

HEPPNER



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Gazette  
Times

### HEDC changes name

The Heppner Economic Development Corporation is now doing business as the Willow Creek Valley Economic Development Group. At last year's annual meeting, the organization decided that the new name better captures the group's focus on the economy of South Morrow County.

At this year's annual meeting on Jan. 17, the WCVED Board of Directors reviewed its past year.

President Tom Wolff identified the WCVED's year as one that included a supporting role for the group as it endorsed several efforts by other area entities, as well as one of small but significant projects to enhance the economy of the region.

The presentation by Vice President George Koffler highlighted the following:

-New members include some lone and Lexington individuals, and this year's membership drive will reach out to more businesses and people in the three communities. Now sending a representative to the monthly meetings of the Port of Morrow, WCVED has enhanced communication with that economic development organization.

-The organization created and distributed to area personnel offices a colored brochure featuring the Willow Creek Valley as a family-oriented location for homes and businesses. The organization now has a power point video production of information about the valley. Improvements to the web site make more valley information readily accessible,

### Commission seeks programs

The Morrow County Commission on Children and Families is seeking positive after school programs for Morrow County youth.

Programs of particular interest would include art, music, drama, dance, physical fitness, activity trips or other similar activities.

Approximately \$6,400 is available to provide supplies, transportation and other costs pertinent to providing a program.

Additional community development fund grants of \$500 each are available for seasonal program needs, small capital

including the newly added information about the industrial site.

-The organization sponsored a workshop for entrepreneurs, a business retention study and follow up to that study, and has put up signs at the industrial site to advertise its availability. It has organized a "quick response" team that can be called upon to answer the wide range of questions that a potential developer might have about the area.

Next month will see the first phase of the plan that combines the organization's desire to attract industry, families, and tourists with the "zero-money marketing plan" conceived by Dave Sykes, Jerry Breazeale and Darrell Raver to market the industrial site. Letters will be mailed to both leaders of industries identified as a fit with the Willow Creek Valley and to area alumni now living beyond the valley.

The Board of Directors of is composed of President Tom Wolff, Vice President George Koffler, Secretary Doris Brosnan, Treasurer Marcia Kemp and Directors Sharon Lewis, Nancy Snider and Cindi Doherty.

Meetings are held on the first and third Wednesdays of each month at the U.S. Forest Service building in Heppner beginning at 8 a.m. Meetings are open to the public. Members are encouraged to attend.

Individuals and businesses in the area are invited to join the corporation, for which annual dues are \$25.

Directors invite questions about the organization.

expenditures (excepting private property), service program staff training, one-time events and pilot projects.

Discussion and decisions regarding program proposals will be conducted at the regular Commission on Children and Families meeting on Tuesday, Feb. 13, at the Services to Children and Families conference room in Boardman.

For additional information and RFP forms, contact the commission office at 676-9675, Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

### Creative Care to deliver goodies

Creative Care Preschool of Lone will again deliver goodies to loved ones on Valentine's Day.

This year the gift is a small box of homemade "LOVE" cookies and chocolate kisses, tied together with a helium balloon. Deliveries will be made throughout the Willow Creek Valley (Lone, Heppner,

Lexington).

Order forms for the fund raiser may be found in public buildings in Lone. Telephone orders may be placed by calling Lea Mathieu at 422-7215 in the evenings. The cost is \$5 and all proceeds benefit the preschool. The deadline for orders is Saturday, Feb. 10.

### St. Pat's Auction

By Doris Brosnan

With two months until the St. Patrick's Day Celebration in Heppner, the Auction Committee is beginning its work on the major fund raiser for the yearly event, and "change" is a key ingredient in the committee's activities.

This year's auction will occur on Friday, March 16. The auction will begin at 7 p.m. and will be held downtown at the Elks lodge. For several reasons, the committee has chosen to move the time and location of the auction. Hopes are for greater participation as many individuals come to Heppner on Friday but leave on Sunday too early for attendance at a Sunday afternoon function. Locating on Main Street, too, will make the auction more accessible, the committee believes.

Though all details have not been settled, the committee does know that the live auction will occur in the downstairs dining room. The silent auction and the country store will encompass the upstairs facility and possibly a downstairs room. A door-prize drawing will again greet the bidders.

Each year, the event is successful in part because of the other community members who pitch in to handle, with committee members, on-site responsibilities. Having exceeded auction goals for the past two years and wanting to incorporate "new blood and new ideas" into the auction plans, the committee members have worked to bring in more new help each year. This year, Kim Cutsforth and Sue Thompson will help with the overall planning, with intentions to co-chair the event next year.

Donations to the auction and the country store by businesses and individuals are again encouraged. The bookstore, Twice upon a time..., next to Heppner Hardware, is designated as a drop-off location and pickup is available by calling 676-5886 during the day and 676-5382 or 676-5306 in the evening.

Committee members will again solicit donations from businesses in Heppner and the surrounding area and will work to put together some enticing packages of attractive trips, accommodations and activities.

"Every donation is important to the success of the auction and the committee, which has been pleased to have something for every bidder's price range each year, encourages early donations to help facilitate detailed planning," said a committee member.

As March 16 becomes closer and specific information about the auction becomes available, news will appear in the Heppner Gazette-Times.

### Ione gym has a new look



Monica Swanson (left) and Jeri McElligott show the new Ione High School scorekeeper's box

The sign says, "Simply the Best". By all appearances, the best is what the Ione community strives for and what they have accomplished at the Ione High School gym.

The gym has a new look, thanks to the Cardinal Booster Club and the community. It now sports new mats at the ends of the gym, a new paint job, signs and a scorekeepers' box.

"We wanted a gym that looks nice and one the kids could be proud of," said Monica Swanson, project coordinator.

The new look is truly a joint effort of the community with many people donating labor and materials. The Cardinal Booster Club sold mats for \$75 each. Forty-five mats were required for the project. The Ione shop class, under the direction of Principal Mike Stuart, contributed some woodworking and also prepared the flag poles. Scoreboards were donated by Pepsi Cola; PG & E donated money towards the project; the scorekeeper's box was made by Dan Anderson; Betty Gray donated materials; J.K. & Wright Quality Dry Wall and Painting, painted the walls; and Jan & Bob's Signs from Hermiston did the signs and had a "generous donation" toward the project, according to Swanson and McElligott.

The project, however, is not yet completed and donations are still being accepted. Anyone wishing to donate may send donations to McElligott, P.O. Box 4, Ione

### HHS seniors plan auction

The Heppner High School Class of 2001 will be busy this Saturday night, January 27.

The senior class will hold a service (slave) auction during the basketball game versus Culver.

The following senior boys will be auctioned during halftime of the girls' varsity game: Nick Anthony, Matt Baker, Blake Knowles, Ryan Matteson, Joe Papineau, Chris Peck, Brian Sweeney, Justin Wood and Brandon Young. The game will begin at approximately 4:30 p.m.

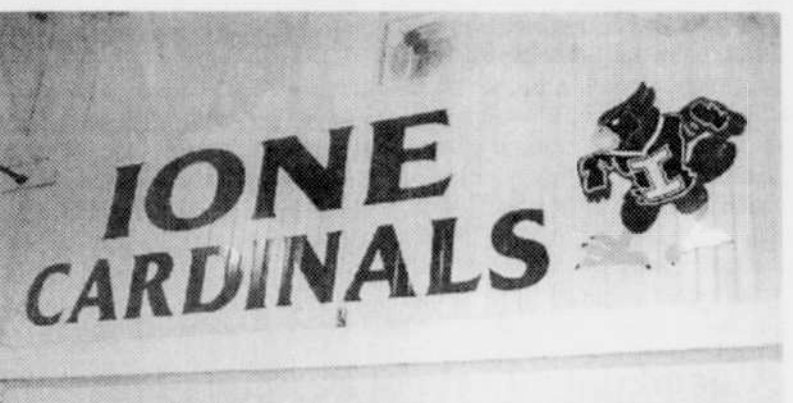
The following girls will be auctioned during halftime of the boys' varsity game which will get underway at approximately 6 p.m.: Sarah Eckman, San Juanita Elguezabal, Marissa McCabe, Jenni Patton and Mindy Smith.

The minimum bid is \$50 and the maximum, \$100, for eight hours of work. Work must be completed and payment made by April 15.

The senior class has also planned a taco feed from 3-7 p.m. during the Heppner-Culver game.

The menu will include: two tacos, chips and salsa, cookies and punch or coffee for \$4 each; one taco, chips and salsa, cookies and punch or coffee for \$3; and nachos for \$1.50.

Proceeds from both events will go to benefit the Class of 2001 senior trip to Coeur d' Alene.



New Ione Cardinal sign and logo in recently refurbished IHS gym.

### Heppner honored for seat belt program



Heppner Police Officer Merle Cowett

The City of Heppner has been recognized for having the highest rate of seatbelt compliance in the State of Oregon.

The city had 98 percent compliance in June of 2000 and has in 94 percent average compliance rate, according to Assistant Police Chief Merle Cowett, local administrator of the program.

Cowett said that three seat belt enforcement blitzes are conducted each year and compliance rates from the three are averaged to arrive at the compliance figure.

The program is funded through a federal grant which is first distributed to the Oregon Department of Transportation and then dispersed to the agencies.

The following girls will be participating, including cities, counties and the Oregon State Police, Agencies in Oregon, Washington and British Columbia are participating in the program. Heppner The amount received by each agency depends on the city's size. Heppner received \$3,000.

Cowett stresses that no city monies are used to conduct the program. The grant pays for overtime hours for local police to conduct the blitz and also pays for Cowett, as local director of the program, to attend required meetings.

"I believe it's a worthwhile program," said Cowett. "It has really opened my eyes to see what seatbelt enforcement laws are doing."

"Auto manufacturers are really supporting the program," added Cowett. "This has really made an

impact with them, too."

On the survey day before the blitz and then a week after the blitz 100 cars will be checked for compliance.

Cowett reminds drivers and passengers that if officers see a seatbelt violation they can stop people on that basis alone. Officers may also go beyond the seatbelt compliance issue, checking for other violations such as driving while suspended and outstanding warrants, for example. The last time Heppner had a blitz, 15-20 people got tickets, said Cowett.

The fine for a seatbelt violation is \$79, which may be reduced by a judge.

"Just because we have the blitz three times a year doesn't mean the rest of the year we're not looking,"

stressed Cowett. "People should get in the habit of buckling up every time they get in the car."

Cowett says that additional information about car seat safety may be obtained from Sheree Smith, safety belt technician and nurse with the Morrow County Health Department. Smith can also determine whether a car seat is appropriate and if a particular model seat has been recalled, said Cowett.

### Feb. 20 last day

The Morrow County Clerk's office reminds everyone that Tuesday, Feb. 20, is the last day to register to vote for the March 13 election.

It is also the last day for voters to update mailing addresses.

## 15% OFF FLEETGUARD FILTERS

• Air Filters • Fuel Filters • Oil Filters • Hydraulic Filters Through February 10th

Don't miss our Customer Appreciation Day and free Pancake Breakfast on Saturday, Feb. 10th!

## Morrow County Grain Growers

Lexington 989-8221 • 1-800-452-7396 For farm equipment, visit our web site at www.mcggr.net