

## Local pastor travels to Gound Zero



Fire fighters and mourners pray at a memorial in New York.

Like most people Heppner Christian Missionary Pastor Lynda Crane of Heppner has watched the events of September 11 with sadness and dismay. But Pastor Crane just had to see it for herself. So she and two and two members of her church, Alvin Liu and Catherine Sims, traveled to New York to visit "Ground Zero" October 30-31.

"The devastation was greater than I imagined," said Pastor Crane. "You just wonder how many businesses were destroyed and how many people were lost. The feeling is just heavy."

Crane said that they encountered two different attitudes of New Yorkers. "On the streets there were almost two elements," said Crane. "One was sorrowful and caring and the other was 'don't bother me.' But it was certainly a moving experience." One particular touching incident they captured on camera was a fireman with his arm around a grieving man. She said that many people signed a kind of memorial and one person had written "revenge" in Taiwanese which prompted Alvin, who is from Taiwan, to write a reply.

Crane said that the closer one got to Ground Zero, the more churches were trying to help and counsel people. She, Alvin and Catherine visited the church at Times Square. A famous book, "The Cross and The Switchblade," was based on the minister there, David Wilkerson. She said that even

before Sept. 11, a church not too far from Ground Zero had stopped all programs to concentrate on prayer, so people at the church at been praying round the clock when the catastrophe occurred.

"The heaviness was great, but the people were digging out," she said. "I guess when hard times happen, most people find out they have the strength."

Also during their stay in New York Crane finally met a man who lives in New Jersey who had been communicating with her for around 12 years. The three stayed with a Chinese family in New York and saw Alvin's brother in Syracuse, New York.

Crane, who first came to Heppner 25 years ago, has lead the Christian Missionary Fellowship in Heppner for 16 years. She has traveled to 17 countries through her ministry. "I have taken teams overseas," said Crane. "I really believe that what we have to share with others is what He has given to us-to share and enlarge their vision. I have a call now to go into Ghana and Kenya. We're already late (in answering the call), but God's got a timetable."

"The main thing is the Bible, getting the Bible to people," continued Crane. "We're seeing prophecy fulfilled every day. I also see in churches a falling away from the word of God. I just know we need to know why we believe and the only way to find that out is to study."



Alvin Liu, Pastor Lynda Crane, Catherine Sims in New York.

## Lighting contest judging Dec. 21

Heppner residents and businesses are invited to participate in the annual Christmas lighting contest sponsored by the Heppner Chamber of Commerce. Judging will be Friday evening, Dec. 21.

The judges will try to cover the entire community, but it is suggested that those wishing to be judged leave their names and addresses at the Chamber of Commerce, 676-5536, prior to Dec. 20 so no one will be missed.

First and second places will be

awarded to outdoor lighting, lighting from the outside looking in and business. Special recognition will be given for "Heppner's Peacock Lane"; i.e., the street that was "all decked out".

"Remember to turn on your lights early December 21," said Claudia Hughes, Heppner Chamber executive director, "and enjoy the season".

## Town meeting on library city hall set for Jan. 3

Mary Nixon of Rural Development Initiatives met with the Heppner City Council on Nov. 26 to discuss how public meetings and supplemental process might be structured for the proposed joint library/city hall project.

Members of the Oregon Trails Library District Board were unable to attend.

According to a news release, "City officials support opportunities for community members to provide input on the Library City Hall Project so that they can make an informed decision that reflects the wishes of the community. They feel town meetings and a survey will provide ways to listen to and gather that input."

The first public town meeting is scheduled for Jan. 3 at 7 p.m. at the St. Patrick's Senior Center. The meeting will be facilitated by Nixon and include an overview and history of the Library/City Hall Project by Larry Mills. Bob Ployhar will speak on behalf of those opposing the project and George Koffler will speak on behalf of those supporting the project. Time for questions and comments from community residents will be available.

The audience at the public town meeting will be asked to recommend names of individuals to serve on a working committee. The responsibilities of the working committee, its membership and next

steps will be explained further in a press release next week.

Nixon explains her role as an "objective third party with expertise in meeting facilitation." She will work to ensure that the purposes of the meeting are accomplished, according to the release. She will also work to see that participants are provided with the opportunity to express their opinions as well as listen to both information and opinions expressed by others. The release continued.

Funding for services by RDI are provided by the Oregon Economic and Community Development Department.

Nixon is a community development coordinator for Rural Development Initiatives Inc. (RDI). She lives in Pendleton and serves small rural communities in Morrow, Umatilla, Union, Wallowa, Baker, Malheur, Harney and Grant counties. RDI is a private non-profit organization. Since its incorporation 10 years ago, RDI has helped over 200 communities in Oregon with leadership development, project assistance, facilitation and mediation, planning and regional initiatives, according to the release.

Nixon and other RDI staff members "see themselves as facilitators, teachers, project managers and most importantly as advocates for the success of rural communities," said the release.

## Heppner council to seek water system grant

The Heppner city council voted Monday to apply for a \$5.9 million grant to improve the city's water system.

The grant takes several years for approval, but city officials say the water system is old and in need of repairs.

If approved the city would have to match the grant by the same amount, which could raise water rates an average \$18 per month.

Council members debated the issue, but finally admitted they have no choice, since the water systems needs to be replaced.

The basic water system was installed in 1914, and outside of some new tanks and a new main installed with the downtown renovation project, has not been totally upgraded.

"Your options are to fix things or leave them," said City Manager Jerry Breazeale. "We can't do it for free. Are we going to upgrade? And we have to pay for it if we do upgrade."

The average water bill now including base rate and 5,000 gallons per month usage is \$18. If the project is done that average could increase to \$36 per month.

The new water project would include a new reservoir, new pipe line, three new wells and new water lines throughout the city.

In other business the council - appointed Merle Cowett to the position of police chief. Cowett has been acting chief since the retirement of Doug Rathbun. Cowett will serve until July when he also retires. "He has done an excellent job as acting chief," Breazeale said

- heard from Heppner TV that basic cable service will increase \$3.50 per month to \$28.50 for members and \$31.50 per month for temporary members.

- heard that Heppner's estimated population was 1,390 on July 1 of 2001. The population was 1395 on April of 2000.

## Little carolers cheer PMH Nursing Home residents



The Heppner Daycare four-year-old class, accompanied by day care director Merry Brannon, sang Christmas carols to the delight of Pioneer Memorial Nursing Home residents on Tuesday.

## Town of Lexington to hold lighting contest

The town of Lexington will hold its lighting contest on Tuesday, Dec. 18. All exhibits should be in place by that time.

## Christmas G-T deadline

The deadline for news and advertisements for the Dec. 26 Gazette-Times will be Friday, December 21, at 5 p.m.

The G-T will be published Wednesday, Dec. 26, as usual.

## County Court hears wildlife habitat tax exemption plans

By Doris Brosnan

At the November 28 meeting of the Morrow County Commissioners, Assessor Greg Sweek discussed HB3564, which provides, under approved management plans, for wildlife-habitat property-tax exemptions and will change in 2002. A property owner will qualify for the program automatically unless the court were to take action to disallow the wildlife-habitat exemption by showing a failure by the landowner to follow a wildlife habitat conservation plan.

Sweek noted that only one landowner has shown an interest in the program. After some discussion, Commissioner Dan Brosnan requested more discussion at a later meeting, voicing concern about OWEB grants that some landowners might not have access to without this program. He planned to speak to the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife and the Soil and Water Conservation District staffs.

Also with the court, Sweek discussed a tax foreclosure deed on property on which the city of Heppner burned down a building and completed some weed work. The city would like recovery of costs and a share of proceeds of a sale. Sweek noted the savings to the county from the city's work and described the value and limitations for use of the site. Judge Terry Tallman requested that the city manager talk to the court about the situation, and the court instructed Sweek to conduct an appraisal.

Sweek and administrative assistant Andrea Denton discussed with the court the future of the computer budget. They offered suggestions for the ordering of supplies and for other line items, and the court agreed that department heads will need to be appraised before the budgeting process. The court agreed to ask ESD to develop an inventory and replacement system for older computers.

Denton also approached the court about the State Archivist's specific rules for destroying sensitive documents, by incineration or shredding. Noting the lack of an incinerator and the problems with time and space resulting from departments trying to use small wastebasket-sized shredders, she recommended contracting with a company that would provide bins and shred deposited documents quarterly. The court approved.

Denton reported to the court that the first long distance telephone bill after the switch to the ESD was about half the previous amount. She explained that the system requires the use of codes by the various departments so that charges for calls can be properly sorted. Such documentation is required for some departments that receive reimbursement from state or federal funding. The court agreed to the use of codes.

The court also discussed with Denton and Sweek the county web page, and Sweek suggested a method of handling department e-mail addresses at the site. After discussing the advantages of having a domain name or having a provider host the site, the court agreed that the county should establish its own domain name.

Judge Terry Tallman reported on the State's Area Commission on Transportation funding to Morrow County for road and bridge projects. The funds will be used for preservation of Franklin Grade and for the Juniper Canyon project.

Public works director Burke O'Brien reported the following: work on the Valby-Road project continues, as does grading work on Piper Canyon Road, Turner Lane, Nichols

Road, Buttermilk Canyon, Redding Road, Baker Lane and Valby. A grader is at Anson Wright Park for plowing Sunflower Flat Road, and brush burning at Cutsforth Park is underway. O'Brien noted a public meeting, the purpose of which is to discuss the Anson-Wright-Park grant for ATV trails. County counsel approved the form of the grant program agreement with the state, and the court approved it.

O'Brien explained a request onto Fairview Road for the Ione Fire Department. He supported the project, which would accommodate the storage of a fire truck at the Clint Krebs property. The court agreed to the approach and the necessary crushed rock.

O'Brien and weed manager Dave Pranger discussed with the court the herbicide bidding process, and the court agreed to go out for bid on the products. The court also discussed the plowing and sanding of Tower Road.

Other actions of the court included the following:

- approval of a permit to CenturyTel for trenching new cable from Halvorsen Road to Gus Road;
- approval of the Oregon Heritage Grant Program agreement;
- approval of contracts for services to developmentally disabled clients of Behavioral Health with Ashlie Cain, Deana Hendricks, Clarissa Johnson, Karen Woodward, Melanie Smith and Cynthia Sumner;
- approval of an additional holiday, closing the county offices on December 24.

## Christmas Worship Schedule

**St. Patrick Church, Heppner**  
Confessions: Saturday, Dec. 22-11:30 a.m.-noon and 4-4:30 p.m.; Monday, Dec. 24-11:30 a.m.-noon.

Masses: Monday, Dec. 24-8:30 p.m., Christmas carols, 9 p.m. candlelight procession, Blessing of Nativity Scene, Vigil Mass; December 25, 11 a.m., Christmas Mass, Christmas carols;

New Year's Celebration: Monday, Dec. 31-Vigil mass, 5 p.m.; January 1-New Year Mass, 11 a.m.

**St. William's Church, Ione**  
Dec. 25- 8:45 a.m. Blessing of the Nativity Scene, Christmas Mass, Christmas carols.

Jan. 1-New Year's celebration, Mass at 8:45 a.m.

## Ione to receive exceptional school award

The Ione Schools will receive an "Exceptional School Award" to be presented by the state of Oregon on Thursday, Dec. 20, at 2:30 p.m. at the Ione gym.

The ceremony will include presentation of the Exceptional School flag; honoring of students and staff by State Representative Greg Smith; acknowledgements ready from U.S. Senator Gordon Smith and U.S. Representative Greg Waldon.

Ione Schools will be honored for their "strong test scores, high attendance rate, exceptional low drop-out rate, and exceptionally experienced teachers."

The public is invited to attend.

**Corns and Calluses?**  
Dr. Donald J. Carlson, Foot Specialist will be at the Pioneer Memorial Clinic on December 19th for the diagnosis of this and other foot problems.  
Call 676-5504 - Heppner or 567-8750 - Hermiston

**First Annual Pioneer Memorial Hospital Nursing Home Auxiliary BAZAAR**  
Saturday, December 15th from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. at St. Patrick's Senior Center, Heppner  
Wood and Ceramic Items Christmas Ornaments  
Enjoy a Piece of Pie while browsing! (pie sold by the piece)

**Introducing Brenda Sherrell**  
Heppner's new Farmers Insurance Agent  
With over 10 years insurance experience, I can help you with all of your insurance needs.  
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