

Young and old alike enjoy ICC annual auction and BBQ



Best friends Ann Rietmann, 8, (left) and Rachel Holland, 8, (right) look over the kids items in the Country Store at Ione Community Church's 44th annual auction and barbecue held June 3 at Willows Grange in Ione.



Morgan Orem, 5, (right) enjoys the outdoor auction with the adults at ICC's 44th annual auction and barbecue on June 3 in Ione.

Chamber Chatter

By Claudia Hughes, Exec. Dir.

We all continue to look forward to job creation at the former mill site, but until we actually read it from a Port of Morrow news release or hear Willow Creek Valley Economic Development shout it from the rooftops, we will hesitate to have a big party. All in good time.

In the meantime, let's celebrate those visitors we do have in town and give them reasons to return. A car club just left town from the Tri-Cities and while it didn't look like they spent much time shopping in the rain, they did eat at a local restaurant and thus left dollars to circulate in Heppner.

Timberline Adventures, a cycling group following the Oregon Trail, will be spending a night here in July, staying at the motel and eating locally. They sent a copy of their 2006 Adventure Planner covering cycling tours all over the United States. Heppner is mentioned in the publication that has an international circulation.

Last week, visitors from Germany were in the Chamber office, as well as a mother and daughter from Portland, celebrating graduation and following the Byways of Oregon. Both a motorcycle group and a Senior Citizen group were seen spending money on Main Street. Another group is working on a visit in July. I know I repeat myself, but this is what it's all about. Diversify; don't put all your eggs in one basket. We can't sit still while we wait for job creation. Being the place to visit more and more does

create business for those making a living here and the more people we bring in, the better chance we have of filling stores.

What are people coming here to do? Some love the history, others love anything with wheels (cyclists, motorcycles, 4-wheelers, traveling by RV or car). "Got wheels? We invite you to get lost in Heppner." Well, guess what, we need places for these wheels to park, especially the toy haulers. Ideas? Run them by the Chamber of Commerce. It's time to come to the table. It's time to put on creative thinking caps and make up for businesses we lost or didn't welcome with open arms and move forward. (Just have a chat with Del Piper who is sold on Willow Creek Valley opportunities and is on a roll.)

Looking ahead, you might invite all your fishing friends to attend the Bass and Crappie Fishing Tournament July 1 at Willow Creek Lake, or tell them about the BBQ, Talent Show, Pie Auction and Sidewalk Sale on Friday, July 28, followed by the Stickhorse Race and Rodeo Kick-off Dance on July 29. Heppner Happenings continue on with fun for everyone.

This week identity theft will be the Chamber program, Thursday, June 8 at John's Place at noon.

Thought for the Week: "A community is like a work of art, perfectly finished only when nothing can be added to it and nothing can be taken away."

AC Houghton finishes first annual Writing Olympiad

Last Friday morning, June 2, was the time of the closing ceremony for the 1st Annual Writing Olympiad for AC Houghton Elementary. Inspired by the recently closed Winter Olympics, AC Houghton third and fourth grades initiated the Olympiad to focus attention and student effort for the statewide benchmark writing test in the fourth grade and the off grade benchmark writing test in third grade. The school conducted an opening ceremony this past February for their efforts in front of the whole student body and staff carrying banners proclaiming elements of good writing traits, which are used to produce highly effective writing. There was a lot of fanfare and fun had by all. The Olympiad idea was the brainchild of fourth-grade teacher Lori Frank. It was quickly developed and adopted by the entire third and fourth grade staff. Following the opening ceremonies, students took the Oregon State writing test with the following goals determined by point totals scored in each of the five writing traits.

Third Grade: Bronze medals would go to all students who conditionally met the writing point total; Silver medals would go to all students who met benchmarks with 18-22 points; and Gold medals would go to students who

received 23-24 points, essentially passing the fourth grade benchmark.

Fourth Grade: Bronze medals would go to all students who conditionally met benchmarks; Silver medals would go to students who received all 4's in their writing traits; and Gold medals would go to students receiving 5's for their writing trait scores.

The results of this year's writing efforts showed tremendous growth over last year's results. The AC Houghton staff has been working to improve writing for the past three years. They have tightly organized the curriculum scope and sequence from grade level to grade level. They have also adopted writing graphical organizers, which help students put their thoughts in a sequential pattern to create good writing beginnings, content and endings.

When AC Houghton received their writing results over the last month, they showed 80 percent of fourth graders meeting or conditionally meeting benchmarks. They showed 100 percent of third graders meeting or conditionally meeting benchmarks. The school staff was extremely pleased with the results achieved by great student efforts motivated in part through the Olympiad process.

Exchange students from Germany bid farewell to Ione

The adventure of a lifetime will soon come to an end for Michael Mayer and Niklas Kamp. Mayer and Kamp are international exchange students from Germany who arrived in Ione last August to spend an academic year at Ione High School and experience the American way of life.

For Mayer and Kamp, the end of the school year means more than saying goodbye to homework, they must also bid farewell to the families who have shared their homes with them for the last ten months.

Although the school year is over, the friends and memories that they have made will last a lifetime as they return to Germany with a new

outlook. Aspect Foundation is currently seeking volunteer host families for 2006/2007 so that more students like Mayer and Kamp can have this unforgettable experience. Interested families can view profiles and letters for next year's students on Aspect Foundation's website, www.aspectfoundation.org.

Aspect Foundation is a non-profit organization dedicated to excellence in youth exchange. For more information about becoming an Aspect Foundation volunteer host family, please contact Dave Fitzsimmons at (541) 276-8394, the Aspect Foundation national office at (800) US-YOUTH or visit www.aspectfoundation.org.

Adult Beginner Spanish class to be held in Heppner

Blue Mountain Community College will offer Beginner Spanish for Adults in Heppner this summer. Taught by Petra Payne, this introductory class will be held on Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at Heppner High School. The class is set to begin Tuesday, June 20 and will end July 13, with some possible schedule shuffling to accommodate the 4th of July holiday.

Students will learn some basic Spanish vocabulary and become familiar with the sounds and pronunciation of the Spanish language. Students will learn basic conversational and situational phrases as well as be introduced to some grammar and rules of the language. The overall goal of the course is to give students an introduction to the language and some basic skills to help them communicate with Spanish speakers.

Tuition for this class is \$35. Students age 62 and over may take the class for \$25. Registration may be done online at www.bluecc.edu (course identification is 000.552-40) or by contacting Anne Morter, Morrow County Coordinator, at 422-7040. Students must pre-register as minimum enrollment must be met to hold the class.

Rodeo Court visits day care



Queen Heather Yocom (left) and Princess Josie Miller (right) with the children of Heppner Day Care.

Queen Heather Yocom and Princess Josie Miller read to the children at Heppner Day Care as part of their goal of increasing literacy in Morrow County. The girls have both enjoyed reading since they were little and want to share the joy.

They also told the

children about the Stick Horse Rodeo which will be held on Saturday, July 29 at 5 p.m. They also mentioned that they were to have a dinner at 7 p.m. and a dance at 8 p.m. The band for the dance will be "Much More Country," a country and western band from Portland.

Rodeo Court represents Morrow County in Spray



Pennant bearers Jarried Miller (back left) and Jessica Hamilton (back right) follow behind Princess Josie Miller (middle) and Queen Heather Yocom (forward).

The Morrow County Fair and Oregon Trail Pro Rodeo Court Queen Heather Yocom and Princess Josie Miller along with their pennant bearers Jessica Hamilton and Jarried Miller traveled to Spray over Memorial Day weekend to participate in the parade and rodeo. All of the court horses traveled together in the new aluminum horse trailer provided by and pulled by Jack and Joe Meligan for the summer.

The court represented Morrow County

decked out in their buckskin and black colored uniforms that won them the first place ribbon for best-mounted court in the parade.

The grand entry was smooth and the girls rode well but with caution. The parade and grand entry was a semi-sunny event with the weather changing to torrent rains that had water standing in the arena. The girls kept their smiles in spite of the rain and invited the spectators and contestants to our great County Fair and Rodeo in August.

St. Patrick's Senior Center news

The June 14 menu for St. Patrick Senior Center's noon meal is to honor Father's Day, June 18. The menu is roast beef, mashed potatoes and gravy, green beans, fresh baked bread, apple pie and fruit juice. Volunteer hosts for that day are being provided by the Heppner Christian Church members.

A bus trip is scheduled for June 13 to Tamastlikt Cultural Institute. A guide will be on hand to take travelers through the museum. A gift shop is there also. Lunch will be eaten at the Wildhorse Restaurant and time will be provided for other interests of the place. Departure time from the Main Street entrance of the senior center is 10 a.m., Tuesday, June 13. A sign up sheet is in the center office. The museum offers a presentation of the Native American experience of the westward migration of people into and through their homeland in the 19th century to the present. The tour will take about one hour, then the

bus will transport the group to the restaurant and the remainder of the outing.

The featured resident this week is Adine Stone. Stone has lived in the St. Patrick apartment complex for two years. She has been a resident of the Heppner area all of her life.

She was born in 1918 and married Gene Stone in 1934. He was a woodcutter when they were first married and also worked as a ranch hand. She has been a homemaker; caring for a family of six children- three boys and three girls. She has 14 grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

She has been a widow for 20 years, is a longtime member of the Nazarene Church and likes to read western stories and novels.

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Kylee Graybeal and Casey Evans
Wedding ~ Saturday, June 24th

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