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# Gazette Times

VOL. 125 NO. 31 8 Pages Wednesday, August 2, 2006 Morrow County, Heppner, Oregon

## Ione celebrates remodeling project

A party was held last week to celebrate the remodeling of the Ione library and city hall. The library was expanded and remodeled, city hall was remodeled and a new ADA bathroom was added. The Ione Topic Club, which runs the library, presented Mayor Mark Bruno with a plaque in appreciation for his volunteer work on the project.

All of the labor was donated and the funding for materials came from county tippage fees and a grant from the Wildhorse Foundation. The project was started in January of 2006.

While guests munched on cake and sipped refreshments, Bruno said, "I believe in giving back to the community. I'm old fashioned," he said. "And this is a great town." He also praised city recorder Gayle Eynetich saying, "She was



Ione City Recorder Gayle Eynetich cuts the cake for the celebration.

the driving force behind all this."

The plaque said: "Ione Topic Club City Library 2006 Addition. Dedicated to Mark Bruno, Ione Mayor, with thanks to the citizens of Ione for generous financial support. Our appreciation to Wayne Hams, Jim and Gayle Eynetich, the Ione Education Foundation and Wildhorse Foundation."



Betty Rietmann, of the Ione Topic Club, presents Ione Mayor Mark Bruno with a plaque of appreciation for volunteer work on the remodel project.

## Conflicting stories presented in possible hit and run

Scottie King, 27, of Hermiston, was transported to Pioneer Memorial Hospital on Saturday afternoon, July 29, after being involved in a possible hit and run on Main Street in Heppner. No witnesses were at the scene of the accident, and King and the alleged suspect, who had left the scene, provided deputies with conflicting stories, said Morrow County Sheriff Ken Matlack.

"There is some evidence on the vehicle that clouds the issue," said Sheriff Matlack. He added that the victim's story "was not consistent" with evidence found at the scene and additional evidence gathered from the vehicle. "Physical investigation does not show any obvious effort to hit a person," said Sheriff Matlack.

King has claimed

The Heppner ambulance crew preps Scottie King for transport to Pioneer Memorial Hospital.

that the driver of the vehicle hit and dragged her, while the driver claims King tried to jump into the window of the moving vehicle. Both accounts have been documented and forwarded to the district attorney's office for any possible charges. "The DA will be

decider of fact in case," said Sheriff Matlack. The DA was not available for comment at press time.

Sheriff Matlack also said that the two parties knew each other.

King was released from PMH on Saturday evening.

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

## Equal under fire

Women suit up for summer wildfire season

Reprinted from the July 22, 2006 edition of "The Spectrum." Copyright 2006, The Spectrum By Patrice St. Germain patrices@thespectrum.com [Editor's Note: Tiffany Hedman is the daughter of Dale and Bobette Hedman of Mattawa, WA. She is also the granddaughter of Bob, and the late Sue, Jones and Rita Hedman DeZote, and the late Arnie Hedman.]



Tiffany Hedman oversees the fueling of a helicopter that is fighting the Ranch fire near Pintura. Photo by Christopher Onstott/The Spectrum

**HURRICANE** - When school lets out for the summer in Mattawa, Wash., it's not just the students who get a break.

Third-grade teacher Tiffany Hedman trades in her skirts and makeup for dirty T-shirts and jeans for her summer job as a member of the national helitack team in Dillon, Mont., to fight wildfires from a helicopter.

Hedman said with the two careers at opposite ends of the spectrum, it's similar to having a split personality. But the blend works and by the end of the fire season, she is ready to get back into the school routine.

"It's perfect because by the time I'm sick of being grungy, it's time to go back to wearing skirts, dresses and makeup," Hedman said. "It's a transition similar to a split personality, but I'm comfortable in both roles."

Hedman said her students find it hard to believe what she does during the summer and the guys on her helitack team ask, "Are you sure you wear dresses?" Standing in a field near New Harmony with her



Tiffany Hedman relaxes with the rest of the national helitack team from Dillon Montana while waiting for an assignment during the Ranch fire near Pintura. Photo by Christopher Onstott/The Spectrum

helitack team working on the Ranch Fire, it's understandable why the guys on the crew have a hard time picturing Hedman in a skirt.

Wearing an open weave cowboy hat that her boss calls her "Coyote Ugly" hat, little checks of sunlight

dot Hedman's makeup-free face while the hat covers up matted hair and her jeans haven't seen the inside of a washing machine in about a week.

Yet Hedman, who has spent five seasons on a fire crew, and other women on fire crews say the grime, the dirt and the hard work - plus being in the minority in a male-dominated occupation - doesn't bother them.

"There's something about it I like. I like being sweaty and dirty and not caring how I look," Gabriela "Gabby" Mendo, a member of the Angeles Helitack team out of Los Angeles said. "It's fun to me."

Part of the acceptance by their male counterparts is that the women all pull their own weight and, in some cases, almost carry their own weight.

Amy Harvey, with the Teton Interagency Helitack team out of Jackson, Wyo., is in her sixth

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## Federally funded clinic refuses to make financials public

## M.C. Health District approves \$70,000 for Boardman Clinic

Columbia River Community Health Services executive director, Mindy Binder, and board member Ed Glenn appeared before the Morrow County Health District at their regular meeting Monday night in Ione, seeking \$70,000 from the district for operations at the Boardman clinic.

Glenn told the board that the migrant clinic received \$555,375 in federal grant monies and had a net gain of \$277,096 for the year, including the \$70,000 pledge from the Morrow County Health District.

Glenn and Binder refused to give a copy of the Boardman clinic's audit report to the Gazette-Times, saying that the clinic was not required to make its financials public. The accounting firm that completed the audit, Mike R. Bell & Company, would not take a call from the Gazette and had not returned the Gazette-Times' call by press time. Mike Bell's firm also prepares financial information for the Morrow County Health District.

The MCHD Board approved the \$70,000 earmarked for the Boardman clinic, which serves migrant and non-migrant patients in the Boardman area. The clinic is staffed on a part-time basis by Dr. Robert Boss, who previously operated a private clinic at the same location, and two physician assistants who work four days each.

Glenn reported that the community is very happy with the clinic, which provides medical and dental services and occupational medicine, including drug testing, fitness tests and other services. He said that the clinic has seen growth in its patient load, especially among migrant workers and the underserved. But, he added that physician recruitment has been difficult and may become an issue if Dr. Boss elects to retire.

Also at the meeting, the board approved Dr. Zachary Hale's appointment to the district's medical staff. MCHD CEO Victor Vander Does said that Dr. Hale will be working part-time for the

district until June 2007, when he will move into the Heppner community. The board also approved Dr. Russel Nichols' reappointment to the medical staff. Vander Does said that Dr. Nichols may do some fill-in work for the district, but he and the district have no firm commitment as of yet.

Currently Physician's Assistant Sheridan Tarnasky is employed full-time at Pioneer Memorial; Dr. Ed Berretta works for the district in Heppner on a part-time basis; and Dr. Ken Wenberg, who closed his private clinic in Heppner July 31, is still working as an emergency room physician at Pioneer Memorial Hospital in Heppner. Vander Does said that Dr. Sam Datta, who recently left the district for employment in Hermiston, is scheduled to return occasionally to perform medical procedures. Another physician's assistant is employed at the district's Irrigon Clinic.

Molly Rhea, R.N.,

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MON - FRI 7 a.m. - 6 p.m. and SAT 7 a.m. - 5 p.m.

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