

Artist paints Elementary gym murals



Willow Creek Terrace residents Verna Brinda, Cleo Edwards, Lowell Gribble, bus driver Tom Wilson, and George Jefferies with artist Vicente Navarrete in front of new Ponies mural

Residents of the Willow Creek Terrace Assisted Living visited Heppner Elementary School Tuesday to view two new murals painted on the gymnasium walls by Ontario artist Vicente Navarrete.

The murals, of stylized ponies, the school mascot, were funded by the Heppner Parent Teacher Club.

Navarrete, who is the nephew of Heppner Elementary teacher, Mary Ann Elguezabal, had earlier given the seniors art lessons at Willow Creek Terrace.

Navarrete, 25, says that his mother first noticed his artistic talent when he was in the first grade. He has completed an associate's degree in graphic design and has scheduled a trip to California where he will promote his original comic books through sales of T-shirts he has designed.

Historical Society members honored

The City of Heppner's Beautification Commission recently presented certificates of recognition to the Morrow County Historical Society, represented by Louis Carlson, Jan Stroeber, Wilbur Jackson, Pauline Matheny. Mrs. Matheny's husband, the late Orval Matheny, was also honored. They were all recognized for their volunteer work of restoring, beautifying and maintaining the Groshen's Springs Site across from the Morrow County Fairgrounds.

The Beautification Commission was created in 1999 by the Heppner City Council to educate, advise, promote and recognize attractive environments within the city limits.



Vicente Navarrete receives a check for mural from Parent Teacher Club representative Dave Fowler

Umatilla man sentenced to 30 months prison

On June 16 Judge Jeffrey Wallace sentenced Eric Sanchez, 25, of Umatilla, to serve 30 months in prison. Sanchez plead guilty to Unlawful Use of a Weapon and Felon In Possession Of A Firearm, both class C felonies stemming from a shooting incident that occurred in Irrigon on March 24. Under the terms of the plea agreement, Sanchez will not receive credit for time served and will not be eligible for early release from prison. Further, the 30 month sentence will be added to any prison time Sanchez receives on two criminal cases currently pending in Umatilla County.

At the sentencing hearing, Morrow County District Attorney David C. Allen, cited difficulties with witnesses as the main reason for the plea offer. "As is often the case with gang related shootings, the state would have had a difficult time securing the attendance of necessary witnesses at trial. Despite every effort by law

enforcement to secure these necessary witnesses, without the truthful testimony of the victims in this case, the state would not have been able to prove the attempted murder or kidnapping charges. The state believes the convictions entered today recognize the serious nature of this incident and the use of a firearm by the defendant. We are pleased this dangerous man will be returning to prison without the possibility of early release and remain hopeful he will receive further prison time on his Umatilla County charges."

Sanchez currently faces charges of Kidnapping, Attempt to Elude and Assault in Umatilla County. Those charges relate to the crash on the Umatilla bridge at the end of the high speed pursuit that ensued after the shooting in Irrigon. Sanchez is accused of attempting to carjack a motorist on the bridge after the crash. Sanchez also faces unrelated charges of Robbery, Kidnapping and Assault for an incident that occurred in 2004.

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New business, Victorian Rose, to open



Marti Luther in Victorian dress at her shop, the Victorian Rose

Marti Luther has been looking at life through rose-colored glasses lately, in order to fulfill a dream. The dream, to open her own business, will become a reality as she opens her own shop, The Victorian Rose Gift Shoppe, with the grand opening beginning at 10 a.m. on July 1. The shop, which will feature "old, new used, a few antiques, crafts, gifts, penny candy, Red Hat items, Victorian stickers, glassware" and much more, is located at 126 E. May in Heppner (next to Heppner Hardware). Hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday and 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, with the shop closed on Sundays.

"I've been wanting to go into business for 35 years," says Marti. "But once I hit 65 I just said, 'I'm going to do it.' This is my dream."

Marti, who is originally from Corvallis, had been coming to the Heppner area for years to visit high school friends, BonnaRae Miller and JoyceKay Hollomon, long-time Heppner residents and business owners. Marti finally moved here a year ago

at the prompting of her daughter, Jodi Chapa, who had come to Heppner for employment. Marti and Jodi fell in love with the area and, again at Jodi's urging, Marti bought the former Gribble house.

With the help of friends, Buck and Judy Handbury and Ken and Maureen Howard, "who have been so great," Marti has fixed up the former Farley showroom to look like a 1910 mercantile. In addition to treasured items Marti has saved over the years, which will be featured in her shop, she has also been on buying trips to keep her merchandise new and fresh for customers. "I tried to buy what I love and what others would love," says Marti. "I have a supply to change the merchandise all the time," she adds.

Besides her new business venture, Marti has a busy family life. She is raising her granddaughter, Jennifer Larsen, 16, who attends Heppner High School. Marti's daughter, Lisa Larsen, Jennifer's mom, lives in Albany. Daughter Jodi is the director of the Shamrockettes dance team

and is drama coach at HHS in addition to raising two daughters of her own, Jodessa, 12, and Kolleen, 11, and working full time.

Everyone is invited to stop by the shop, say hello to Marti and check out the many items on display. "Children are welcome with many things affordable for small allowances," says Marti. "Husbands may drop by for a nice gift for their loved one. And ladies, come on in and have a fun time looking around, trying on old hats for a giggle or just stop by to chat."

Sign up for Ione talent show

The third annual Ione Talent Show will be held at the Ione Amphitheatre on Sunday, July 3, beginning at 6:30 p.m. The show is open to kids 18 and under.

Prizes will be awarded to all entrants. Top awards will be presented to first, second and third place winners.

For early registration call Lynn Dee Ramos, 422-7559, or registration is also available the evening of the show by 6 p.m.

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