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VOL. 124 NO. 3 10 Pages Wednesday, January 19, 2005 Morrow County, Heppner, Oregon

Ione swears in new mayor and councilmen



Mark Bruno (left) sworn in as new Ione City mayor by city recorder Melissa Ross.

On Monday night, Jan. 17, the City of Ione swore in its new mayor and four councilmen, with Melissa Ross doing the honors. Mark Bruno was elected as mayor and David Heagy, Wayne Hams and Craig Holland were elected as City councilmen. The mayoral position holds a two-year term and the council positions are four-year terms.

With Bruno taking the office of mayor, his council position was vacated. The new board discussed and nominated

outgoing mayor Robert Ball for council position #4. Ball accepted the position and was sworn in later in the meeting.

Health Dept. to hold flu shot clinic

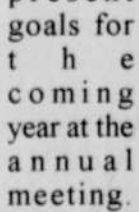
The Morrow County Health Department will be holding a flu shot clinic on Thursday, Jan. 20 at their office located at 120 S. Main Street, Heppner. The clinic is open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. All flu vaccination restrictions have been lifted.

Gilliam County Judge Laura Pryor to speak at WCVEDG annual meeting Jan. 27

The Willow Creek Valley Economic Development Group will hold its annual meeting Thursday, Jan. 27 at John's Other Place in Heppner. The meeting will be in conjunction with the weekly Heppner Chamber of Commerce meeting and will be a no-host luncheon starting at 11:30 a.m.

Guest speaker for the meeting will be Gilliam County Court Judge Laura Pryor. Pryor is the founder and Chairman of the Eastern Oregon Alliance, a coalition to improve Eastern Oregon's

voice in the state legislature. WCVEDG will also elect 2005 officers and present goals for the coming year at the annual meeting.



Laura Pryor

invited to attend, especially those who are interested in joining or participating in economic development in the Willow Creek Valley," said president David Sykes.



Wayne Hams sworn in to Ione City Council position #2.



David Heagy sworn in to Ione City Council position #1.



Craig Holland sworn in to Ione City Council position #3.

Community members honored at Town and Country



Kyle Huddleston Karen Smith-Griffith Ed Baker Jim Swanson Judie Laughlin

Morrow County held its annual Town and Country banquet on Thursday, Jan. 13, in Heppner at the Elks Lodge. During the banquet, the Heppner Chamber honored six citizens and one business.

The Morrow County Fair and Oregon Trail Pro Rodeo Queen Jessica Wainwright and Princess Heather Yocom were also recognized at the banquet.

The citizens honored were: Jim Swanson-Man of the Year; Judie Laughlin-Woman of the Year; Karen Smith-Griffith-Citizen-Educator of the Year; Kyle Huddleston and Shanna Rietmann-Youth of the Year; and Ed Baker-Lifetime Achievement award. Pioneer Memorial Hospital/Morrow County Health District was honored as Business of the Year.

This year's Man of the Year award went to Jim Swanson of Ione and was presented by Jannie Allen. Allen said that Swanson is well respected by people of all ages, but especially by the toddlers and pre-schoolers in Ione who know him as the "nice cereal man." A trip to downtown Ione isn't complete without a stop at Wheatland Insurance for a handful of cereal, she said.

From St. William's Catholic Church to the Ione School Foundation and Booster Club, Swanson is involved in every committee, activity and event that takes place in Ione, said Allen. "If help is needed... he's there," she said. His giving doesn't stop at the city limits as Swanson has been involved with the Morrow County Fair Board, Soil and Water Conservation District, Recreation District, MCGG Board of Directors and scholarship committees. Again, the boundaries do not stop at the county line; he also works on the state and national level for the Wheat League.

Currently, Swanson coaches junior high and JV boys' basketball in Ione. He has also coached Little League in the past. He is knowledgeable about sports, but some of his best lessons are ones of sportsmanship and teamwork, said Allen.

In Swanson's office at Wheatland Insurance hangs a plaque that Allen thought best summarized his commitment to Ione and Morrow County, quoted from Abraham Lincoln, "I like a man that is proud of the place where he lives. I like a man that lives so that his place is proud of him."

This year's Woman of the Year award went to Judie Laughlin of Heppner and was presented by Cyde Estes. Laughlin moved to



Shanna Rietmann



Nicole Mahoney and Victor Vander Does accept the business of the year award on behalf of Morrow County Health District and Pioneer Memorial Hospital.

Heppner in the eighth grade from California and graduated from Heppner High School. She has been married for almost 42 years and has three children and three grandchildren.

Being active in her children's lives, she was a room mother for many years and she and her husband established and supported a swim team for several years. She also opened their home to two Japanese exchange students.

Laughlin has been active as a 4-H leader, 4-H judge and 4-H style show coordinator and as the fair superintendent. When she was no longer an active 4-H leader she still provided decorations to the 4-H annex and style show.

In continuing her effort to give to the community, Laughlin was a longtime Soroptimist, including serving as president of the organization. When the Soroptimists disbanded, she continued her service through Willow Valley Service Club. In 2004, she created a quilted wall hanging that was raffled to raise money for the Farm Foundation mural project. The raffle brought in \$500 for the project.

She is also active in her church, St. Patrick's Catholic, where she has provided the church bulletin for 15 years. She also provides decorations for the church's annual ham dinner. She creates banners for every kind of activity and supplied the cover for the church's 100th anniversary celebration.

For the Chamber, Laughlin has provided the design and the buttons for the annual St. Patrick's celebration for 16 years and has served on the committee for 20 years. She also shared her office space with the Chamber for many years and has been a "leprechaun" at the festivities.

She also uses her creative skills to promote and coordinate art programs in the community. She also created the buttons for the "Yes" for the hospital levy this last election year.

Laughlin's most recent venture has been to be a devoted volunteer for the Pioneer Memorial Hospice program. She provides the calligraphy for all the Hospice's thank you cards and gives of herself to those in need. Her favorite project today is the Adopt a Grandparent program.

This year's Citizen-Educator of the Year award went to Karen Smith-Griffith and was presented by Dick Allen. She grew up in Hood River and received her bachelor's degree from Oregon College of Education and her master's degree in special education from the University of Oregon.

Smith-Griffith began her teaching career as a classroom teacher in Spray where she met her husband, John Griffith. Later, she moved to Heppner with her husband and son, Aaron. That same summer a special education job came open to be shared between Heppner High School and Ione Schools. Having worked

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Morrow County Court Queen Jessica Wainwright and Princess Heather Yocom.

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