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Gazette
Times

VOL. 122 NO. 36 10 Pages Wednesday, September 3, 2003 Morrow County, Heppner, Oregon

Summer's ended, school begins



(L-R) Chandra Arbogast, of Heppner, with children Cara, pre-school, Cade, 1st grade and Kai, kindergarten head to the first day of school at Heppner Elementary School.

Tuesday, Sept. 2 marked the first day of the 2003-2004 school year for students in Morrow County.

According to Principal Wade Smith, principal of Heppner Schools, attendance for the first day of school was up for Heppner High and down a few for Heppner Elementary. HHS had 216 students Tuesday, compared to 192 last year. HES had 212, down seven from last year.

Football scores to be on Internet Friday night

Quarter by quarter scores of this Friday's Mustang football away game in Reedsport will be posted on the Internet Friday night.

The scores will be updated at the end of each quarter and can be viewed at Heppner's website at www.heppner.net. Click on the football score link on the Heppner home page.

The scores will be made available through the efforts of The Heppner Gazette-Times (which operates the Heppner web site) and Rick Pallus, Gazette-Times sports writer.

According to Principal Dick Allen, principal for Lone Schools, attendance was down by about 10 students this year. IES had 97 students and 47 students at IHS.

Deputy Rayburn to speak at WVSC meeting

Deputy Randy Rayburn, of the Morrow County Sheriff's Office, will speak at the Willow Valley Service Club's no-host luncheon at John's Place, Heppner, on Thursday, Sept. 11 from 12-1 p.m.

His topics include

The year is off to a good start, with many students already active in sports and other extra-curricular activities. Watch for the many sports games and other activities through out the year.

identity theft, local drug issues, and, if time, local burglar activities.

Deputy Rayburn is a native of Enterprise. He and his wife, Vicki, have two children. His hobbies include snowmobiling, hunting and firefighting.

Fair Board to hold public meeting on change in fair start date

On Sept. 8, 2003, there will be a public meeting at 6 p.m., to discuss starting the Fair on Monday next year, instead of Wednesday. The reason is traffic problems that develop over the weekend due to the fair and rodeo both happening at the same time.

During the week of fair, a questionnaire was available for people to fill out and offer suggestions,

however, very few were turned in.

If you want to speak your mind, please attend the meeting. For those who cannot attend the meeting, but still wish to be heard, comments can be mailed to: Morrow County Fair, P.O. Box 464, Heppner, OR 97836. There will be people from the Fair, OTRP and 4-H available to talk to at the meeting.

Hardman Oyster Dinner canceled

Hardman Community Center will not offer their annual Oyster/Salmon/Ham Dinner this year. The dinner is normally held the first day of hunting season.

The town of Hardman is suffering from a severe water shortage and several wells have gone dry. The shared well that supplied the center with water is empty. The center is shut down until further notice.

Plans are being considered for getting a new source of water but not in time for this year's dinner celebration. The center is looking forward to next year when they will continue their once-a-year tradition.

Funds awarded to Morrow County for housing rehabilitation

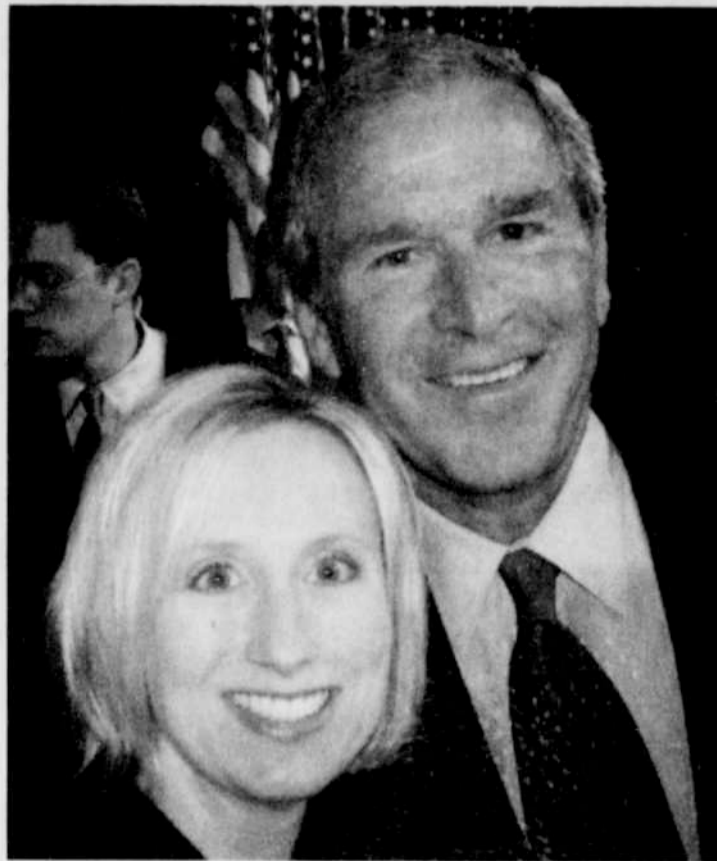
Oregon Housing and Community Services (OHCS) has announced that 11 cities and counties, including Morrow County, received funding for housing rehabilitation through its Oregon Community Development Block Grant Housing Rehabilitation Program. The awards totaled \$3,357,040.

The program funds were awarded to the Morrow County Housing Rehabilitation Program. "Our goal with this program is to develop viable, livable rural communities by providing decent housing and a suitable living environment for persons of low and moderate income," said Bob Repine, OHCS Director. "We want to expand the economic opportunities for these folks and also stimulate the economy for these local communities." The Housing Rehabilitation Program provides economic stimulus to communities by using local contractors and buying products from local vendors.

Cities and counties use Oregon Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds to establish Regional Housing Rehabilitation programs. The purpose of the program is to encourage the rehabilitation of existing housing in rural Oregon. Grants are made to cities and counties in rural Oregon to facilitate the renovation, accessibility and weatherization of existing housing within their community. CDBG loans or grants can only benefit persons with incomes at or below 80 percent of the area median income as adjusted for family size. A city or county must partner with at least two other municipal jurisdictions to form a regional housing rehabilitation program. Program funds are also leveraged in combination with other programs to provide the greatest possible impact in Oregon communities.

Interested homeowners in Morrow County may contact David VanDerlip at (541) 259-6840 to apply for rehabilitation funds.

Local wheat producers meet President Bush



Carrie Grieb, of Lexington, with President George W. Bush.

Several local wheat producers traveled to Portland on Aug. 21 to support President George W. Bush. A luncheon, held at the University of Portland's Chiles Center, was attended by over 450 people. Local participants included Irene Holtz, Betty Rietmann, Joe Rietmann, Jerry and Lisa Rietmann, Ken and Carri Grieb, Sherman Reese, and Tammy Dennee, Executive Director of the Oregon Wheat Growers League.

Luncheon attendees boarded busses at the Portland Rose Garden and were given a motorcycle police escort to the University. Upon arrival at the Chiles Center, the local group was pleased to find that their table was a mere 40 feet from where the President would be speaking. Jerry and Lisa Rietmann, as hosts of the table, attended a pre-luncheon reception where they were introduced to the President and had their picture taken with him. They presented President Bush with a gift basket, compliments of the Oregon Wheat Growers League.

Free volleyball clinic to be held

A free volleyball clinic and program for boys and girls in Heppner and Lone in the third through sixth grades will be held Sunday, Sept. 7. The clinic will be held at the Heppner Junior High Gym, at the elementary school. Third and fourth graders will meet from 1-3 p.m. and fifth and sixth graders will meet from 3-

5 p.m. Release forms will be at the clinic for parents to sign.

Participants will need gym shoes, kneepads and water bottles. Youth kneepads will be available for \$10.

Following the clinic, participants who wish to participate in the program will meet for practice on Friday mornings and games will be held on Sunday afternoons.

Symphony and singers to begin rehearsals

The Willow Creek Symphony and the Willow Creek Singers will hold their first fall rehearsals on Friday, Sept. 5 at the Heppner Elementary School music room. The symphony rehearsal will begin at 6 p.m. and the choir rehearsal will begin at 7:30 p.m.

The Willow Creek Symphony is comprised of children, youth and adults from throughout Morrow and Umatilla counties. It includes both beginners and accomplished musicians. The Willow Creek Singers includes

youth and adults. R. Lee Friese of Athena conducts the symphony and the singers. Assistant conductor of the symphony is Wendy Appleton of Heppner.

The symphony and singers are both affiliated with Inland Northwest Musicians, a regional organization based in Pendleton. New players and singers are welcome. Those wishing to join may call Myrna Van Cleave at 676-5448 or contact the Inland Northwest Musicians office at (541) 966-6649.

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