

Chamber Chatter

By Claudia Hughes, Exec. Dir.

Finally, a patch of blue. It's been some years since we saw this many days of rain falling in Morrow County. Green is looking good and it hopefully means a good wheat crop and grass for all those four legged energy converters. We can use more of the same with some sunshine thrown in to energize us and to make Memorial weekend pleasant at the cemeteries. Isn't it wonderful that cemeteries are in such beautiful locations? Visitors from Eugene and Medford were in the Chamber office this week trying to locate a family cemetery of the 1800s. It's a great weekend to remember our history and pass it along.

"Our" Heritage Plaza dedication will be this Friday, May 28 at 11 a.m., with coffee and punch served to guests. Come see this joint effort of many, many volunteers and city employees, which continues to enhance Heppner as a great place to live, visit and do business. Remember when the area was a fenced in weed patch, waiting for someone to care? Remember when it was no use to anyone and impossible to building anything on that spot? It took many meetings, letters, applications, labor hours and persistence by our mayor, city manager and city council to change that. "Build it and they will come." Please join the community in the dedication of this plaza where our veterans are honored, mothers can push strollers, people can enjoy walking and visitors can view antique machinery depicting the history and heritage of Heppner and Morrow County. The possibilities are endless.

Be sure to take your guests to the St. Patrick's Senior Center for dinner at 12:30 p.m. on Sunday, May 30. Count on great food and meeting new and old faces from near and far.

Looking ahead: Celebrate Historic Heppner is scheduled for July 30, 31 and Aug. 1. The weekend will include a sidewalk sale, BBQ and Pie Auction, "street dance" to kick off the Morrow County Fair and Oregon Trail Pro-Rodeo, all on Friday; Dinner at the Cemetery on Saturday; and the annual Quilt Show on Sunday. What a good time to invite friends and relatives to Heppner. What a great way to save on gas and enjoy what's right under our nose.

Thought for the Week: "There is the positive side and the negative side, and at every moment I decide." - William James.

Heppner students participate in Math Contest

Heppner students in grades 4 through 8 competed against other Morrow County School District students on April 15 in the Math Contest hosted at A.C. Houghton Elementary in Irrigon. Many local students placed in the event.

4th grade students placing were: 4th place- Zach Hintz and Shane Smith; 5th place- Zach Yocom; 6th- Karlie Crumbliss; 7th- Justin Pranger; and 9th- Trent Cannon.

5th grade students: 2nd- Joe Armato; 4th- Sarah Kendrick; 5th- Ian Murray; 6th- Eric Chick and Justin Gutierrez; and 7th- Donald Matthews.

6th grade students: 1st- Lane Wright; 2nd- Ashley Wolff; 5th- Curtis Harper and Colter Raver; 7th- Emily Thompson and 8th- Kyle Tayloe.

Full results for 7th and 8th grade placements were not available at time of publishing. Known placement includes:

7th grade student: 1st-

Jordan Shepherd.

8th grade student: 1st-

Sean Murray.

Morrow SWCD to hold regular meeting

The Morrow Soil and Water Conservation District and Weed Advisory Board will hold their regular meeting on June 1 at 5 p.m., at the Pettyjohn Office Building in Heppner.

The meeting agenda items and discussion items include: Manager report and agency reports. There is prospect of an executive session according to ORS 192.640(2).

The meeting is open to the public.

Births

Karla Noemi Afanador-Abad - a daughter, Karla Noemi, was born May 10, 2004, at Good Shepherd Medical Center in Hermiston, to Mercedes Abad and Roberto Afanador of Boardman.

Weed Management Area hires new coordinator

The Lower Willow Creek Weed Management Area has hired Erica Uramkin as the new Coordinator. Uramkin recently relocated from South Carolina to accept the position and is looking forward to starting on the project. She had been working for the US Forest Service as a Research Biologist.

Noxious weeds are posing a threat to the native vegetation and grasslands in the area. The WMA was formed last fall in order to help local land owners and managers control weed problems on their lands. It encompasses roughly 200,000 acres in northern Gilliam and Morrow counties, and is being funded by a National Fish and Wildlife Foundation

grant that was obtained by The Nature Conservancy. The idea behind the WMA is to map out the problem areas and work with everyone cooperatively to contain the weeds.

Having a WMA as part of the local communities is a great opportunity. Combined efforts, like these, are generally more successful in competing for grant money and have proven to be a greater force in dealing with noxious weed problems. Another beneficial part of the WMA will be future workshops or newsletters intended on keeping the public informed.

Contact Erika Uramkin at (541) 422-7450 or uramkine@hotmail.com for questions about the WMA.

May 2003 seat belt blitz

The time has come again for us to address the issue of seat belt usage. Beginning on May 24, the state of Oregon will be involved in a seat belt blitz. This is to hopefully increase the seat belt usage rate in the state, which is currently at 91 percent.

Oregon is ranked in the top four for seat belt usage. This is in no small part due to the Three Flags seat belt blitzes.

On a more personal note, a survey of Morrow County was done on May 14 and we are currently at 66 percent, which is well below the state average.

On May 24 a seat belt blitz will begin and go

Mustangs beat Huskies to win district title

By Rick Paullus

A nine-run fifth inning, all with two outs, carried the Heppner Mustangs to a 12-1 five-inning win over the Sherman County Huskies to win the Columbia Basin Conference title on Saturday, May 22 in The Dalles. The win gives the Mustangs the number one seed into the US Bank/Les Schwab Class 2A State Tournament and a home game on Wednesday, May 26 against the number two team out of the Northwest League.

The Mustangs (22-2-1) took an early 1-0 lead in the top of the first when Chuy Elguezabal led off with a single, went to second on a Jode Coil sacrifice bunt, went to third when Josh Gutierrez reached on an error and scored on a Kiel Nairns single.

The Huskies tied in the bottom of the second on a homerun, but the Mustangs came back to take the lead for good in the third when Coil doubled, Nairns reached on an error, Luke Murray was hit by a pitch and Billy Gates scored two with a single to make it 3-1.

The Mustangs broke the game open in the fifth when Murray singled and with two out, Kyler Lovgren hit a homerun to left field.

through June 6. Local law enforcement will be working regular and overtime shifts doing seat belt enforcement.

On another note, it is worth mentioning that during our local survey, a number of people were observed wearing the seat belt under their arm. The public needs to be aware that by statute the seat belt must be worn over the shoulder and not placed under the arm.

If you have any questions regarding the safety blitz, you can contact the Morrow County Sheriff's Department at 676-5317. Please drive safely and buckle up.

Nick Christman then beat out an infield single, Cody Walton was hit by a pitch, Elguezabal had a RBI single, Coil walked, Walton came home on a wild pitch, Quinn Peck walked, Nairns scored two more with a single, Murray reached on an error to score one and Gates had a two RBI single to make it 12-1.

The Huskies went in order in the bottom half and the game ended because of the ten-run rule.

Elguezabal went the distance to pick up the win giving up two hits, one walk and one hit batter, while striking out seven.

Coil went two for two with a double, triple and scored twice. Nairns went two for three with three RBI. Gates went two for four with four RBI. Elguezabal went two for four with two runs and scored. Lovgren had a homerun and two RBI and Murray scored twice.

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Sherman County 010 00-1 2 3

Chuy Elguezabal and Jode Coil; Chad King, Wallace (5) and Kaseberg. W- Elguezabal (10-1). L- King. 2B- Coil (H); Wallace (SC). 3B- Coil (H). HR- Kyler Lovgren (H); King (SC).

Results of the Columbia Plateau Stage Race 2004

This year's edition of the Columbia Plateau Stage Race saw record attendance during this tenth year of the event. We had riders come from a wide area again this year, with riders from Oregon, Washington, British Columbia, Utah, Idaho, Montana, California, Alberta, Ontario (Canada), Saskatchewan, Massachusetts and one rider from Yukon Territories. Most of the riders are members of teams. The members of each team work together for the benefit of their team members.

The Columbia Plateau has become a popular event for the riders due to the unique nature of the event- the three point-to-point road stages and the support of the local communities. The race consists of four 'stages,' with the overall winner being determined by the lowest time for completing all of the stages. Each stage is an individual race. The complete event consists of three road races and one time trial. In the road races all riders in each group start together, but in the time trial the riders are started at 30-second intervals and only race against the clock.

The race started in Heppner and first stage, on Friday, May 7, of 76 miles, took the riders to Ione, via Hwy 74 (east), up Franklin Grade, Butter Creek Road, Baseline Road and on into Ione. On Saturday morning, the riders rode the time trial, two miles up Ella Road, from Ione. On Saturday afternoon, stage 3 took the riders from Ione to Fossil, via Hwy 74, Rhea Creek Road, Hwy 206 and then Hwy 19 to Fossil, a distance of about 75 miles. On Sunday morning, that final stage, of 85 miles, took the riders from Fossil back to Heppner, via Hwy 19 (through Service Creek and Spray), Hwy 207 (over the big hill between Spray and Hardman) and on into Heppner. The finish was on the hill leading up to the Willow Creek reservoir, just south of town.

On the first stage, a group of five riders managed to get away from the main field just a few miles out of Heppner. One of the riders in the lead group eventually dropped back to the main group, but although the main group put in a major effort to catch the leaders, the four leaders managed to stay ahead of the main field. Over the course of this stage, the main field also broke up into three main groups. The winner of stage one was British Columbia rider Cam Evans (Symmetrics).

Saturday morning's time trial saw Rusty Beall (Ridge Mortgage Services), from Clarkston, WA, put in the best time for the day. In the afternoon stage, the main field again broke into several smaller groups, but the front group managed to stay intact. Stage 3 saw Cam Evans come across the line first again.

At this point of the race, Cam Evans was leading in General Classification (GC for short), which is the combined of times for the three stages so far. There is also a points competition, where riders earn points for city limit signs during each stage as well as the stage finishes. There was one mid-

race sprint on stage 1 (Vinson) and two on stage 3 (Condon and Mayville). Cam Evans was also the points leader, having won the first two road stages and also scoring points on all three mid-race sprints.

On the final stage, a group of about eight riders got away from the main group early on and built up a lead of about 9 minutes by the turn onto Hwy 207, just east of Spray. During the big climb out of Spray, this lead group was whittled down to three riders. Cam Evans and his teammates (Symmetrics), were in the group behind the three leaders and gave chase for the remainder of the stage, but failed to catch the three leaders.

One interesting development, during stage 4, was that two of the riders in the lead group accumulated quite a few points during this stage, as there are four mid-race sprints: Service Creek, Spray, Hardman and Ruggs, and one of them, Craig Wilcox (Ridge Mortgage Services), managed to overtake Cam Evans in the points competition.

As well as the GC (overall time) and points competitions, there was also a team competition, which was won by the Symmetrics, from British Columbia.

In addition to the main race, the Pro/1/2 field covered above, there were also races for four other groups of riders: Category 3 men, Category 4 men, Masters men (age 40 or more) and Women. The top riders in each group are listed below.

Pro/1/2 (GC): Cam Evans, BC, Symmetrics; Omer Kem, OR, Broadmark Capital; Solomon Woras, OR, Team Rubicon; Craig Wilcox, OR, Ridge Mortgage Services; and Rusty Beall, WA, Ridge Mortgage Services.

Pro/1/2 (Points): Craig Wilcox; Cam Evans; Anton Jackson, WA, Broadmark Capital; Will Routley, BC, Symmetrics; and Omer Kem.

Pro/1/2 (Team): Symmetrics, Broadmark Capital and Hutch's.

Category 3 Men (GC): Galen Erickson, WA, Byrne Specialty Gas; Michael Henry, WA, Recycled Cycles; Andrew Fischer, MT, Whitman College; Jason Renkens, OR, PSU; and Mark Stadick, WA, Vision Tech.

Category 4 Men (GC): Sloane Anderson, WA, Vision/4-Corners; Mark Davies, WA; Yanni Papadopoulos, WA, The Valley Athletic Club / Specialized; Keith Milne, BC, Schwalbe; and Duncan Steele, BC, Devo/Powerbar/Ryders.

Masters Men 40+ (GC): Clint Chase, WA, Byrne Specialty Gas; Mark King, OR, Lowes Properties; Dave Zimelman, WA, Excel Sports Boulder; John Tolkamp, BC, Escape Velocity; and Randall Smith, WA, Byrne Specialty Gas.

Women (GC): Suz Weldon, WA, Wines of Washington/King 5 TV; Christine Fletcher, BC, Team BC/Dizzy Chicks; Marcia Jensen, WA, Byrne Specialty Gas; Pamela Egger, BC, Escape Velocity; and Allison Beall, WA, Wells Fargo/Ragatz.

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