

Lexington Grange donates dictionaries to HES



Students of Mrs. Osmin's third grade class received dictionaries from the Lexington Grange. They were presented by substitute teacher Dennis Peck (left), Principal Jack Thompson (right) and Grange member Clarence Buchanan (far right).

For a third year, the Lexington Grange has donated dictionaries to the third grade students at Heppner Elementary School. Clarence Buchanan, a member of the Lexington Grange, presented the dictionaries to students of Mrs. Cara Osmin's third grade class on Tuesday, Sept. 27. Twenty-one students received the dictionaries.

GT has new work experience student



Mahaley Huddleston

Mahaley Huddleston, a 16-year-old junior at Heppner High School, has started work experience at The Heppner Gazette Times as part of a school credit.

Huddleston is the Student Body Vice President this year. She is part of National Honor Society, a Stars Teen leader and an active athlete.

She has not yet decided on what college to attend, since she's only a junior, but she knows she wants to be involved with journalism and acting.

"I wanted to pick a work experience that would help me in the future, after high school, and working at the Heppner Gazette Times will do just that," stated Huddleston.

She lives in Heppner with her mom and dad, Mark and Janice Huddleston, and younger brother, Jared, 14. Her older brother Kyle just moved to Eugene to attend University of Oregon.

Over the Tee Cup

Ladies of Willow Creek Country Club gathered for their second to the last playday of the year on Sept. 20.

Pat Edmundson took low gross of the field. Bernice Lott took low net of the field. Suzanne Jepsen took least putts of the field.

In flight A, Eva Kilkenny took low gross; Carol Mitchell took low net; Janice Paustian took least putts; and Eva Kilkenny took long drive.

In flight B, Luvilla Sonstegard took low gross; Virginia Grant took low net; Betty Christman took least putts; and Lynnea Sargent took long drive.

In flight C, Lorrene Montgomery took low gross. Edmundson, Christman and Jepsen each were closest to the pin on hole #4. Sonstegard had a chip in on hole #2 and Jepsen had one on hole #6.

Meteorite program set for Boardman Library

A special family program about meteorites will be held at the Boardman Public Library on Monday, Oct. 3 at 7 p.m. The program is free and open to persons of all ages and is sponsored by the nonprofit Libraries of Eastern Oregon (LEO) and the Oregon Trail Library District.

This event kicks off a special weeklong tour for the meteorite program. The program will be held at 7 p.m. each evening and will be at public libraries at La Grande on Oct. 4, Baker City on Oct. 5, Burns on Oct. 6 and Prineville on Oct. 7.

According to scientists, in eastern Oregon there is likely at least one meteorite lying on the earth's surface within every half square mile.

Richard Pugh, a leading scientist with the Cascadia Meteorite Laboratory at Portland State University will present a lively program that includes a power point presentation and question and answer period.

Pugh said he will bring \$20,000 worth of meteorites with him and he encourages those attending to touch and handle the meteorites.

"To date not one meteorite has been found in Oregon east of the Cascades," Pugh said, noting that only a total of three meteorites have ever been found in Oregon.

"The eastside of the state is most intriguing to scientists. We know that there are meteorites out there and that it's just a matter of time until one is found," Pugh said.

Pugh asks that anyone with a rock that he or she thinks may be a meteorite, to please bring it to the event for identification.

Most meteorites are heavy, magnetic and irregular in shape, often with indentations that resemble thumbprints. They often appear rusty with a thin black or brown coating from being hurled through space.

This program is one in a series of family science programs that will be brought to public libraries by LEO and the library district, which are in partnership with The Oregon Museum of Science and Industry (OMSI) to bring science and space science to rural

Oregon. With the support of Oregon's federal delegation, OMSI has obtained \$1.9 million to date from NASA over a two and a half year period to develop and roll out the STARS Program - Science, Technology And Rural Students. The meteorite program is one aspect of STARS.

Other STARS efforts include bringing OMSI's portable Discovery Dome planetarium to rural schools and libraries and development of funding sources for technology tools such as telescopes and global positioning units for schools and libraries. Video conferencing units have been purchased for rural libraries, including at Hermiston and La Grande, and for some schools in eastern Oregon to facilitate the electronic delivery of OMSI programs to the rural area.

OMSI's Discovery Dome is scheduled to be at Windy River Elementary School in Boardman all day on Tuesday, Oct. 18; at Lone Elementary School on Wednesday, Oct. 19; and at Heppner Elementary School on Thursday, Oct. 20.

Once inside the real planetarium, students will "journey" to the stars, constellations and celestial highlights of the night sky. The 25-minute program will start at the top of each hour and includes a live guide through the current night sky that is tailored to each grade level.

"We're really excited to have the meteorite program and Discovery Dome come to Boardman this fall," said Marsha Richmond, Oregon Trail Library District Director who also serves on the LEO board.

"These are wonderful opportunities for residents in our library district and both reinforce the concept that libraries can offer so much to the community."

LEO serves 42 public libraries in 14 counties of eastern Oregon. For further information about the meteorite laboratory, see meteorites.pdx.edu. For further information about the STARS project or OMSI's Discovery Dome, see www.omsidome.org or contact Richmond at 481-3365 or Lyn Craig, LEO executive director at (541) 763-2355.

VVAF accepting nominations for Torch for Tomorrow award

Vietnam Veterans of America Foundation (VVAF) is accepting nominations for its first Torch for Tomorrow Awards, to be held in New York City on Nov. 10, 2005, and we'd love for someone from your community to be nominated.

The awards will be presented to veterans and humanitarians who most exemplify the mission of VVAF, an international humanitarian organization that addresses the causes, conduct and consequences of war through programs of advocacy and service for victims of conflict. The organization is launching the awards in celebration of its 25th anniversary this year. (This year also marks the 30th anniversary of the end of the Vietnam War.)

Nomination forms are available at www.VVAF.org and must be submitted by 5 p.m. on Oct. 31, 2005.

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Internet Security Part 2

Hiding in Plain Sight

By Pat Struthers

There's a lot of overlap in the various methods of securing your computer from security threats on the Internet. For convenience I've reordered the list I gave at the end of my last article to group related strategies. Here are the first two:

-Shut down your Internet connection when you are not using it.

-Install a firewall and make sure it's working when you are connected.

If you've been using a dial-up Internet connection for years, the first is familiar to you, even if you haven't been doing it for reasons of security. Most households and many businesses share their dial-up line with a voice or fax line. Disconnecting the modem connection to the Internet routinely is necessary just to free up the phone line for other use.

But the risks multiply when you graduate to a DSL or wireless connection. Since you are no longer tying up a phone line, you don't have that squealing noise on the extension to remind you that your modem is still on. The user of such a service is more likely to forget to shut down the connection when it's not in use. So, when you obtain such a service, it's important to know how to shut it down.

Unattended, unsecured, high-speed connections to the Internet are a bonanza for digital criminals: they can easily break into and install stealth software to assist them in their exploits. Such a corrupted computer, called a "bot," can maintain its own connection with similarly corrupted machines on the Internet. Such a network, a "botnet," forms a pool of computing power that the criminal can use for a wide variety of attacks, including spam-based password hacking (phishing), denial-of-service (DoS) attacks on large web sites, or even scanning the Internet for other vulnerable computers.

Obviously, to minimize the risk, you should be connected to the Internet as little as possible, right? "But, but," you say. "I need to get work done (eBay trading, Internet poker, Counter Strike...). There must be some way to hide my presence on the Internet so that the evil hordes can't get me." And indeed there is; it's called a firewall.

All personal computers, out of the box, have security "holes." This is true of any machine with any version of Windows, and to a lesser extent those with some version of Unix, Linux or a Mac OS. A firewall is simply a hardware or software system that tries to close these holes without walling you off from the Internet completely.

Windows XP and 2003, along with most DSL and wireless modems and routers, have built in firewalls. These are very

effective at blocking incoming traffic and hiding your computer's location on the Internet, but they have to be turned on in order to work. XP and 2003 will annoy you with irritating messages if their firewalls aren't on, but this is not necessarily the case with DSL and wireless equipment. This hardware, usually provided by your ISP, may very well be delivered with the firewall turned off. It is very important that you read the documentation that comes with your modem or router and make sure you know how to check the firewall settings. Your ISP can answer such questions also.

While the above are very good at preventing attacks on your computer from the outside, they are of little use once your computer is infected by "malware." Most computers are compromised not by direct attacks from the Internet, but through indirect means: email attachments that install viruses when you open them or tainted websites that use your browser (Internet Explorer, usually) to install spyware.

For any Windows machine, a more comprehensive package such as ZoneAlarm (free), Norton Internet Security, or McAfee Firewall is recommended. These block incoming traffic and also can be trained to allow "good" programs to reach the Internet, while blocking unauthorized ones. They are trickier to configure but they often include spyware/adware protection and email scanning.

Unix and Linux-based machines come with a variety of extremely effective and flexible firewall programs; in fact, many Internet service providers have a Linux/Unix-machine specifically designed to act as a dedicated firewall.

While the security risks described above are relatively rare compared to those arising from poor email and web-browsing habits, they are more dangerous because they allow criminals to easily subvert computers to their own use. If you have a DSL/Wireless connection and/or a current version of XP, use the firewall provided, and think seriously about getting a better one. Minimize your footprint on the Internet by shutting down your connection when it is not in use. These rules are both easy and cheap to follow and will drastically reduce your vulnerability to casual attacks.

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