

Important program for families with small children

Last October, 2007, the state of Oregon substantially increased the money it spends to help low-income working parents pay for child care. However, many families are still unaware of the increase in the availability of money to assist with families' daycare bills. The state is actively seeking families to participate in this program.

In prior years Oregon has seemed to prioritize their aid to families with small children. But, in early 2007 a commitment was made to reach these working parents with young children. This commitment was backed up with an additional \$35 million dollars and an increase in the amount of money a family can earn and still qualify for these increased funds.

Under the plan a family of two can earn up to \$2,159 per month and still receive state assistance for childcare. A family of three can earn \$2,714/month and a family of four can earn \$3,268. The amount of the

subsidy depends of several things: how much the family earns, type of care and the age of the children. The childcare subsidy is paid directly to the childcare center, and the child care center must be licensed by the state to qualify. These actions have been taken by the state to help keep children out of lousy situations, where they may be left unattended or in the care of un-qualified providers.

Child care costs can be a tremendous burden and many families have little choice in where they leave their children during the time they work or attend school. This program is meant to help those families.

Heppner is fortunate as a small town to have a licensed child care center. But like most centers it struggles financially constantly holding fund raisers, applying for grants and relying on donations and volunteer support. A program like this can be a boon to both the center and the families. As more families are able to

use this center, Heppner Day Care's income increases and the center is able to rely more on its' income and less on fundraising and other activities. At the same time the children are in a safe and stable environment.

Merry Brannon, the day care director has worked with the state in the past with these types of programs and is able to help parents qualify and register. After that the day care bills the state and collects the subsidy directly. Many families will find that they can qualify and pay much less for childcare then they are currently paying and have a better and more dependable environment for their children.

For more information about Heppner Day Care contact Merry Brannon at Heppner Day Care 676-5429 or for additional information about The State of Oregon's Child-care program visit: www.oregon.gov/DHS/children/childcare/main.shtml or call 1-800-342-6712.

Mr. Bill's Trivia information

On April 26, Mr. Bill will descend on Heppner for another night of fun and laughter.

Teams of up to six people will write their answers to three questions on a slip of paper, which a runner takes to the front where Mr. Bill's assistant keeps score. After several rounds placement of teams are announced. No need to worry, no one will know exactly which question you got right or wrong when Mr. Bill tells the answer (unless there is an exclamation of dismay at your table). There is friendly competition, however, among teams.

"Oh, yeah 'The Legends' team (the team I am sort of on) will be back for more of Mr. Bill's this month," said Doris Brosnan. "I can feel it in my bones that this year is ours. We are in training. Without giving away all of our secrets, I will say that my housework is suffering while I do my research. Do you have any idea how many hours in a day I have

to watch the Movie and Entertainment channels? My teammates are just as deeply involved with the History, Discovery, OPB and Animal Planet channels. We are in this for the big win."

Others just go for the laughs and good times. Beth Dickenson played in college and says "It's great, it hasn't changed." Tim Dickenson stated "It's not how much you know, or what you know, it's how much fun you have with it. It is a little like a board game, you think it's not going to be much fun, but then you start and just have a blast. It's a ton of fun."

Come join the fun at 7 p.m. at the Elks, you do not have to be a member to play. The no-host bar will be open and Merry is available to get your drinks to your table while you play. Dinner is also available prior to 7 p.m. Treat yourself and make a night of great fun and help support the Heppner Daycare and Preschool.

Obituaries

David L. Barnett

Funeral services for David L. Barnett will be held at 11 a.m. on Friday, April 18, at Valby Lutheran Church near Ione. Concluding service and burial will follow at the Valby Cemetery.



David L. Barnett

Mr. Barnett, 79, of Ione died Saturday, April 12, 2008 at Good Shepherd Medical Center in Hermiston.

He was born November 17, 1928 at Ione the son of Ray and Esther Logan Barnett. He was raised and attended school at Ione.

On December 5, 1964 he married Frances M. "Fran" Heath. The couple lived around the Heppner and Ione area except for two years in Everett, WA. In 1979 they purchased property three and a half miles from Ione on Gooseberry grade where they built their home. Fran preceded him in death in July of 2006.

He was a member of the Heppner Elks Lodge # 358 and served as Exalted Ruler in 1980 - 1981, and he also belonged to Valby Lutheran Church. He was owner and operator of Ione Key Lock Service Station which he had purchased in 1983.

He is survived by: son, David Scott Barnett of Ione; daughters, Debbie Richeldefer of The Dalles, and Cindy Rosselle of Lewiston, ID; brothers, James Barnett of Pendleton, Joel Barnett of Ione, Paul Barnett of Long Creek, and Sam Barnett of Monmouth; and sister, Mary Aune of Seattle, WA.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Ione Christian Youth, PO Box 346, Ione, OR 97843 or to Heppner Elks 358 Foundation, PO Box 494, Heppner, OR 97836.

Sweeney Mortuary of Heppner is in charge of arrangements.

Tillicum Club to hold fourth annual fashion show

The fourth annual Tillicum Club Fashion Show will be held Sunday, April 20, at 2 p.m. at the Port of Morrow.

Entry costs are \$8 for adults, \$7 for seniors, and children 12 and under may attend for free. Proceeds from Fashion show help fund five local graduating seniors by means of scholarships.

Doors will open at 1:30. There will be jewelry on display, desserts, and attendees can enter for a chance to win one of five door prizes.

Tash celebrates 100th birthday

Robert Tash, a former resident of Heppner is celebrating his 100th birthday on April 12th.

He was born April 12, 1908. He graduated from Heppner High School in 1926. He now resides in Vancouver, WA and enjoys good health.

St. Patrick's Church CCD students visit Mt. Angel



The St. Patrick's Church CCD students traveled to Mt. Angel last Saturday to visit Luke Murray and the Abbey. The children have been praying for Luke since he entered the seminary and they were eager to see where Luke has been studying.

Kaelyn Lindsay, Alex Lindsay, Wyatt Steagall, Coby Dougherty, Timothy Jaca, Mikel Jaca, Rylee Kollman, Joseph Jones, Jessy Wolford, and Kane Sweeney were delighted and fascinated by the bells, monks, priests, black robes, museum, holy chapel, beautiful grounds, pipe organ, library, bookstore, and most of all Luke.

Help from Kimberly Lindsay, Jennifer Steagall, Ann Murray, Brian Kollman, Chuy Elguézabal and Mary Ann Elguézabal made the trip possible.

State poster and poetry contest winners announced



Blake Greenup



Morgan Burch



Andrew Hatfield



Ross Cutsforth



Jacee Currin



Susie Teeman

Blake Greenup won 1st place in the fifth grade state poetry contest.
Morgan Burch won 3rd place in the state poetry contest for first graders.
Andrew Hatfield won 2nd place and Ross Cutsforth won 1st place in the fifth grade state poetry contest.
Jacee Currin won first place in the state first grade Woodsy Owl Poster Contest.
Susie Teeman won 2nd place in the state first grade Woodsy Owl Poster Contest.

Osborn graduates from apprentice course at Keesler Air Force Base

Air Force Airman Cassandra L. Osborn has graduated from the Communications-Computer Systems Operations Apprentice Course at Keesler Air Force Base, Biloxi, MS.

The course is designed to give students a solid foundation in microcomputer principles, including basic operation and processes relating to configuration, maintenance, and repair. Trainees received instruction in specific hardware and software configuration, use of application software, communications-computer systems security, network principles and management of related equipment and multi-user systems concepts and operations.

Osborn is the daughter of Judy L. Anderson of Madras, OR, and Dean W. Osborn of Irrigon, OR.

She is a 2006 graduate of Pendleton High School.

Senior Center Menu

Christian Life Church members will be serving lunch on Wednesday, April 23. The menu will tuna salad sandwiches, lentil soup, green salad with tomatoes, and Jello parfait.

Three year old cancer patient receiving experimental treatments

Cooper Larson, three, was diagnosed with Brainstem Glioma on September 21, 2007. This is a form of non-operable cancer located on the brain stem. He is currently undergoing trial drug therapy to treat the tumor. He is the great-nephew of Colene Baasch, the FedEx driver for the Heppner, Lexington and Ione areas.

Currently, Larson's tumor is stable and unchanged from last month.

Individual donations may be sent to Cooper Larson, HAPO Credit Union, 4 North Union, Kennewick, WA 99336.

For more information or to donate call Gayle Foster at 509-547-3415, gmfoster56@msn.com; Shauna Sanders at 509-586-2229, shaunasand@charter.net; or Lynn Benton at 509-585-4125, lynn_benton@yahoo.com. To find up-to-date information on Larson's condition visit caringbridge.org and then search by cooperlarson.

Ladies evening golf to begin next week

Thursday night golf for ladies will begin April 24 at 5:45 p.m.



Real Estate

By DAVID SYKES

REALTOR

CHECK LOAN CHANCES FIRST

Buying a home has never been an easy task and it's not getting any easier. Home values continue to increase faster than the cost of living. I see would-be buyers who have searched for months to find a "dream home" only to find out they could not qualify for a loan for that price house.

Ironically, it's a heartache most buyers can avoid simply by doing a bit of arithmetic and talking with their Realtor or Lender BEFORE they start hunting for a new home. If you know how much the bank will lend you PRIOR to your house hunting, you won't waste time looking for a house you may not be able to afford.

I am familiar with the local bank and can recommend a loan officer to visit with. Bring your financial numbers along (assets, debts, gross income, expenses, etc.). You'll get an estimate of how much the bank will lend you and have something solid to work with to look for a home that fits your budget.



Property listings are available at www.sykesrealestate.net

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IONE PROM Saturday, April 19

HEPPNER PROM Saturday, April 26

We would appreciate if you place your orders by the Thursday before Prom (for Ione, order by Thursday, April 17; for Heppner, order by Thursday, April 24)

THANK YOU!

BACK TO OUR SPRING HOURS:
Monday - Friday 7 a.m. - 6 p.m.
Saturday - 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Murray's Drug INC.

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