

4-H members help clean Willow Creek



(Back L-R): Chelsey Hedman, Colby Hedman, Thomas Holland, Clay Morter, Beth Morter, Rebecca Jepsen, Kylee Svetich, Stephanie Holland and Eric Jepsen and (Front): Jared Hedman.

Members of the North Lex Livestock 4-H Club and a few parents spent Sunday afternoon cleaning Willow Creek through Heppner of trash, boards, pipes, a deer carcass, a bus seat, a mattress and miscellaneous other interesting finds that can become lodged in the creek and restrict the water flow. The City of Heppner allowed the group to deposit the refuse at the city yard.

The Heppner Water Control District conducts an annual clean up of the creek to remove debris that can create a flooding hazard. The City of Heppner also conducts a spring cleanup allowing citizens to bring large items to the city yard. Morrow County also accepts large items at the



(L-R): Stephanie Holland, Kylee Svetich, Beth Morter and Rebecca Jepsen and other members of the North Lex Livestock 4-H Club removed seven truck loads of debris from Willow Creek.

transfer stations free of charge.

Citizens are reminded that dumping or throwing items in the creek or piling refuse on the stream

bank is against Oregon State Law. Heppner Water Control District asks for your assistance to keep the creeks clean for everyone's safety.

United Way names new director

The United Way of Umatilla and Morrow Counties has hired Cricket Nicholson as its new executive director.

She begins her United Way service Oct. 1, replacing Lauren Dickey who is emigrating to Brazil after a thirty year career in human services.

Nicholson comes to United Way with an extensive background in non-profit service and management that includes foster parenting, case work, youth work, non-profit consulting and training and eight years as executive director for Domestic Violence Services in Umatilla and Morrow Counties. She has served on the United Way Board of

Directors on two separate occasions.

"The Board of Directors is confident in Cricket's ability to provide leadership, raise awareness of United Way's commitment to address community needs in the two-county area and enhance opportunities for citizens to help address those needs," stated board president Hal McCune. "We are underway with the 2006 United Way campaign to raise funds for our 23 partner agencies and we foresee a seamless hand-off from Lauren to Cricket. Cricket will address one of our main challenges: to provide opportunities at all area employers for their employees to give to United Way via payroll deduction-

to make it simple and convenient for all of the generous people in our area to make an impact on their neighbors' lives and provide a safety net for those in need."

The United Way of Umatilla and Morrow Counties is a local not-for-profit organization that identifies and funds community needs through citizen and corporate giving. Its 17 member volunteer board of directors and approximately 85 employee campaign volunteers and fund distribution volunteers work closely with the United Way executive director on behalf of the community. For more information on how to support your community through United Way payroll deductions and pledges, call (541) 276-2661.



Cricket Nicholson

Local farm organizations receive grant monies

Eleven Oregon projects were among the 194 projects from 40 states and two territories to receive \$22.6 million in USDA Rural Development grant assistance through the Value-Added Producer Grant (VAPG) and Small Minority Producer Grant (SMPG) programs. The projects were announced Wednesday by Agriculture Secretary Michael Johanns.

"These grants support farm families in rural America by helping them to market their commodities and increase their financial returns," said Johanns. "I'm pleased to announce that some of these funds will focus on development of alternative fuels from renewable energy sources-part of President Bush's comprehensive national energy policy."

"The competition for the grants was fierce, but Oregon still managed to be among the top five states in total amount of money received under this program," said Mark Simmons, Oregon State Director for USDA Rural Development. "I think the ranking of the Oregon projects and our total application package, says a lot about the inventiveness of rural Oregonians and their

ability to be forward looking," Simmons said.

The Oregon projects that were funded included five that were focused on development of alternative fuels from renewable energy sources and six designed to add value to existing commodities.

Local projects included: Rietmann & Rietmann Partnership, Lone: received \$24,050 to develop a feasibility study for the production of high quality micro distilled vodka and vital wheat gluten flour from soft white wheat.

K&S Madison, Inc., Echo: received \$63,000 to purchase additional inventory for the Processing of canola seed into biodiesel. This will result in the replacement of diesel fuel used on farm with a renewable resource-canola seed.

Since 2001 the Bush Administration has committed more than \$136 million to value-added agricultural investments.

Value-Added Producer Grants may be used for planning activities, such as feasibility studies or business plans, or to provide working capital for marketing value-added agricultural products and for farm-based renewable

energy projects. Eligible applicants include independent producers, farmer and rancher cooperatives, and agricultural producer groups. Value-added products are created when a producer takes an agricultural commodity, such as milk or vegetables, and processes or prepares it in a way that increases its value to consumers.

USDA Rural Development's mission is to deliver programs in a way that will support increasing economic opportunity and improve the quality of life of rural residents. As a venture capital entity, Rural Development has invested over \$72 billion since the beginning of the Bush Administration to provide equity and technical assistance to finance and foster growth in homeownership, business development, and critical community and technology infrastructure. As a result, over 1.2 million jobs have been created or saved through these investments.

A complete list of the grants and further information about rural programs is available at a local USDA Rural Development office or by visiting USDA's web site at www.rurdev.usda.gov.

Wood shop takes hold at IHS



Ione High School students, under the instruction of Tom Shear, show the gardener's storage shed they will be completing in the next few weeks. The shed will be available for sale and proceeds will allow the shop class to purchase more wood and supplies for future wood projects.

Classes for business and fun offered locally through BMCC

Fall Term for Blue Mountain Community College gets underway Monday, Sept. 25 with some personal interest classes offered locally as well as a range of distance education classes.

In the local area, a variety of classes are on the schedule. Computer Basics is a four-week class offered at Ione High School starting Oct. 5. Best for seniors and beginners, this class covers

some basic computer functions including internet navigation. Excel for Ag Producers is a two-week course beginning Oct. 17 at the Morrow County School District Office in Lexington. Done on the BMCC laptop lab, the first class will focus on working in Excel and the second class will delve into manipulating and using existing spreadsheets. Great Customer Service I and II will be offered at the Extension Office on Oct. 24 and Nov. 14. Carol Frink of the Small Business Development Center is the presenter of these helpful and information packed seminars. Frink will also offer a session of Business Start Up on Nov. 14. This workshop is designed to help prospective business owners get off on the right foot.

Calligraphy is a fun, four-week class beginning Oct. 9 at Heppner High School. Getting a Grant is an informative day-long workshop that will help grant seekers locate possible grants, successfully apply for the grant and then do the necessary follow up. Susan Plass, the BMCC Director of Grants will instruct the class on Oct. 23.

For more information on any of the above classes, contact Anne Morter, BMCC Coordinator, at 422-7040 or amorter@bluecc.edu.

Students wishing to take one or more credit classes may register online at www.bluecc.edu or contact Anne Morter for an advising appointment in the Heppner area.

Notice

BURNING BAN

The Burn Ban for the City of Heppner will no longer be in effect beginning Tuesday, September 19, 2006.

A 5-day burning permit is required for all open (out of container) fires and may be purchased for \$1.00 at Heppner City Hall, 111 N. Main St.

Rusty Estes, Fire Chief

St. Patrick's Senior Center news

Members from Hope and Valby Lutheran will be serving the Sept. 27 noon meal at St. Patrick's Senior Center. The menu for the day includes scrambled eggs and ham, with peppers and cheese, hash browns, orange and grapefruit slices, biscuits and gravy, assorted fruit Danish and tomato juice. Everyone is invited to join in the meal.



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