

HEPPNER



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Miller Manufacturing shows new facilities



Kevin Chick (second from right) gives a tour of Miller Manufacturing's new facilities at the South Morrow Industrial Park in Heppner during an open house last Thursday. The home town business, which is growing and needed more room, manufactures custom bale and other material handling attachments for tractors and other equipment.

Quality is important to some businesses. To Kevin and Candy Chick of Miller Manufacturing in Heppner, quality is everything.

The Chicks have seen the size of their custom bail fork handling business grow by 43 percent over the past three years, and it's all because of quality.

"People are beginning to know that our stuff is good and holds up under tough use," Kevin Chick said last week during an open house tour of his new facility at the South Morrow Industrial Park (formerly Kinzua mill) in

Heppner.

Chick says the word is getting out so much that he is doing a lot of his business out of state in California and even some in Florida. He says California dairies like the way he custom builds bale and other material handling equipment to suit their needs.

The Chicks bought Miller Manufacturing from Joe and BonnaRae Miller several years ago, and have watched it grow to the point where it now employs four full time people and one part

time person. They have also gone from having 56 dealers recommend their bale handling attachments, to 120 dealers who now work with them.

What Miller Manufacturing builds is attachments that go on the front of various pieces of farm equipment. The business has also branched out so that it now makes specialty attachments for big and small bales, round bales (up to one ton), multi-sized bales, buckets and general attachments.

They also have a web site at www.millerforks.com

United Methodist Church to change their world

On February 2-3, six members of the ecumenical youth group held at the Heppner United Methodist Church will go without food for 30 hours.

The fast is a fund raising activity through World Vision. World Vision is a Christian organization that helps save the lives of thousands of children around the world who would otherwise die from hunger.

"Every time any of us takes a breath, a child dies from starvation. We live in the most technologically advanced era in the history of the world, but we can't get a bowl of rice in the hands of a starving child," says Monika Hunter, youth group leader. "When we do this 30-hour famine and raise money, we know we are helping to save kids' lives. We also learn a little bit of what it's like to go hungry."

One highlight of the "famine" will be a special presentation at the Heppner United Methodist Church on Friday, Feb. 2. Everyone is invited to come to the church for a presentation by Rev. David Duncombe.

Duncombe has fasted for 45 days at a time. During one fast, he went to Washington D.C. and successfully lobbied Congress to forgive the debts of 40 impoverished and starvation-prone countries. "He has a powerful message for all," said Hunter. Rick Drake will lead the church in song beginning at 6:30 p.m., with Rev. Duncombe speaking at 7 p.m.

During the 30 hours, participants will learn more about what it's like in other parts of the world where children don't have enough to eat. The students will spend their time learning about world issues and, at the same time, help out their own community.

Anyone interested in making a donation to a "famine" participant may contact the United Methodist Church at (541) 676-9224 or World Vision at 1-800-7-FAMINE or www.30hourfamine.org. The funds raised during World Vision's 30 Hour Famine will be used for both emergency relief efforts and long-term

development projects in countries such as Tanzania, Peru and the United States to help break the cycle of hunger and poverty.

Last year, more than 600,000 teens across the United States raised more than \$9 million through sponsor pledges. Worldwide, similar famine efforts involved more than 1.2 million participants - in 21 countries - who collectively raised more than \$22 million to fight hunger through World Vision projects.

Neighborhood Center plans rummage sale

The Heppner Neighborhood Center has planned a rummage sale for this Friday, February 2, at the center.

The sale will include clothes, books, winter items, household goods, toys, games and miscellaneous items.

Historical Society elects officers

The Morrow County Historical Society Board met Jan. 20 at the home of Jean Nelson, beginning with a potluck dinner.

Election of officers was held with the following being selected: Don Eppenbach of Irrigon, chairman; Barbara Bloodworth of Heppner, vice chairman; Fran Barnett of Lone, secretary-treasurer; and Ruth McCabe of Lone, historian.

A short discussion was held on the replacement of fallen stones in cemeteries. It was reported that plots were privately owned and that this limited the possibility of replacing stones as a society. It was reported that Bob Jepsen is looking into getting repair work done in the Heppner Cemetery before the 2003 recognition of the Heppner Flood. Louis Carlson said that he would contact Jepsen about how the project is working.

Don Eppenbach reported on the progress of the plans for the Lewis and Clark Trail observance which is to be held in 2003. Work is progressing on the trail along the Columbia River in the Boardman and Irrigon area. It is hoped that Umatilla County will join in the project. Two gatherings with speakers and Indian Tribe members were held in October of 1999 and 2000. Another is scheduled for Oct. 14 at Irrigon and it hoped the public will attend this. The Black Powder enthusiasts will be there with their exhibits. The group voted to make a contribution to the Columbia River Heritage Trail.

The project for placing signs at the old school sites is under way with Clarence Buchanan making signs for each one.

A discussion was held on the restoration and renovation of old buildings in the county. The Hardman Center was mentioned.

The next meeting will be at the home of Louis and Betty Carlson on March 24. It was suggested that Suzanne Jepsen be asked to report on the Willow Creek Valley Assisted Living facility. Most of the loans, grants and gifts have been received but there is still a need for donations to cover the total cost of the project.

Farm symposium

OSU Extension Service is hosting the Farm and Family Dynamics Symposium to assist families in making informed decisions about their family farm businesses in these changing times.

The symposium is a two-day program that takes place at the Pendleton Convention Center on Wednesday, Jan. 31, and Thursday, Feb. 1.

The symposium begins with registration at 8 a.m. both days with concurrent workshops and guest speakers, such as John Mitchell (U.S. Bank), Alice Mills Morrow (OSU), Todd Thorne (Salomon Smith Barney), Jack Southworth (farmer) and Suzie and Jan Barhyte (Haus Barhyte mustards).

The symposium concludes Thursday evening with dinner and guest speaker, Dr. Ron Hanson. Dr. Hanson, a speaker from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, is a widely traveled speaker who shares a message on the true-to-life relationship problems and personal conflicts that can often arise between family members when farming together on a family farm.

Symposium registration costs are: individual, \$55; family business (two individuals), \$90; one day (Thursday or Friday, including lunch), \$20; dinner only, \$20.

To register, call the Extension office at 278-5403 or 1-800-871-1313. Attendees may also register at the door.

Smith to spotlight counties with craft display

House Representative Greg Smith will begin spotlighting each of the counties he represents through the display of handmade crafts from people in District 59.

People from Baker, Crook, Gilliam, Grant, Sherman, Wheeler and portions of Morrow and Wasco counties may have their handiwork displayed for one week in the representative's office. Each county will have a display for three weeks. It is requested that the displays are handmade from a person residing in the county.

"The folks from District 59 were very gracious and helpful in electing me to the House of

Representatives. I want to show the folks from home my appreciation and gratitude for electing me by displaying their handmade crafts," said Smith.

Smith is excited about the variety of crafts and artwork that will not only show the support of district people and bring some color and enjoyment to the representative's new office in the capitol building but also allow other representatives the opportunity of seeing the artistic qualities of his district.

"The wonderful folks that allowed me to represent them by sending me to the Capitol may also send me home," said Smith.

CSEPP helps Morrow Co. prepare for emergencies

By Molly Rhea

Much has been in the news about the Chemical Stockpile Emergency Preparedness Plan, or CSEPP, but, "Just what have they done for us lately?"

According to Carl Lauritsen, Morrow County Health District's Emergency Services director, CSEPP is doing plenty to help prepare Morrow County in the event of a chemical emergency.

Over the past two years CSEPP has furnished Morrow County's various medical facilities with equipment and dressings that can be utilized in the event of mass casualties of any type, as well as having access to portable decontamination tents. With storage space and accessibility at a premium, CSEPP purchased a storage shed that is being erected on a previously unused patch of hillside just south of Pioneer Memorial Hospital.

CSEPP is in the process of replacing outdated

communication equipment at Pioneer Memorial Hospital with a multi-channel base station, and has provided emergency responders throughout the county with two-way radios.

A "Mobile Medical Cache" unit has been located in Irrigon, which enabled Lauritsen to bring Irrigon's backup ambulance to Heppner to replace PMH's oldest model, and to be used for transfers and as a backup.

In addition to the equipment, CSEPP has budgeted funds to train the county's medical personnel and volunteers on how to care for patients who may have been exposed to any of the chemical agents stored at the Umatilla Army Depot.

Although some may scoff about how the depot incineration project is dragging on and costing taxpayers millions, the agents that they are preparing to destroy and dispose of are capable of doing horrible things to all life forms.

North end ambulance to retire

After an estimated 10,000 miles, a 1987 transporting ambulance, used in the north end of Morrow County, is being retired. Its replacement, a 2001 Ford diesel, is a mobile medical cache.

The new updated ambulance, purchased for Morrow County's Health District by the CSEP Program, can now be used for even more emergency situations.

The new CSEPP purchase allows Emergency Medical Technicians to provide continued patient transport. It will also provide medical supplies to any of the four CSEPP decontamination units in Morrow or Umatilla counties or other location as needed in the event of a chemical accident at the Umatilla Chemical Depot or any multi-patient incident in the area.

"This unit and medical supplies for it increase Morrow County Health District's

capabilities in the Irrigon area, as well as providing a valuable resource to other surrounding communities," noted Steve Myren, medical preparedness officer for Oregon Health Division.

The new ambulance or mobile medical cache is currently housed at the Irrigon Fire Department.

Already the ambulance has made approximately 25 runs. The total number of Irrigon area staff that could be involved in case of a CSEPP event totals 13 and typically three volunteers run daily Emergency Medical Service.

EMS is a community-wide system of coordinated response to sudden illness or injury. Local EMTs find response time to 9-1-1 calls within the EMS system is more immediate when homes and businesses display their address in plain view, according to Myren.

BMCC offers ownership classes

Two classes relating to small business ownership are being offered by Blue Mountain Community College in the Heppner area.

Introduction to Business Ownership is set for Thursday, Feb. 8, from 6-9 p.m. Mike Tallman, Small Business Development Center counselor, will be the instructor.

This class provides a place to start for anyone who has ever thought of starting a business and wondered where to begin. Those attending the class will learn the fundamentals of starting a business, such as choosing the type of business organization, marketing, taxes and financial information.

Cost of the class is \$29 and another person from the same business may attend for an additional \$5.

Run a Successful Home-Based Business is set for Tuesday, Feb. 13, from 6-9 p.m. This class is designed to provide a foundation upon which to build a successful business. Some of the topics addressed will be time management, organization techniques, getting customers, looking good professionally, pricing and other money issues.

This class also costs \$29 per person and a second person from the same business may attend for an additional \$5.

Pre-registration is required. To register or for more information, contact Anne Morter, BMCC coordinator for South Morrow County, at 422-7040.

NEWS DEADLINE
5 p.m. Monday

SHOP PARTS AND LABOR

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