

Off The Wall

Merlyn Robinson

This year the Morrow County Road Department made major improvements to the road linking Lone to North Morrow County without trespassing on too much sacred territory of those Washington Ground Squirrels. Either those endangered creatures or their protectors lacked press coverage or the squirrels carefully refrained from crossing that road and having to be resuscitated.

Then there were press accolades concerning road department developments in the establishment of an off-road vehicle funland where people could crash and burn while having a roaring-good time. Now bike and four-wheeler riders can get their kicks while trying to stay upright over major humps. It's sure to generate business for local medical services. Meanwhile young skateboarders need a place where they too can fly through the air.

Back to roads, I can certainly understand the need for speed bumps in some places around public institutions. However the speed bumps that really shake up one's inner clockworks are the craters in some of our major county roads that are progressively getting worse. Perhaps there is a shortage of patching material brought on by increasing petroleum costs. Or maybe a road department employee melted down into one of these craters during those hot days and they haven't been able to get him unstuck.

Local rural residents are accustomed to slowing down for road hazards to reduce the wear on a vehicle's shock absorbers or to prevent passengers from head concussions when they are not wearing helmets. Most people here also take for granted that deer ultimately have the right of way even when these creatures wait until the last moment before bounding into the path of an oncoming vehicle.

But we could lose some unsuspecting motorist totally unfamiliar with the hazards of our roadways. Or if they recover, those motorists might sue for negligence. And the county couldn't claim the road conditions were an act of nature such as earthquakes or excessive moisture. For the last several years, even the spiders have needed to carry canteens.

"Hello," it's September already. So it might seem appropriate that if the county roads can't be repaired, perhaps there should be signs put up such as "Rough roads, travel at your own risk." Yes, I remember long ago when the county dirt roads were nearly impassable during winters, but isn't some of our tax money supposed to support road maintenance?

Another thing that has me puzzled is the size of the backpacks on some school children now that school is again underway. I question that the backpack contents are merely books and homework. If they are musically inclined perhaps they are carrying a bassoon. Or they might be carrying enough material to construct a "shelter in place" and also have enough provisions for a lengthy stay with their battery-powered entertainment center. That makes as much sense as watching our forests and natural resources burn for lack of proper management.

Lewis and Clark Discovery Boxes featured at 2003 Morrow County Heritage Day

Oregon National Guard and the Army Corps of Engineers will present their Lewis and Clark Discovery Boxes, Oct. 19, at a free family centered event from 1-4:30 p.m. at Irrigon Marina Park.

The Discovery Box has replicas of items that Lewis and Clark took along their expedition or encountered along the way. Some examples of items in the box consist of a uniform coat, a prickly pear, a stuffed prairie dog, a grizzly bear paw print, a journal, writing quills and powdered ink.

All Columbia Basin educators are especially invited to come for the presentation, which includes a video portion as well. Major Alisha Hamel shares that any school or adult organization can schedule the free presentation for their community.

Morrow County Lewis and Clark Heritage Day is pleased to host one of the first public Discovery Box presentations in the Columbia Basin. It is a source of pride for Morrow County residents that Lewis and Clark's Corps of Discovery traveled along

the edge of the Columbia River in what is now known as Morrow County. On Oct. 19, 1805, the Corps camped with Native Americans on an island near present day Irrigon. A journal entry for that date is one of the few describing interactions with the native people along the Mid-Columbia River.

Directions to Irrigon Marina Park: from Hwy 730, turn north on 10th St. (by A.C. Houghton school) toward the Columbia River. Continue north on 10th St. approx. ¼-mile to Marina Park entrance.

The 5th Annual Morrow County Lewis and Clark Heritage Day is funded by Morrow County Unified Recreation District and administered by North Morrow Community Foundation.

Births

Jadon Connor

Roth- a son, Jadon Connor, was born Friday, Sept. 5, 2003, at Albany General Hospital, Albany, OR, to Tim and LaRee Roth, of Albany. Jadon weighed 8 pounds and was 19 inches long. He is the first grandchild for grandparents, Glenn and Phyllis Anderson of Lexington.

St. Patrick's Senior Center news

On Friday, Sept. 12, at 8:15 a.m., the bus will leave the Main St. entrance of St. Pat's Senior Center for the Westward Ho Parade in Pendleton.

Hope, Valby and All Saints members are volunteers for Wednesday, Sept. 17. The menu for the day is Rueben sandwiches on rye bread with cheese and sauerkraut, potato salad, pears and cottage cheese and layered pudding.

Legal Assistance is one of the services offered by the Umatilla-Morrow Area Agency on Aging. The service includes legal advice, counseling, and representation by an attorney, among other more specific aids, up to one hour of time. This service has not been offered locally, though it has been available in Pendleton. We are pursuing the possibility of having information sessions and workshops once or periodically if an interest in, and questions arise, regarding seniors and the legal system. There will be opportunities to offer suggestions and make requests over the next few weeks as a plan of action is put together.

Announcements are made at the congregated meal; so listen, read, think, share, let your needs and opinions be known. Our desire is for useful information to be given in a helpful and clear manner. Keep tuned.

CSEPP survey in mail soon for Irrigon and Boardman residents

Morrow County Emergency Management's Chemical Stockpile Emergency Preparedness Program (CSEPP) will be sending all Irrigon and Boardman residences a Special Needs Survey to gather valuable emergency planning information. CSEPP officials are hopeful that residents in North Morrow County will respond to the survey to help identify special needs citizens who require extra assistance during emergency situations.

"We want to know who in our communities might need assistance with sheltering in place, evacuation or other protective measures necessary during a serious emergency situation," says Casey Beard, director of Morrow County Emergency Management. According to Beard, "This survey will identify which households have house-bound, hearing or sight impaired people, or occupants with other physical or mental challenges that would prevent them from helping themselves during an emergency."

Information gathered will help Morrow County develop emergency plans for those people, especially during a CSEPP incident.

Residents in Irrigon and Boardman should look for the survey the second week in September. Morrow County Emergency Management asks that residents return their survey as quickly as possible in the postage paid envelope provided. Those who have questions regarding the survey may call Morrow County Emergency Management at (541) 676-5161 or Maureen Roxbury, Public Information officer at (541) 481-3424. The Hispanic Community Liaison, Maria Duron, can help answer questions for Spanish-speaking community members at (541) 561-5630.

For questions about sheltering in place, assembling a shelter kit, choosing a shelter room or other ways to prepare for an emergency, contact Maureen Roxbury, Morrow County Public Information Officer at (541) 481-3424 or check out www.csepp.net.

St Patrick's Parish announces beginning of catechism

Catechism classes will resume Sunday, Sept. 14 at 9:30 in the parish hall. All children pre-k through eighth grade are invited to join the teachers, Kim Lindsay, Patti Pappas, Mark Miller, Mike Armato, Bill Kuhn, and Mary

Ann Elguezabal every Sunday from 9:30-10:45 a.m.

The high school classes will begin Wednesday, Sept. 17 at 7:30 p.m. Fr. Condon and Kathy Fullmer will be conducting the Successful Life Teen Program for all students that are freshmen through seniors.

Christian Men's Breakfast to resume

Christian men's breakfast will be held the third Sunday of each month from 8-9 p.m. Dates and locations are as follows:

Sunday, Sept. 21 at the Church of the Nazarene, 355 N. Gilmore, Heppner;
Sunday, Oct. 19 at the Christian Life Center, 535 W. Morgan, Heppner;
Sunday, Nov. 16 at

the Church of the Nazarene; Sunday, Dec. 21 at the Christian Life Center.

The purpose of the breakfasts is to "encourage and strengthen men in fulfilling their biblical roles as single men, husbands, fathers, grandfathers, uncles, neighbors and friends." All men are invited to attend and are also welcome to bring their children.

Court fines updated and kids return to school

As of Sept. 1, the Circuit Court of Oregon has issued an update of the base fines for misdemeanors and violations.

Following is the new base fine schedule: Class A misdemeanors- \$6000, Class B misdemeanors- \$3000 and Class C misdemeanors \$1500.

For individual violations there are four classes each with three categories. For Class A violations: no motor vehicle accident- \$423, with a motor vehicle accident involved \$495, and in a work/school/safety zone- \$674. For Class B violations (which includes those that are unclassified): no mva- \$239, with mva- \$275, and in work/school/safety zone- \$351. For Class C violations: no mva- \$143, with mva- \$167, and in work/school/safety zone- \$203. For Class D violations: no mva- \$96, with mva- \$107, and in work/school/safety zone- \$125. If the violation is for speed and is in a vehicle requiring a CDL \$44 is added to the base fine. Some of the most common

violations come with speed. In zones below 65 mph, the following classes occur: 1-10 mph over is Class D, 11-20 mph over is Class C, 21-30 mph over is Class B and 30 mph over is Class A. In the 65 mph zone, 66-75 mph is Class C, 76-85 mph is Class B, and over 85 mph is Class A.

With the announcement of the updated schedule, the Morrow County Sheriff's Office would also like to remind motorist that children have returned back to school and that all drivers should use caution. Motorists need to remember that children may not remember to watch for cars. The posted limit for a school area is 20 mph.

"Remember to watch for the kids and slow down," stated MCSO Senior Deputy Randy Rayburn.

School pictures on Monday

Heppner Schools will be having school pictures taken Monday, Sept. 15. Students are asked to remember to bring their envelopes.

Does your partner treat you roughly (grab, push, pinch, hit, call you names)?

Does your partner blame you for how they feel or act?

If so, you may want to attend Domestic Violence Services' Women's Support Group, Morrow County.

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English and Spanish

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David Sykes, Agent

Wedding Tables

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Wedding - Saturday, September 20

Kristine Bedortha & Mark Clements
Wedding - Saturday, October 4

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