Bessie Wetzell Newspaper Library
University of Oregon
Eugene, OR 97403

HEPPNER 50¢
Gazette Times

VOL. 126 NO. 28 10 Pages Wednesday, July 11, 2007 Morrow County, Heppner, Oregon

Fire burns several acres & double wide

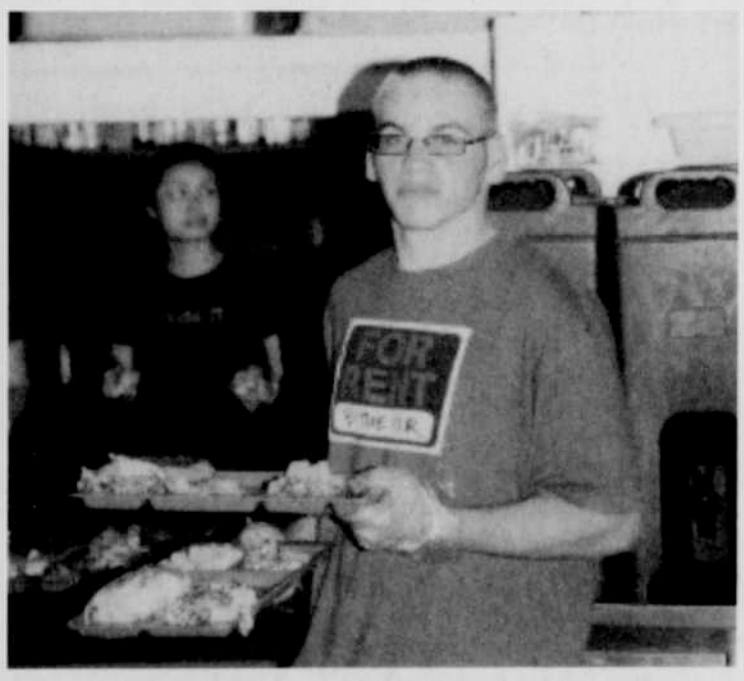
A fire that started across from the golf course and near Dee Cox Road Tuesday ended up burning several acres and a double wide moble home. The home was not occupied and no one was injured by the fire.

Firemen mop up a Tuesday afternoon fire. The fire was started by a weedeater on the Connor property at about 2 p.m. and firemen stayed on the fire until about 8 p.m.

St. William's Catholic youth serve the less fortunate in the Portland Burnside area

Five high school youth from St. William's Catholic Church in Ione gave up a day of life guarding and office and field work to serve the less fortunate in the Burnside area of Portland. The group left Ione at 6:30 a.m. on June 28, arriving in Portland early enough to tour the area and learn about some of the agencies that serve the poor and homeless.

Tyree Svetich and Beth Morter help another volunteer fill trays at Blanchet House.



Dalton Campbell serves a lunch of grilled fish, salad, broccoli and a pastry at the Blanchet House soup kitchen.

Kylee Svetich and Clay Morter deliver storage containers to Outreach client Skippy.

The first working assignment was the Blanchet House soup kitchen where the group was told how to help with lunch. Two of the youth filled trays in the kitchen while the others served lunch or bused tables. A long line had formed outside long before the 11:30 meal time. It took almost two hours to serve 283 lunches and clean up afterwards. The group took the opportunity to visit with some of the staff who cook and serve breakfast, lunch and dinner six days a week.

The men live in apartments above the soup kitchen. They are required to volunteer serving meals before being accepted into the Blanchet Program. They are then asked to make a 60-day commitment, working on the floor six days a week. They may then begin a permanent job search, but still must work six nights a week. Once they find full-time work they may be required to only work one shift (two meals) a week and can stay for another 60 days before moving out. They must stay clean and sober and submit to random drug tests.

The Ione group spent the afternoon assisting at Outreach in Burnside. For 25 years Outreach has helped less fortunate people live "independently with dignity". They help manage finances and housing and make sure their clients get medical care. They become "family" for people who really can't survive on their own on the streets. All of the youth were able to visit the single residency hotels in the area, delivering washed laundry and storage containers. They also spent the afternoon sorting donated clothing and stuffing envelopes with fund raising letters.

St. William's youth making the trip were Kylee and Tyree Svetich, Clay and Beth Morter, and Dalton Campbell. They were accompanied by Anne Morter and Jeri McElligott.

HHS classes of 1987-1988 to hold reunion

The Heppner High School classes of 1987 and 1988 will hold a joint reunion on Saturday, July 28. A family-oriented get together will begin at 10 a.m. at the Heppner Pool and a tour of the high school will be held in the afternoon. An adults-only dinner begins at 6 p.m. at the Heppner Elks Club, followed by a photo slide show of days gone by, 1980s-era music and dancing until the "wee hours."

For more information or to sign up, call Sofi Smith at 541-278-2366 or email her at mbchickenleg@msn.com.

HHS class of 1957 to celebrate 50th reunion

The Heppner High School class of 1957 will celebrate their 50th class reunion in the Heppner City Park on Saturday, July 21.

Everyone is invited to stop by to visit and renew old acquaintances and renew memories.

City council talks about sewer plant repairs

The Heppner sewer plant is deteriorating and the city council Monday discussed how to pay for the estimated $200,000 in repairs.

An evaluation of the plant presented to the council shows the following repairs needed:

1. **Comminutor.** Commonly called "a grinder" because it grinds up any debris coming into the sewer plant and removes it. **$60,000** plus installation.
2. **Electric generator.** Provides backup power in the event of a power outage so that the plant continues to operate. **$42,000**
3. **Trickling filter.** The filter contains a film of "bugs" that consume the biodegradable "stuff" in the effluent. Water is sprinkled on and then filters through rocks covered with this film. **$8,000**
4. **Chlorination system.** This system mixes chlorine gas with the effluent before it leaves the plant to kill any harmful bacteria. **$7,500**
5. Safety Walk. This walkway needs to be painted and installed in the contact basin. $4,500
6. **Seal pipe under Willow Creek.** The pipe is allowing water from the creek into our effluent system and vice versa. **$3,000**
7. **TV inspection of Sewer.** An inspection helps to determine where ground water and drains flow into our sewer system. This extra water taxes the system's resources. **$10,000**

The council discussed how to finance the repairs including borrowing the money from the bank and at the same time refinancing current city debt of $150,000.

The proposed project and the refinanced current debt could be financed with a new bank loan of 5.5 percent over five years for $81,962 per year, or 5.75 percent over seven years for $62,142 per year, or 6 percent over 10 years for $47,553 per year.

The city currently has 690 water and sewer accounts that would pay off the debt.

The council decided to postpone a decision on the sewer upgrades until next month, giving the public a chance to talk to council members and the mayor.

In other action the council voted to move ahead with purchase of an $85,000 street sweeper. City Manager Dave De Mayo explained that the best option he could come up with is through the League of Oregon Cities Low Capitalization Program, 4% Loan. The budget was written to reflect this loan for 7 years at 4% interest. The amount budgeted is $85,000. According to Mayor Les Paustian the city has considered a re-built sweeper which is as good as new at a lower price than a new one. One has been located, depending on availability at the time a decision is made. The machine would need to be inspected by City personnel prior to a final decision.

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

At the MCGG GREEN FEED STORE in Heppner:
PMI Nutrition Pet Food is now Red Flannel
10% OFF SALE
RED FLANNEL *New Name... New Look... New Improved Formulas*
Morrow County Grain Growers Green Feed & Seed
242 W. Linden Way, Heppner • 676-9422 • 989-8221 (MCGG main office)