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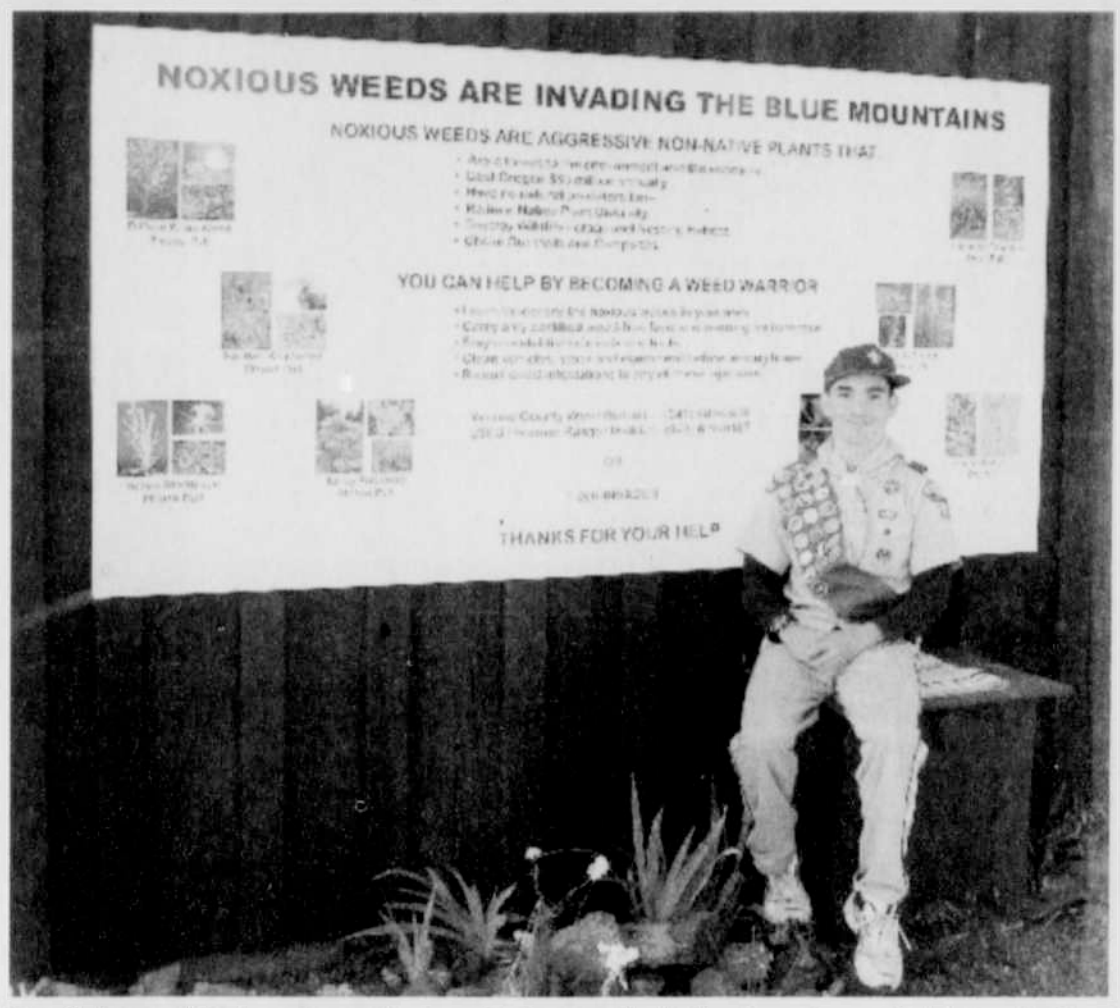
HEPPNER 50¢
Gazette Times

VOL. 125 NO. 35 12 Pages Wednesday, August 30, 2006 Morrow County, Heppner, Oregon

Redmond Eagle scout performs Morrow County service project



Ben Onimus, of Redmond, was the team lead on an Eagle Scout service project to create signs informing visitors to Morrow County Parks about noxious weeds.

Ben Onimus, an Eagle Scout from Redmond, was the team lead on a project to create signs for Morrow County Parks (OHV, Anson Wright and Cutsforth Park) that inform visitors on noxious weeds. The sign identifies eight different noxious weeds that are "invading the Blue Mountains."

Others included in the project were- Brett Kirtley, advisor; Roadside Industries (owned by Josh Hollinger), designed and made the signs; Miller Lumber and Parr Lumber, donated the frame lumber; Kevin Riding, cut the lumber for the frames; Devin Cooper, helped in making the signs and was involved in installation; and various scouts of Troop 99.

The signs would have cost $600 each, but due to donations for the service project, they were free.

Onimus is the son of Edward and Jeannie Onimus of Redmond.

Gazette closed for Labor Day

The Gazette-Times office will be closed on Monday, Sept. 4 in observance of Labor Day. The news and advertisement deadline for the Sept. 6 paper is rescheduled for Friday, Sept. 1 at 5 p.m. The office will reopen on Tuesday, Sept. 5 at its regular time of 9 a.m.

Board assures community acute problems will be treated

Health district approves contract with Dr. Wenberg; Dr. Hale five days a month

The Morrow County Health District has had some difficulty scheduling enough providers for Pioneer Memorial Clinic in Heppner since the resignation of Dr. Sam Datta, who moved from the area, but CEO Victor Vander Does believes the situation is in hand.

The MCHD Board, at their regular meeting Monday night in Heppner, approved a contract with Opal Butte Health Services, representing Dr. Ken Wenberg, to provide coverage at PMC. Dr. Wenberg, who recently closed his private clinic in Heppner, will work at the clinic for around two days per week for up to six months.

Vander Does told the board that Dr. Zachary Hale, who will begin working with the district full-time in June 2007, will also be available to work at the clinic starting this month for around five days per month. Dr. Hale is still employed as a health services provider in the Tri-Cities. Dr. Hale is temporarily unable to provide care to Medicare patients at PMC because his current employer did not require that certification, but Vander Does says Dr. Hale will be able to complete the certification process and to provide that service by the time he comes on full time with MCHD. Dr. Hale is, however, currently able to provide care to Medicaid patients.

Dr. Ed Berretta and Physician's Assistant Sheridan Tarnasky are also on board at the clinic and PMH emergency room. Dr. Berretta says that there is no problem in scheduling enough physicians to cover the emergency room for the upcoming month.

Vander Does says that for the time being, no new patients will be accepted for routine exams or physicals and added that PMC has a waiting list. However, he assures the community that anyone with an acute problem will be seen, whether he or she is a new or current patient.

Vander Does said that he intends to contact another physician, Dr. Russel Nichols, to determine whether he is still interested in working for MCHD. He said that he has received a resume from an additional physician and has also interviewed several nurse practitioners.

Also at the meeting the board:

-approved a request from Heppner Elementary School for $750 to help fund a parent workshop on Sept. 23 concerning preventing drug and alcohol abuse in their children. Vander Does and board members said they felt very strongly about the issue. Board member John Murray suggested, and the board agreed, that they would recommend that Ione parents also be invited to the workshop.

-approved credentialing for radiologists, Dr. Jacob Cambier and Dr. Roger Blair, pathologist Dr. Lawrence Adams, and heart specialist Dr. Tim Hanlon.

-learned that the district, after several months of positive financial statements, ended July with a $70,000 loss.

-heard the following report: the Heppner Ambulance had 11 total runs for July with eight transports for $8,108 in revenue; Boardman Ambulance had 28 runs with 12 transports for $11,773 in revenue; Irrigon Ambulance had 15 runs with nine transports for $7,566 in revenue; there was one flight; Pioneer Memorial Clinic had 244 patient visits with six new patients and 31 patients seen by a nurse; Irrigon Clinic had 140 patient visits with 17 new patients, 22 patients seen by a nurse and 16 no-shows; Pioneer Memorial Clinic had four admissions, 375 outpatients, 78 emergency room encounters, 415 lab tests, 90 x-ray procedures, 18 CT scans, 11 EKG tests, 38 respiratory therapy procedures, Home Health had 120 visits, Hospice had five patients, the pharmacy had 446 drug doses for $41,081 in revenue.

Heppner son works with advanced fighter aircraft

Photo by Samuel Rogers

Air Force Airman 1st Class Brandon Seitz goes through a pre-flight inspection on the F-22 Raptor, the Air Force's newest fighter aircraft, at Langley Air Force Base, VA. Seitz is a weapons specialist with the 27th Fighter Squadron, one of only two operational F-22 units in the world.

By Rich Lamance

Working with the most advanced and lethal fighter aircraft in the world has gained the son of a Heppner couple quite a bit of attention over the past several months. It seems that just about everything he does lately finds him involved with rewriting the aviation history books.

Air Force Airman 1st Class Brandon T. Seitz, son of Wayne and Lori Seitz of Heppner, is a weapons specialist with the F-22 Raptor, the Air Force's newest fighter aircraft. Seitz is a member of the 27th Fighter Squadron, one of only two Raptor units currently operational within the Air Force.

The 2005 Heppner High School graduate takes care of the world's most sophisticated and deadly fighter aircraft that integrates the latest avionics, stealth and super cruise capabilities. "I load and maintain the weapons on the F-22. It is a great job and it's cool to be able to say you do something like that," said Seitz.

Over the past several months, Seitz and his fellow Raptor crewmembers have been rewriting the history books with a variety of firsts, not only for the F-22, but in many cases performing feats unattained in the history of aviation.

Those feats range from dropping weapons at supersonic speeds from 50,000 feet, to testing new bombs that can hit 400 percent more targets than they were previously capable of reaching, to flying and fighting in joint exercises with capabilities never before seen by aircraft of any kind.

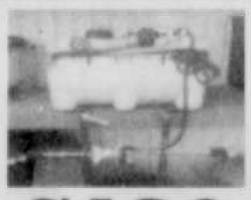
"The mission of the F-22 is to put bombs on targets and maintain air dominance in the skies," he said.

While life for Seitz as a weapons specialist is quick-paced and hectic, he finds time to enjoy the Hampton Roads area of Virginia. "During my spare time, I spend a lot of time hanging out with friends, going to the beach and watching movies. I grew up in a small town in Oregon, so living on the East Coast in a big city, is a big change."

Over 400 students attend first day of school in Heppner

Students at Heppner Elementary School head to the busses after their first day back to school on Monday, Aug. 28. Enrollment numbers for the first day of school saw 197 students at HES and 234 students at Heppner Junior/Senior High School.

ALL NEWS AND ADVERTISEMENT DEADLINE:
5p.m. Friday. This week only


$480
25 Gallon Boomless ATV Sprayer
Has a 30 ft. spraying swath and
is made of corrosion-resistant polyethylene
We will be closed Monday for Labor Day
(We will be open this Saturday from 7 a.m.-12 noon)
Morrow County Grain Growers
Lexington 989-8221 • 1-800-452-7396 For farm equipment, visit our web site at www.mcgg.net