

Elk's Lodge installs new elevator



Volunteers and Elk's Lodge members, (Back row L-R): Tom Wolff, Ralph Walker and Jay Keithley; (Front row L-R): Marvin Brannon and Dick Turrell, stand in front of the new operational elevator.

The Heppner Elk's Lodge has recently installed a new elevator with the help of many volunteers. The elevator will allow members who cannot climb the stairs access to events and other functions of the Elk's Lodge held on the second floor.

After approximately 2400 volunteer hours went into the construction of the elevator, it was inspected and approved on Dec. 21, 2002. Volunteers helped with everything from demolition, hole cutting, tractor use, concrete laying, carpet laying, finishing clean-up, and feeding of the work crews.

Volunteers included: Wilbur Jackson, Bill Gentry, Ralph Walker, Ray French, Dick Turrell, Glen Ward, Joe Kenny, Scott Dougherty, Bill McDowell, Tom Wolff, Rick Drake, Marvin Brannon, Dave George, Tony Clement, Roger Mortimore, Deona Hodges, Miller and Son Concrete, Ryan Miller, Tony Fox, Simon Winters, Ken Stookey, Jay Coil Fabrication, Al Parret and Carl Thorpe, Tim Wright, Jay Keithley, Tim Hedman, Kit George and Lott's Electric, Ginger O'Brien, Andrea Mortimore, Burke O'Brien and Johnny Ledbetter.

Umatilla Red Cross posts January and February schedule

The Umatilla Red Cross announces it schedule of training dates for January and February. All classes will be held at locations in Pendleton unless otherwise noted. The schedule is as follows:

Thursday, Jan. 16- Mass Care. The class will be held at the Tribal Fire Dept. from 6-9 p.m.

Monday, Jan. 20- Infant and Child CPR. The class will be held at 920 SW Frazier.

Tuesday, Jan. 28- Mass Care. The class will be held at the Umatilla Housing Authority, 155 SW 10th in Hermiston; from 6-9 p.m.

Monday, Feb. 3- CPR Recertification. The class will be held in Heppner. Call the Red Cross officer at (541) 276-1211 for location.

Thursday, Feb. 6- Introduction to Disaster. The class will be held at 920 SW Frazier from 6-9 p.m.

Thursday, Feb. 6- Ham Radio Classes. The classes will be held every Thursday in February for four weeks at 920 SW Frazier from 7-9:30 p.m. Class cost is \$30. Richard Wilson is the instructor.

Tuesday, Feb. 11- First Aid. The class will be held at 920 SW Frazier from 6-9 p.m.

Thursday, Feb. 13- Aviation Disaster Class. The class

is to train Red Cross volunteers in case of a disaster at the airport and will be held at the National Guard Armory, 2100 NW 56th. Eric Corliss of the Red Cross Air Team will teach the class. The Pendleton Airport disaster plan will be used as part of the class.

To sign up for any of these classes or for more information, call the Umatilla County American Red Cross Chapter at (541) 276-1211.

Little League board to meet Jan. 23

The Willow Creek Little League Board will hold their January meeting on Thursday, Jan. 23 at 6:30 p.m. in the meeting room at the Shamrock Cafe in Fossil. WCLL covers the towns of Fossil, Condon, Arlington, Ione and Heppner and invites anyone interested in any aspect of Little League from these towns to join this meeting.

There are still three positions to be filled on the board. Anybody interested in filling these positions can contact Theresa Crawford at 676-8118 or Sandi Day at 676-5275, or come to the meeting.

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Ione's Site Council and Advisory Board join together to discuss budget cuts

The Ione Site Council held their monthly meeting, Jan. 8. The Advisory Board members joined the meeting so that both groups could discuss the school funding cuts. Members discussed how The Dalles is handling cuts and the group is looking at their legislative lobbying efforts as a possible example of Ione. The combined groups discuss the list of ideas the Site Council had created for possible ways to implement programs back into the Ione Schools once the district cuts were made.

Some of the Site Council's ideas included: Volunteers, V-Tel, online community college courses, encourage home school students back to public school, block scheduling along with sharing teachers, distance learning within the district, shorten school year for teachers but not students (eliminate some in-service dates) and zero period options.

There was also a discussion of making Morrow County School District an open district. It was thought to work best with seventh through twelfth grade students coming to Ione from other communities due to the distances on the bus. This would give more money to the district because of the small school funding issue.

Principal Mike Stuart emphasized to the group that there are still quite a number of unknowns. Such as, the Jan. 28 (election) vote and possible legislative cuts mandated in addition to the current situation that we are facing. Soliciting adequate people to run for upcoming school board positions was also considered to be important. Stuart said that who would find out the deadlines for filing for the open positions.

Members considered the fact that the new wind farms

and other new industries that will be coming into the area, may also bring in more families. Aside from the new businesses, it was mentioned that the city has received calls regarding two families moving in to Ione soon.

The big consensus of our group is that we want the district to approve open boundaries. If Riverside or Heppner students want to attend Ione, they could and if Ione students want to attend Heppner or Riverside they could. It would be the students and the parents that would make that choice rather than boundaries of where they live. The thing to keep in mind is that Ione schools bring in small school funding which is quite a bit more funding than schools without small school status. There was also a discussion of how schools qualify for Title I funds.

The teachers were requested to come up with a plan for how they would present excellence programs to bring in other students. There was final discussion of how to get Ione residents to run for school board positions.

In other Council news:

-The group recognized the achievement of Diana McElligott and Brad Burrigh, who were selected as East Oregonian Athletes of the year for 2002. There is only one female and one male selected each year.

-It was also noted that Ione is in the lead for the Oregonian Cup. The cup has only been in existence for three years and Ione has received it every time. "We are in the lead, but by only a small amount," stated a Council member.

-The ACR program is nearly ready for implementation. There will be a demonstration of the program at the next Council meeting. SOS reading is going as appropriate. By-law updates will be sent via email to all members.

Morrow SWCD Town and Country Program to be held

Morrow Soil and Water Conservation District will hold its annual meeting on Thursday, Jan. 16 upstairs at the Heppner Elks Lodge beginning at 1 p.m., followed by a joint program with Morrow County Livestock Growers beginning at 1:30 p.m. The program will include a presentation on Agriculture in Rural Oregon by Oregon

Cattlemen's Association President Bob Skinner; a talk on wolves in the Northwest by various speakers; an update on Willow Creek Watershed SB 1010 and the federal and state conservation funding opportunities for private landowners and operators.

The elevator is operational so everyone is encouraged to attend.

EORA elects officers & prepares for 2003

The Eastern Oregon Rural Alliance, formerly known as the Eastern Oregon Forum, met in John Day on Jan. 10 to elect a slate of officers. The Alliance is an organization of the eastern Oregon leaders that includes county and city elected officials, school administrators, private business leaders, economic and public service providers from 18 counties. The Alliance participants have been meeting for several years to coordinate and aggregate efforts on specific issues affecting the rural eastern portion of the state.

The Alliance has been instrumental in creating a piece of legislation that will be presented to the state legislature this year to create The Office of Rural Policy. The Office of Rural Policy is designed to be housed in the Executive Branch of the Oregon State Legislature and will be a watchdog for legislation and policy that could potentially have a negative affect on the economic

and social integrity of all rural areas of Oregon.

Eastern Oregon Rural Alliance Officers elected for the upcoming year are:

Chairman: Judge Laura Pryor, Gilliam County

Vice Chairman: Commissioner Steve McClure, Union County

Secretary: City Councilor Keith Woods, Milton-Freewater

Treasurer: Anthony Lanni, North Central ES

Fiscal Officer/Entity Union County

Legal Council Raymond Baum

Incoming President and Gilliam County Judge, Laura Pryor stated, "Our goal as an Alliance is to strengthen rural Eastern Oregon communities, because, we feel that will, in turn, strengthen the state as a whole."

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Notes from Willow Creek Terrace

By Jean Nelson

Greetings. All of the residents want to express their appreciation to everyone who has helped make this facility possible. We are all very happy here and very busy with our lives.

During the Christmas season we all participated in getting ready for the celebration. We each decorated the door of our apartments and helped decorate our Christmas tree in the foyer. Various local groups entertained us. The Heppner fifth and sixth grade students sang Christmas carols led by Jannie Allen. Tonia Adams, "our leader," made arrangements for us to go on the senior bus to see all the beautifully decorated homes in Heppner, Lexington and Ione, and view the Parade of Lights. A special buffet was held with all the residents' families invited. Members of the Episcopal and Hope Lutheran churches sang carols for us during lunch. The staff put up lights

outside of the building and the Heppner Garden Club decorated the big 15-foot blue Spruce tree given to us by Joe and JoAnne Bureson. All in all, we had a great month of celebrating.

We have had a number of individuals and groups visit us including the Rhea Creek Social Club and Stampers Anonymous 4-H Club led by Judie Laughlin. On Jan. 5, the Morrow County Historical Society held their quarterly meeting and potluck in the dining room with the residents as guests.

Rhyllis Bond has spent time in our Respite Room and we enjoyed her company.

If the first three months of our life here is an example of what is to come, the remainder of our time will be most enjoyable.

Come visit us and see our new building. We enjoy visitors.

A new plaque to go up in the City Park



Chuck Bailey, president of the Garden Club (left) with City Manager Gerry Breazeale (right) holding the original plaque commemorating Washington and the two Dutch elms planted.

Through the combined efforts of Heppner City Hall, Heppner Garden Club and the Beautification Project, a plaque is in the process of being created/purchased to extend the information on one originally placed in the city park.

The original plaque commemorated George Washington, along with two Dutch elms that were planted in 1932, 200 years after Washington was born. The two

original trees died of Dutch elm disease in 1999, 67 years after they were planted. Coincidentally, that is the same age Washington was when he died.

In April 2001, the Heppner Garden Club planted a scarlet oak tree to replace the Dutch elms and continue the commemoration of Washington. The new plaque will explain the original commemoration and add current information about the oak tree that was planted.

Grass Roots Committee for Kids discusses school funding

The Grass Roots Committee for Kids met Thursday, Jan. 9 to discuss the Heppner Schools funding situation. The focus of the meeting was directed at two distinct areas: how to increase revenue and how to offset the proposed cuts. During the meeting, many issues were discussed, ranging from increasing volunteers to adopt-a-teacher to the District's funding equality.

The group listed many possibilities and individuals volunteered to pursue and

research those possibilities. The group will be meeting again on Tuesday, Jan. 28 at 7 p.m., at Heppner Elementary. If you are interested in being a part of this group, please plan to attend the meeting. While there were about 30 interested citizens in attendance at the Jan. 9 meeting, there is a great need for many more.

At the meeting on Jan. 28, the group plans to put together a plan to present to the Advisory Committee and the School Board at their February meetings.

Hansen to show clothing line at Portland runway show

Jayme Hansen, a former Heppner resident, and daughter of Hoby and Susan Hansen of Heppner, will be showing her line of clothing and hats at the XOX Seaplane Runway Show, Jan. 18. This will be Hansen's second runway show.

Hansen has been working with a Portland milliner learning in creating a line of hats.

Fourteen designers, including Hansen, and seven models, including Hansen's sister, Kim, will be at the show displaying the clothing lines.

The doors will open at 7 p.m., Jan. 18, and the show will begin at 8 p.m. It will be held in Portland at Wieden + Kennedy, 224 NW 13th Ave. Advance tickets are available at Seaplane.

OSU Extension Service to hold seminar

The OSU Extension Service will hold the Columbia Basin Cereal Seminar, Wednesday, Jan. 22, at Willows Grange in Ione. The seminar is scheduled to begin at 9 a.m. and go into the afternoon, with two breaks and a lunch hour.

The seminar will open with a discussion on the Pesticide Use Reporting System. Other topics will include production of bio-diesel fuel, NMFS 4(d)

Salmon Rules, Clearfield wheat, global markets and their impacts on Oregon and the seminar will conclude with a discussion of Niche Market Development for PNW white wheat.

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