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HEPPNER

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Gazette  
Times

VOL. 122 NO. 28 8 Pages Wednesday, July 9, 2003 Morrow County, Heppner, Oregon



**Cashin' in** Kids look for money during the coin scramble Friday at the annual Ione Fourth of July Celebration. More pictures page 3.

## Concerts in the Park to be held

The Willow Valley Service Club will be hosting two free to the public Concerts in the Park in 2003. The concerts are sponsored and funded by the Morrow County Recreation District.

The first concert will be held in Heppner, July 25 at the Heppner City Park at 6:30 p.m., in conjunction with the "Celebrate Heppner" activities. The concert will feature the singer-songwriter

duo of Steve and Shelley Hines. An evening of family entertainment will be enjoyed by all ages as they sing a potpourri of music styles from contemporary to western.

"Everyone is welcome, so bring your lawn chairs and blankets and enjoy the evening," stated at WVSC member.

In August, a concert featuring The Brian Hansen Band will be held in Ione.

The Willow Valley Service Club meets the first three Thursdays of each month at John's Other Place for a no host lunch and welcomes new members anytime.

For more information about the concerts, call Sherree Mahoney or Judie Laughlin and for membership information, call Carolyn Wiley, president or Margo Sherer, treasurer.

## Ione board members to be appointed

Umatilla-Morrow ESD will meet July 9 in Ione at the Legion Hall to appoint members to the five positions now open on the Ione School District Board. The meeting will be held at 6:30 p.m., and is open to the public. Following the ESD meeting, the newly appointed ISD Board will hold its first board meeting.

Six candidates applied for the board positions: Joe McElligott, Anne Morter, John Rietmann, Gregg Rietmann, Joel Peterson and Debbie Radie, who had recently been elected to the Morrow County School District Board, but had to resign as she no longer lived in the district. The MCSD Board will declare the position vacant at their July 14 meeting and will then advertise to fill the opening.

Also being advertised is a superintendent/principal position for the ISD. Applications are currently being accepted and the ISD Board will decide on the position at a later date. Until the position is filled, George Murdock, superintendent for the Umatilla-Morrow ESD, is acting superintendent.

The ISD consists of the original ISD, which consolidated approximately 50 years ago with the MCSD, and the portion of the Olex School District that consolidated with MCSD. Thus, the ISD will encompass both Morrow and Gilliam counties. Lexington, however, is included in the MCSD and students who have previously attended Ione Schools will have to be released by MCSD or begin attending Heppner schools.

According to Dr. Jack Crippen, superintendent for MCSD, approximately six or seven students have currently asked to be released from MCSD. These include students who will be seniors and juniors in the upcoming school year. Dr. Crippen stated that there is a policy that compelling reasons must be given for the students to be released to a non-district school. The MCSD Board should discuss these requests at their July 14 meeting. The Ione Self-Determination committee stated that if released, the students from Lexington were welcome to return.

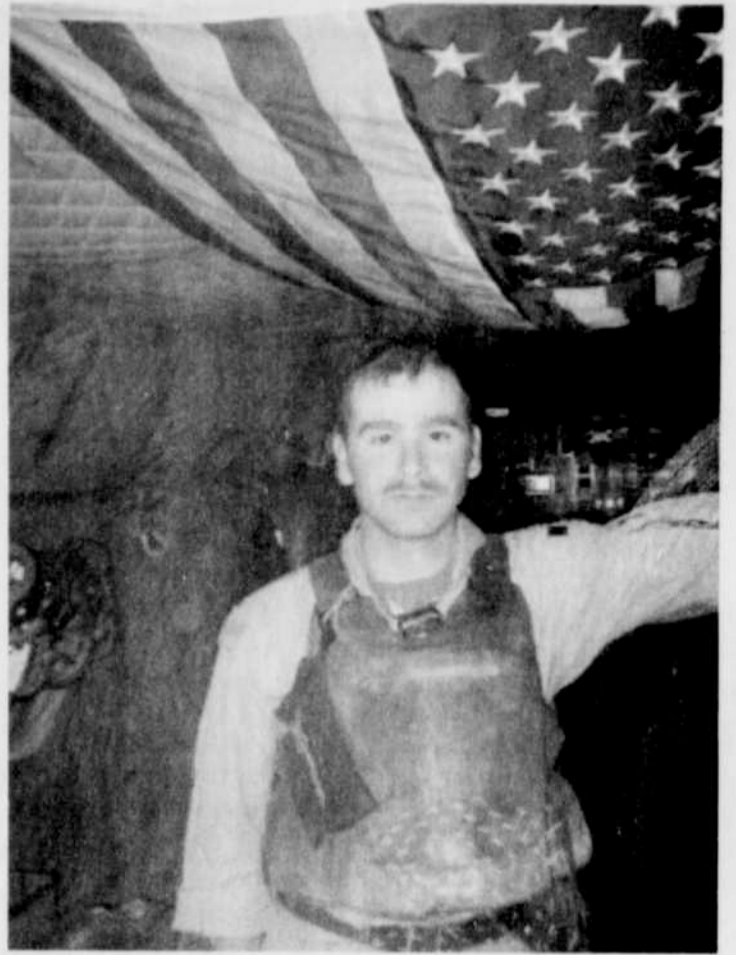
## OTAC show

The Oregon Trail Appaloosa Club is sponsoring their 13th Annual Open Breed Night Show, at the Umatilla County Fairgrounds in Hermiston beginning at 1 p.m., on Saturday, July 12.

There will be 42 classes ranging from halter, English, western pleasure, equitation, jumping, trail and games. This is an excellent preliminary for all 4-H members to practice their knowledge before their fair time. Judge this year is Vixen Barney, who is an experienced judge in 4-H and open horse classes. There will also be a concession stand.

Fees are \$6 a class or \$65 for the entire show. For more info: call 541-567-3076, or email primrose@coni.com.

## Local soldier returns home



Stacey Lauritsen while overseas

Stacey Lauritsen, son of Carl Lauritsen and Peggy Lauritsen, both of Heppner, has returned home after 16 months in Afghanistan and Iraq. Lauritsen is a Crew Chief in the U.S. Army and has served for about seven years.

He is currently home on leave and will be returning to Hunter Army Airfield, in Savannah, GA, where he is stationed. He will be heading to Korea in November where he will spend about a year.

Lauritsen said we need to remember to continue

supporting our out-of-country troops. He said that in Afghanistan there was not much mail as things were fairly low-key, but at the beginning of the war with Iraq letters and support was pouring in. Now that news coverage has tapered off, many of our troops still in these countries are noticing a real drop in letters and support from the general public.

One of the pictures Lauritsen brought back from Iraq is of himself wearing a Heppner football t-shirt sent to him by Susie Hisler of Heppner.

## Environmental assessment for Willow Creek Reservoir water releases complete

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers completed an environmental assessment for releasing water from Willow Creek Reservoir in Heppner, to fulfill temporary contracts for irrigation.

An informational meeting is scheduled at 7 p.m., July 9 at the Heppner Elks Lodge. The Corps, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation and Oregon Water Resource Department will have representatives present to discuss this year's temporary water releases and potential impacts. The potential of future long-term contract releases also will be discussed.

The Corps determined that the proposed action would not significantly affect the quality of the human environment and that an environmental impact statement is not required.

The Corps will begin releasing water in response to a request from the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation once their contracts are signed.

These temporary contracts for irrigation call for releases up to 3343 acre-feet of stored water to be applied to 1241 acres of land. Since Willow Creek Lake has filled to its normal full pool elevation of 2076.5 feet and the project was authorized for 3500 acre-feet of storage for future irrigation use, the Corps has determined that the full amount of storage is available.

The release of the stored water will cause an earlier than normal drawdown of the reservoir. Depending on irrigators' needs and weather

conditions, the Corps will release at a rate of up to 20cfs. The drawdown will potentially reduce the size of the reservoir from about 157 acres to about 90 acres by Sept. 30 or down to elevation 2047.7 feet.

The boat ramp provides access to the lake at elevation 2032; a handicapped accessible dock provide access to elevation 2063.5; and a floating dock provides access and boat tie-ups alongside the ramp to elevation 2047. Some reduction in recreation use can be expected.

During the proposed drawdown for irrigation, water quality will be monitored to try to meet the temperature standard while avoiding the release of low dissolved oxygen and high hydrogen sulfide water. If necessary, the regulating outlet, normally located 17 feet below the surface, can be moved closer to the surface to adjust water quality improving dissolved oxygen and reducing hydrogen sulfide and associated odor problems.

A final environmental impact statement on constructing Willow Creek Dam and Reservoir was issued in December 1979. Storage for irrigation was an authorized project purpose; however, impacts of irrigation withdrawal were not addressed because there was not an immediate need for irrigation water.

For more information on the environmental assessment visit the Corps

*continued page 2*

ALL NEWS AND ADVERTISEMENT DEADLINE:  
MONDAYS AT 5:00 P.M.



**HARVEST HOURS START**  
**MONDAY, JULY 7**  
**Monday - Friday 7 a.m.-6p.m.**  
**Saturday 7 a.m.-5 p.m.**

**Morrow County Grain Growers**

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