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HEPPNER



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Willow Creek Water Park to open June 9

By Debbie Harper

Willow Creek Water Park will open Saturday, June 9, with Merry Brannon as the new pool manager.

Hours this summer will be Tuesday through Friday, 1-5 p.m. and 7-9:30 p.m. Saturday and Sunday hours will be 1-5 p.m. The pool will be closed on Mondays.

Swimming lessons will only be offered in the mornings this year. Sessions will be June 19-29, July 10-20 and July 31-August 10. Lessons are \$25 and class size is limited to six children, except the "Mom Taught" which is limited to four. Sign up for lessons at the pool, Monday through Friday 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

Season passes are again available, \$125 for families, \$60 for individuals.

There are new food items and lower prices at the concession stand this summer, in addition to increased seating.

Parents are invited to enjoy swimming with their kids or just relax around the pool.

Returning lifeguards are Stephanie Clough (assistant manager), Marissa McCabe, Meghan Bailey, Dawn Sheirbon and Jodie Carlson. New lifeguards are Blake Allstott, Stefanie Hanson, Emily Unruh, Meaghan Unruh, Whitney Sherritt, Jesse Kempas and Chantea McCaulay.

Handling concessions and cashier duties will be Kim Pointer, Allison Sykes, Jessie Woodward and Danielle McDowell.

Bicycle race Friday

The Columbia Plateau Stage Race, which includes bicycle races in Heppner, Ione and Fossil, will take place this weekend, June 8-10.

Stage One begins at 1 p.m. Friday, June 8, with cyclists traveling from Heppner to Ione.

Stage Two is the Rietmann Grade time trial, a two-mile hill climb which gets underway Saturday, June 9, at 9 a.m.

Stage Three, from Ione to Fossil Saturday afternoon, is described as a "roller coaster course with a finishing elevation of 1600 feet higher than the start. The pro levels one and two are at 1 p.m. with the other fields from 1:40-1:55 p.m.

Stage Four is from Fossil to Heppner, "a tough stage with nearly 4,000 feet of vertical climbing," beginning Saturday, June 10, at 9 a.m.

For more information, contact Mark Schwyhart, 4425 S.E. Woodward, Portland, OR 97206; or by e-mail: michelle@hevanet.com.



Kim Pointer (left) and Merry Brannon

Joyce home selected yard of month



The Walter and Wanda Joyce home and garden, 280 Court Street in Heppner, has been selected as the Heppner Garden Club Yard of the Month for May. Wanda Joyce (pictured above) says that since they bought their home seven years ago they have completely landscaped the yard and redone the interior.

Doug Rathbun to retire as police chief



Heppner Police Chief Doug Rathbun

Long-time Heppner Police Chief Doug Rathbun has announced his intent to retire, effective at the end of the month. Rathbun says that a replacement has not yet been named.

Rathbun, 58, came to the Heppner Police Force in 1979 as a patrolman and then took over as chief following the retirement of previous chief Dean Gilman.

Rathbun is originally from Eugene, graduating from North Eugene High School. After high school he joined the Navy serving four years aboard ship, mainly in The Mediterranean. After his discharge from the Navy, Rathbun returned to Eugene where he was employed with Cummins Northwest Diesel, doing payroll.

After a year-long stint with Cummins, he decided to go into police work and was hired by the Portland Police Department. After six months on the Portland force, he took a job as police chief at Powers. He was the Powers chief for seven years before accepting a job as Umatilla Police Chief. He served in that capacity for six months before he accepted as job as a patrolman in Heppner. After three years he left Heppner and became a patrolman for Sweet Home. He returned to Heppner as a patrolman in 1979 and then in 1984 took over as chief.

"It's been a good job," said Rathbun. "I've done a lot of different things. But, it's time for new challenges." He said doesn't plan to travel or take it easy, but rather anticipates finding another job and going back to work.

While he was the Heppner Police Chief, Rathbun

Dr. Ed Berretta to return

Morrow County Health District CEO Victor Vander Does has announced that the district has reached a tentative contract with Dr. Ed Berretta.

According to Vander Does, Dr. Berretta, who previously had a contract with the district, will begin providing services as a physician at Pioneer Memorial Clinic, Hospital and Nursing Home beginning September 1.

Vander Does said that he anticipates that the contract will be finalized during a special meeting via telephone next week.

Ione High wins OSAA cup twice in row

Ione High School has won the OSAA Cup for the second year in a row.

To earn the recognition, schools earn points based on their finish in OSAA state championships and for the top 10 finishes in the OSAA-Dairy Farmers of Oregon Academic All

State program. The OSAA cup weights academics, activities and athletics equally.

The OSAA cup will be awarded to Ione High School at their first home game on Sept. 7.

received the Police Chiefs Association award for outstanding service.

Rathbun and his wife, Georgia, who is employed in the deli at Red Apple Market in Heppner, have been married since 1965. They have four children, Carlena Noble who lives in Portland and works for AARP; Christy Dial, Milton-

Freewater, who works for a Walla Walla construction company; Charles, Portland, who works with hazardous material cleanups; and Annette, six. They have two grandchildren, Tyler Dial, 11, and Dereck Dial, eight. The Rathbuns have also shared their lives with a great many foster children over the last 20 years.

Ione United Church of Christ annual auction and barbecue



G. Cocoa Walther (left), San Leandro, California, and Astrid Bruno, Ione, visit during a lull in activities during the Ione United Church of Christ Barbecue and Auction Saturday in Ione. Walther, a writer for "Tourist" magazine for Amtrak trains in California and Oregon, came up to visit with nephew, Mark Bruno, and wife, Astrid.

Tentative agreement reached on Ione-Boardman road

Morrow County Commissioner Dan Brosnan has announced that a tentative agreement has been reached between the county, R.D. Offutt (Three Mile Farms) and the state of Oregon to provide a road between Ione and north Morrow County.

The proposed road will travel down Tower Road, which will become a public road to the north side of the conservation area, will then turn west and come out on Highway 74 about four miles north of Cecil.

Brosnan said that the proposed road was a "compromise solution" to allow Ione faster access to north Morrow County, but was not in lieu of a shorter north-south route from Emigrant to the end of Tower.

Brosnan said that R.D. Offutt has agreed to the solution, even though it will be an inconvenience for them since

they will have to move some farming circles. He also said that the Governor has offered to have the National Guard build the road from Tower Road to Highway 74.

Brosnan said that if "everyone will stay on board" perhaps a solution can be reached.

He said that a task force in Ione agreed that the Ione City Council would vote on whether the proposal is acceptable either this week or next week.

Many citizens in Ione for years had advocated a direct road from Ione to Boardman to enable citizens to travel to jobs in the north county. However, an environmentalist group, The Nature Conservancy, purchased property from R.D. Offutt and denied a direct route through the property for a roadway and Governor Kitzhaber declined to intervene.

Program on small towns re-aired

Heppner and nine other small Oregon towns, which were historically prominent at one time, will be re-featured in a series called "ExplOregon." The series will broadcast on Oregon Public Broadcasting beginning Saturday, June 16, at 10:30 a.m. and will continue each subsequent Saturday at 10:30 a.m.

"We are very pleased that the first airing (in March) of the series was so well received," said T.J. Richard, president of 99 Productions. "We hope to attract new viewers during the rebroadcast and raise awareness about Oregon's historic communities."

Each featured town has its own half-hour program and is largely told through the eyes of current residents who experienced the town first-hand or through stories they have collected from relatives and friends.

Towns featured will be Bayocean, June 16; Brownsville, June 23; Shaniko, June 30; Oakland, July 7; Crescent Lake, July 14; Heppner, July 21; Jacksonville, July 28; Scottsburg, August 4; Granite, August 11; and Toledo, August 18.

"Each year Oregonians lose valuable state history with the passing of its generations," said Richard. "ExplOregon has captured many intriguing stories and history from these once prominent towns

that Oregonians have probably heard of, but didn't know the whole story."

ExplOregon is sponsored by The Oregon Forest Industries Council, the Relief Nursery and Courtsports Athletic Club. The second season of ExplOregon is currently underway.

99 Productions was established in 1999 when three colleagues, T.J. Richard, Pat Hart and Chip Whiting, merged their video production, broadcast journalism and advertising talents. Their recent production work includes University of Oregon football recruitment video (1999 season), Boy Scouts of America, Taco Time International and BI-Mart.

For more information about "ExplOregon" or 99 Productions, contact T.J. Richard, Pat Hart, or Chip Whiting, at (541) 343-0099, or visit their web site at www.99productions.com.

Ione pool to offer classes

The Ione swimming pool will hold swimming lessons June 19-29. The cost is \$30. All skill levels will be included. A water safety aid/water guard class will also be offered.

For more information, contact Shelly Key, 422-7105, or Bobbette Lovgren, 676-5217.

Hi-Qual Heavy Duty Panels ON SALE

(Sale through Saturday, June 16)



12' Reg. \$114⁰⁰
14' Reg. \$130⁰⁰
16' Reg. \$140⁰⁰

SALE \$96⁹⁰
SALE \$110⁵⁰
SALE \$119⁰⁰



Morrow County Grain Growers

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