Bessie Wetzell Newspaper Library
University of Oregon
Eugene, OR 97403

HEPPNER 50¢
Gazette Times

VOL. 125 NO. 2 10 Pages Wednesday, January 11, 2006 Morrow County, Heppner, Oregon

International Club to spend spring break in France

Members of the Ione International Club.

By Kaylee Palmateer and Kylee Svetich

The Ione International Club will be spending spring break in France this March They will leave on March 23 and return on March 31 for a total of nine days.

The group consists of nine Ione High School students and six students from Heppner High School. Seniors include Ashly Grams, Kelly Thompson and Kyle Palmateer. Juniors are Kayla LaRue, Kody Lovgren, Tony Haguewood, Aaron Allstott, Mahaley Huddleston and Regi Seitz. Sophomores include Kylee Svetich, Kaylee Palmateer, Teonna Vandever, Juli VandenBrink, Emily Rietmann and Katie Kilkenny. The advisor of the group is Ione High School Social Studies teacher Ryan Rudolf. This is his third trip with the International Club since 2001. Other adult chaperones are Jim and Monica Swanson and Laura Parks.

The students will be spending most of their time in Paris. They will also visit areas along the Normandy Coast and the Loire Valley. The students have been planning their trip for the past year, having fundraisers during the summer, such as helping with the Ione 4th of July Celebration, Cycle Oregon, and the Ione Education Foundation dinner. Club members currently have two ongoing fundraisers. They are selling "Go Cardinals" bracelets and tickets for two raffles during the basketball season.

Council deals with senior center leaky roof

The Heppner City Council Monday night again wrestled with the problem of a leaking roof at the St. Patrick's Senior Center.

The council heard from city manager David DeMayo who said he had a preliminary estimate from Palmer roofing that it would cost $49,000 to put on a new "membrane" roof to stop the leaking. There is also some masonry work that needs to be done on the roof.

The council discussed several options to fund the repairs including refinancing the current loan on the building, and asking for assistance from government agencies to maintain senior housing in Heppner.

There are currently four vacancies in the building, with one room uninhabitable because of the leaking. DeMayo said he hoped to get Palmer here soon to do temporary repairs and fix the leaks. Public works director Bruce Nelson told the council one of his crew men crawled into the attic in an attempt to find the leaks, but he was unsuccessful.

Council member George Koffler said the city might consider refinancing, saying the city might be able to find low interest loans since it is senior housing and the city can prove it is operating at a deficit. "We could get some good financing when they realize we would rescue 14 senior housing slots," Koffler said. He said he didn't want the city to have to subsidize the rent for senior residents anymore than it already is.

In his report DeMayo said no one favored raising rent on the seniors, and he proposed a gas tax in Heppner of 25 cents per fill with the tax being split between rent subsidy and upkeep on the senior center. The council did not discuss or act on his recommendation. He said the center needed $50,000 to $60,000 in a reserve fund to adequately take care of repairs and emergencies.

In other business, the council voted to spend up to $1,000 for bike racks around town, and $300 for a new street lamp near the library.

The council also had a lengthy discussion with Morrow County Judge Terry Tallman and Morrow County Public Works Director Burk O'Brien.

The county has asked the city to take over ownership of several roads outside the city limits but close to town. O'Brien and Tallman said the city agreed to take over ownership and maintenance of a portion of the far end of Riverside Street, all of Spruce Drive (which goes up to the high school) and a portion of Fuller Canyon Road from the Highway 207 to Spruce Drive.

The council voted 5-2 to accept the streets, after it was told former city manager Jerry Breazeale and former mayor Bob Jepsen had made an agreement to do so if the

continued page 3

Nancy Snider is new Chamber president

Nancy Snider (left) takes the gavel from out-going Chamber president Nancy Gochnauer

Newly elected Chamber of Commerce President Nancy Snider is calling for "Community Pride, Hard Work, Determination: the Right Mix in 2006." 2005 Chamber President Nancy Gochnauer handed off the gavel to Snider during this past Tuesday's annual Chamber of Commerce Luncheon at All Saints Episcopal Parish Hall...

Directors for the 2006 Chamber Board were installed: President, Nancy Snider, Vice President, John Murray, Second Vice President, Jeff Bailey, and board members, Alvin Liu, Jack Thompson, Tim Van Cleave, Bert Houweling, Brenda Sherrell, and Barbara Hayes. All directors will be put to task as they plan Chamber's 2006 Plan of Action during Goal Setting on Tuesday, January 17, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at John's Place. Members were invited to share ideas for "the right mix in 2006".

continued page 3

Health district to buy defibrillators for high schools

Morrow County Health District CEO Victor Vander Does and board members, at the January 9 board meeting in Irrigon, reported a very positive response to the district's free county-wide workshops on the new Medicare drug program.

Board member John Murray, who is also the owner of Murray's Drug in Heppner, said the workshops were a "godsend" in assisting people with a very difficult process.

The board learned that the Ione community will be getting a transport ambulance. Ione's previous rescue vehicle will now be located at the ATV park, 32 miles south of Heppner off Highway 207. Boardman will get a backup vehicle previously used in Heppner and Boardman is next in line for a replacement.

Also at the meeting Vander Does told the board and the board agreed that the district should be starting long-term physician recruitment for the future.

In other business, the board:

-learned from Vander Does that Greg Sayles has completed his paramedic training and has been hired by the district to work full-time as a paramedic in Boardman.

-learned that EMS responders will now wear a jump suit uniform, which, says Vander Does, will give them a more professional look.

-approved providing half of the cost of automated defibrillators, amounting to around $3,000 total, for each of the four high schools in the county. Board Chair Larry Mills advised Vander Does to contract Morrow County School Superintendent Mark Burrows and Ione Superintendent Bryn Browning concerning purchase of the defibrillators, which Vander Does estimates to be around $1,500 each. The board discussed placement of the machines, particularly in the gym for basketball games, and at baseball games and track meets. An ambulance generally stands by at football games. The health district also agreed to provide training in the use of the defibrillators free of charge. "It's a good idea," said Mills. "We hope we never have to use it."

-discussed forming an education policy, which would include reimbursement for some educational costs for district employees. The board instructed Vander Does to develop a policy to bring back to the board for approval.

-heard from CFO Nicole Mahoney that the district had $341,812 in gross patient revenue for November. She reported that revenue for December is almost $421,000, a record amount, and also said that January revenue is looking

Jonathan Nicholas is keynote speaker at Town & Country

Jonathan Nicholas

Jonathan Nicholas, columnist for The Oregonian, will be the keynote speaker at the Heppner Town and Country Banquet to be held Thursday, January 12, beginning at 7 p.m. at the Heppner Elks Club.

Nicholas was born and raised in the coal-mining valleys of Wales. He was 14 years old when his father first took him 1,500 feet underground to visit the coalface. The experience, Nicholas says, left him with a renewed interest in schoolwork.

He graduated with honors in sociology and political science from the University of Bristol in England, and then served a four-year stint as an international aid volunteer in the Himalayas. While working with the World Wildlife Fund on the first National Park in Nepal, he met the woman from Minneapolis who would become his wife. In 1978, the couple spent a year traveling the United States looking for the perfect place to live. They discovered Portland and settled on a houseboat on the Willamette River.

In 1982, Nicholas began writing the daily column that has for 23 years been a breakfast staple for the 350,000 people who buy The Oregonian each day. Each September, Nicholas leads 2,000 cyclists from all around the world on the week-long tour called Cycle Oregon that has become one of the signature events of the state. Proceeds from the tour fund community development projects throughout Oregon.

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

10% OFF COMBINE PARTS
10% OFF SHOP PARTS & LABOR
(through the end of February!)
Morrow County Grain Growers
Lexington 989-8221 • 1-800-452-7396 For farm equipment, visit our web site at www.mcgg.net