

# Journalist with local ties to write comprehensive story on Heppner flood

Heppner, its flood and its people will have a new light shining upon it that the whole world will have a chance to see. Joann Byrd, a journalist with 47 years of experience and ties to Heppner, has decided to undertake the project of writing the "whole story" of the 1903 Heppner flood.

Byrd, cousin to Heppner businessman Cliff Green, had spent many a day in Heppner visiting relatives as a small child and had always heard about the flood. However, it wasn't until recently that she really became interested in the story. After reading the book, "Days of Sorrow," and hearing about the 100th year commemoration, Byrd, who now resides in Seattle, contacted Green and asked for a little tour. Green was glad to accommodate her and showed her the flood monument and places the flood had touched. This led Byrd to question who had written "THE" story on the flood and learned that not much had been written. On her way home from the visit to Heppner, she said she became haunted with the idea of writing the story.

Writing is not a new thing to Byrd. She began a life-long career in journalism at the age of 13. Feeling that the East Oregonian was not covering activities at her junior high school, McCune Junior High in Pendleton, she approached the publisher/editor of the paper to do something about it. They suggested she write stories for the paper, which lead to the creation of "McCune's Corner" and Byrd's love of writing. The job appealed greatly to her and she enjoyed talking with people and having a "license to snoop around."

Byrd continued to write for the East Oregonian through high school and college and expanded her writing fields. She attended University of Oregon and never looked at any other field than journalism.

Her career has included working as executive editor of The Herald in Everett, WA, ombudsman (internal critic) for The Washington Post and she retired in 2003 from the position as editor of the editorial page at the Seattle Post-Intelligencer. She has also taught journalism ethics at Poynter Institute and the University of Washington. She was also one of three outsiders brought in during 2003 to help the New York Times figure out how Jayson Blair could have gotten away

with plagiarism and fabrication at the paper. She is also the primary author of the ethics decision-making process known as the Ethics Tool. For the past six years, Byrd has also been a member of the Pulitzer Board, which makes the final decision on who wins the Pulitzer Prizes.

Now that Byrd is retired, although she is still on the Pulitzer Board, which takes four months out of her year, she plans on writing full-time on this book project. In the book, Byrd hopes to tell the whole story of the Heppner Flood, focusing on the people lost, the people who survived and the people who helped. She also wants to shed a light on how the flood has influenced Heppner and the surrounding area through the years. In the telling of the story, she plans to incorporate information on the geology of the Willow Creek Valley, how flash floods occur and how the weather situation came about. Byrd also hopes to make the story interesting to both those in Morrow County and those beyond. She feels that the story of coming through such devastation and continuing to grow and flourish is a story that is universal to all.

In addition to using resources such as the Morrow County Museum, historical societies, newspapers, records at the University of Oregon, Byrd hopes that descendants of those who went through the flood will come forward with stories, journals, letters pictures and other information that can help her find the complete story. She also hopes to find out information about descendants who have moved away from the area. Byrd is also looking forward to being able to "ask all the questions no one asks" and find out the information that some assume everyone already knows. She hopes to delve in to all aspects of life in Heppner and the Willow Creek Valley at the time and how it was affected and is still affected by the flood.

Byrd plans on spending approximately two years on this project, spending much time here in



Joann Byrd

Heppner and traveling around Oregon, while returning home to Seattle periodically to take care of other business. She hopes to come out with a book of approximately 400-600

pages, including pictures, maps and footnotes.

"I hope to produce a book that will be THE reliable source on the Heppner Flood," said Byrd.

Those interested in sharing their information with Byrd can contact her in a variety of ways, or stop her on the street in Heppner with a story. Byrd can be reached by e-mail,

joannbyrd@gbonline.com; by phone, (206) 285-7104; or by mail, 2419 8th Ave. N. #302, Seattle, WA 98109. She is willing to travel to find a story and is interested in any sort of information.

## Sheriff's Report

The Morrow County Sheriff's Office (MCSO) reports handling the following business:

-Boardman PD cited Brandon Saucillo, 19, No Operator's License and Failure to Carry Proof of Insurance. He was also warned for Defective Equipment. The vehicle was impounded.

-MCSO cited Ronald Ellis Dyer, 23, for Violation of the Basic Rule, 71 mph in a 55 mph zone.

-MCSO arrested Cipriano Vera, 51, on an Irrigon Justice Court warrant for Failure to Appear/DUII-A.

-MCSO cited Joseph Lee Swope, 24, for No Operator's License, Driving Uninsured and Failure to Register Vehicle. He was also arrested on an Irrigon Justice Court warrant for Failure to Pay Fine/Hit and Run Property and on an Umatilla PD warrant for Failure to Pay Fine.

**April 24:** Boardman PD arrested Matthew James Pesicka, 19, for Possession of a Controlled Substance I, Possession of a Controlled Substance II, Delivery of Controlled Substance I, Delivery of Controlled Substance II and Commercial Drug Trafficking. He was lodged at Umatilla County Jail.

**April 25:** Boardman PD cited Laura Marie Seibert, 19, for Possession of a Controlled Substance-IV, Less than One Ounce of Marijuana.

-MCSO arrested Kevin Lee Norton on a UCSO warrant for Failure to Appear/Driving while Suspended-misdemeanor. Norton was lodged at Umatilla County Jail.

-MCSO cited Jeffery Daniel Mironuck, 27, for Violation of the Basic Rule, 79 mph in a 55 mph zone.

-MCSO arrested Andrew Scott Gomez, 20, on a UCSO Felony Warrant for Failure to Appear/Theft I-Unlawful Use of a Motor Vehicle. Gomez was lodged at Umatilla County Jail.

**April 26:** MCSO arrested Debbie Sue Paine, 47, on two Union County warrants for Failure to Appear/Possession of a Controlled Substance II. Paine was lodged at Umatilla County Jail.

-MCSO cited Jesse Lynn Reid, 24, for Driving while Suspended-violation and No Insurance.

-MCSO cited Shannon Lee Avila, 29, for Violation of the Speed Limit, 50 mph in a 25 mph zone.

-Boardman PD arrested David Ramirez, 22, for DUII.

**April 27:** MCSO received a report from UCSO that Prestin James Hugley, 21, was arrested on a Morrow County Circuit Court warrant for Failure to Appear/Contempt of Court. Hugley was lodged at Umatilla County Jail.

-MCSO received a report from Clackamas County Sheriff's Office that Dallas Jonathan Doudna, 34, was arrested on a Heppner Justice Court warrant for Failure to Pay Fine/Operating Motor Vehicle in

a Prohibited Area. Doudna was lodged at Clackamas County Jail.

-MCSO cited Chelsey Rae Parker, 20, for Driving while Suspended-violation.

**April 28:** Boardman PD cited Luis Alberto Nunez, 19, for Driving while Suspended-violation. The vehicle was impounded.

-MCSO received a report from a caller in Irrigon that a fifth wheel trailer with no plate or registration left her residence. Pamela Irene Bert, 24, was cited for Permitting Unlawful Operation of a Motor Vehicle.

-MCSO cited Brittany Rose Kegler, 19, for No Operator's License.

-MCSO arrested Leobardo Solis Jaquez, 53, on a Morrow County Circuit Court warrant for Failure to Appear/Unlawful Use of a Motor Vehicle.

-MCSO arrested Michael Duane Bacon, 46, on a Salem PD warrant for Failure to Appear/DUII. Bacon was lodged at Umatilla County Jail with no local charges.

-MCSO cited Tony Lee Wiser for Driving while Suspended-misdemeanor. Wiser was also cited for Driving Uninsured. The vehicle was impounded.

**April 29:** MCSO received a report of a domestic dispute in Boardman. Charles Lockridge, 56, was arrested for Assault IV-felony. Lockridge was lodged at Umatilla County Jail.

-MCSO cited Diane Marie Henkels, 40, for Violation of the Basic Rule, 72 mph in a 55 mph zone.

**April 30:** MCSO received a report from Eugene PD that Kenneth W. Hunter, 24, was arrested on an Irrigon Justice Court warrant for Failure to Pay Fine/Possession of a Controlled Substance- Less than One Ounce of Marijuana. Hunter was cited and released from Lane County Jail to appear in Irrigon.

-MCSO received a report from UCSO that Chad Ray Robbins, 34, was arrested on an Irrigon Justice Court warrant for Failure to Pay Fine/Possession of a Controlled Substance- Less than One Ounce of Marijuana. Robbins was lodged at Umatilla County Jail on Umatilla County warrant with Morrow County hold placed.

-Boardman PD arrested Juanita Longoria-Holman, 34, on a Morrow County Circuit Court warrant for Failure to Appear/Attempt C Felony Assault Public Safety Officer and Interfering with a Police Officer.

**May 1:** Boardman PD arrested James Gary Johnson, 41, on UCSO warrants for Parole Violation/Forgery I and Theft II and Parole Violation/Forgery II.

-Boardman PD arrested Andres Octavio Chavarin, 23, on an Irrigon Justice Court warrant for Failure to Appear/Theft III.

-MCSO cited a female subject for No Operator's License and for Possession of a Controlled Substance II. Daniel Joseph

Baker, 35 was arrested on Umatilla County warrants for Failure to Appear/Possession of a Controlled Substance II and Failure to Appear/Hearing and was cited on Parole Violation.

Becker was lodged at Umatilla County Jail. The vehicle was impounded.

-Boardman PD cited Virginia Anna Kohn, 24, for Failure to Carry Proof of Insurance and Failure to Obey Traffic Control Device.

-Boardman PD cited Maria Belen Mendoza, 36, for Failure to Register Vehicle.

-MCSO stopped two female subjects in Boardman. Toni Marie Pennock, 27, was cited for Possession of Less than One Ounce of Marijuana and Delivery of a Controlled Substance I. She was also arrested on Irrigon Justice Court warrant for Failure to Pay Fine/Permitting Dog to Run at Large; on a Umatilla PD Probable Cause affidavit for Forgery II and Possession of a Forged Instrument; and on a Umatilla County warrant for Parole Violation. Pennock was lodged at Umatilla County Jail. Amanda Lorraine Davis, 19, was arrested on a Union County warrant for Failure to Appear/Conspire to Deliver a Controlled Substance. Davis was also lodged at Umatilla County Jail.

-MCSO arrested Jerry Bulow, 53, for Possession of a Controlled Substance II.

-MCSO received a report from Hermiston PD that Craig M. Workman, 23, was arrested on an Irrigon Justice Court warrant for Failure to Appear/Criminal Trespass II.

-MCSO cited Pedro Hernandez Rodriguez, 33, for Violation of the Basic Rule, 79 mph in a 55 mph zone and for Open Container.

-MCSO cited Jeffery Ray Whitbeck, 20, for Permitting Unlawful Use.

**May 2:** Boardman PD cited Antonio Efrain Gomez Montes, 21, for Violation of the Speed Limit, 43 mph in a 30 mph zone and for Driving Uninsured.

-Boardman PD cited Roberto Bernal-Ruiz, 22, for No Insurance. The vehicle was impounded.

-MCSO cited Jeffery Lynn Rasch, 45, for Violation of the Basic Rule, 75 mph in a 55 mph zone.

-MCSO received a report that a female subject was not sold alcohol so she just walked out of the store with it. Fawn Elisabeth Ironbear, 23, was cited for Theft III.

-MCSO received a report from a caller in Heppner that a subject needed to be removed from the caller's property as he was trying to start a fight. Vernon Shad Jeffreys, 37, was arrested for Violation of a Restraining Order and Disorderly Conduct. He was lodged at Umatilla County Jail. Jesse James Jeffreys, 35, was arrested for Disorderly Conduct, Assault IV, Harassment and Menacing. He was also arrested on two Heppner Justice Court warrants for Failure to Pay Fine/Driving while

Suspended. He was also lodged at Umatilla County Jail.

## Extension Service offers tillage workshops

How does tillage affect your soil? What signs do you look for to know how soils are changing? The Oregon State University Extension Service will explore those questions and more in a series of workshops focused on the rhizosphere and featuring Canadian soil ecologist Jill Clapperton.

The workshop series begins at 9 a.m. on Monday, May 16, at the Discovery Center in The Dalles. This full-day session will allow Clapperton and other regional experts to provide the background that will help land managers better understand the intricate relationships between soil quality conditions and tillage practices.

Clapperton is considered the guru of the rhizosphere, widely respected for her work on how soil biology and ecology interact with soil management systems to facilitate long-term soil quality and productivity, according to Brian Tuck, OSU Extension horticulturist in Wasco County.


Pre-registration is requested by calling the Wasco County office of the OSU Extension Service at (541) 296-5494, by May 12. A \$10 registration fee will be collected at the door and does not include lunch. Lunch will be available for purchase at the Discovery Center Café.

The next three days will be spent on the road as local farmers and orchardists have the opportunity to examine soil conditions with Clapperton in their own production areas under different practices.

On Tuesday, May 17, participants will meet at 7:45 a.m. at the Auction Yard on Highway 197 in The Dalles. The group will caravan to meet Clapperton at soil pits in a Wasco County orchard, various wheat farming systems (no-till, minimum till and plowed) and an undisturbed site. The afternoon trip begins at 1 p.m. at the Sherman Experiment Station in Moro and travels to sites in Sherman County.

On Wednesday, May 18, growers from the Condon area will have the same opportunity, beginning with a two-hour seminar followed by field visits to demonstration pits. This workshop begins at 9 a.m. at the Bill Jepsen ranch, along the Liberty School Road between Condon and Ruggs. The program runs from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., with a \$10 fee to cover lunch and refreshments for the day. Please call the Morrow County Extension Service at 676-9642 to register and guarantee a lunch.

On Thursday, May 19, the two-hour seminar will be repeated for Umatilla growers. The program begins at 9:15 a.m. at the Adams Community Center in Adams. There is no charge for lunch that day and reservations can be made by calling (541) 278-5403.



By DAVID SYKES REALTOR

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An appraisal is a written report based on the research of variables such as comparable sales, land values, zoning, construction costs, market and financing conditions, etc. Don't confuse the two. A free market estimate is a rough sales planning tool. An appraisal is a defensible formal document.

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