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HEPPNER 50¢
Gazette Times

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Elks kitchen renovation in progress

Roger Mortimore of the Heppner Elks stands in the dining room amongst equipment and other kitchen material that has been moved out of the kitchen for remodeling.

The Heppner Elks Lodge is pleased to announce they have started the long-awaited renovation of their Lodge kitchen facilities.

"Roger Mortimore, Scott Dougherty, Marvin Brannon and crew have stripped the kitchen to the walls," a spokesman said. "They already have new sheet rock up and taped," he continued.

With the new renovations, the dishwashing area can be closed off from the dining room, so as to not interfere with after-dinner speeches and awards. The noise from the old dishwasher would interfere with a program speaker.

"New flooring is being installed by Tim Hedman Flooring of Heppner and we hope to have the new stainless-steel dishwashing area built and installed within a week," the spokesman continued.

"We appreciate all who have contributed to our renovation fund," he said. "It is truly appreciated and helps with the overall usability of our Lodge." Contributions are still being accepted to help offset the cost.

Heppner city manager quits for Irrigon job

Heppner city manager Jerry Breazeale has resigned to accept the city manager position for the city of Irrigon, Breazeale told the Heppner Gazette last Thursday.

Breazeale, who has been city manager for over six years, will, as of this week, be spending three days (Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays) in Heppner and Tuesdays and Fridays on the job in Irrigon for the next couple of months. Breazeale recently signed a contract with the city that required 60 days notice before he could leave, however Heppner Mayor Tim Van Cleave said Tuesday that Breazeale has vacation time coming that will allow him to work part time in Irrigon.

The council held a special two-hour meeting Monday night to deal with the resignation, and when finished instructed Van Cleave to contract with the League of Oregon Cities to find a replacement for Breazeale and also to approach two individuals in the community about filling in as interim manager, until a replacement could be found. As of Tuesday no temporary replacement had been named.

Jerry Breazeale hired by Irrigon

Van Cleave also said even though Breazeale is quitting in the middle of Heppner's $3 million water project, he didn't anticipate any problems. Van Cleave said Ace Consultants, which are working on the water project for the city, has a full time project manager in Heppner working with Moore Construction on the water system upgrade. The consultant has an office in city hall keeping an eye on things, Van Cleave said.

School District Board Chair John Renfro submits resignation

John Renfro, current Morrow County School District Board chairman, submitted a letter of resignation to the Morrow County School District this past week, said MCSD Superintendent Mark Burrows. The resignation came after the May 17 election saw Renfro lose to Heppner resident Nancy Vander Does by 32 votes, 660 to 628.

According to Renfro, the resignation was due the fact that he was "defeated in the reelection bid and [he] saw no reason to finish out the position." He said that he has enjoyed being on the board and that they have accomplished many good things.

Renfro's resignation has not yet been accepted by the Morrow County School Board, said Burrows.

Burrows said the board would be unable to act until its June meeting, however, he later said that the board is hoping to talk with Renfro and come to an agreement at the board's work session Thursday, May 26.

John Renfro resigns

Renfro's current position expires June 30, 2005. He has served on the board for four years (one term). The re-elected board members and Vander Does will begin the new positions July 1, 2005.

Due to the nearness of the term's expiration, Burrows said that if the board grants Renfro's resignation, the vacated position would remain open until Vander Does was sworn in at the July meeting.

Comments being accepted on reinstatement of high school or elementary program in Heppner

It appears that the Oregon Legislature will fund schools at a rate greater than anticipated at the time the Morrow County School District prepared the 2005-06 budget document. This means that projects and programs requested by principals and patrons previously on hold in all our district schools may be funded.

In Heppner Schools, the reinstitution of a vocational agriculture program or elementary physical education is under discussion. Either of these programs would involve the addition of a half-time staff member. Also, the addition of either program would have staffing and scheduling consequences at Heppner High School that must be considered.

Patrons with comments are asked to please call Craig Miles at 676-5290, Mark Burrows at 989-8202, Wade Smith at 676-9138 or Daye Stone at 676-9128, prior to the school board work session at 7 p.m., Thursday, May 26.

Support Our Troops group to host Memorial Day parade

Group members (L-R): KayRene Qualls, Donna Schonbachler, Evelyn Sweek, Becky Tullis and Corol Mitchell prepare care packages for troops overseas. Photo by Peggy Connor

Members of the Support Our Troops support group display a sign made for the Memorial Day parade. (L-R): Terri Benneto, Donna Schonbachler, Corol Mitchell, Becky Tullis, Evelyn Sweek and KayRene Qualls. Photo by Peggy Connor

The Support Our Troops support group is sponsoring a Memorial Day Parade in recognition of military personnel from our area. The parade will be held on Monday, May 30 at 1 p.m. Everyone in the community and surrounding areas is encouraged to join the march. Participants will be gathering at Green Feed at 12:30 p.m. to organize.

Everyone is encouraged to wear red, white and blue. Decorated bicycles, wagons, golf carts, trikes or other non-motorized vehicles are also welcomed in the parade.

The parade will proceed up Main Street to the Post Office area. There will be a short program followed by a reception and slide show at St. Patrick's Senior Center.

Come show your support by walking or watching. For more information contact Evelyn Sweek at 676-9483 or KayRene Qualls at 676-9705.

Heppner & Ione schools graduation

Seniors in Heppner and Ione will be graduating soon. Their last day of classes is Thursday, May 26.

Baccalaureate ceremonies for Heppner will be held Tuesday, May 31 at 6 p.m. at St. Patrick's Catholic Church in Heppner. Baccalaureate for Ione will be held Wednesday, June 1 at 7 p.m. at Ione Community Church in Ione.

Commencement ceremonies will be held June 3 at 7 p.m. for Ione seniors and June 4 at 2 p.m. for Heppner seniors.

News and Advertising Deadline for June 1st issue:
This Friday, May 27th at 5 p.m.

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