only work if volunteers step forward," continued the release. Many programs like this have failed due to lack of community involvement. When the program fails it is the children who suffer. Morrow County is in desperate need for adults to have more involvement with their children.

Anyone interested in becoming a volunteer for this program should contact Tiah Sanderson at either 676-9161 or 481-2911.

The Special Friends program is sponsored by both Morrow County School District and Morrow County Behavioral Health. Funding for the program comes through a grant provided by Eastern Oregon Health Services Consortium.

Scouts hike historic Heppner



Bear Scouts Curtis Harper, Bryan Holland, Drew Johnson, Colter Raver, along with Webelo Matt Holland and Tiger Cub Chance Raver took a walking tour of historic Heppner on Sept. 22.

Marsha Sweek, historian and former director of the Morrow County Museum, lead the scouts and their families through Heppner's history. They learned about the various regional Indian

tribes' influence on Morrow County. Sweek talked about the Oregon Trail's impact on Morrow County, Henry Heppner and the "Heppner freeway" through Hardman to the gold fields of John Day.

The Scouts heard about Fort Heppner, and the impact floods, fires and tornadoes have had on modern day Heppner. They also viewed some of Heppner's oldest buildings.

OTPR chaperon selected

The Morrow County Fair Board announces that Christina Wall has been selected to be Morrow County Fair and Oregon Trail Pro Rodeo Court chaperon for the year 2000-2001.

Wall has had previous rodeo court experience and says she is

looking forward to working with the court this year.

The fair and rodeo court will be selected on Sunday, Oct. 1, starting at 1 p.m. at the Morrow County Fairgrounds. The public is invited to attend.



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