Fair activities are underway

Morrow County Fair activities are underway. (L-R): Sean Barron, Curtis Harper, Mary Rietmann and Rebecca Jepsen compete in the Measuring Contest on Aug. 5. Champion was awarded to Rebecca Jepsen and Reserve Champion was awarded to Mary Rietmann.

Experience the history in Heppner

Morrow County's Fair and Oregon Trail Pro Rodeo kicks off Aug. 18-22 with the western parade scheduled for Saturday, Aug. 21 at 10 a.m.

Horses, history and humor will file down the street in Heppner, led by the Color Guard, the Court: Queen Lexi Kennedy and Princess Jessica Wainwright and Emily Bergstrom and Grand Marshall Rod Murray.

All are invited to participate and "Experience the History" during the parade and the Morrow County Fair and the 82nd Oregon Trail Pro Rodeo.

Parade entries are still being accepted and a form may be obtained by calling the Heppner Chamber at 676-5536 or parade chair Cliff Green at Heppner Hardware at 676-9961. "We'll see you in Heppner next week," said Green.

Morrow SWCD now accepting grant applications

The Umatilla-Walla Walla-Willow Creek OWEB Small Grant Team, consisting of members from the Morrow SWCD, Umatilla County SWCD, Umatilla Basin Watershed Council, Walla Walla Watershed Council and CTUIR (Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation), announces the availability of up to $10,000 small grants to private landowners and others eligible for regular OWEB (Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board) grants.

The grants are for the purposes of enhancing watershed conditions to improve water quality and quantity while meeting the needs of all beneficial uses; flood plain and upland improvement and enhancement; and reducing erosion, sedimentation and nutrients. Projects will also be considered dealing with invasive plants and noxious weeds. Funding is provided through OWEB.

Interested landowners should contact a team member in their area for an application or further information. The contact for Morrow County is Morrow SWCD at 676-5452, ext. 109. A two-week signup for small grants will be held Aug. 16-27 with funding decisions being made in September.

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CBEC announces open directors' positions

Columbia Basin Electric Cooperative is accepting nominations for four directors' positions. These positions are for three year terms and are in the following zones:

Zone #2- That territory served, or to be served, by the Cooperative lying west of the Morrow-Gilliam County line and south of the Township line dividing Townships 3 South and 4 South.

Zone #5- That territory served, or to be served, by the Cooperative lying south of the Township line dividing Townships 2 South and 3 South and east of the Morrow-Gilliam County line and in Wheeler County that area east of the range line between Range 24 East and 25 East.

Zone #6- That territory served, or to be served, by the Cooperative within the incorporated city limits of Condon.

Zone #8- That territory served, or to be served, by the Cooperative within the incorporated city limits of Heppner.

The members of the nominating committee are:

Zone #2: Paul O'Dell, Lonerock, (541) 384-3008; Zone #5: Lyndale Qualls, Heppner, (541) 676-9705; Zone #6: Cassandra Flatt, Condon, (541) 384-2621; and Zone #8: Cliff Green, Heppner, (541) 676-9961.

The nominating committee will accept nominations up to and including the last day of August 2004.

Nominees must be members of Columbia Basin Electric Cooperative, Inc. and they must reside in and receive electrical service in, the Zone in which they will be running.

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Public invited to comment on national proposed OHV rule

On July 7, 2004, the U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service released its proposal for managing motorized off-highway vehicle (OHV) use in national forests and grasslands, which will enhance recreational opportunities for the public and better protect the environment by requiring units to establish a designated system of roads, trails and areas.

The proposed rule represents a nationally consistent approach to travel management by requiring each forest and grassland to designate a system of roads, trails and areas slated for motor vehicle use.

Locally, the Umatilla National Forest anticipates little change to their Access and Travel Management (ATM) Plans implemented on the Forest in the early 1990s. "The proposed rule is very similar to our current ATM program, that is to say that cross country motorized travel will continue to be restricted or prohibited and that vehicles must stay on designated roads and trails," said Rich Weaver, Forest Road Manager. "It will provide a clear identification of riding opportunities for the variety of Off-Highway vehicles available today."

The biggest change for the Umatilla National Forest, under the proposed rule, would be a shift from the current management of roads and trails as "open unless closed" to managing as "closed unless open." For the forest user, this would mean new signing at road and trail entry points. "This could be a good thing, said Weaver, adding, "People are less likely to vandalize a "Road Open" sign than a "Road Closed" sign and the public as well as our own employees deserve clear and consistent information."

Currently, there are several OHV opportunities on the Umatilla National Forest. The West-End Riding Area, located 35 miles south of Heppner, provides over 91,000 acres open to Class I and III ATV's. This cross-country area is open year round to off-highway vehicle travel and offers numerous unused or low standard roads. The Winom/Frazier Off-Highway Vehicle Complex, located 12 miles east of Ukiah, gives riders access to more than 140 miles of challenging trails and scenic views. There are additional designated roads and trails, such as the Walla Walla River Trail, North Fork Asotin Creek Trail and Meadow Creek Trail that are open to a variety of OHV travel.

The proposed rule would allow national forests to denote use of routes and areas by vehicle type and, if appropriate, by time of year. Once the designation process is complete, OHV use would be confined to designated routes and areas, and OHV use off these routes (cross-country travel) would be prohibited. Snowmobile use would continue to be managed as it is currently—allowed, restricted or prohibited on roads and trails and in areas on National Forest System lands.

The rule text submitted to the Office of the Federal Register is available on http://www.fs.fed.us/. The 60-day public comment period on the proposed rule will end Sept. 13, 2004. Comments on the proposed rule will be analyzed and addressed in developing the final rule and may be sent by the following methods: Visit: www.regulations.gov; E-mail: trvman@fs.fed.us; Mail: Proposed Rule for Designated Routes and Areas for Motor Vehicle Use, c/o Content Analysis Team, P.O. Box 221150, Salt Lake City, Utah 84122-1150; or Fax: (801) 517-1014

The proposed rule responds directly to one of Forest Service Chief Dale Bosworth's four threats to National Forests. "OHVs are a great way to experience the national forests, but because their popularity has increased in recent years, we need an approach that will sustain natural resource values through more effective management of motor vehicle use. The benefits of improving OHV use include enhanced protection of habitat and aquatic, soil, air and cultural resources," said Forest Service Chief Dale Bosworth. "The Forest Service wants to improve its management by balancing the public's enjoyment of using OHVs with ensuring the best possible care of the land."

For more information on current OHV policies on the Umatilla National Forest, please contact the Supervisor's Office at (541) 278-3716 or visit the Forest website at www.fs.fed.us/r6/uma/recreation.

ODOT schedules Lexington public information meeting

A public information meeting will be held on Aug. 17 at 7 p.m. at the Lexington Town Hall, located at 150 W. Main in Lexington.

The meeting is being held to discuss proposed 2005 roadway improvements to State Highway 52 in Lexington. The improvements are scheduled from A Street to F Street and include pavement overlay and limited bicycle-pedestrian facilities. Improvements to the intersection of Highway 52 and Highway 207 in Lexington are also being considered.

Anderson Perry and Associates, Inc., a consulting engineering firm, will be present to outline proposed improvements, answer questions and obtain public suggestions and input on the proposed roadway improvements. Anderson Perry and Associates, Inc., has been contracted by ODOT to design the roadway improvements in Lexington.

Residents and business owners in Lexington and others interested in the proposed project are encouraged to attend. For more information about this meeting, please contact Howard Perry at (541) 963-8309.

Wedding Tables
San Juanita Elguezabal & Jaime Moreno
Wedding - Saturday, September 18th
Jill Barber & Jonathan Greenup
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ABOUT THE HEPPNER GAZETTE-TIMES NEWSPAPER

News articles

The Heppner Gazette welcomes news articles that are of interest to the communities of Ione, Lexington, Heppner and the surrounding area.

You can submit your article through mail, fax, email or bring it to our office (see below under how to contact us).

There is no charge for news articles, but if the article is a moneymaking activity for a person or business other than a non-profit or community service organization, it must run as a paid advertisement.

Advertisements

There are several different types of advertisements in the Heppner Gazette.

Display ads are the boxed ads that run throughout the newspaper and are charged for by the amount of space. The larger the ad the more it cost. Photos and graphics may be used in display ads.

Classified, or want ads, run in the section near the back of the newspaper and are charged by the number of words in the ad.

Business directory ads are boxed ads at a discounted rate. You must agree to run the ad unchanged (except for minor corrections) for a minimum of three months.

Legal notices. The Gazette is the legal newspaper for various public entities and is able to satisfy publishing requirements for Morrow County.

Letters to the Editor

Letters to the Editor must be signed. The Gazette-Times will not publish unsigned letters. Please include your address and phone number on all letters for use by the G-T. The G-T reserves the right to edit. The G-T is not responsible for accuracy of statements made in letters. (Any letters expressing thanks will be placed in the classifieds under "Card of Thanks" at a cost of $7)

Letters in poor taste or libelous will not be published.

Photos

The Gazette welcomes photos to run with news articles. We accept either black and white or color photos and they can be returned. We also accept digital photos. Email or bring the digitals to the office on a disk. We also accept digital camera "chips" to download the photos from your camera. Please contact us if you are unsure how to submit your photo.

Hours & Deadlines

Open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. Advertisement and news article deadline is 5 p.m. Monday for that week's paper. The newspaper publishes on Wednesday of each week.

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