

A view from the hill

By Doris Brosnan

At the Willow Creek Terrace, "Celebrating" seems to have been the theme for the month of March.

First came the celebration of Pharmacy Week, March 5-11. Residents sent a "thank you" and some homemade cinnamon rolls to their favorite pharmacy.

On March 14, everyone was invited to celebrate Baseball Cap Day by wearing a favorite cap or hat.

On Sunday, March 18, residents turned Irish and celebrated with the music of the Chancers, a group back for a third year of sharing their music at Heppner's weekend celebration, and the Ol' Time Fiddlers. Several residents broadened their Irish-ness by attending the Big Green Parade on Saturday and other Wee Bit O' Ireland events through the weekend.

Residents and staff are currently celebrating American Chocolate Week with many mouth-watering chocolate surprises. How fortunate that dark chocolate is good for most everyone's health.

Another celebration has come as a special luncheon in Donna Schonbachler's honor and as a "thank you" to the Home Health and Hospice staff for

all they do at the Terrace. Schonbachler, the facility's registered nurse, has just received the Home Health Nurse of the Year award.

On March 30, the Terrace will be celebrating Doctor Appreciation Day because the Heppner medical staff is so important to the residents and to the community-at-large.

Soon, April will be in full bloom, so staff and residents are making plans for Gardening Bingo and for Planting Day (or Days). Easter comes with April, so residents will be making crosses for the apartment doors and coloring eggs. They all look forward to joining the Red Hat Society on April 5, celebrating its second annual Tea Party on the Hill. And two residents, Nina Harshman and Verna Brinda, plan to participate in the MS Walk on April 8. As mothers of multiple sclerosis suffers, both women know the importance of medical research, and by Walking, they celebrate even small strides in the fight against the disease and the support that the community offers in that fight.

A visit to Willow Creek Terrace quickly reveals that celebrating is viewed as an important part of life on the hill and the residents and staff welcome visitors to join them as they celebrate this life.

Local soldier visits UAE port

Navy Chief Petty Officer David S. Dooney, son of Juanita Bohnhoff of Irrigon and David Dooney of Umatilla, and his fellow shipmates assigned to the guided-missile destroyer USS Decatur made a port visit to Jebel Ali, United Arab Emirates while on a scheduled deployment as part of the Ronald Reagan Carrier Strike Group (CSG) 7.

The port visit gave Dooney's unit a chance to experience a different culture and strengthen the relationship between the United Arab Emirates and the coalition of maritime forces. CSG-7 has been conducting maritime security operations (MSO) in the 5th Fleet area of operations.

MSO sets the conditions for security and stability in the maritime environment and supports the counter-terrorism and security efforts of regional nations. MSO denies international terrorists use of

the maritime environment as a venue for attack or to transport personnel, weapons or other materials.

The primary mission of Dooney's ship is to provide multi-mission offensive and defensive capabilities. USS Decatur is capable of operating independently or as part of a strike group. Its flexibility provides presence with a purpose and strike power to support joint and allied forces afloat and ashore.

Dooney is a 1993 graduate of Riverside High School in Boardman and joined the Navy in June 1993.

For more information on the deployment visit USS Decatur Web site at www.navy.mil.

Fair Board to meet

The Fair Board will meet on Tuesday, April 4 at 6 p.m. at the fair office.

MCSO activates two K9 units

The Morrow County Sheriff's Office has recently activated its two newest members of the Sheriff's Office: K9 Barbie and K9 Stevie.

Barbie is a three-year-old female German shepherd. She has been certified by the Oregon Police K9 Association as a patrol dog including tracking and as a narcotics dog. Her owner and handler is Reserve Deputy Colleen Neubert a five-year Reserve member of the Morrow County Sheriff's Office and an employee of Wal-Mart Distribution Center in Hermiston. Wal-Mart is a partner of the Morrow County Sheriff's Office and has been very generous in allowing Reserve Deputy Neubert to work different shifts and to respond to emergencies when needed. Reserve Deputy Neubert is a military veteran of the United States Army as a Military Police Officer and was assigned to Germany as a K9 dog handler. Barbie is Reserve Deputy Neubert's second dog with the Morrow County Sheriff's Office. Her first K9 dog Quinto was poisoned and died in 2005. Barbie now replaces Quinto and continues Reserve Deputy Neubert's service to the citizens of Morrow County.

Stevie is a three-year-old female shepherd/collie mix. Her owner and handler is Deputy Adam Bredfield a two-year member of the Sheriff's Office. Stevie has been certified by the Oregon Police K9 Association as a narcotics detection dog and trained to detect a variety of controlled substances

including marijuana, methamphetamine, cocaine and heroin. Deputy Bredfield located Stevie through the Portland Police Bureau as a pound dog with great potential as a narcotics dog. Deputy Bredfield proposed to Sheriff Matlack that if he would be considered as dog handler that he would volunteer his time to work and train with Stevie to become drug certified. He and Stevie's hard work paid off and in March 2006 they were certified in narcotics detection.

In March 2006, K9 Barbie and Reserve Deputy Neubert were placed into service and assigned to assist the Blue Mountain Enforcement Narcotics Team (BENT). Reserve Deputy Neubert and Barbie were assigned to search a residence and vehicles. Barbie located drug-tainted money hidden inside the residence and additional small amounts of marijuana in the vehicle searches.

On March 18, K9 Stevie and Deputy Bredfield began their active duty and were assigned to conduct a walk around inspection of an arrestee's vehicle. Stevie alerted to the presence of a controlled substance and a subsequent search warrant lead to the discovery of three ounces of methamphetamine and a loaded handgun.

These newest members of the Morrow County Sheriff's Office and their handlers will provide extended law enforcement services to the citizens of Morrow County and additional assistance in drug investigations to county partners and neighbors.

HLL to meet

Heppner Little League will meet on April 20 at 7 p.m. in the Pettyjohn Building conference room. Anyone interested is encouraged to attend.

Morrow SWCD board meeting to be held

The Morrow SWCD Board is meeting Tuesday, April 4, 5 p.m., at the Pettyjohn Office Building in Heppner. Agenda items include, minutes of the March meeting, treasurer's report, written staff report, Tom Butcher DEQ-Willow Creek TMDL report and partner agency reports. There is prospect of an executive session according to ORS 192.660(1)(f).

Meetings of the Morrow SWCD are open to the public.

WCCC to hold clean up day

Willow Creek Country Club will be holding a clean up day on Saturday, April 1 at 8 a.m. Lunch will be provided for workers. Everyone is asked to bring rakes, shovels and other tools useful for the cleanup.

Rebekah Lodge to hold card party

It's no joke. Holly Rebekah Lodge will be hosting its monthly card party this Saturday, April 1 at the lodge hall in Lexington.

For those new to the area, go to RJ's restaurant, turn west and the hall is on the left hand side of the street. The cost is only \$5 per person, which includes a light supper, snacks and prizes. Play will start at 7 p.m. and the public is invited to attend.

Morrow County School District expands opportunities for students

To prepare students to meet the demanding challenges of the post-high school learning environment and work force, Morrow County School District has partnered with Blue Mountain Community College to create university level instruction delivered by collegiate professors on the campuses of Morrow County Schools. They will kick off this unique partnership after spring break, offering Writing 243: Introduction to Imaginative Writing to 16 Morrow County juniors and seniors who have registered for the course.

These classes will be offered at no cost to enrolled students of Morrow County School District. All applicable course fees and materials required will be purchased by the district. Beginning fall of 2006, students attending other school districts in Morrow County may enroll if space is available.

University of Lexington classes will be offered during the collegiate terms and may range from one-term to three-term classes depending on the course. Courses offered will depend on instructor availability and student need. Available classes will be advertised in advance of student scheduling so students and their parents may plan and prepare. Classes offered will be college-level courses

accessible primarily to junior and senior-level students residing in Morrow County. Transcribed college credit will be awarded for successful completion of the course.

Courses will be offered via an online/direct instruction combination. Course-work will be delivered on-line through the school week where students study, communicate, and accomplish class work similar to most online instructional courses. Classroom instruction will then be offered on non-school Fridays for one to two hours (depending on the course) for lecture and student assistance and direction. All classroom and online instruction will be delivered by an approved college professor from Blue Mountain Community College.

Morrow County will provide transportation for all students from Irrigon, Riverside, and Heppner Jr/Sr High Schools to and from Lexington or the appropriate school site. Most lecture classes will be located in Lexington, at the school district office. Laboratory classes, or classes that require special accommodations, will be housed at Riverside Jr/Sr High School, Irrigon Jr/Sr High School, or at the Boardman BMCC campus.

For more information, please contact Wade Smith, Assistant Superintendent at 989-8202.

St. Patrick's Senior Center news

On April 5, the Nazarene Church volunteers are hosting the senior center noon meal. The menu for the day is lasagna with meat, broccoli, lettuce and tomato salad, breadsticks, fruit cup and fruit juice.

Heppner Family Foods recently made a donation of food to the center. The senior board and all concerned appreciate this local business's generosity and John Gochner's ability to work variety into his weekly meals.

The center appreciates all who supported the St. Patrick's Saturday breakfast and lunch, both by volunteering to help and by eating the morning and noon meal at the center. It was a fun day and the financial support will help those in charge plan for the center's future.

Sixteen people (including the driver) traveled by bus to Pendleton for the RSVP recognition luncheon. CAPECO hosted the event at the Pendleton Convention Center Tuesday, March 21. Each year certificates of recognition are awarded to those volunteers who give 200 or more hours of volunteer time to supporting various local organizations and projects. Among the local group who received certificates were Barbara Struthers, Ginger

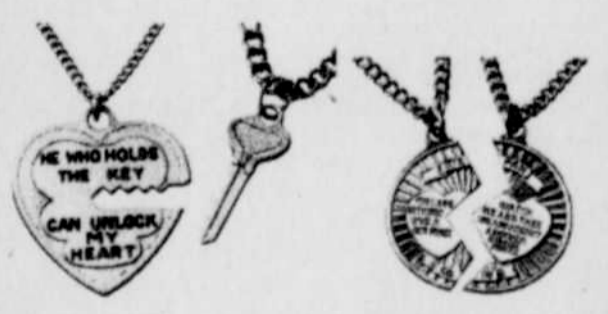
Keithley, Judy Buschke, Jack Lytton, Tom Wilson, Ed Baker and Grace Baker. Volunteers give much more than time to their respective interests. They give messages of good will and desire for a community to work well together and to foster quality relationships between participants on every level- those who give and those who receive.

Mabel Heath is a volunteer who gathers coupons to send overseas to military commissaries, which make the coupons available to service men and women. She finds the coupon booklets from the Sunday "Oregonian" especially helpful. She has invited people who receive the paper, to share the booklet with service personnel, by leaving the booklets at the center office where she can pick them up. She shared the fact that she has received letters of appreciation from men and women who have found them helpful and useful. The center office is open Monday through Friday of each week from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. and 1-4 p.m.

Births

Irelynn Grace Kollman- a daughter, Irelynn Grace, was born March 24, 2006 to Brian and Amy Kollman of Heppner. She weighed 8 pounds 13.5 ounces. She joins sister, Rylee, 7, and brother, Evan, 4. Grandparents are Greg and Janet Greenup of Heppner and Karen Phegley of Ukiah and great-grandparents are Bill and Pat Gentry of Heppner and Cecelia Kollman of Pendleton.

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