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HEPPNER

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Gazette
Times

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PMHH employees receive awards from OAHCA

The Oregon Association for Home Care is a trade organization representing providers of skilled home health, hospice, in-home care, IV therapy, respiratory therapy and home medical equipment services throughout the state of Oregon. Each year the Association awards outstanding leaders in home care through a peer nomination process.

Veda Nave, home health aide, employed with Pioneer Memorial Home Health, Heppner, is being recognized for her exemplary direct patient care services in home care. Nave will receive the Home Health Aide of the Year Award.

"Veda manages well both the dignity of her patient as well as her own dignity in providing personal care service," said Director Molly Rhea. "She lends a helping hand or an attentive ear while still encouraging independence and self-reliance."

Carolyn Willey, also employed with Pioneer Memorial Home Health, Heppner, is being recognized for her unconditionally giving spirit.



Award recipients Veda Nave (left) and Carolyn Willey (right) with PMHH director Molly Rhea (center).

Willey will be presented with the Volunteer of the Year Award.

"Her input in helping the hospital develop a hospice program has been invaluable," said Director Molly Rhea. "She is well versed in spiritual and bereavement care, and she

brings a sense of peace, accompanied by the sincere drive that accomplishes great things."

Nave and Willey will be receive their awards at the Association's annual conference on Feb. 28, at the Inn at Otter Crest, Otter Rock, OR.

Cruz-In cars to be displayed during St. Patrick's Day Celebration

Car buffs are invited to tune and polish their vehicles in preparation for participation in the third Annual Heppner St. Paddy's Cruz-In to be held Saturday, March 15 during the 21st Annual St. Patrick's Day Celebration. The 2003 Cruz-In will be located right off Main Street on Willow Street. Cruz-In entries will not be participating in the Parade this year.

Categories will include Classic and Modified Cars and Pickups and also Vintage and Foreign entries. Dash plaques will be awarded to each entry with larger plaques presented to winners of 25 categories. Additional awards will be given to People's Choice, Leprechaun's Choice, Car Club award and Period Dress awards for Men and Women.

Pre-registration of \$10 received before March 10 will receive five free raffle tickets. Entries received after March 10 will be \$15 with one free raffle

ticket. For more information check the Heppner website at www.heppner.net or contact

Dick Sargent, P.O. Box 98, Heppner, OR 97836 or phone (541) 676-9621.

MSWCD announces programs to maintain buffers

The Morrow Soil and Water Conservation District in Heppner has announced that Continuous CRP and Conservation Reserve Enhancement Programs are available to help install and maintain riparian buffers.

Riparian forest and filter strip buffers are areas of vegetation located along streams, intermittent water courses, lakes, ponds, wetlands and as part of a cropland management system that can improve or establish wildlife habitat. Buffers also intercept sediment, nutrients, pesticides and other materials in surface runoff to maintain or

improve water quality.

Landowners with acreage enrolled in these programs will be compensated with annual rental payments and will be eligible for further payment incentives. Financial assistance is also available for the establishment of the buffer and related practices. Maintenance rates will also be available and will be determined by the buffer practice used.

Those interested in learning more about these programs and whether land is eligible to be enrolled may contact Cory Cooley at the Morrow Soil and Water Conservation District in Heppner at 676-5452, ext. 111.

Lone proceeds towards secession with more votes than needed



An overwhelming majority of a 200-plus group attending a Feb. 11 meeting on establishing a separate Lone school district rose to their feet when asked to stand if they support formation of the district.



At a meeting in Lone Feb. 11, people throng to put their names on a petition that calls for formation of a separate Lone school district.

Organizers of the Lone school district petition campaign collected roughly 350 signatures as of Tuesday in support of Lone forming its own school district. Stacie Miller of Lone said that 232 signatures, or five percent of the registered voters in Morrow County, are required to begin the process. "We have had support from all communities," said Miller.

The signatures will be submitted to the Umatilla-Morrow ESD on Feb. 20 and then a waiting period of 120 days will follow. If formation of the new district is not challenged within the 120 days, then ESD will declare a boundary change and the new district will be formed. If a remonstrance petition is filed, then a Morrow County School District-wide vote will be held. If voters agree, the new district will be formed. If voters do not agree, Lone will have to stay within Morrow County School District.

Chief petitioners of the boundary change, Jerry Rietmann, Joe McElligott and Anne Morter, along with Lisa Rietmann, went to Salem, Tuesday, to encourage passage of a bill in the legislature to speed the process along.

Organizers stress that the movement to secede is not against the Morrow County School District, the school board or Heppner, but rather a positive move toward self-determination. "We do not want to have to face closure of our school every two years," said Anne Morter. Further, supporters of formation of the new district fear that if they lose their school, they will also lose their community.

The Morrow County School Board, at their February meeting, failed to entertain a motion on consolidation of the Heppner and Lone schools, thereby eliminating the consolidation issue at least for the 2003-04 year. Consolidation of the two high schools was

suggested as one way to solve the loss of teachers and curriculum, resulting from a MCSD emphasis on "equity", meaning that district schools' expenditures be limited to the amount of money they bring in, and a state-wide budget shortfall.

Watershed Field Day funds cut

The Morrow Soil and Water Conservation District, at their last meeting, learned that due to budget cuts, the Umatilla-Morrow ESD would no longer be able to fund the Watershed Field Day.

For the last four years, the Morrow SWCD has helped coordinate the field day held north of Lone on Willow Creek. Approximately 300 students in the grades four through 12 attended last year. The field day consisted of seven stations to teach soil development and formation, wheat and plant identification, mapping and math application in natural resources, macro-invertebrate sampling and identification, water quality monitoring and testing, and stream bank stabilization.

Student exchange host families needed

A meeting will be held, Thursday, Feb. 20, at 7 p.m., at Heppner Elementary Library, for any community members interested in hosting an exchange student. The AYSA group will speak at the meeting.

Currently, one student is slated to come to Heppner. There is hope that Heppner can get, 10 exchange students, as having that many students would

"I have seen students who originally participated come back as presenters and that is one reason I would hate to see this program cut," stated a Morrow SWCD spokesperson.

Current funds available for the field day are \$4632 and \$3500 more is needed to continue the program for this year alone. The Morrow SWCD board voted to donate funds to the field day and is searching for business, group and private donations to help keep the program from disappearing.

Those interested in donating to the Watershed Field Day are encouraged to contact Merilee McDowell at (541) 676-5452 ext. 101 or send a donation to P.O. Box 127, Heppner, OR 97836.

create enough funds to pay one teacher.

Anyone interested in hosting a student is encouraged to attend this meeting.

NEWS DEADLINE
Monday, 5 p.m.

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