

Community collaborative workshop to be held

Round three of the Blue Mountains Community Collaborative Workshops begins in April. One of the workshops will be held in Heppner on April 21, from 6-9 p.m., at the St. Patrick's Senior Center.

This set of workshops will include review and discussion of the "final" vision that participants helped create in previous workshops; an overview of areas of concern that may need to be addressed in the Revised Forest Plans; and review and

discussion of management categories, inventory of areas with wilderness potential and wild and scenic river inventories.

For more information contact Tami Paulsen, Public Affairs Specialist, at (541) 523-1332 or Dave Schmitt, Team Leader, at (541) 523-1248. For up-to-date information about any changes to this schedule visit the forest plan revision website at www.fs.fed.us/r6/uma/blue_mtn_planrevision.

Justice Court report

The Justice Court for Heppner and Irrigon handled 181 cases in the month of February 2005. Of those cases handled, there were 159 traffic citations, two game citations, 11 misdemeanors, four civil claims and FEDS, one small claim and four DUII.

The court also: held 14 pre-trials; had 17 show cause orders; issued 26 warrants; ordered two suspensions, received two DUII Diversions; and had 20 warrants returned from the sheriff's office.

In hearings, the court scheduled eight minor hearings (traffic) and three jury trials, while actually holding seven minor hearings.

The activities brought in \$30,855.88, with \$7131.88 turned over to the state, \$23,544 turned over to

the county and \$180 turned over in restitution.

Cases received recently at the Heppner court were:

Lorren Joseph Montgomery, 33, Pendleton, Truck Speeding, 65 mph in a 55 mph zone, fine \$140.

Brandi Lynn Orem, 30, Ione, Violation of the Basic Rule, 75 mph in a 55 mph zone, fine \$108.

Richard Kaloke, 31, Bend, Driving while Suspended-misdemeanor, fine \$483, plus 180 suspended days in jail and one year probation.

Kara Majella Allen, 21, McMinnville, Violation of the Speed Limit, 82 mph in a 55 mph zone, fine \$239.

Dewey Calvin Harvey, 52, Heppner, Breathalyzer Refusal, fine \$598.

DA's report

Daniel M. Stinchfield was convicted of Wildlife Violation, an Unclassified Misdemeanor. He was sentenced to 60 suspended days in jail, 24 months bench probation and payment of \$376 in fines and fees.

Heather Michelle Juarez admitted to violation of probation allegations for Possession of a Controlled Substance. She was sentenced to 180 days in jail and 12 months probation.

Michael Stookey pled no contest to Aiding in a Game Violation, an

Unclassified Misdemeanor. He was sentenced to 60 suspended days in jail, 24 months bench probation and \$250 in fines and fees.

Danny Joe Fischer was convicted of two counts of False Application for Commercial Fish and Game License, an Unclassified Misdemeanor. Fischer's hunting license was suspended for two years and he was sentenced to 180 suspended days in jail, 24 months bench probation and payment of \$1002 in fines and fees.

Stars and fossils program offered

Join a John Day Fossil Beds National Monument ranger for a tour of prehistoric life and prehistoric lights of the night sky. The program begins at 7 p.m., Friday, April 1 and ends at 9 a.m. It takes place at the monument's Thomas Condon Visitor Center, two miles north of the intersection of State Highway 19 and 26, along Highway 19.

Participants should bring binoculars and a warm blanket is also recommended. Dress for a chilly evening outdoors. A telescope will be used during the program. Expect to see a few satellites, star clusters and a galaxy or two.

Lexington to hold city-wide cleanup

No reservations are needed and the program is free. In case of severe cloud cover, then program will be postponed. For further information call John Fiedor at (541) 987-2333.

Lexington to hold city-wide cleanup

Lexington will be holding a city-wide cleanup on April 2-11.

A 39-yard dumpster, located on Arcade Street, will be available for yard debris, appliances and other debris. Hazardous waste, wet paint and household trash may not be dumped.

Residents may also bring up to four tires per family to Les Schwab Tires in Heppner for disposal.

Her seat at the table

Central Point caterer brings a downtown perspective to role as City Council member



Sandi Richardson, owner of Sandi's Soups and Catering and the newest member of the Central Point City Council, chats with a customer at her downtown restaurant. Mail Tribune/Jim Craven

[Editor's Note: Sandi Richardson is the daughter of Louis and Betty Carlson of Heppner.]

Reprinted from the Mail Tribune, March 23, 2005
By Buffy Pollock
For the Mail Tribune

Downtown business owner Sandi Richardson expects her new role as a City Council member will require a special recipe for knowing when to talk, when to listen and when to simply bring a steaming pot of coffee to the table.

Owner of Sandi's Soups and Catering, Richardson considers herself a people person who has always been involved in her community, whether she's serving lunch, brainstorming with downtown merchants over parking problems or sitting in on a council meeting.

In January, the outspoken 50-something caterer helped organize downtown business owners when concerns arose over a \$1.6 million reconstruction of the intersection of Highway 99 and Pine Street.

The resignation of long-term council member Donna Higginbotham weeks later left a vacancy on the council that Richardson was asked to fill.

Richardson said serving on the council would help her encourage downtown merchants, city officials and residents to come together in planning for their growing city's existing and future needs.

"I told everybody up front that I was a member of the downtown and I would always be a member of the downtown, but that I would really work at keeping an open mind," she said.

Most recently, several dozen downtown merchants provided suggestions for improving the intersection at Highway 99 and Pine Street but are awaiting feedback from the council.

Finding herself on both sides of the fence is a balancing act, Richardson said, but the lone downtown merchant on the six-member council has years of experience from which to draw.

Originally from Eastern Oregon, Richardson grew up on a wheat farm in Heppner. Her family, she

said, was always involved in politics and in community programs such as Future Farmers of America.

Richardson earned her bachelor's in health education and master's in family intervention and nutrition. She spent 32 years as a 4-H leader alongside a three-decade career in health education.

She served on governor's committees, as a lobbyist for farmers and small business owners and on state economic development committees. From 1981 to 1991, while running a business in Bend, she got onboard a downtown revitalization committee and saw the city go from "what Central Point is now" to a thriving destination.

Richardson, who brought her family to Central Point in 1991, said she found her way into the catering business to use skills acquired after "years of cooking for harvest crews" on her childhood farm.

Richardson found that getting involved on a small scale— as a merchant frustrated with parking and traffic— had a way of snowballing.

"I can't keep my mouth shut," she said with a laugh.

"It's one of those deals where you just kind of get into it and it takes on a life of its own."

Richardson said her primary goals for the city were to encourage affordable housing, help bring light industry to create jobs and to help facilitate discussions on revitalizing the downtown core.

Richardson hopes to contribute some insight on the importance of balancing plans for future growth with addressing the needs of current residents and business owners.

She said the city is grappling with decisions that were made in the early 1990s that may no longer meet its needs today.

"As a City Council, isn't it our responsibility to look back at what was decided years ago and decide, 'are those plans applicable to today?'" Richardson said.

City Administrator Phil Messina said Richardson brings a unique perspective to the city.

"I appreciate her business background and her experience with the city of Bend," Messina said.

"I think it's one of the frustrations in the past was there wasn't a downtown association or group of people to talk to ... Sandi can relate on both sides ... sometimes that makes it tough, because you've got a lot of things you've got to consider, but it also gives her a unique perspective."

Richardson said she is looking forward to working with the city on a variety of projects, including addressing the needs of current residents and business owners.

Walden aide receives national award for work on rural health care issues

The National Rural Health Association (NRHA) today awarded their 2005 Legislative Staff Award to Valerie Henry, a legislative assistant to U.S. Congressman Greg Walden (R-OR), co-chairman of the bipartisan House Rural Health Care Coalition. Henry, who has been Walden's primary assistant for health care related issues for the last two years, was given the award at NRHA's annual Rural Health Champions breakfast in recognition of her hard work on behalf of rural health issues and her work to advance important rural-specific reforms within the U.S. House of Representatives.

"Health care is an issue of great importance to me and to the residents of central, southern and eastern Oregon. Valerie's commitment to this issue is evident in the passion with which she tackles her everyday activities as well as the bigger projects that come before our office," said Walden. "She understands the importance of access to quality care for people in rural parts of our district, especially for the elderly, the disabled and children."

"Valerie's energy and diligence in supporting rural healthcare for Oregonians and all rural Americans is a testament to the great leadership and support of Representative Walden," said Bill Sexton, NHRA President-Elect and Chief Executive for the North Coast Service Area of Providence Health System from Seaside, Oregon. "We appreciate Representative Walden's partnership and are

pleased to recognize Valerie for her outstanding efforts." Next week, Henry will be accompanying Walden on an extensive three-day trip through Gilliam, Morrow, Umatilla, Union and Wallowa Counties to discuss health care related issues in that region.

Walden has introduced H.R. 11, legislation that would help offset the high costs of providing home health care in rural areas as opposed to urban regions due to greater distances between patients and increased travel time. The bill would require an additional five percent Medicare reimbursement for rural home health providers to alleviate costs that can be as much as 12-15 percent higher. This add-on would benefit 19 of 23 home care agencies in Walden's district and will allow home care providers to continue offering services to patients in recovery, services that on average cost more than \$4000 per episode less than care provided in a facility. Additionally, home care, particularly in rural areas, allows patients, often elderly, to remain in the comfort of their own home and familiarity of their communities.

Congressman Walden represents the Second District of Oregon, which includes 20 counties in the southern, central and eastern regions of the state. He is a Deputy Whip in the House leadership structure and a member of the House Committee on Energy and Commerce as well as the Committee on Resources.

Bowhunter education class offered in Hines

Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife and the National Bowhunter Education Foundation today announced an April 22-23 bowhunter education class in Hines.

The class benefits experienced and novice bowhunters, offering instruction on equipment selection, bowhunting regulations, shot placement, tracking and trailing, types of bowhunting, first aid, safety and hunter responsibilities. The course also includes a field session. All instructors are certified by the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife and the National Bowhunter Education Foundation.

Bowhunters who complete both sessions earn a National Bowhunter Education Foundation completion certificate, recognized throughout the United States, Canada and

several foreign countries that require bowhunter training.

Classes are limited to 25 people, and the \$10 registration fee covers all instruction. The class is scheduled April 22, 6:30-9:30 p.m., and April 23, 8 a.m.- 4 p.m. at ODFW's Hines field office, 237 S. Hines Blvd.

Pre-registration is required and is accepted by mail. Registrants should send their name, address, telephone number and registration check to Bowhunter Education, C/O ODFW, 237 S. Hines Boulevard, Hines, OR 97738. Registration checks are made payable to Oregon Bowhunter Education Fund.

For more information call Dave Doran, Oregon Chair, National Bowhunter Education Foundation, at (541) 388-8400.

ODFW grant helps Baker County rancher battle spotted knapweed

Foster Ranch Incorporated recently received a three-year, \$15,000 grant from the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife's Access and Habitat Program to battle spotted knapweed on ranch property in Baker County.

Spotted knapweed is an invasive weed capable of quickly taking over an area, forcing out the native vegetation and rendering it useless for wildlife and livestock.

Infested areas of the ranch will be periodically sprayed with an approved herbicide over a three-year period beginning this spring. The total project cost is \$24,000. Other contributors

include the landowner, Taylor Grazing District and Baker County Weed District.

In exchange for grant funds, the landowner has agreed to allow by-permission public elk hunting access on the 8000-acre ranch for five years.

For information on the Access and Habitat Program call program coordinator Nick Myatt, (503) 947-6087 or visit the Web site at www.dfw.state.or.us/AH/overview.html.

Magnetic Door Signs HERE
Heppner Gazette-Times

MEAL SPECIAL
COMING UP AT JOHN'S PLACE

Mexican Buffet
Saturday, April 9th

Watch for weekly specials
at John's Place & Bucknum's Tavern!

JOHN'S PLACE
MAIN STREET, HEPPNER

We Print
Business Cards
Heppner Gazette

Tying the Knot?
We can help!

Come in a browse our large
selection of Wedding Invitations,
Announcements and Accessories by
Regency®

Heppner Gazette-Times
676-9228
188 West Willow, Heppner