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of the City of Heppner and the County of Morrow

**Heppner
GAZETTE-TIMES**

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Morrow County's Home-Owned Weekly Newspaper

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David Sykes Publisher
Katie Wall Editor

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HES enjoys artist in residence Nina Walz



Colton Raver finishes up his clay project.

By Debbie Harper

Nina Walz is the Artist in Residence this year at Heppner Elementary School. She is a full time potter with a studio, Off The Walz, in Bend. But she takes time out every year to go into schools, as part of the artist in residence program, to share her love of clay.

Each of the 205 HES students made two pieces. Walz used slab and coil techniques to teach the students some principles and elements of design. Everything the students made were utilitarian pieces that could be used, such as vases, masks, fish platters, frog shaped sponge holders. Kindergartners made hand shaped trivets. After the students created their pieces they painted them with glazes. After the pieces were painted

Walz used the high school's kiln to fire most of the pieces but because there were so many, she had to take some to her studio in Bend and return them later.

Walz enjoys coming into the schools and encouraging students of all ages to follow their passions, no matter what they might be. "Some kids don't excel academically, but they may be good at art or music," said Walz. "Here every one succeeds. Everyone makes something. I try to show them they can be a success. I try to instill self-confidence."

Walz has been a full time potter for eight years. She went to the Institute of Art in Chicago, originally to study illustration, but she fell in love with clay, and became a full time potter.

BEO Boardman holds appreciation day

The Bank of Eastern Oregon Boardman branch held a customer appreciation day on Friday, May 16 and it was a huge success. The branch served over 200 hamburgers and hot dogs and all who attended had a good time. Mike Tallman, branch manager said, "It is always a pleasure to give back to the community of Boardman, who supports the Bank of Eastern Oregon so well."

The senior class served from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

to raise funds for "Operation Graduation." Operation Graduation is an annual event for seniors and is sponsored by Riverside High School. The bank presented the class with a \$150 check. Cindy Turner and Anita Donovan were the adults in charge of overseeing the students.

There was over \$500 put back into the local community. Bank of Eastern Oregon was pleased with the wonderful turnout and support.

Letters to the Editor

Editor's note: Letters to the Editor must be signed. The Gazette-Times will not publish unsigned letters. Please include your address and phone number on all letters for use by the G-T office. The G-T reserves the right to edit. The G-T is not responsible for accuracy of statements made in letters. (Any letters expressing thanks will be placed in the classifieds under "Card of Thanks" at a cost of \$7.)

Smaller school concern not valid

To the Editor:
The people of Irrigon would like to express their appreciation to John Rietmann, Larry Mills and Burke O'Brien for their support of our effort to educate our children in our community. Their presentation of facts, at the May 12 Morrow County School District Board meeting, made it absolutely clear that opposition to our cause is not based on financing. The dissenting Board members expressed concern that two small schools will not offer the caliber of education as one large school. Considering that the smallest high school in the District [Ione High School] produces the top scholars in Morrow County, that concern seems patently disingenuous.

There is no way to accurately predict how successful Irrigon High School will be. However, we can look at the record of Riverside and anticipate doing as well or perhaps better.

When my oldest grandson was a freshman at RHS he was one of 154 students. By the time he graduated the class had shrunk to 84. Since the years of his high school career coincided with the fastest growth in Morrow County's history, it is difficult to believe that almost half his class moved away. The conclusion that must be drawn is that RHS has an

unacceptable drop-out rate. We believe that we can make a real impact in reducing the number of children from Irrigon that choose to drop-out. Many of Irrigon's children enjoy no connection with RHS beyond the classroom. We believe that more children will choose to stay in a school that offers them the opportunity to become fully involved in their high school experience.

Frederickson, McNamee, Renfro, and Weikel expressed concern that the separated schools might lose programs. With that many kids dropping out the loss is much larger than a couple programs.

It should be mentioned here that of the 84 graduates in 2002 only 12 completed their SIMs. So even the kids that stay in school are not getting an adequate education at RHS.

We hope that the next Board will see the wisdom of reinstating Irrigon High School. Much of an individual's knowledge is gained outside the classroom. We believe that life's experiences contribute greatly to a person's education and our children are missing one of life's greatest experiences: the time-honored pleasure of going to school in your own neighborhood.

(s) Meredith DeHaven
Irrigon

National FFA scholarship awarded to local HHS student

The National FFA Organization awarded a \$1000 Cargill Community Scholarship Program scholarship to Daniel Jepsen of Heppner High School.

The Cargill Community Scholarship Program, as a special project of the National FFA Foundation, Inc., sponsors the scholarship. Jepsen plans to use the funds to pursue a degree at the University of Idaho.

This scholarship is one of 1926 awarded through the National FFA Scholarship Program this year. Currently, 153 corporate sponsors generously contribute more than \$2 million to support this program. This is the 19th year that the scholarships have been made available through the National FFA Foundation by business and industry sponsors to reward and encourage excellence and enable students to pursue their educational goals.

Scholarship recipients were selected from 5927 applicants from across the country. Selections were based on the applicant's academic record, FFA and other school and community activities, supervised

agricultural experience program in agricultural education, career plans and financial need.

FFA is a national youth organization of over 400,000 student members preparing for leadership and careers in the science, business and technology of agriculture with more than 8000 local chapters in all 50 states, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. FFA strives to make a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth and career success through agricultural education. Visit www.ffa.org for more information.

DA's Report

Adolfo Castillo pled guilty to Harassment, a Class-B misdemeanor. Castillo was sentenced to 180 suspended days in jail, 20 hours community service, completion of a domestic violence package with the Batterers Impact Panel, and payment of \$305 in fines.

Michael A. Mooso was found guilty of Contempt of Court. He was sentenced to 90 suspended days in jail and three years bench probation.

St. Patrick's Senior Center news

News from the regular meeting of the Board of Director's is that the Heppner Housing Authority has selected new blinds for the common room. The plan is that, in due time, there will be new blinds for the office, foyer and dining room, also.

New baking pans and cooling table liners are now in use in the kitchen. These are items approved by the Board.

Tom Wilson reported taking members of the Garden Club to Hermiston on May 20. Their mission was to select plants and shrubs for the city park.

WCVEDG to hold mailing campaign party

The WCVEDG is sponsoring another mailing campaign to businesses in California. The mailing will have a new look and will be faster and easier to prepare for mailing. The last campaign done actually generated several interesting leads. Invitations need to be kept up with to continue to attract people to bring their businesses to "Oregon's Willow Creek Valley."

The mailing work party is scheduled for Thursday, June 5, at 5 p.m. at Columbia Basin Electric's conference room. You are invited to come and participate in sending off approximately 6,000 mailers. WCVEDG will provide pizza and soda for the hard working mailers.

Please come and join us for this social event where we can help promote our economy and take an active part in helping to secure new

On Wednesday, June 1, the volunteer servers will be from the Christian Life Center. The new serving time, begun in January, beginning at 11:30 a.m., with flag salute, table blessing and announcements, has been received well by regular participants.

Obituaries

Robert George Sicard

Robert George Sicard, 69, of Boardman, died Sunday, May 18, 2003 at his home.

A graveside memorial service will be held Thursday at 2 p.m., at Riverview Cemetery in Boardman.

Sicard was born June 27, 1933, at Portland, to George and Nina Parks Sicard.

He came to Boardman in 1947 and for 32 years was a dairy farmer.

He was a veteran of the Korean War, serving with the U.S. Air Force from 1952 until 1956.

On Sept. 28, 1954, he married Carolyn Wood at Moses Lake, WA.

He has been a member of the Boardman Park Board, Morrow County Soil Conservation Board, Morrow County School District Board and a member of Mayflower Farms.

Survivors include his wife, Carolyn, of Boardman; sons, Kenneth and Michael, both of Boardman; daughters, Roberta Kelly of Estacada and Peggy Simi of Oakland, CA; a sister, Carolyn Skoubo of Boardman; five grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

Memorial contributions may be made to Pioneer Memorial Hospice, P.O. Box 9, Heppner, OR 97836.

Burns Mortuary of Hermiston is in charge of arrangements.

Adopt-A-Teacher Foundation still selling bricks

The Adopt-A-Teacher Foundation is selling bricks that will be placed at the new Heppner Elementary School. The bricks are on sale for \$100. Adopt-A-Teacher memberships are also available.

The Foundation plans to hold monthly raffles to raise money for the program, which will benefit Heppner schools. Currently the group has raised \$12,000.

Jean Collins is the president of the Adopt-A-Teacher foundation, with Mary Ann Elguezabal as vice-president, Bill Kuhn as secretary and Kirsten Harrison as treasurer.

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41st ANNUAL AUCTION & BARBECUE**

Saturday, June 7th
Willows Grange Hall, Ione, OR

Country Store & Antiques 10 AM
AUCTION 10:30 AM

Pit Barbeque Beef Dinner 12:30 PM
Adults \$6.00 6-12 Years \$3.00 Pre-School Free!

DON'T FORGET TO BUY A BRICK

\$100 PER BRICK

(Memberships also available)



Look for upcoming monthly raffles! Help us make a difference for our kids!

Adopt-A-Teacher Foundation
President: Jean Collins
Vice President: Mary Ann Elguezabal
Secretary: Bill Kuhn
Treasurer: Kirsten Harrison