

Basketball tournament draws alumni to Heppner

The first annual Heppner Elks Lodge - Blue Mountain High Five Christmas Invitational Basketball Tournament "brought the best talent to have played in Eastern Oregon in the last two decades to the Heppner High School gym," said organizer Gene Heliker. The final day allowed the community the opportunity to see the championship game in which the Hermiston Alumni defeated their arch-rival Pendleton, 89-61.

The oldest team, Heppner pre-91 alumni, soundly beat a strong Weston-Athena team, 80-59. Undoubtedly the most exciting game of the day, said Heliker, was an overtime battle in which Heppner Alumni 91-95 defeated Heppner Alumni 96-2001, 66-65. To round out the day, the team from Imbler, featuring former 2-A high school state scoring champion Todd Gorham, beat the Umatilla alumni in a close, high-scoring game, 91-87.

The women's division, which, Heliker says, will be expanded in the tournaments to come, brought Heppner's "best talent" back to the gym and saw Casey Ingraham put on a scoring clinic in their last game on Sunday. Following that game, Ingraham used that talent in the three-point David Matheny Shoot-Out Contest to win first and raise money for the Matheny family fund. "In a display of Heppner community spirit, Casey, graciously donated her winnings back to the Matheny family," said Heliker.

The two single-game high scorers, Dorian Farrar of Heppner and Imbler's Todd Gorham, were selected to the tournament's all-star team, along with Max Morgan and Matt Bergstrom from Hermiston, Mike McMillan and Brandon Boltz of Pendleton, Brian Pickard and Curt Sloan of Weston-Athena, Joey Shannon from Umatilla and Cory McKinnis, also from Imbler.

The David Matheny Shoot-Out in both the men's and women's division ended in a tie and had to be decided in a second round. Clinton Kauffman won the contest over teammate Brandon Boltz in the men's division. Casey Ingraham beat women from Heppner, Hermiston and Pendleton to claim her title.

"The mission of the tournament was to bring the highest level of talent possible to the Heppner community to promote youth sports and to encourage players and families from past classes to come back to the community and spend time over the holidays," said Heliker.

Players who were unable to attend this year were quick to have their names added to next year's roster.

Group attends tree lighting

About 150 people attended the annual Boardman Community Tree Lighting on Dec. 5. The evening started with community choirs singing Christmas carols to the gathering at the city hall parking lot.

"Adults and children alike enjoyed the festive atmosphere while awaiting the lighting of Boardman's community tree," according to a chamber news release. The Boardman community tree was adorned with lights, with the donation of time and money from The C&D Drive In and Bakery.

City Councilman Jim Hollandsworth started the countdown to the ceremonial tree lighting. Directly after the tree was lit, a procession of flashlight-wielding carolers made their way to the Greenfield Grange where they were treated with more Christmas carols, hot chocolate and cookies.

OLCC disburses funds

Nine eastern Oregon counties and the 55 cities in those counties received \$111,357 as their share of the Oregon Liquor Control Commission's November 2001 revenue disbursement.

The OLCC's total statewide allocation was \$7.6 million for November; \$3.95 million to the state general fund. Based on a population formula, Oregon's 36 counties received \$704,596 and \$1.41 million was distributed among its 239 cities. The state Dept. of Administrative Services' city revenue sharing account received \$986,434.

Fifty percent of the taxes collected on wine and malt beverages, \$539,849, went to the state Office of Mental Health and Addiction Services for prevention and treatment activities. The Oregon Wine Advisory Board received \$16,368 from a two-cent allocation out of the 67 cents a gallon tax on wine

he said. The previous tournaments of the '80s and '90s brought families from as far away as Alaska, Southern California and Pennsylvania and raised over 20 thousand dollars for local youth programs. "The benefits of raising community awareness to the positive impact sports can have on the physical and emotional development on our children and the showcasing of the Heppner community and its talent far exceeds the simple pleasure of playing basketball for a weekend," said Heliker.

"The partnership of the Heppner Elks Lodge and Blue Mountain High Five is designed to leverage the influence of athletics to offer support to kids in all the surrounding communities. The mission statement says, 'The mission of Blue Mountain High Five is to use the platform of athletic excellence to educate and empower young athletes to make healthy choices in regards to academics, athletics and the learning of life skills necessary to create moral, ethical and prosperous adults and to encourage them to be leaders in their peer groups in the war against drug and alcohol abuse, gangs and violence,'" said Heliker.

"This mission statement and the directive of the National Elks Lodge organizations to take an active role in the drug and alcohol issues in their communities around the country, offers our youth not only a junior high, high school and college-level sports development program, but an excellent support network for those communities who are struggling with those social issues," said Heliker.

"The tournament was staffed by Colt parents and players who did a superb job of running the tournament and managing the facility," said Heliker. "Louanne Heliker and her Colt staff did such an outstanding job they received two cards from the custodial staff applauding them for their efforts."

Volunteer referees were: Ron Bowman, Steve Rhea and Gary Watkins with assistance from Justin Matteson, Dale Holland, Tim and Chris Dickenson, Slater Mitchell, Sam Sumner, Stuart Dick, Casey Evans, Austin Coiner, Ryan Matteson, Dick Devin and Jerid Eckman.

All teams expressed their interest in competing next year and "if all goes well and Heppner builds its new gym facility, we will be well equipped to expand the tournament," Heliker said. They hope to expand the women's division, add a second men's division and feature a Colt basketball game, as well as a banquet for all participants and families at the Heppner Elks Lodge.

Near to the end of the evening, Santa Claus stopped in for a visit. He spent time giving out candy and oranges, and listening to children's Christmas wishes.

DA's Report

Morrow County District Attorney David C. Allen has released the following report:

Jon David Hanna plead guilty to Possession of a Controlled Substance - Methamphetamine, a Class C felony, and was sentenced to 18 months formal probation and 80 hours of community service. He was also ordered to complete a drug treatment program, an alcohol treatment program, pay \$694 in fines, fees and assessments and attend a DUII victim's impact panel.

made or imported here. The fund is used for research and to promote Oregon wines.

OLCC revenue is generated by the sale of distilled spirits to liquor licensees and the public in 237 state liquor stores, privilege taxes on beer and wine, license fees and fines for liquor law violations. The OLCC returned \$100.1 million in revenue to state and local coffers in 2000-2001.

The November county allocations are: Baker, pop. 16,750, \$3,434; Grant, 7,950, \$1,630; Harney, 7,600, \$1,558; Lake, 7,450, \$1,527; Malheur, 31,750, \$6,509; Morrow, 11,100, \$2,276; Umatilla, 70,850, \$14,526; Union, 24,550, \$5,033; and Wallowa, 7,250, \$1,486.

In Morrow County, Boardman received \$1,784.82; Heppner, \$855.61; Ione, \$199.33; Irrigon, \$1,067.21; and Lexington, \$162.54.



Looking at the pictures in last week's G-T of major local events in 2001 brings to mind that it was a year of good and evil. Americans united in a patriotic stance after the Sept 11 tragedy and many people became more considerate of their fellow citizens.

Many of us took time to refocus on the more important issues in life. Small children gave pennies to help victims of tragedy. The Lone Youth Group exemplifies young citizens that lead the charge in humanitarian efforts.

As people get on with their everyday lives, there is paradox in many endeavors. South Morrow County lost two school board members that worked towards the best interests of the district at large. An increase in school enrollment in the south end doesn't appear eminent, however few people agree on the best approach to the enhancement of school buildings in Heppner.

Regardless of the outcome, new school facilities will not upgrade children's education. The large ag building at the high school might as well be turned into a gym after deletion of a program that taught hands-on everyday skills.

The old junior high building and gym (built in 1926) could probably withstand an earthquake. If a new gym is to be built near the grade school, how about building it across Hinton Creek on school district property? Too logical, I guess.

As to the city needing more space for library and city hall use, the middle school building might suffice. Perhaps a new roof, rewiring, a ramp for handicap access or updating the heating system might be less costly than building a new building. As to parking, about half of the lawn area on the west side of the building facing the dead-end street could be turned into a parking area. Totally unrealistic, I suppose. But with the present economics and a no-growth situation, it doesn't seem likely that taxpayers will support every conceivable proposal.

As a small town, we definitely need all of our local services. When our agriculture base is hurting, it also impacts local businesses. Sadly, we are letting this country turn into a service nation with the importation of products made more cheaply in other countries. This in turn causes unemployment through a loss of jobs. Washington State is now the highest paying minimum wage state in the nation. Producers claim this will result in finding ways to produce products with less labor. Talk about shooting oneself in the foot.

For their own protection, all U.S. consumers should demand "country of origin" labeling on foods sold in this nation. Other countries don't have the same standards for food production as the U.S. For example, illegal residues are three times more prevalent on foods grown and shipped here from Mexico. Major packers, chain stores and other conglomerates are fighting against that protection for consumers. They can make more money by importing cheaper products. While the general economy is hurting, U.S. agriculture, the backbone of our economy, has for many years been depressed.

Current more-economical fuel prices may be short-lived as OPEC has announced it will reduce production to bolster prices--an example of how the U.S. has become dependant on unstable countries. If it weren't for free trade agreements, that allow unlimited importation of consumer food and goods, this country could also cut back on production to bolster prices and keep people employed.

Americans bravely sacrifice lives to protect democracy. So much good is done both locally and abroad. However we're in danger of losing our standard of living if we continue down this path of globalization and we don't protect our American productivity. Here's to a major turn-around in the year 2002. Too, if we do nothing else to improve children's education, please let them learn how to write legibly in case they become doctors, lawyers or politicians. For example, a recent document I received has George W. Bush's signature, though it looks like it was written in Chinese.

MCGC News

By Sandi Day

The Morrow County Gun Club held their first shoot of the new year on Sunday, Jan. 6, at the clubhouse in Lexington.

Club president Curt Day and Tony Greenup began the year at the 16-yard line with a perfect 25 score. Harvey Childers was second with 22 and newcomer Jim Powney was third with a 21.

In the 20-yard handicap event, Harvey Childers and Tony Greenup tied for first with 23 each. Curt Day and Mark Schlichting split second with 21, and Jim Powney and Kelwayne Haguewood took third with a 20.

Tony Greenup and Mark Schlichting were the winners in the Annie Oakley shoots.

Junior shooters Zane Ford and Chance Day were hot on the line, shooting 12 and 13 respectively.

The MCGC will hold their annual members meeting and election of officers at the regular shoot on Sunday, Jan. 13, beginning at noon.

Record temperature Monday

If you thought it was unusually warm in Heppner Monday, you were right. The temperature soared to a record-high 64 degrees, according to the National Weather Service in Pendleton.

The Jan. 7 high temperature surpassed the former record of 62 degrees on that date in 1945.

Death Notice

Winifred Thomson Cox

Winifred Thomson Cox, 88, a former Heppner resident, died Sunday, January 6, 2002, in Portland, where she had resided for the past four years.

Memorial services are pending.

WVSC elects 2002 officers

The Willow Valley Service Club held election of officers at their regular meeting on Jan. 3.

The following officers were elected for the upcoming year: president, Carolyn Willey; vice president, Ginger Keithley; secretary, Andrea Mortimore; treasurer, Margo Sherer.

The Willow Valley Service Club meets the first three Thursdays of the month at John's Other Place.

Those interested in learning more about the club may contact one of the officers.

Cancer support group to meet

The Man to Man Pendleton Prostate Cancer Support Group, sponsored by the American Cancer Society and St. Anthony Hospital in Pendleton, will hold their next regular meeting on Monday, Feb. 4, at 7 p.m., in meeting room one of St. Anthony Hospital.

Robert W. Pfeiffer, D.C., will present a program on complementary care for benign prostatic hyperplasia, urinary tract infections and incontinence.

For more information on the Man to Man Pendleton Prostate Cancer Support Group, or to register for the free meeting, contact June Miller at (541) 443-6171.

Births

Tegan Richard McElligott and Raegan Faith McElligott-twins Tegan Richard and Raegan Faith were born to Dick and Jeannie McElligott of Salem on Sunday, January 6, 2002 in Salem. Tegan weighed 5 lbs. 3 oz and was 17 1/4" long. Raegan weighed 5 lbs. 8 oz and was 17" long.

Grandparents are Bill and Brenda Layton of Salem; John and Becky Weygandt of LaGrande and Dick and Loa McElligott of Ione.

SWCD, Weed Board to meet

A regular board meeting of the Morrow SWCD/Weed Advisory Board will be held Thursday, Jan. 17, at 10 a.m. at the Pettyjohn Office building in Heppner. Agenda and discussion items include: manager report, weed report, agency reports, office space requirements, election of officers.

A joint afternoon program sponsored by Morrow SWCD/Weed Board and Morrow County Livestock Growers begins at 1:30 p.m. at the Heppner Elks Lodge. A one-act play "Weed" will kick off the afternoon followed by a representative from Klamath Falls reporting on the Klamath Basin Story - Could it happen to you?; Pesticide Use Reporting-Livestock use pesticides too; Willow Creek Watershed-SB1010 update and EPA/ODA AFO/CAFO inspection update.

The meeting is open to the public.

BMCC offers winter classes

Blue Mountain Community College in Pendleton is offering a variety of classes in the area for the winter term which is currently underway.

A selection of computer classes are slated, including Computer Basics, Microsoft Word, Windows Basics and Web Page Design.

Computer Basics is set for Thursday evenings at Ione High School beginning Thursday, Jan. 17. Microsoft Word will run for four weeks at Heppner High School beginning Tuesday, Jan. 15. Windows Basics starts Wednesday, Jan. 16, and will run for six Wednesday evenings. Web Page Design begins Tuesday, Feb. 12, and lasts 12 weeks.

Call for more information about class content, tuition, etc.

Photography is offered beginning Thursday, Jan. 10, from 7-9 p.m. Interested students should call as soon as possible as a minimum number of students are needed to hold the class. This course will meet every other Thursday for six sessions.

Wheat Marketing will acquaint students with the terminology and techniques needed to improve their wheat marketing program. This class, taught by Dan Steiner, will be held on Tuesdays from 10:30-11:30 a.m. at the Morrow County Grain Growers. There is no charge for the class but interested students are encouraged to call ahead so that enough materials will be on hand.

History of the Heppner Flood is a one-night, free seminar set for Tuesday, Jan. 22, at Heppner High School from 7-9 p.m. The class will offer a chance to brush up on local history in preparation for the 100-year anniversary of the Heppner Flood, which is coming soon. Call to reserve a spot.

Genealogy on the Internet will help students research their family history using the Internet. The class is scheduled to last three weeks, beginning Friday, Jan. 18, from 1:30-3:30 p.m. at Heppner High School. For more information or to pre-register for a class, contact BMCC coordinator, Anne Morter, at 422-7040.

Boardman Chamber to hear WTC program

The Boardman Chamber of Commerce will hold its monthly general luncheon meeting on Wednesday, Jan. 16, at the Port of Morrow's Riverfront Center, Riverfront Room at 12 p.m. Everybody is invited to attend the meeting; members and non-members alike.

Steve Myren, medical preparedness officer for the State of Oregon Health Department will give a 30-minute presentation of his recent trip to New York City. Myren lead a group of nine Disaster Medical Assistance Team (DMAT) members to the World Trade Center site in November. During their time at the World Trade Center, the DMAT operated out of two portable treatment facilities within 50 yards of the site, where they administered medical care to the workers of the dean-up efforts there. Myren will cover some of the little known information on the WTC incident and photos, as well as his own perspective from his deployment there.

The luncheon menu will be pizza, salad, cookies, coffee and water, catered by Poppy's Pizza. The cost is \$7, to be paid at the door. Contact the chamber by Monday, Jan. 14, to RSVP, at 481-3014.

Caregiver workshop scheduled

For those in the caregiving capacity, OSU, in collaboration with Area Agency on Aging, is sponsoring an upcoming workshop designed to assist those with caregiving needs. The workshop will be held at the Morrow Estates Conference Room, Boardman, Thursdays, Jan. 10, 17, 24 and 31, and Feb. 7 and 14 from 1-3:30 p.m.

The workshop focuses on obtaining tools to help make a positive difference in the caregiver's ability to manage stress and emotions and to communicate more effectively with family and health care providers. Past caregiver participants showed an increase in taking steps to take better care of their own health needs and a decrease in their feelings of anger, guilt, and depression.

For more information, call the OSU Extension office at 1-800-871-1313.

Boardman Chamber after hours set

Mid-Columbia Title Company and Umatilla Electric Cooperative will co-host Boardman Chamber of Commerce "After Hours" on Thursday, Jan. 17, between 5-7 p.m. at their offices located at 203 and 205 NE Boardman Avenue. Boardman, Renee Grace and Debi Watson and their staff invite the public to enjoy a tour of their building and refreshments.

Chamber After Hours is held for Boardman Chamber of Commerce members and community members. Offered in different business locations each month. After Hours not only provides an opportunity for casual networking after the close of the business day, but it also provides the hosting business owner and staff an opportunity to showcase their business and the services they provide, said a chamber news release.

Everyone is invited to join Mid-Columbia Title Company, Umatilla Electric Cooperative and fellow Boardman Chamber of Commerce members for this networking opportunity. "There will be plenty of people to meet and exchange business cards with," they said. For further information, call 481-3014.

Chamber Chatter

2002! Seems like just a few months ago we were celebrating the new millennium. What have we done these two years? Where are we going? Where do you see Heppner in five or 10 years down the road? How will it change? It will change no matter what; but how it will change depends on how you and I utilize our energy.

Seems like the "heart light" of Heppner is diminishing. An individual from the north Morrow, where things are growing by leaps and bounds, commented that he "had always envied Heppner, but lately... seems like Heppner's been zapped."

We are all given energy and we choose how to use it. Working together, planning together, solving problems together, is energizing and creates more energy. Anger, resentment, getting even, holding grudges, lack of trust zap our personal energy and that of the community also. Honest, upfront communication is the answer with eye-to-eye discussions.

My new year resolution is to try to direct my energy in a positive direction, to generate more laughter, to encourage all people to come to the table to determine how to use energy to keep the heart of Morrow County alive and well. Will you help to solve the problem? How can we create a balance where quality of life is retained, new projects can happen, and we're looked upon as a good example in problem solving techniques and communication?

The Chamber Board of Directors will be looking at solutions and bringing more faces to the table as they set their goals on Thursday, Jan. 24. Share your ideas. Come to the tables. In the meantime, take time to enjoy and participate in Town and Country, the chamber annual luncheon, Willow Creek Valley Economic Development, Heppner Coordinating Council, etc. Remember how we made the senior center happen for the community? Let's get to work and find a project to bring back the heartlight in 2002. Laughter helps.

Happy New Year.

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