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**THANK YOU!**

## Scouts enjoy winter camp out



Drion Van Doorn (left) and Cameron McCurry stand in front of the wall tent the Scouts put up. Pitching a tent is a requirement for rank.

Story and photos by Debbie Harper  
 Four boys of Troop 661 worked toward their advancement in rank and had fun at a recent winter camp out. Campers included James Van Liew, Jake Van Doorn, Drion Van Doorn and Cameron McCurry.

James Van Liew, 13, is an eighth grader working toward his second-class rank. He started his scouting life as a Tiger Scout. Jake Van Doorn, 12, a sixth grader, is also working on his second class rank, and is the den chief for the first year Webelo den. Drion Van Doorn, a 12-year-old seventh grader, is working on his second class and is the patrol leader of the Stingray patrol in the troop. Cameron McCurry, 12, is working on his tenderfoot, and is the patrol leader of the Foxes patrol.

The adult assistant leaders were Dan Van Liew and Terry Harper.

The boys pitched their own wall tent, make a keyhole fire and cooked their meals over it. Dinner consisted of mini pizzas and chili dogs, but breakfast was the more traditional fare of eggs and bacon. They hiked both days of their camp out. The first day was a 5.38-mile hike over hilly terrain, which they completed in three hours. This hike went toward their rank requirements. The second day they hiked again, because they had so much fun the first day. During their hikes they saw antelope, deer, jackrabbits, hawks and numerous other birds. The boys enjoyed themselves so much, they wanted to spend another night, but were reminded, they all had school the next day.



Jake Van Doorn (left) and James Van Liew are pictured by the keyhole fire the Scouts made during their camp out.

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## School Calendar

Ione Schools lists its March calendar of events:  
 Thursday, March 7-advisory board meeting, 7 p.m.;  
 Monday, March 11-MCSD board meeting in Ione, 7:30 p.m.;  
 Tuesday, March 12-baseball at Boardman, 3:30 p.m.;  
 Wednesday, March 13-Ione Site Council meeting, 5:30 p.m.;  
 Thursday, March 14-donkey basketball, 7 p.m.;  
 Friday, March 15-high school track at Umatilla, 2 p.m., baseball at Mac-Hi, 3:30 p.m.;  
 Saturday, March 16-softball at Heppner, 1 p.m.;  
 Tuesday, March 19-softball at LaGrande, 1 p.m., baseball at Heppner, 3:30 p.m.;  
 Thursday, March 21-end of third nine weeks, tennis vs. Umatilla here, 3:30 p.m.;  
 Monday, March 25 through Friday, March 29-spring break;  
 Saturday, March 30-baseball at Colfax, 11 a.m.

## County Court discusses chemical depot project

Program Manager Chemical Demilitarization representatives updated the Morrow County Court, at their Feb. 27 meeting, on the secondary waste issue in the chemical depot project. They discussed neutralization, shared slides of the Johnston Atoll disposal system, and reviewed work at the Tooele, Pine Bluff, Anniston, Newport, and Aberdeen facilities. Neutralization, they reported, is not under consideration at the Umatilla depot; Oregon has selected incineration as its technology. Although the Pentagon is presently evaluating chemical disposal plans, no changes have been announced, but expediting this process has been requested. They reported starting up the Umatilla liquid incinerator the previous week and completing tests of 13 of 45 of the systems.

In May or June, the surrogate trial burns for the liquid incinerator will occur, followed by the deactivation furnace, liquid incinerator two and the metal parts furnace. An independent verification of plant readiness is expected to occur in early 2003, with safety as the first priority. They commented on the recent DEQ report. Commissioner Dan Brosnan posed several questions about the movement of hazardous waste/liquids from the site, which the county has been assured would not occur. They explained that the materials being discussed - metal containers and non-agent liquid - are truly not hazardous but will be treated as such for disposal. Commissioner John Wenholz expressed concern over the movement of rockets to incineration, but was assured that the methods of handling them are very effective. The commissioners agreed that they will have questions until the project is completed, will remain concerned about what remains at the site when the project has been completed, and will continue to demand assurances that it will be a clean site.

Judge Terry Tallman opened a public hearing for the first reading of the site development review overlay zone ordinance. Planning director Tamra Mabbott, county counsel Bill Hanlon, and surveyor Ron Mckinnis were present. Mabbott provided a packet of information that included the findings of fact, approved by the planning commission, to amend the ordinance to require site planning for projects of 100 acres or more. The ordinance would apply as an overlay zone to all land zoned General Industrial, Port Industrial, Air Industrial, and Space Age Industrial and would allow developers to defer certain specific designs and encourage site planning in advance of physical development. Hanlon noted that the amendment would not be effective until 90 days after adoption. The commissioners questioned Mabbott in great detail, and a lengthy discussion preceded the closing of the hearing.

Sheriff's deputy Karen Zeiler appeared at the meeting to explain the bicycle safety program, which worked effectively last year. The

department wants to again purchase helmets to hand out to children who attend the bicycle rodeo, which will be larger this year. The "Redline Team" will perform, if funding is provided. The Court agreed to the value of the program and agreed to fund it.

Zeiler also shared with the Court graphs to show the property crime statistics countywide and in Irrigon. Because the substantial majority of vandalism of residences, unlawful entries into motor vehicles, calls for service, and arrests occur within the Irrigon city limits, she spoke to the city council about a Neighborhood Watch program. The city of Irrigon will match whatever funds Zeiler can generate, but if the city funded the program entirely, it would have to fall within the city limits only. She sees the program as a benefit to the entire county and requested that the Court approve funding for half of the \$595 initial costs. After discussion, the Court approved the \$300.

Hanlon reported having reviewed the consultant's statement of work on the solid waste ordinance research. He agreed with Brosnan that the total amount seemed high and noted two charges in particular. Brosnan voiced similar concern over another aspect of the statement. The Court agreed to compare the statement with a previous one from the consultant's partners.

The Court reviewed a letter from Janet Greenup, of the Morrow Soil and Water Conservation District, requesting the Court to designate the Morrow SWCD Board as acting Watershed Council for Morrow County. Before making a decision, the Court agreed to have Brosnan speak to her about the effect this might have on the Buttercreek watershed.

Assistant public works director, Bob Nairns, reported on the progress of the Valley Road project and on the start of weed spraying. He said that a committee of five people will review the bids submitted for the Juniper Canyon project and make a recommendation to the Court after meeting on March 7. The Court approved the department's going out for bid on a new cone and screen for the rock crusher and selling the old one.

Other actions of the Court include the following:

- the signing of the order annexing territory into the Boardman Rural Fire Protection District;
- approval of the resolution on maintenance and operation of the law library and establishment of the 27% fee;
- approval of the resolution in opposition to the reduction in pharmacy reimbursement, which was then faxed to the state;
- approval of an easement on Lot 3 Block 2 in the Ayers Addition of Heppner;
- approval of a GEODC agreement between the Baker-Morrow Partnership and the state of Oregon;
- approval of the purchase of two replacement computers in the clerk's office, to be funded by the office's budget;
- approval of \$1000 funding to the Eastern Oregon Telecommunications Consortium.

## CHAMBER SETS GOALS FOR 2002

By Claudia Hughes, executive director

The Heppner Chamber of Commerce has set some ambitious goals for 2002 with the first one "To Promote Downtown Business, Agribusiness, and Their Interdependence". In rural communities all rely on each other and work together for the success of both. Issues which affect the well being of one generally affect the other, which is why the Heppner Chamber has taken an active stand on ag issues over the years. Ranchers and agribusinesses are all welcome to join the Chamber and are crucial to round out the organization.

Along those lines, the Chamber made the decision to become more proactive and thus "To Provide Leadership in Community Issues" is an important goal. Issues will be defined within the community context and Chamber mission statement. Board agendas will always be open to community concerns which will then be shared at membership meetings. Prior to taking a proactive stand on issues, the Chamber policy on endorsements will be reviewed.

To "Provide Education on Economic and Community Issues" would include informing the public when the Chamber takes a stand, or facilitating community meetings on divisive issues, while keeping uppermost in mind those opportunities which will lend themselves to diversifying, maintaining and increasing jobs in the Heppner area.

As more people are taking shorter trips to places where they feel at home and comfortable, the Chamber feels it is important "To Promote Tourism and Events". These opportunities give the community the chance to show off what we have through marketing, brochures and promotion of major events such as A Wee Bit O' Ireland, Celebrate Heppner, the Morrow County Fair and Oregon Trail Pro Rodeo and the light parade. A committee is working on expanding the Chamber website and quantifying the value of tourists and events.

"To Provide Daily Staffing of the Chamber" through volunteer recruitment and to work toward non-dues income and increased membership was identified as key to additional marketing and information availability for visitors. Interested persons are encouraged to visit with volunteers, Joy Krein and Ginger Keithley, or with executive director Claudia Hughes. The Chamber is a varied and interesting place to work, especially if one enjoys people.

Initiating monthly calls to legislators, hosting candidates forums and keeping the membership informed of filing deadlines for elective offices, as well as having weekly legislative concerns were identified as important under the goal "To Track Legislative Issues".

And finally, in order to implement the Chamber plan of work, it is important "To Activate and Encourage Committees" whose leadership will be responsible for calling committee meetings, furnishing reports, and communicating with the membership.

Combined, all of these goals will lead to a more effective Heppner Chamber of Commerce, "a non-profit organization dedicated to creating a positive environment where business, community, and people thrive." The goals were adopted by the membership with 32 present on Feb. 5.

The chamber welcomes new members and invites one and all to "taste a sample" every Tuesday at noon, currently at John's Other Place. Ambassadors are also invited to join the group who put together baskets and welcome newcomers to Heppner.

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