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HEPPNER 50¢
Gazette Times

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Free books for Heppner Elementary students

HES students display some of the free books received. (L-R): Cara Arbogast, Alex Smith, Ryan Smith and Nalani Stone.

Heppner Elementary students were excited to receive free books. The Eastern Oregon Reading Foundation, whose mission is to ensure that every child in the Umatilla and Morrow Counties reads at grade level upon completion of third grade gave one free book to each of the students at HES. Kay Dallman the Executive Director of the Eastern Oregon Reading Foundation delivered the books.

The goal of the Foundation is to foster a love of reading by placing books in the hands of children. The Eastern Oregon Reading Foundation is sponsored by: Pendleton Grain Growers, Merriman Plumbing and Heating, Pioneer Title, Bank of Eastern Oregon, Schools Plus Community Credit Union, Baltzor Excavating, Pendleton Gas Service, Round-up Athletic Club, Zimmermans Hardware and Armchair Books. Heppner Elementary would like to thank the Eastern Oregon Reading Foundation for their pursuit of such a noble cause.

For more information please contact: Eastern Oregon Reading Foundation, 2001 SW Nye, Pendleton, OR 97801 or by phone at (541) 966-3160. All donations stay local and help children of Umatilla and Morrow counties.

Sager celebrates 50 years in banking

Harley Sager, Bank of Eastern Oregon loan officer, celebrated 50 years in banking on Monday, March 6. Sager began his banking career Monday, March 6, 1956 in Nyssa as a bank teller.

During his career, Sager served twice as manager of First Interstate Bank- Heppner Branch, once in 1969 and again in 1983. After his second time as manager, Sager became a loan officer with First Interstate. In 1994, Sager decided to join the Bank of Eastern Oregon team as loan officer.

Harley Sager was honored at BEO with cake and streamers.

Hager says he doesn't have any plans on retiring yet, "I'm still enjoying it. I enjoy the people." He also said that he was a "figure nut" and enjoys working with the figures, making them work for the people and the bank.

"Harley Sager is a consummate banker. He looks out for the customers' and bank's best interest at all times. We are proud he works with us," said BEO President and CEO George Koffler.

Annual Texas Hold 'Em fundraiser to be held

The second Annual Texas Hold 'Em Poker and Bingo Fundraiser will be held on Sunday March 12 from 4-10 p.m. at the Ione American Legion Hall.

Bounty prizes will be awarded for the Texas Hold 'Em Poker. This was a hit with all the players last year.

The gun raffle has been a very popular item for those who enjoy guns. Willard French and John Jepsen have donated this year's model. It's a limited edition Ruger 22-caliber, semi-automatic long rifle. Tickets are $1 each or 6 for $5 and are available at MCGG, Collier's Market, Bank of Eastern Oregon-Ione branch or from Legion and Auxiliary members. The drawing will be held at the Texas Hold 'Em Poker night at 7 p.m.

A sub sandwich and salad buffet will be served. Taylor's Restaurant will be serving a no-host bar with beer, wine, wine coolers, pop and non-alcoholic beer.

Other card and board games will be available for any one who would like to try their hand at other games. A Mexican Train Dominoes table will also be set up for those who enjoy playing dominoes.

A minimum-bid Silent Auction will be held. Anyone who has items they would like to donate can contact Irene Holtz or Jean Jepsen.

The Legion and Auxiliary have made many improvements to the Century old building in a six-year project. The painting of the ceiling and the wiring and lighting project in the main ballroom has been paid for with funds from last year's event. This year's event will help with ongoing projects and general maintenance. We want to keep this building up-to-date and accessible to everyone in Ione and the surrounding area.

Please plan to attend. We'd love to see you... whether it's to play poker, bingo, have a sandwich and visit or just come to watch the fun. Everyone is welcome.

Bake sale for Reading Foundation

A bake sale will start at 9 a.m. on March 17 in front of the Heppner Family Foods grocery store and all proceeds will go to the Eastern Oregon Reading Foundation (EORF).

The EORF's mission is to ensure that every child in Umatilla and Morrow counties reads at grade level upon completion of the third grade. Their goal is to foster a love of reading by placing books in the hands of children.

Carolyn Holt, Morrow County Juvenile Director is on the EORF Board and she, along with Arletha Brannon, the Project Manager for the Morrow County Commission on Children and Families, will be overseeing the bake sale.

Call Carolyn Holt at 676-5643 regarding any questions about the EORF or the bake sale.

Morrow County district attorney will not seek re-election to third term

Morrow County District Attorney David C. Allen announced Tuesday, March 7 that he will not be seeking a third term as Morrow County district attorney. Allen has served as Morrow County district attorney since his election in 1998. Allen also stated that he intends to remain in the community and continue as county counsel.

"It has been an honor and a privilege to serve the citizens of Morrow County. I have enjoyed my eight years of public service and appreciate everyone in law enforcement and the communities of Morrow County for their professional and courteous assistance to me in discharging my duties as district attorney," said Allen.

"This was a difficult decision for my family and I, but after eight years as district attorney, I believe it is time to for me to pursue other career opportunities and interests," expressed Allen.

"I enjoy the issues and work involved with being Morrow County counsel and intend to continue in my capacity as Morrow County counsel," said Allen.

Allen's term as district attorney expires at midnight, Dec. 31, 2006.

Morrow County School District blocks MySpace.com

Morrow County School District will be notifying parents this week about the dangers and consequences of web-based blog sites such as MySpace.com. Although Morrow County School District embraces the use, education and application of technology both in and out of the classroom, recent events warrant parent notification and student and parent education on the matter.

Current press coverage on local broadcast television and across the nation has raised the level of concern over student safety and code of conduct violations over online blogging. In an effort to deter such behavior during school hours, Morrow County School District has blocked access to MySpace.com on all school computers using Websense© internet filtering software. Administrators are in the process of developing an instructional plan to educate and warn students of the potential dangers, online etiquette and consequences of inappropriate online behavior. Students and parents alike must realize that student code of conduct infractions, including alcohol/drug violations, bullying and harassment, may affect eligibility and violate local and state laws.

MySpace.com, a web-based blog site hosts over 43 million users and grows at a rate of 160,000 additional users every day. It allows people to create personal profile pages with the advertised purpose of "allowing users a free way to keep up with friends and make new ones." Users may post photos, video clips and personal information on their sites. Although seemingly harmless, it has been reported by law enforcement officials as a potential haven for sexual predators, on-line bullying and explicit violence and sexual content. Although many users don't post identifiable information like home addresses, predators can use information like their age, school they attend, their job and posted pictures to track down their victims. MySpace.com, owned by Rupert Murdoch of News Corp (parent to Fox News) claims that members must be at least 14 years old. However, there is no enforcement or screening mechanism on the site. Jeff Green, a detective with Clackamas County's Child Abuse Team, suggests that if parents are going to allow their children to use MySpace.com and other related sites that they closely examine what is on their child's page and ask for their log in and password so they can continually monitor their site.

Many web blogs such as MySpace.com claim that their users may "privatize" their accounts, only allowing access to those they "invite" in. However,

continued page 2

Wine tasting to be held at Murrays

A wine tasting will be held at Murrays in Heppner on Friday, March 17 from 5-7 p.m., as part of the St. Patrick's Celebration. Wines from Wheatridge Winery in Arlington will be featured.

Trail Band to perform

Heppner welcomes the return of the popular Trail Band on Saturday evening, March 18, at the Heppner Elementary School cafeteria/gym at 7:30 p.m. The evening entertainment is sponsored by Morrow County Unified Recreation District and is free to the public.

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Morrow County Grain Growers
Lexington 989-8221 • 1-800-452-7396 For farm equipment, visit our web site at www.mcgg.net