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New police officers on the job in Heppner



The Morrow County Sheriff's Department is now patrolling Heppner and the surrounding area and the department has hired two new deputies for the duties. Pictured above are left to right Justin Slinger, 26, who came from the Aumsville, Oregon police department near Salem, Randy Raburn who is not new and has worked for the department for some time, and Jamie Rietmann, 27, who came from the Deschutes County Sheriff Department. Neither of the new deputies is married.

Heppner City Council tours rehabilitated sewer facility



The Heppner city council recently got a tour of the city sewer plant, which has seen some major rehabilitation work.

Public Works Director Craig Canham showed councilmembers all the work that has been done on the plant.

Some of the repairs to the plant included replacement of a large worm gear that scrapes the bottom of the clarifier had broken. New gears rings and some fabricating had to be done to repair it. The gear alone cost \$18,000 city officials said.

Also done was rebuilding of a sludge pump and replacement of the trickling filter and effluent pumps.

In order to accomplish the work crews had to pump out all sludge from the system and drain the chlorine contact basin. In addition they drained and cleaned the water storage tank at the golf course which had over three feet of sludge in the bottom.

The entire project was cost the city over \$45,000 said city Manager Jerry Brazeale. "We are now making excellent quality water (output from the system) that meets all Department of Environmental Standards", Brazeale said.

Public Works Director Craig Canham describes work done at sewer plant

German bicyclist finds America "very hospitable"

A German man's bicycle trek across the heartland of America has brought him into the homes and hearts of many of the Americans he has met.

Adolf Hoermann, from Munich, Germany, has vowed to span not just the U.S., but the continent, on his bicycle and is close to achieving his goal. Hoermann started out at St. John's, Newfoundland, in June 2000 and has dedicated each summer since to his travels. He chose St. John's because it was the most easterly point on the continent and because of a legend. "That's where they say you can see Ireland on a clear day," laughs Hoermann, "but there's never a clear day."

The first summer Hoermann made it to Hudson, New York, and left his gear at a farm there. In 2001, he returned to Hudson and traveled to Grand Forks, Minnesota, which is where he picked up his travels this year. "There's no answer to picking the route. I wanted to cross the continent," says Hoermann, who adds that he has traveled pretty much along a straight line and averages 25-50 miles a day depending on the difficulty of the terrain and weather. While he has been through a few large cities, the largest being Toronto, Hoermann has traveled mainly back roads, which has given him a better taste of Americana than many Americans have experienced. "It's easier in the U.S.," says Hoermann. "It's more uncomplicated and very hospitable. It reminds me a little of Italy.

Italy. . . sometimes it's just confused. I was in the Chicago bus station and it was very confusing. I wondered if I would ever get out of there, but a couple hours later I was on the right bus and got out okay." Hoermann says that Americans seem much less uptight than their German counterparts.

The upbeat Hoermann has been invited into numerous homes across America, including the Rev. Tim and Myrna Van Cleave home in Heppner, and says he makes it a habit to stop in at local churches for Sunday services. "The hospitality has been wonderful. The interest in what I'm doing has been great," he says. "I've been invited to many homes and the food was excellent, not fancy, but very good." He is not too impressed with fast food, but says it will suffice, if necessary. "I enjoy whatever is put in front of me," he says, adding that the food he has had in restaurants is "excellent." Hoermann says that he doesn't eat much meat, instead relying on "good bread" which he can find occasionally, peanut butter, honey and nuts, "sort of a trail mix" and water or juice. He also offered an explanation as to why Germans don't eat American beef—"hormones."

Hoermann says that the Eastern Oregon countryside is "absolutely different from what I saw (in Germany). We just cannot imagine how it is—unlimited space." Hoermann says that he grew up on a dairy farm. But the German definition of a farm is a little different than ours. His parents' farm had three cows. "At that time, it was done all by hand," he says. "So if you had six cows, you had a big farm. We had chickens, sheep and a horse."

The wide-open spaces here also afford another luxury—hunting. "If you want to go hunting in Germany, you have to pass an examination and it's very tough," says Hoermann. "Then you get a paper and then you're entitled to buy a gun. Then you have to have an area to go hunting and usually it's private. We can't own guns other than hunting guns, although you may if you belong to a gun club. The restrictions are much tougher than here."



Adolf Hoermann with his bike in Heppner

Hoermann says that each evening he reflects on the day's happenings, focusing on the highlight of the day. In Heppner, he says, the day's highlight was running into Tim Van Cleave. "The low was pushing up the hill for six hours," says Hoermann. "But it's all forgotten. I ended up

with a beautiful place to stay. You sleep much better if you sort out all the negative things and fall asleep with the highlight."

While he says he has had "only good experiences so far," Hoermann does admit to a rather

continued page two

Long-time nurse takes admin position

By Sarah Collier

Sheree Smith of Lexington has recently been promoted to the position of administrator at the Morrow County Health Department. Smith, who has been with the public health department for the last 11 years, took the position on July 1. Smith was born and raised in Morrow County and attended nursing school at Good Samaritan School of Nursing in Portland. She is married to Bob and has three children, Mindy 19; Tammy, 17; and Robbie, 13. She was employed as a nurse at Pioneer Memorial Hospital prior to taking the job at the health department.



Sheree Smith

Smith says that things are running smoothly since the clinic opened back up at the first of July and credits her staff: "We are very blessed to have the staff we have. If it weren't for the program that we have. They are a really awesome, cohesive and supportive group."

Smith has handled various aspects of all programs within the department in the past and says that the community at large won't notice a huge difference in the way the department is ran. "The clinics are pretty much the same," she says, "but the home visit program will be structured differently."

The Morrow County Health Department is open in Heppner from 8 a.m.-5 p.m., Monday through Friday. The clinic is open on Thursdays from 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

Celebrate Historic Heppner 2002

The "Celebrate Historic Heppner 2002" celebration will take place Friday, July 26 in Heppner. Following is a list of events:

- Sidewalk sale by Heppner Merchants beginning at 9 a.m.
- "Quilts in the Park" sponsored by Artisan Village all day.
- Turn-of-the-century mini-parade and kid's games. Parade begins at 10:30 a.m. from Bank of E.O. to Klamath First Bank
- Visit the Morrow County Museum and Ag Exhibit 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- Tour the Morrow County Courthouse, which is celebrating its 100th anniversary
- Dunk tank by HHS Cheerleaders and Heppner Chamber
- Free hotdogs at Heppner Hardware
- Drawings for gift certificates to be spent at Chamber businesses
- View turn-of-the-century displays in Heppner businesses
- Community appreciation barbecue at the park from 5:15 p.m.-6:15 p.m. sponsored by Bank of E.O.
- Homemade pie baking contest and auction at 6:15 at the park sponsored by Sherrell Insurance
- Music in the Park at 7 p.m. sponsored by Willow Creek Valley Service Club

New BMCC president meets with Chamber

By Sarah Collier

Travis Kirkland, the newly hired president of Blue Mountain Community College, was the guest speaker at the Chamber of Commerce luncheon on Tuesday, July 16.

Kirkland has been traveling around the region getting information and making plans before the school year begins this fall. He says that one of his reasons for visiting with Heppner community members was to find out "how we can better serve this whole district." He says, "we can always do more things better and be more responsive to the district's needs and wants." Kirkland is interested in finding out how BMCC can do a better job of providing education and training to students.

Kirkland comes to Eastern Oregon from Roswell, NM where he was provost of Eastern New Mexico University and later the executive director of the Chaves County Development Foundation. He and his wife Linda have a daughter, Meredith, who lives in Denver with her husband, Tony.

"We have had tremendous support," says Kirkland, "the people here have a good knowledge of the college. The college has a great history and relationship with the district and we are just really happy to be here. This is beautiful country and the folks here are very receptive of me personally and of the college."



Travis Kirkland

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