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HEPPNER 50¢
Gazette Times

VOL. 124 NO. 30 8 Pages Wednesday, July 27, 2005 Morrow County, Heppner, Oregon

Rejects recorder's resignation

Lexington Council hears concerns about council feuding, water

The Lexington City Council voted to reject the resignation of city recorder Nicki Clement, following a special executive session Friday evening. Clement had earlier presented a letter of resignation to the council, citing various problems concerning her employment at city hall, which the council did not disclose, and asked for a week's back wages when she had left the city's employ.

The council requested that Clement return to work, however, under a different supervisor, but voted against reimbursing her for the week she did not work. Council member Kirk Looslie will now act as Clement's supervisor. Mayor John Edwards was her previous supervisor.

Following the personnel issue, the council fielded numerous questions from an audience of around 30 Lexington residents. Townspeople voiced concerns about the acrimony among feuding council members, specifically between council members Luella Taylor and Jean Brazell, sometimes to the extent that city business cannot be accomplished. Efforts to recall Taylor and Mayor Edwards are reportedly underway, however no recall has been filed.

Members of the audience also had big concerns with the city's water system. The town's water system needs to be replaced, however, the cost of obtaining loans was deemed prohibitive without grant monies and possibly raising rates. An engineer's expertise as to the type of system and placement of a well would be necessary, which would again require additional funds. Lexington resident Marcia Kemp said she had earlier offered to apply for grants for the town, but received no offers of help. A member of the audience countered that Kemp was not approachable.

One suggestion to more effectively conduct city

continued on page two

Commemorative rodeo posters available

Artist Denise Smith (left), Little Buttercreek, and Morrow County Fair and Oregon Trail N.W. Pro Rodeo Queen Jessica Wainwright show off a commemorative poster which will be offered for sale at this year's Oregon Trail N.W. Pro Rodeo Friday and Saturday, August 19 and 20. Smith took the photo for the poster at last year's rodeo and digitally enhanced the image. A limited edition of 150 colored posters will be available for purchase for $10 each; an additional 250 black and white posters will also be available. The posters were commissioned by the rodeo. Proceeds will go to the Rodeo Committee.

ALL NEWS AND ADVERTISEMENT DEADLINE:
MONDAYS AT 5:00 P.M.

Dinner at the Cemetery Saturday

Dance hall ladies (left to right) Jodi Chapa, Molly Rhea, Nancy Vander Does and Nancy Gochnauer, prepare for the Dinner at the Cemetery performance.

Tickets for this year's Dinner at the Cemetery, which will be held this Saturday, July 30, beginning at 6:30 p.m. at the Heppner Cemetery, are on sale at the Bank of Eastern Oregon and Murray's Drug . Cost is $25 per person. Seating is limited to 100 at this benefit for the museum. The dinner menu was taken from a 1905 affair.

The theatrical production, The Roberts Opera House Revue, will begin at approximately 7:30. Roberts Opera House was a popular establishment in Heppner in 1905, and the entertainers represented on stage this Saturday evening did, in fact, perform at the opera house. Music and recitations - serious, mysterious, and humorous - promise a variety sure to please the audience at this fourth year's production in the cemetery.

"Mrs. Weatherred" and "Molly Reid" will appear on stage at this year's Dinner-Theatre at the Cemetery.

Period clothing is optional, though encouraged, for the guests at the performance. More information is available by calling Sharon Harrison at the BEO, 676-9125, or Doris Brosnan, 676-5382.

Book and bake sale to benefit library

Friends of the Library are holding the third annual Book and Bake Sale on Saturday, July 30, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in front of the Heppner Branch library during the Celebrate Heppner festivities.

Friends of the Library hold this sale every year to earn money that is then used to purchase things for the library that are not included in a limited budget. This year some of this money was spent to bring the puppet show to kick off the children's summer reading program and purchase the dragons that were on display in the library. The library is also currently setting aside money to bring The Missoula Children's Theater to Heppner at a future date.

All the donated books will be sort by genre for ease of finding a favorite author or book. Friends of the Library invite everyone to take time during the Celebrate Heppner festivities to come to the library on Saturday, browse through books and purchase some to support the library.

Friends of the Library also would like to let everyone who generously donated books know that your support of the library is greatly appreciated.

Celebrate historic Heppner this weekend

Everyone is invited to help Celebrate Historic Heppner this weekend with many events are planned. Businesses are encouraged to dress in 1900's attire. Museums will be open and people may wish to visit the Flood Memorial at the Cemetery.

On Friday, July 29:

Sidewalk Sale all day - Murray's, Petersons, Artisan Village, Cornerstone Gallery, Heppner Hardware Hotdogs, and more ; a barbecue at the City Park at 5:30 p.m., sponsored by BEO and served by Heppner Chamber

The First Annual Heppner Idol Talent Show will be at 6 p.m. at the City Park. People are encouraged to register at the Chamber, 676-5536. The event will showcase area talent and is open for all ages. Prizes will be awarded. Anyone who would like to help sponsor prizes may call Nancy Snider.

Pie contest-pies will be auctioned off with proceeds going to the Chamber for marketing (more brochures printed, regional ads, etc.). Groups may bid and enjoy a piece of pie during the talent show. Winning pies will be featured at John's s Place and possibly other restaurants.

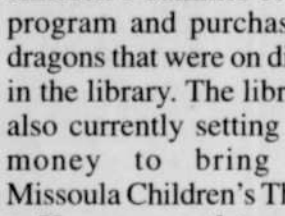
Saturday, July 30:

First Annual "Bass and Crappie Tournament" at the Lake will get underway at 10 a.m. and will wrap up at 4 p.m. Prizes include a paddle boat, a pontoon fishing boat, etc. Organizer is Alvin Lieu, 541-676-9167.

Dinner at the Cemetery will begin at 6 p.m. with "Robert's Revue". Tickets are available at Bank of Eastern Oregon.

Sunday, July 31:

The Artisan Village quilt show will be held in the park from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. Organizer is Bonnie Wenberg.



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