

HEPPNER 50¢ Tazette imes

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Grace sworn in as newest commissioner



Ray Grace is sworn into office as Morrow County's newest commissioner Monday morning by county clerk Barbara Bloodsworth. Grace, Heppner, was elected to the four-year office in November. He replaces Dan Brosnan who did not run for re-election.

Chamber announces plans for Town and Country

Heppner Chamber announces the annual Town and Country Banquet, Thursday, Jan. 16, at 7 p.m. at the Elks. No-host social hour will be at 6 p.m.

The keynote speaker, sponsored by CenturyTel is Bill Evans, who promises to keep us laughing all the way home with his anecdotal message, "Don't Panic Today, Wait Until Tomorrow." Bill Evans is part humorist, comedian, storyteller and practical advice giver. He founded the Institute of Professional Training in 1979 and travels nationally to make his presentations. He is sought after as a public speaker because his unique style creates a "learn while you are having fun" atmosphere.

Bill has accumulated over two million domestic miles on Delta Airlines alone traveling from Alaska to Florida spreading his message of "Don't Panic Today, Wait Until Tomorrow". His anecdotal approach will have you laughing all the way home.

Bill is a graduate of the University of Washington and currently resides in Port Orchard, Wash., with his wife of 31 years, Barbara. They have three grown children. Bill loves to hunt and fish

in his spare time and donates time each year to helping high school students throughout the state of Washington.

Town and Country, which for many years was once known as The Farm-City Banquet, is an opportunity for the community and Willow Creek Valley to gather under one roof. It's about retail businesses, ranches, farms, towns, and individuals coming together, to share laughter, memories, fellowship, and to honor deserving citizens. Man, Woman, Educator, Business, Youth, and Lifetime Achievement Awards will be announced. The Morrow County Fair and Oregon Trail Pro-Rodeo Court will be recognized, and the OSU Cooperator of The Year award will be presented.

All are welcome to attend the afternoon Morrow County Livestock Growers program, to include a presentation on Rural Agriculture in Oregon by Oregon Cattlemen's Assoc. President Bob Skinner; a talk on the Biology of Wolves, and the Senate Bill 1010 Plan.

Banquet tickets are available at Bank of Eastern

Oregon in Heppner and Ione, Murrays, Klamath First, and at the Chamber of Commerce.

Methodist Church to host guest speakers

The Heppner United Methodist Church will be host to the Reverends Teri and Evelyn Erbele, missionaries to Moscow, Russia, on Monday, Jan. 13. A Potluck Dinner will begin the evening at 6 p.m., followed by a presentation by the Erbeles.

Prior to their assignment to Russia in 1999, they served for six years in Nigeria, West Africa. They have also served United Methodist Churches throughout Oregon, including the Hermiston United Methodist Church.

Evelyn is currently involved in developing ministries of education and health-related issues. Teri serves as treasurer and overseer of church initiative development funds for the Russian United Methodist Church.

Together they are prepared to bring to Heppner an interesting and information-filled evening. The community is invited to attend.

Health district's financial picture turns from rosy to red

A rosy financial picture from the Morrow County Health District's auditors last month has turned to red again. According to the MCHD November profit-loss statement, the district took a loss of \$176,243 in November, following an October gain of \$149,170. MCHD CEO Victor Vander Does said that the Pioneer Memorial Hospital and clinics in Heppner and Irrigon are usually very busy during the winter months, but the pattern appears to be shifting, with the flu season delayed this year.

Also at the meeting, Boardman Fire Protection District Fire Marshal Tom Bohm appeared before the board to seek information on the ambulance services provided by the district in the Boardman area. Board member Ed Glenn, Boardman, said he had earlier initiated a conversation with a Boardman individual concerning transfer of the Boardman ambulance services to the fire protection district. Glenn, who was chastised by the board for acting without first consulting the

board, said he acted as an independent citizen in broaching the subject. "I'm confused as to why you have done that, rather than come to the board," said board member Linda LaRue, Ione. Steve Myren, a Boardman EMT, said at the meeting that the ambulance service volunteers are opposed to the fire district taking over the service. According to Myren, a former Morrow County Sheriff's deputy now employed with CSEPP, three entities have to agree to a transfer of services from one district to another, in this case the Morrow County Court, the Morrow County Health District and the Boardman Fire Protection District. Financial information provided by Vander Does showed that while the Boardman Ambulance billed out \$114,331, adjustments and write offs resulted in only a 59 percent recovery rate—a \$17,243 loss for the department. Board member John Prag, Boardman, said that it might be beneficial to the health district to have another entity take over the service if it is losing

money. However, it is anticipated that PMH's designation as a Critical Access Hospital will improve the ambulance service's reimbursement rate. Bohm said that he had spoken to two other fire districts in the area that provide ambulance services and they indicated that they had a 70 percent recovery rate. "We're just looking at the facts," said Bohm.

In other business at the meeting, the board:

-discussed redistricting the district's election zones or eliminating the zones entirely, going to an at-large board. The board also discussed moving from a five-member board to a seven-member board. No decision was made.

-learned that a physician's assistant, Terry Anderson, is expected to be on board at the Irrigon Clinic by Jan. 20, barring any delays in licensing.

-retired to executive session to resume discussion of contract negotiations with Boardman physician, Dr. Robert Boss, who currently has a contract with the district.

Ione Youth Group announces annual service award recipients



(L-R): Jamie VandenBrink, Tracy Griffith, Diana McElligott and Caitlin Orem show the Christmas gifts Ione Youth Group purchased for an Outreach Ministry of Portland client.

Caitlin Orem, Diana McElligott, Tracy Griffith, Jamie VandenBrink, and Karl Morgan are the 2003 recipients of the Outstanding Service Award given by Ione Ecumenical Youth Group.

"The award is the highest honor given by the group and reflects full participation and sincere commitment and service to others throughout high school," noted youth group leader Jeri McElligott.

The recipients, all seniors at Ione High School, have regularly attended meetings and sold and delivered Christmas trees to make money for group projects. They have helped with the annual food drive to benefit the Heppner Neighborhood Center and sponsored the "Souper Bowl of Caring," collecting donations for a soup kitchen in Portland as well as collecting soup for the Center. The youth have all made trips to Burnside in Portland to serve the poor. They have toured agencies, served in soup kitchens, and sorted clothing for the poor of the area. They have participated in worship services, doing follow-up projects to their trips and sharing their experiences. They have also sold cookies, snow



Karl Morgan (left) admits people to the Blanchet House soup kitchen in Portland.

cones and Italian sodas on the Fourth of July to help fund projects.

Griffith, VandenBrink

and Morgan are all members of the Ione United Church of Christ. Orem and McElligott are members of St. William's Catholic Church.

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