

School supplies await students



Church of the Nazarene Pastor Duane Jones (left) delivers school supplies collected in a recent drive to Heppner Elementary School teacher Mary Ann Elguezabal.

The Church of the Nazarene has been hosting the annual school supplies drive and Pastor Duane Jones made his first delivery to Heppner Elementary School on Tuesday, Aug. 22 in preparation for the upcoming start of school. HES teacher Mary Ann Elguezabal is organizing the distribution of the supplies at the school. Those in need of items can contact Elguezabal at the school at 676-9128.

Donations will continue to be accepted at the Church of the Nazarene for the next several weeks.

What is Hospice?

By Molly Rhea, Director, Pioneer Memorial Hospice

One of our canned answers is: "Hospice is a compassionate, patient-centered approach to medical care and support for people at the end of life and their families. It is care focused on maintaining dignity, increasing quality of life and providing comfort, including pain and symptom control. Hospice recognizes that every person's experience will be different and the hospice team creates a plan of care according to the individual needs and wishes of each patient."

Yes, Hospice is all of that—and more, so much more.

Several years ago, when our team started working to qualify as a Medicare-Certified Hospice, I felt it was important because the residents of south Morrow county did not have access to this Medicare benefit, which pays for the medications,

equipment and care of those deemed to be terminally ill (north Morrow and Gilliam counties both had agencies coming into these areas).


What I have come to realize is that, although the financial aspects can not be trivialized, what is even more important to terminally ill persons, and their families, is to have someone to talk to about the multitude of issues, from planning a memorial service to how to provide personal care. And the comfort of having a hospice nurse available 24-hours a day.

One of our goals at Pioneer Memorial Hospice is to sensitize the public on issues related to death and dying. With that goal in mind, look for regular articles submitted by myself, and perhaps some of our staff, volunteers and caregivers, on what Hospice means to us.

OSU agricultural undergraduates earn honors

Ten Oregon State University undergraduates in the Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics have earned honors for their academic and community work.

Students honored included Cameron Krebs of Ione. Krebs is a junior in agricultural business management. He earned the Rachel and Harold Hollands Scholarship, established by Harold Hollands, an OSU professor of agricultural and resource economics, in memory of Rachel Hollands.



Real Estate

By DAVID SYKES
REALTOR

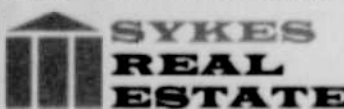
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A second mortgage, which is so-called because it is recorded behind a senior or first loan and has a secondary priority, can be a very valuable tool for both buyers and sellers of homes.

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gages, both for purchasers and for owners to tap some of their unused equity and get cash out.

For a seller willing to carry back a second mortgage, it could mean getting a higher price and a quicker sale, since doing this will expand the available pool of buyers who may not have all the cash required for a large down payment. Sometimes the willingness to carry a second in itself may bring a buyer who might have otherwise overlooked a particular piece of property.



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DEQ seeks input on Willow Creek TMDL and water quality plan

The Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) is seeking input on water quality planning for streams in the Willow Creek watershed. Willow Creek drains into the Columbia River and flows through the Oregon towns of Heppner, Lexington and Ione.

DEQ is proposing water temperature goals for much of the basin, bacteria goals for the Balm Fork tributary and pH targets for the Willow Creek Reservoir and two facilities that discharge waste water into Willow Creek in the Heppner vicinity.

The federal Clean Water Act requires DEQ to develop plans with pollution control targets for improving water quality in impaired water bodies. To this end, DEQ is establishing limits known as Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) for the Willow Creek watershed.

The Willow Creek TMDL and management plan will be available for public comment Aug. 25 through Oct. 10 of 2006. A public hearing will be held mid-way through the public comment period. At the hearing, discussion will be encouraged following a presentation of the TMDL study and outcomes. Written and oral testimony will be invited at the hearing, to be held Tuesday, Sept. 19, from 6-8 p.m. at Morrow Soil and Water Conservation District Office, 430 Heppner/Lexington Highway.

Comments may also be sent by email to butcher.don@deq.state.or.us.

In the summer, temperature and pH measurements in Willow Creek have regularly exceeded Oregon water quality standards. Bacteria concentrations in the Balm Fork have often exceeded standards as well. The TMDL identifies target levels of pollutants or other controls needed for streams to meet standards. The accompanying WQMP broadly addresses the water quality issues and expectations for management organizations having water quality responsibilities in the Willow Creek area: Oregon Departments of Agriculture and Forestry, and US Army Corps of Engineers and Forest Service. These agencies will then prepare and implement plans specific to their area of responsibility.

Water quality standards are established to protect beneficial uses of water bodies, such as swimming, fishing and drinking water sources. High temperature is particularly threatening to the survival of some species of fish. Willow Creek and its tributaries are not cool enough in the summer to fully protect redband trout as they rear and spawn. Elevated pH levels are also dangerous to aquatic life. The bacteria standard is established primarily to protect recreational activities such as swimming.

Willow Creek was studied through DEQ's Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) program. A TMDL uses scientific data collection and analysis to determine: sources of the pollution, the maximum amount of pollutant that can be present while meeting water quality standards, and the current amount of excess pollution. A TMDL takes into account the pollution from all sources

including "background" (i.e., the amount of pollutant types naturally found in the water), and includes a margin of safety to account for uncertainty. The TMDL study was carried out in partnership with the Morrow Soil and Water Conservation District, and citizens and other natural resources organizations participated as well.

The Willow Creek TMDL Document and fact

Beautification, Parks and Lands commission discuss fall activities

The Aug. 10 meeting of the Heppner Beautification/Parks and Lands commission was held at 8 a.m. at City Hall.

Planting at the old pool site is almost complete. Sagebrush will be planted in the fall to ensure that it will survive. Most of the other plants are doing well; one or two of them may have died during the hot weather. There have been a lot of favorable comments on the site. Coordinating installation of rock cribs by the Boy Scouts is being done. The south part of the site will depend on when the fence is installed and investigation of materials for the split rail fence are ongoing. Watering the new plants is still necessary and a line in to make the watering more efficient is planned.

Hager Park has two more irrigation lines that need to be installed. This work is being done as time allows due to preparations for the fair and rodeo. Grass should be seeded in mid-September/early October and there is the possibility of hydro-seeding the area. A master plan for the park will be developed by a steering committee starting this fall. Composition of the committee was discussed with two members of the Beautification/Parks and Lands Commission, several residents of the neighborhood, plus a representative from the baseball fields.

The Garden Club will clean the area in Heritage Plaza around the sign before fair time. The entrance to the fair and rodeo grounds has already been cleaned. A future project planned will be a landscaped entryway and might be a good project for 4-H clubs. In the past, there was a drip system installed and the landscaping should be low-maintenance. Fair and Rodeo banners will be installed around town on Aug. 11.

The City Park looks very good this year and has been getting a lot of use. It has received many favorable comments from residents and visitors. The old school house in the park needs to be cleaned up and painted. The museum committee is working on ideas for the building, including possibly moving it to the Agricultural Museum area. Plans are underway to re-do the City

sheet are available for review at: DEQ Pendleton Office, 700 SE Emigrant, Suite 330, Pendleton, OR 97801. (541) 278-4603; DEQ Water Quality Program, 811 SW 6th Ave. Portland, OR 97204, (503) 229-5279; and Morrow Soil and Water Conservation District, 430 Heppner/Lexington Hwy., (541) 676-5452

Copies (paper or CD) can also be obtained by calling Don Butcher at DEQ's Pendleton office

(541) 278-4603 or Dianne Eaton in Portland at (503) 229-6756. DEQ encourages individuals with computer capabilities to view the document directly at www.deq.state.or.us/WQ/TMDLs/UmatillaBasin.htm.

To discuss the TMDL and water quality plan, call Don Butcher at (541) 278-4603, or send an email to butcher.don@deq.state.or.us.

Park. More detailed information will be coming at future meetings.

Other topics of interest: The hanging baskets are thriving now that the problem with the water tank pump has been resolved. There have also been many positive comments from residents and visitors about how nice they look. The City litter pickup was canceled since it is not necessary. The amount of litter that has accumulated since the last pickup in March has been insignificant, which is a compliment to the citizens of Heppner. In the Memorial

Park, there is a tree that was dedicated for Arbor Day a few years ago. The tree is dead and will be removed and the Garden Club will take care of replacement in the future. In the center of town, the evergreen by the post office needs to be trimmed and will be taken care of soon. A grant for the tennis courts is being written to request covering the cost of installing a new backboard, which will be approximately \$500 in addition to resurfacing the entire court. The fall Garden Club Association meeting for the Blue Mountain District will be held in Heppner this year.

Mexican dinner sponsored by St. Patrick youth

Francisca Ramirez was pleasantly surprised last week when some of the nuns from her hometown came to Hermiston. Their order of The Franciscans of Jesus and Mary are in the United States doing retreats and raising money to help with their missionary efforts in the Sierra Madre Mountains where they work with the Huicholes. Coras, Tepehuanes, Mexicaneros and the mixed indigenes that live in that region. Francisca's sister was also a member of their order and Francisca spent her childhood at their school and helping provide for the daily living necessities in that

harsh country. Ramirez, Maria Sanchez, Dora Collins and Mary Ann Elguezabal will be cooking up a delicious Mexican Dinner that will be served on Aug. 27 at the St. Patrick Parish Hall. The hours for the dinner will be from 12-2 p.m. and the cost will be \$5 per plate. They will also be selling homemade tamales and homemade cheese to take home. All proceeds will be donated to The Franciscans of Jesus and Mary. The youth of the parish will be serving and cleaning up at the event. Sister Guadalupe will be on hand to show pictures and answer questions. Hope to see you there.

Stickhorse Race results announced

Forty-plus Stickhorse racers flooded into the Oregon Trail Rodeo Arena and the crowd went wild. It was a beautiful sunny day and the racers were decked out in their finest western attire for the Morrow County Rodeo.

When the dust settled, the lovely Queen Heather Yocom and Princess Josie Miller awarded the trophies to Champion Andrew Miles, second place to Hunter Greenup and third place to Rachel Sogge in the 3 year olds and under age group. In the 4 and 5 year olds, Daniel Miles was crowned champion, Gavin Hanna trotted into second place and Cheyenne Smith was a close third. The 6 and

7 year olds ran a tough race and a very fast Alex Lindsay come out first, followed closely by Coby Dougherty in second place and Wyatt Steagall came in third.

A couple of horses lost shoes and a comment overheard was, "I think we'd better get a new horse shoer next year." A few racers slipped, started, stumbled and fell, but there were no serious injuries and everyone who participated had a good time.

Handing out gold medals and fruit snacks to all the contestants were Pennant Bearers Jessica Hamilton and Jarred Miller, with assistance from McKenna Ramos. Nancy Vander Does took entries and members of the OTRP committee judged the races.

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