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HEPPNER

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Gazette
Times

VOL. 123 NO. 32 8 Pages Wednesday, August 11, 2004 Morrow County, Heppner, Oregon

Help celebrate Smokey's 60th birthday

Smokey the Bear will be celebrating his 60th birthday and you can join him on Wednesday, Aug. 18 from 10 a.m.-12 p.m. at the Forest Service Building in Heppner.

Cake will be served to attendees and Smokey will be there to take pictures with anyone who brings their camera. There will also be a fire engine at the event.

The story behind the Smokey the Bear campaign goes all the way back to the 1950s, when a bear cub found himself in a forest surrounded by flames. To escape the fire burning around him, he climbed up in a tree. By the time the fire fighters found the scared and hungry cub, the forest was charred and blackened.

The firefighters, park forest rangers and the warden were so moved by the bravery of this little cub that they named him

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Princess Emily Bergstrom

Emily Bergstrom, 16, once again has joined the Morrow County Fair and Rodeo, last year as a pennant bearer and this year as a princess.

Bergstrom tried out for the Court because she thought that being on the Court sounded like fun and she wanted to be able to represent Morrow County and tell people what happens at the Fair and Rodeo. She also has an aunt that was queen in 1936 and other relatives that have been on the Court, which brought about some interest.

Helping Bergstrom represent Morrow County is her 10-year-old quarter horse Morgan mare, Penny.

For the past seven years, Bergstrom has been active in 4-H with cooking, sewing and horse. This year, besides her performing her duties as princess, she will be showing her horse in the horse show, as well as modeling for the sewing 4-H Club. She has also taught

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Smokey the Bear will celebrate birthday August 18

Heppner Schools to hold new student registration

Heppner Schools will be holding new student registration on Thursday, Aug. 12. Heppner

Elementary registration will be held from 8-10 a.m. Heppner Jr/Sr High School registration will be held from 10 a.m.-12 noon.

Special Fair & Rodeo section in this week's paper

The Morrow County Fair and Oregon Trail Pro Rodeo starts next week, and included in this week's paper is a 16 page special section with articles and advertisements about the events.



Princess Emily Bergstrom with her horse Penny.

School board to receive \$349,000 from rec district; up \$41,000 over last year

The Morrow County School District approved an agreement with the Morrow County Unified Recreation District and accepted \$349,000 from MCURD to fund extracurricular activities for the 2004-05 school year. MCSD is receiving \$41,000 more than it received from MCURD the previous year, MCSD Deputy Clerk Rhonda Lorenz told the board at their regular meeting in Heppner Monday night.

Lorenz told the board to expect a reduced contribution from MCURD for the 2006-07 school year because of a drastic reduction in tax revenues that year, generally attributed to large tax contributors moving into the enterprise zone at the Port of Morrow. Lorenz said that MCURD is expected to spend down its cash carryover that year also.

Also at the meeting, the MCSD board authorized Superintendent Mark Burrows to spend an additional five percent for possible cost overruns on two district projects, if necessary, to save time in the bidding process. One of the projects, to repair roofs at Riverside High School, Heppner Elementary School, Heppner High School and A.C. Houghton Elementary School, is estimated around \$1.25 million. The other project, estimated around \$75,000, is to make changes to turn Columbia Middle School into a high school facility (Irrigon High School), so that it can open this fall.

Burrows said that the district will open bids on both projects this Thursday and will open bids for a new Riverside High School activities building on August 26. He also said that the project to renovate the district office is "moving right along."

In other business, the board:

-heard from Burrows that state reports indicate that there is "some good news and some things we need to work on" with respect to student test scores.

-was introduced to Daye Stone, the new half-time vice principal/half-time counselor to begin work this fall in Heppner. Stone has a certified library license and also coaches sports.

-learned that State Representative Greg Smith, R-Heppner, will be on hand at a MCSD Board workshop planned for August 26. The workshop will be held through V-tel at both Riverside High School and Heppner High School sites. MCSD Board Chair John Renfro said that Smith has indicated interest in the board's position on certain issues and the board intends to ask him for clarification on issues pertaining to charter schools.

-reappointed Marcia Kemp, former board member and former budget committee member, to budget committee position #2.

-adopted a resolution concerning employment of PERS retirees. The resolution states that a PERS retiree may be considered for re-employment by the district "where another candidate cannot be found." Those employees will be hired on a temporary, one-year contract and will be paid at Step 8 on the district salary schedule. "No special accommodations may be made in lieu of contributions that the district might otherwise have been obligated to make," said the new wording.

-accepted resignations as follows: Pat Sherrett, ACH/SBE and

Windy River Elementary School music teacher.

-approved employment for Krystin Miller, SBE first grade teacher.

-ratified the Morrow County Education Association coaches' salary schedule with payment as follows (depending on five steps):

-3-A schools: athletic directors ranging from \$3,412 to \$4136; head coaches from \$3,205 to \$4,032; JV coaches from \$2,481 to \$2,895; Head golf, tennis and wrestling from \$2,636 to \$3,205; Third assistants or C-team golf, tennis from \$1,654 to \$2,068.

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Walden makes Heppner visit



Greg Walden, (back) visits with local kids L-R Kile Wilson, 10, Kati Tayloe, 11, and Kyle Tayloe, 12, when he made a visit to Heppner last Tuesday. Also with Walden was Sandy Baruah, Chief of Staff of the U.S. Department of Commerce from Washington DC (right).

U.S. Rep. Greg Walden, R-Ore., attended the Heppner Chamber of Commerce luncheon and said one of most important issues in our district is the healthy forest initiative that would allow harvesting the forest of dead and dying trees. He said he also support setting aside \$500 million to fight forest fires. He applauded President

Bush's tax cuts as helpful to small businesses. He said the tax cuts are creating jobs and allowing larger corporations to issue more dividends. "The government doesn't create wealth, you create wealth," Walden told the chamber.

Before the meeting Walden took a walking tour of Heppner including the new Heritage Plaza.

Hunters take cougar near Troy



Dick Paris, of Heppner, with a small female cougar shot by his son-in-law Farron Reynolds, of Milton-Freewater at Bartlett Bench near Troy on Sunday, Aug. 1. While on their way to go bear hunting, Paris and Reynolds came upon the cougar stalking a deer. Paris plans on making a rug out of the hide for his living room.



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