

## City Treasurer Rene Devin to retire June 30

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Bessie Wetzell Newspaper Library  
University of Oregon  
Eugene, OR 97403

After working nearly 20 years for the city of Heppner, Treasurer Rene Devin, has set a date for a little R&R-and a ton of volunteer work and hobby activities. Her last day as city treasurer is planned for June 30. Judy Eckman, who started training March 5, will take over those duties as of July 1.

Devin started working for the city in October of 1987 as a part-

time librarian. In January 1990 she began training as city treasurer to replace Mary Jean McCabe. At that time, the treasurer was appointed by the city council. Her stint as treasurer even included serving as interim city manager for six months prior to the city hiring city manager Jerry Breazeale.

Devin took over the payroll system when former city manager Marshall Lovgren. When she first started doing payroll, she said they had a Burrows posting machine, which required sending off tapes for hole-punching to a Portland business. Finally, when the tapes wore out and she was having to tape them together, it was finally time to buy a computer and programs for a utility billing system. During Gary Marks' stint as city manager, the city got the second computer system for accounting. Prior to that they used a pegboard system.

Devin, 60, was born in Pendleton but her parents, Clayton and Rita Robinson Wright lived in Heppner at the time. The family moved to Prairie City when she was five and she attended school there, except for the third grade, which she spent at Heppner. She visited Heppner almost every summer to see her grandparents and other relatives.

After high school she enrolled at Blue Mountain Community College where she took nursing courses. From there she moved to Portland where she worked in the drafting department for an electronic company. It was there she met her former husband, Oliver Devin (now deceased), and they lived in Portland for three years before moving to Irrigon in 1970, the year her oldest son, Jeff, was born. He and his wife now live in Mesa, AZ, where he works with

software for an insurance company

In Irrigon they started a retail milk delivery business and in 1974 they moved to Hermiston, taking over the Mayflower Farms wholesale milk business, and then running both the wholesale and retail business. They also took over Rene's dad's milk business with routes in Pendleton, Stanfield, Hermiston, Boardman, Irrigon, Heppner, Lexington, Ione, Spray, Condon and Fossil. "I learned to drive truck and did all the bookwork," said Renee. "That's when I learned the double entry bookkeeping."

They then sold a portion of the milk business and in 1980 bought a piece of property from Archie Munkers which was located between Heppner and Lexington and moved to the area. Their son, Miff was born in Heppner in 1981, one of the last babies born at Pioneer Memorial Hospital in Heppner, says Devin. He works for the Port of Morrow as a technical assistant for the port's public works department effluent plant.

While farming Devin drove wheat truck and raised bumper lambs before starting at the library. She also worked as a volunteer and as an employee at Heppner Elementary school for a time.

Besides the long list of job accomplishments, Devin has an equally long list of activities. Besides volunteering at the school, she volunteered with the Morrow Soil and Water Conservation Office and at the Heppner Library.

She has a "ton of hobbies" including spinning and weaving sheep and llama wool (she raised llamas for a while), basket weaving, quilting and making miniature furniture for doll houses with her sister, Teri Carnes. Perhaps her most



Rene Devin

demanding hobby involves monitoring Mountain Bluebirds, Western Bluebirds, tree swallows, mountain chickadees and occasionally house wrens for Cornell Labs in New York. She discovered the monitoring program online through her sister, whose neighbors were archaeologists. The intensive monitoring program includes traveling 120 miles round trip and riding 30 miles on a four-wheeler once a week from April to July. She monitors approximately 100 bird boxes and records her findings and twice a year cleans out all the boxes. She said her father is involved in the program also, and has made around 247 birdhouses for the program. Devin said she counted 433 fledglings last year. She says that 12 boxes were recently put at the OHV Park.

As if that wasn't enough, after retirement, Devin plans to extend her bird monitoring time, spend more time at the Willow Creek Valley Assisted Living, of which she was one of the original board members and still serves on the board, spend more time with her dad, Clayton Wright, who lives in Hermiston, work on quilting projects, check out all her storage boxes that have gone unopened from years ago, exercise more and travel with her partner, Tony Doherty. "I might have a cleaner house," laughs Devin. "In the winter I might find some place warmer than Heppner."

HEPPNER

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## Sheriff, school superintendent say no cover-up of accidental school shooting at Irrigon School

An anonymous e-mail sent to Heppner Gazette-Times in the wake of a shooting at Irrigon Junior/Senior High School, alleged preferential treatment of a Morrow County School District administrator's child, favoritism, abuse of power by school district administration and discrimination against school district employees who are not deemed "team players."

Morrow County Sheriff Ken Matlack, who is also a member of the Morrow County School Board, said the e-mail was "full of errors". "This information is totally false, completely wrong," concurred MCSO Superintendent Mark Burrows. "The incident was fully investigated, the student expelled, the sheriff was aware and it was sent to the DA who is investigating, said Burrows." Burrows went on to say that both sets of parents were cooperative and "wonderful" in working with the district and law enforcement officials and were ultimately "pleased with the results." "I don't think we could have done it any differently," he added.

According to Sheriff Matlack, a student at Irrigon Junior/Senior High School

shot another student accidentally with a "replica pistol" which had been brought to school as a prop for a school play.

Matlack said that the incident, which occurred several weeks ago, involved a pistol replica that shoots bbs. Morrow County School Superintendent Mark Burrows added that the pistol was spring-loaded and shoots a plastic pellet. Matlack said that the magazine to the pistol had been removed, but a bb remained in the chamber. He said that one high school student was playing with the pistol in the school parking lot when it discharged, hitting another high school student in the eye. The student was injured, but the injury involved no permanent damage to the eye, said Matlack. He said that the students knew each other, having grown up together, and had no animosity towards each other. "It seems to be a case of foolishness," he said.

Matlack said that while there may have been lack of protocol at the school, he believed the school dealt appropriately with a teacher involved and dealt "pretty significantly" with the student involved. "There was no cover-up

because of privilege," he added.

He said the sheriff's department made their report and sent the case to the Morrow County Juvenile Department. Juvenile Director Carolyn Holt was not available for comment at press-time. Morrow County District Attorney Elizabeth Ballard was also unavailable as she is out of town until next week.

While the e-mail was sent anonymously, officials believe they know who sent it and suspect it may have been politically motivated.

Several school board positions are up for a vote in the upcoming May 15 election. For director Position No.1, incumbent Craig Miles, Heppner, is being challenged by Darrell Gale, Irrigon, and Kerry Muniz, Irrigon. Incumbent Bill Kuhn, Heppner, will face Ken Hackett, Irrigon, for Position No.#3. Matlack has elected not to rerun for Position No. 4. Three people, Kent Hansen, Boardman, Neila Coffman, Irrigon, and Daniel Daltoso, Boardman, will vie for that spot. Incumbent Pat McNamee, Irrigon, will vie for Position #5 against Elizabeth Melendez, Boardman..

### Don't forget Election Day

Don't forget that Tuesday, May 15, is Election Day in Morrow County. Voters have the choice of mailing in the ballot or returning it to any designated drop site in the state.

All ballots must be received by 8 p.m. on Election Day. Postmarks do not count!

A list of drop sites are as follows:

-New Boardman City Hall, Monday - Friday

April 27 to May 14, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.; May 15, Election Day, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

-Irrigon Annex, April 27 to May 14, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.; May 15, Election Day, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

-Bank of Eastern Oregon in Ione, April 27 to May 14, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.; May 15, Election Day, 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.

-Morrow County Road Office in Lexington,

April 27 to May 14, from 8 a.m. to 5p.m.; May 15, Election Day, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

-Morrow County Courthouse, April 27 to May 14, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.; May 15, Election Day, 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

For more information call 676-5604, 922-4103, or 481-2112.

## Mustang Mop Up held



This past Thursday, May 3, students and staff from Heppner High School spread out throughout the community to do some cleanup for what they called the Mustang Mop Up. More pictures of their work around the community can be found on page three. -Photo by Mahaley Huddleston

### Garbage disposal to run behind schedule

The Heppner Garbage Disposal will not be operating on Tuesday, May 15. Please expect garbage service to be approximately one day behind schedule for the remainder of the week.

### At the MCGG GREEN FEED STORE in Heppner:



Happy Mother's Day!  
We have Montana Silver, Candles  
& Hanging Flower Baskets

Mother's Day is Sunday, May 13th

Morrow County Grain Growers Green Feed & Seed  
242 W. Linden Way, Heppner • 676-9422 • 989-8221 (MCGG main office)

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