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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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St. Patrick's Senior Center

Since St. Patrick's week, the St. Patrick's Senior Center in Heppner has had a new cook. Since April 1, she has had an assistant cook to work with her. She is Sheila Piper, a native of the community. One of the joys of her work, she confided, is meeting and seeing people she first knew during her high school years, when she worked summers at the golf course. Her assistant is Nicki Tasker, a more recent resident of the community.

Sheila and Nicki work five hours a day for three days each week, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. They work closely with the "Site Committee" who offers menu suggestions as well as other hints, which will add to the total enjoyment of the time people are together to eat. The committee is not appointed or selected; it is a group of persons who come together to plan menus and be a liaison between the participants, coordinator and cooks. Any interested person is welcome to be part of the group. It meets early in the month to plan for the following month. Alberta "Bert" Johannes and Frances Freel are two active members and volunteers who may be contacted for information, or to whom you may give suggestions. Sheila said these people are very helpful.

Tuesday is the day of preparation each week. Sheila takes charge of the entree to be sure every thing is ready for next day's scheduling. Nicki takes care of the desert and other meal accompaniments. The division of labor works well. They are flexible and dove-tail their efforts, at times, to fine tune the coordination.

Wednesday is the main event and includes coordinating the volunteers who come for the serving of the meal and to help clean up. The springtime attendance has increased by half from the winter months. More than a dozen meals are taken to people unable to come to the center to eat - usually for health reasons. Thursday is a day when a light meal is served from 11 a.m.-12 noon. It is often prepared from what is not used on Wednesday, or it may be a hearty soup. About 8-10 people come to eat; some are apartment residents and some are not. On Thursday, the cooks also prepare freezer meals for people to have during the week. Sheila and Nicki plan these carefully and Sheila has visited with people who receive them to learn their nutritional needs and how attractiveness and quality can be improved. She stressed and described nutritional

guidelines she follows in her planning and preparation. The Meals on Wheels service is provided by CAPECO and volunteers who deliver. At least 40 frozen meals are prepared on Thursday.

"I am cooking for the people," Sheila commented, "and I want the people who eat here to be happy with what we prepare."

Ed Baker, bus coordinator, reminds us of a bus trip to The Dalles for a Blue Star Dedication and presentation to those who have sons and daughters serving in the military overseas on Friday, June 6. The bus will load at 10 a.m., at the Main Street door of the Center. The program will begin at 1:30 p.m. at The Dalles Veterans Home.

The menu for lunch on Wednesday, June 11 will include Baked Chicken, Fried Rice, Glazed Carrots, Fruit Jell-O, Rolls and Cake. The Seventh Day Adventist Church will provide volunteers.

HES moves awards night

Heppner Elementary School is moving their academic awards night to 6:30 p.m., Tuesday, June 10, so that the ceremony can be held in the new HES gymnasium.

Everyone is invited to join in celebrating the achievements of the students and visit the new facility. Refreshments will follow the celebration.



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Answers to the Mysteries of Education

There are just a few days left of the 2002-2003 school year; this has been quite a year for Morrow County School District. The terrorist attack on Sept. 11, 2001 has created changes in America. The economic conditions in the Nation have had some far reaching effects on the economy of our state. The war in Iraq has added to our national stress level as well. Local events in the County have added to the change, such as Lone's secession from Morrow County School District; the four major building projects totaling \$22,000,000, and of course the state's economic woes which have reduced our revenue close to a million dollars this school year. This has resulted in a reduction in staff for next school year of eleven teaching positions, as well as, the loss of 37 hours per week in classified time.

Through all this the faculty and staff of the district have kept their focus on educating all 2300+ children of the county. During the last few weeks I have had the pleasure of attending many celebrations of academic success. I have also attended music programs where I have seen the results first hand of our faculty, staff and students dedicated efforts of learning. I want to commend all the faculty, staff and students on a great year, under difficult and stressful conditions.

How are the building projects progressing?

The new building in Heppner is complete and has been inspected by several groups to form a punch list of items to be redone or finished prior to the district taking possession. The new building in Lone is close to complete and plans are being made to begin the remodeling work on several projects in Lone High School. All the work is scheduled to be completed in time for school opening in September.

The new building in Boardman has had its inspections and a punch list is being developed. The district should take possession later this month.

The new building in Irrigon is moving along very well. There is a chance it could be completed by Sept. 1.

There are several other smaller bond projects that the district is working on this summer. With the Lone secession we are trying to make sure that the three that are planned in Lone are completed this summer. They are some new rain gutters, some wainscoting in the north hall and removing the single pane windows and replacing them with double pane windows.

When are the new buildings in Boardman and Irrigon going to have new names?

At the May Board meeting, the Board directed the Board Chair to create two facility-naming committees according to MCSD Policy FF. Each committee shall have six members. Pat McNamee was appointed to head the committee to name the new Irrigon elementary building and Julie Weikel was appointed to head the committee to name the new Boardman elementary building. The committees are asked to recommend three names to the Board at their June Board meeting. The policy states: "The general policy is to name schools for persons who have attained prominence locally and nationally, or in the fields of education, science, art, statesmanship, political science, or military achievement; early pioneers of Morrow County, or the state of Oregon; or after the name of the geographic area which it serves." If you have such a name you would like considered please contact the following: In Irrigon: McNamee, Dwayne Carroll, Elizabeth Wheeler, Gail Horning, Shelley Salisbury and students David Yecha and Leslie Coffman. In Boardman: Weikel, Dean Mason, Marc Rogelstad, Katie Dawson, Bobbie Broadbent and student Shannon Callow.

Is the District going to open either of the new buildings in Boardman or Irrigon?

The report from the specialist in the Heery Corporation has been received and doesn't show any savings in gas, electric and other utilities whether it has students in it or not. The actual savings one may receive in lower utilities use appears lost in the need to have people moving water through the pipes on a regular basis as well as checking electrical and heating systems. The recommendation to the Board at the June meeting will be to open the schools and put fifth and sixth grades in each building. That would seem to be the best protection we can give new buildings. New buildings have a lot of moisture in them, and if they are not warmed and therefore kept dry they can produce mildew and mold. There are also concerns that once we take possession of the buildings, all the warranties begin, as well as the fact for our fire protection insurance to be in effect we need the fire alarm system to be on as well as the inside fire sprinkling system to be active. This requires that the water, electrical and telephone systems have to be hooked up and active. Even though it will create open rooms in ACH, SBE and CMS this seems the best way to protect the new buildings.

When will you close the Lexington Building?

Moving anything is not easy. Moving offices that are heavily technology dependent is really tricky, and if one isn't careful, it can be very expensive. In December, the Board made the decision to close the Lexington building. Besides a chance to save some money on yearly operating expenses, it is no longer reasonable to spend more money on the maintenance of the Lexington building. In May, the Board instructed me to find the best place for the district office in the Boardman and Irrigon areas. With the opening of the two new schools, there became many places for one to go.

In looking at places like the Learning Center in Irrigon and classrooms in some of the

campuses it became apparent that many were not wired to handle the electrical needs and the needed data and communication lines. However, the new buildings can easily handle it all. It also became apparent that no one building had enough space to accommodate the whole office. So we are going to experiment and split up the district office. The maintenance office is currently located in the Learning Center in Irrigon and will shortly have the shop finished in the garage at CMS. In July, Julie Ashbeck and I will move to the new Boardman building along with the Director of Programs and the Director's secretary who will also serve as the Maintenance secretary. In October, the Business Department as well as the Food Service Department will move into the Heppner Elementary School building. There will be the room in Heppner to spread out over enough rooms to accommodate the data and communication needs without incurring much cost. This will allow the Superintendent and the Director of Programs to be in close physical proximity of 80 percent of the district's students and 75 percent of the district's campuses.

If you have questions about items in this article or desire an explanation of items concerning education, please write or E-mail me in care of this newspaper or to the Morrow County School District Office at P.O. Box 368, Lexington, OR 97839.

Chamber Chatter

By Claudia Hughes, Executive Director

Long summer days are such a gift because it's easy to start your day early. It's warmer, it's light outside, flowers are in bloom, there's some time for puttering and reflection and just enjoying your home or sitting outside with a cup of coffee and observing mornings arrival while you contemplate what makes a house a home. It's not money, it's not size, it's not having all new things, it's having a corner to call your own, it's communication, it's something to tend, it's looking to the future.

Making a house a home is much the same as tending our community. We take care of it, we tend the flowers, we volunteer, we dream, be it having a "Shoe Box Theater" or a skating rink, or an OHV Park, or more family wage jobs. Some dreams just take more time than others do. As organizations we work together to make dreams become reality.

The health and history of a home or community certainly plays a large part in how our lives are going and how we relate to each other. Attitude, sense of caring, desire for improvement, being there for each other, agreeing to take on jobs and follow through or asking for help and inviting others in, all play a role. We mourn for those who have the need to destroy things others have put their heart and soul into and wonder how they might be turned around to lead happier, more productive and less angry lives?

Commemoration and remembrance are also part of home and community. On June 13 and 14, Heppner will be commemorating the 1903 Flood. This will be a time to look back at history, see how things are different yet the same. The public is invited to revisit the historic Flood on Friday night through the eyes of Peg Willis, The Shenanigans and narrators. Then Saturday, to join in the dedication, memorial unveiling, flood walk, museum exhibits, Court House tour, and the Cascadia Folk Quartet musical presentation on Saturday, due to the help of the Morrow County Unified Recreation District and Flood Commemoration Committee.

Those wishing to go a step further back into history are invited to attend the second dinner theater at the Cemetery at 6:30 p.m., June 14. Tickets, available at the Chamber and Klamath First, are \$25 per person to F.A.R.M., with proceeds going towards the flood victim memorial. The memorial lists the names of babies, children, young adults just starting out in Heppner, grandparents, all who had invested in and cared about Heppner and were going about their daily lives when the wall of water hit.

One hundred years ago things were not so different. The story is still about human beings moving through life's adventure, making mistakes, working together, having fun, caring, and being the best they can be in their homes and in their communities. Your Chamber of Commerce is proud to be a part of helping to make Heppner and the Willow Creek Valley the best that it can be and we appreciate each and every one for their many contributions.

The "Beaver Believer"
TIM DICKENSON
goes from student to alum!
Help him celebrate this momentous occasion
on Saturday, June 14th at 5 p.m.
with a barbecue with all the fixings
at the Dickenson residence.
"Ducks" are welcome!

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