

Court holds public hearing on budget and discusses on-call holiday work issues

[Editor's Note: Doris Brosnan who has currently been supplying the Gazette-Times with the County Court news will not longer be available for this service. She would like to express her appreciation to Andrea Denton for her excellent notes and help. "I hope these reports have enhanced the readers' understanding of the Court's activities," stated Brosnan.]

At the Morrow County Court meeting on Dec. 24, Judge Terry Tallman opened a public hearing on the supplemental budget, with three resolutions read and no comments offered. The hearing closed, and the commissioners clarified some specific details and adopted the supplemental budget.

The Court discussed with the Director of Personnel a recent question dealing with pay for on-call on holidays, 1.5-hour response time, and actual work on holidays. The commissioners agreed that these contractual issues should be held until the next union-contract discussions. They reiterated the requirement that someone needs to be able to respond within 1.5 hours.

Public Works Director Burke O'Brien reported snow plowing and sanding of Willow Creek and Blake Ranch Roads, as well as blading of Barlow Canyon, Kemp and Beach Roads and Morter and Kinkade Lanes. He added that rock work, reclaim work, and seeding on the Juniper Canyon project continue. The maintenance of Morter Lane, operating

procedures, and weight limits were again discussed. O'Brien also brought to the commissioners' attention the need to clarify right of way at the end of Tower Road.

Other actions of the Court include the following:

- reappointment of Jeff Wenzholz to the Planning Commission;

- reappointment of Verlin Denton, Lynn Prag, Sherree Mahoney, and Susan Tolar to the Citizen Review Board;

- approval of a permit to CenturyTel for installation of cable along Olsen Road;

- approval of a corrected grant application to the State Parks for the ATV park project;

- approval of the herbicide bid from Wilbur Ellis;

- approval of the bid from Caterpillar for a used paver, with the stipulation that no carryover money be used;

- approval of the insurance plan for 2003;

- decision to hold preliminary budget meetings with department heads - with dates to be selected;

- selection of Thursday, Jan. 23, at 7 p.m. at the Port of Morrow building, Boardman, for the first meeting of the cultural coalition meeting;

- appointment of Carla McLane to be "working out of class" retroactive to Nov. 14 in the vacant position of Planning Director;

- approval of the contract with SCM for software for a CSEPP location program.

WVSC elects officers for 2003

The Willow Valley Service Club elected officers for 2003 at their Jan. 2 meeting held at John's Other Place in Heppner.

These officers represent the three communities in the Willow Valley and give leadership in the fulfillment of the club's mission statement: "Our mission is to serve Willow Valley by providing financial help, time and recognition to individuals and organizations."

Elected to serve one-year terms were: Margo Sherer, Ione, as treasurer; Pamela Renfro, Lexington, as secretary; Joy Krein, Heppner, as vice-president; and Carolyn M. Willey, Heppner, as president.

Additional responsibilities accepted at this meeting include: Meeting Reminders: Kathy Tellechea, Lexington; Concerts in the Park:

Judie Laughlin, Heppner, co-chair; American Red Cross Blood Drive: Ginger Keithley, Heppner; Program Chair/Chaplain: Carolyn Willey, Heppner; and Senior Girls Luncheon: Margo Sherer, Ione.

Interested persons are welcome to attend these no-host luncheons, the first three Thursdays of each month, from 12-1 p.m., at John's Other Place in Heppner. New members are encouraged to join. Dues are \$24 annually.

The first Thursday meeting of each month is a business meeting, while the second two meetings are programs featuring guest speakers. The club sponsors various activities to both serve the larger community and to raise funds enabling it to fulfill its mission statement. For further information, contact one of the officers.

St. William's Parish collects items for newborns

St. William's Parish in Ione celebrated Jesus' birth during the advent season by hosting a "baby shower." The annual event had the atmosphere of a real baby shower, with a cake honoring Jesus' birth, punch and newborn baby items donated by parish members. The items, which included clothing, sleepers, blankets, undershirts, powders and lotions, and diapers, were collected in individual bags by the youth of the parish.

After a special blessing by Fr. Gerry Condon, the bags were donated to Good Shepherd Medical Center in Hermiston to distribute to needy mothers and their newborn infants. In all, 40 bags were filled and donated to the hospital in December.

Parishioner Eileen McElligott, who formerly worked in the maternity ward at the hospital, was alarmed by the



Fr. Gerry Condon (far right) and the youth of St. William's display the bags of baby items collected for the poor.

number of mothers who did not even have clothes for their newborns to wear home. "Thanks to the generosity of the members of St. William's, many newborns will have a little better start in life," she noted.

Ione Schools announce January plans

The Advisory Committee and Ione Site Council will be holding at joint meeting Wednesday, Jan. 8, at 5:30 p.m. The Advisory Committee will also hold a meeting Thursday, Jan. 16, at 7 p.m.

There will be a Morrow County School District Board meeting on Jan. 13 at 7:30 p.m., at the Heppner Elementary School.

Winter sports pictures will be on Jan. 14, at 2:30 p.m. There will be no school on Monday, Jan. 20, as it is Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, which means classes will be held on Friday, Jan. 24.

A community meeting is set for Wednesday, Jan. 22, at 6:30 p.m. to discuss the budget cuts for Ione.

Remember to mark these dates on your calendar and to watch for all the basketball games throughout the month.

Heppner Schools list their January events

Heppner Elementary School and Heppner High School announce the following schedule for the month of January:

There will be an HHS Site Council meeting at 6 p.m., on Wednesday, Jan. 8, at the HHS library. There will also be an Advisory Meeting at 7 p.m. on Jan. 8, at HES. There will be a Morrow County School Board meeting, at HES, on Monday, Jan. 13, at 7:30 p.m.

HES will be holding a Geography Bee, Monday, Jan. 13, at 1:50 p.m.

Both HES and HHS will not hold school on Monday, Jan. 20 due to the Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday, resulting in classes being held Friday, Jan. 24.

The SAT-I test will be held at HHS at 7:30 a.m. on Saturday, Jan. 25.

Mark these dates on your calendar and don't forget the numerous sporting and club activities through out the month.

Ski club announces schedule for 2003 season

A schedule listing the party leaders and the dates that they are responsible for was drawn up at a meeting held in September. The ski group plans to meet at the Heppner city park and leave for skiing at about 9:00 a.m. If you know that you cannot lead on the scheduled date, call Bill Ewing (676-9119) or Dave Fowler (676-9109) and they will make other arrangements. Dues will be held at \$5 per family per season. No discounts will be considered.

New officers for the club are Bill Ewing, president; Dave Fowler, vice president; and Kay Fowler, secretary/treasurer.

Members are asked to send their email address to Ewing at ewing@centurytel.net, as email is an easy means of communications.

The group discussed their desire to get more people to participate in the ski outings. Two problems that have to be overcome by new skiers are equipment rentals and the misconception that they have to be in excellent physical shape to participate. "If we know ahead of time that we will need rental

equipment, we can probably work it out. Both Pedaler's Place and Blue Mountain Sports in Pendleton will rent their equipment for less than ten dollars. Equipment could be picked up on Friday and returned on Monday," comment Ewing.

The second problem can be addressed by understanding that all members have different paces, so the group sometimes gets stretched out along the trail. "No one has been late to the lunch stop yet. Just follow the smoke from the warming fire that Steve builds," encourages Ewing.

The ski schedule is as follows:

Jan. 4- Leader: Steve Brownfield; Jan. 11- Leader: Bill Ewing; Jan. 18- Leader: John Murray (with the possibility this would be an overnight outing); Jan. 25- Leader: Dan VanLiew; Feb. 1- Leader: John Edmundson; Feb. 8- Leader: Dave Fowler; Feb. 15- no outing scheduled; Feb. 22- Leader: Dave Kendrick; Feb. 28 to March 2- Cloud Cap Trip with leaders Steve and John Edmundson



Caitlin Orem (center) helps Katie West and Emily Rea bag baby items.

Robert Burns Celebration to be held in Condon

The pipes will be a calling Saturday, Jan. 25 when Scotsmen region-wide gather at Condon's Hotel Condon in celebration of the birth of Scotland's poet laureate, Robert Burns.

Much of the Condon area's heritage came from Scotland as young Scots followed one another from the homeland to the promise of a new and prosperous life in a new land. For many years that Scottish heritage was celebrated fervently with pipe bands and clan gatherings in the Condon community.

Recently, the celebrations have been revived, and last year, after three years in a private residence, the celebration moved to Hotel Condon and was a rousing good time. Piper Alex Maich of Redmond, after piping in the

Haggis and other Scottish delicacies, played well into the evening. Local residents read and recited their favorite Scottish verse. Scotland native Mac Lindsay, now of Redmond, presented an animated and rousing rendition of Ode to a Haggis, and the party was on!

Organizers anticipate that the pipes will skirl once again come Saturday, Jan. 25, when the tradition of honoring Robert Burns and his poetry once again comes to life. Pipers, fiddlers and Celtic musicians of all instrumentation and Burns poetry fans of all ages are invited to share in this traditional event. Activities will begin at 1 p.m. and continue through the evening. A cover charge will be assessed at the door, and reservations at Hotel Condon, 541-384-4624, and other local accommodations, Condon Motel 541-384-2181, should be made early.

Raver to be installed Chamber president

Chamber members are reminded of the 2003 Annual Chamber of Commerce Luncheon, Tuesday, Jan. 14, at 11:30 a.m., at All Saints Episcopal Parish Hall. Reservations may be made by calling the Chamber office at 676-5535 by Monday, Jan. 13.

Darrell Raver will take the helm as President of the Heppner Chamber of Commerce, Victor Vander Does as Vice President, and Board Members Larry Lutcher, Dave

Sykes, Barbara Hayes, Bert Houweling, Nancy Snider, Brenda Sherrell, and Nancy Gochnauer navigating the Chamber year ahead. Cliff Green will be going off the Board and Jerry Breazeale will be ex-officio.

The luncheon will be catered by Joann Tingue, Pudding On The Ritz. In addition to installation of Officers and Board members, "Shenanigans" will provide music and the traditional "Hat's Off" award will be presented.

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Thursday, January 9th
LADIES' NIGHT: Sally Walker and crew will be serving Beef Enchiladas, Spanish Rice, Salad and Dessert. Dinner will start at 6 p.m. Lodge will start at 8 p.m.