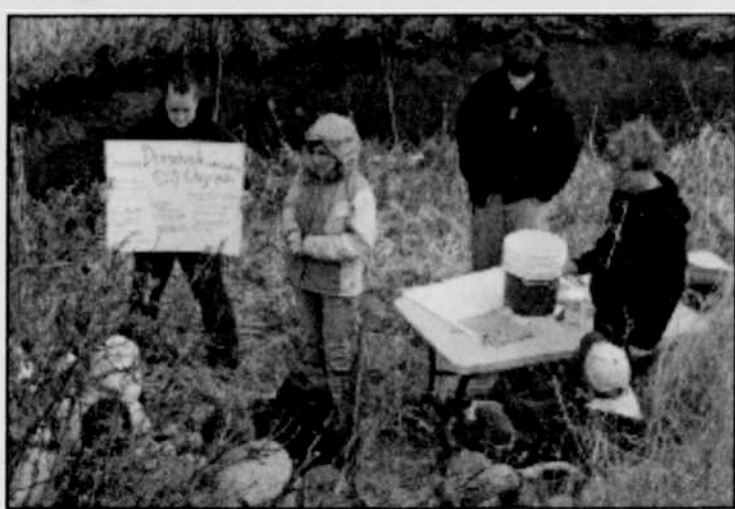


Hands-on learning at Willow Creek Watershed Field Day

Over 100 5th graders attended the 11th Annual Willow Creek WFD on Wednesday, April 30, at Duane Neiffer's property west of Lexington. Students from Heppner, Ione, and Windy River stepped off of their buses, gathered in groups with an Ione student leader and headed for the various stations.

With the help of Bill Ewing and Kevin Payne the students planted willow cuttings on the banks of Willow Creek. At this station they learned how planting the trees helps the stream bank. At the weather station, National Weather Service Hydrologist Dennis Hull helped students take temperature and humidity readings of the weather. As a weather balloon was released, one student tracked its direction with a compass, another watched its height with a range finder and a third wrote down the direction and elevation at certain points as the balloon floated away in the sky. This taught



Kendra Rayburn, Latosha Bowles, Dennis Kennedy, and Sean Murray show students how to measure basic water quality parameters. —Contributed photo

the kids how the winds may change as the balloon moved from ground-level to higher elevations.

At the Water Quality Station Dieter Waite's Heppner High School science class, Sean Murray, Dennis Kenney, Kendra Rayburn, Latosha Bowles helped students measure basic water quality parameters including pH, turbidity, conductivity, temperature, and dissolved oxygen. Along with these stations students visited sta-

tions that taught them about soils, macro-invertebrates, wheat plant identification, and mapping.

The student leaders and helpers for the day were Ione students: Matt Coleman, Kaylee Palmtree, Tiana Camarillo, Alex Carlson, Max Trahan, Kyle Svetich, Justin Archer, Kevin Fowler, Paul Hams, Tori Heagy, Emily Rietmann, RJ Ramos, Brenna Rietmann, Camilo Acusto, Bora Moon, Beth Morter, and Tanner

Rietmann.

Mark Jones, Windy River Elementary Principal, attended for the first time and he thought the field day was a great learning opportunity for all the students. "I really liked the hands-on learning at all stations. The stations also reinforced a lot of the science benchmarks for 5th graders. I thought the high school students did an excellent job in their leadership/mentor role. I would like to thank all the presenters and volunteers for making this a great learning experience for the students of Morrow County," commented Mr. Jones.

The continued success of this field day is due to the cooperation of the Corp of Engineers, the support from many agencies, teachers, students, parents and schools. Caryn Apler, Umatilla/Morrow ESD, coordinated the field day with the help of the Natural Resources System Consortium.

~ Letters to the Editor ~

The Heppner Gazette Times will print all letters to the Editor with the following criteria met: Letters submitted to the newspaper will need to have the name of the sender along with a legible signature. We are also requesting that you provide your address and a phone number where you can be reached. The address and phone number will only be used for verification and will not be printed in the newspaper. Letters may not be libelous. The GT reserves the right to edit. The GT is not responsible for accuracy of statements made in letters. Any letters expressing thanks will be placed in the classifieds under "Card of Thanks" at a cost of \$10.

A Democrat since the age of eight

To the editor;

I sometimes tell people I've been a Democrat since I was eight years old, the day my dad took me and my brother up to Portland to see Harry Truman speak to a crowd from the back of a train at Union Station. I cast my first vote for president in 1960, for John F. Kennedy. Two years later I voted for the reelection of Wayne Morse as senator from Oregon. Over all these many years since I've voted in every state and national election but to this day those are the two votes I am most proud of, not because they were the "best politicians" but because I believe they were the two politicians who made the most positive difference by their presence in the office they held at the time. This year I think we Oregonians have a unique opportunity to cast a ballot that can have a similar effect on this day and on our future.

I write today in support of Barack Obama for the Democratic nomination for president and Steve Novick for the Democratic nomination for senator. In every election I remember candidates of both parties promise to change the way things are done in Washington D.C., but the reality is that the recent changes have not been positive for the overwhelming majority of us. In recent polls more than 80% of Americans think our nation is "headed in the wrong direction." Count me among that group, yet I am not without hope that things can change for the better. Thankfully we are still a democracy and that our vote can still make a difference.

This year we don't have to vote for the better of two evils, we can vote for the best of all choices. I am convinced that with Barack Obama in the White House and Steve Novick in the U.S. Senate we have two people who will break the mold of establishment politicians who promise a lot when asking for your vote but disappoint you when they get in office. It's time for a real change that will make a positive difference.

Barack Obama for President, Steve Novick for Senate. Wouldn't it be nice to have some pride in our government again? Your vote can make it happen.

Dale Thompson

Condon

Support for John Wenzholz

Letter to the editor:

We are writing to encourage you to support John Wenzholz for Morrow County commissioner, a position in which he has served admirably since early 1997 (elected in 1996). We could fill an entire page if we listed all the volunteer projects he has accomplished throughout the years, but we will focus on his achievements as Morrow County commissioner.

One very commendable trait is John's determination to serve all areas of Morrow County equally. A highpoint for John is serving on the Public Transportation Advisory Committee for Oregon Department of Transportation. He serves as one of 13 members from all over the state, and his efforts on the state level made it possible for Morrow County to receive funding for senior citizen buses and bus storage barns.

He also serves as chairman of the CSEPP Governing Board, and his continuing presence there has helped Morrow County stay aware of current issues and public safety regarding the Army Depot Base. His continuing vigilance there, along with other local board members, is responsible for many of the safety procedures and programs currently in place for Morrow County.

During John's tenure, the Transfer Station collection site located on the north end of Morrow County has been established, making it convenient for citizens to dispose of old furniture and appliances. John is pleased that each community in Morrow County has received a new senior citizen bus with no cost to county taxpayers. Funds received through the cigarette taxes passed through the Public Transit Committee cover insurance, maintenance and fuel for the buses. Many good things have developed in Morrow County due to John's expertise, and he deserves our votes to enable him to continue serving.

Al and LaVelle Partlow
Irrigon

Heppner "Read Aloud!" set for May 15

Area writers of all ages and talents are invited to read their own works or from those of their favorite authors at a special "Read Aloud!" program set for the Heppner Public Library on Thursday, May 15, at 7 p.m.

Participants are encouraged to bring poems, essays, short stories or other forms of written works and to read aloud to those who attend.

The event will be

facilitated by Lyn Craig, executive director of Libraries of Eastern Oregon (LEO), and Marsha Richmond, director of the Oregon Trail Library District, as part of LEO's regional The Big Read program which promotes literacy.

Depending on how many persons come to read aloud, presenters will have between five and 15 minutes to read from their works. Students from a language arts class at Heppner High

School have also been invited.

Those attending, as well as other area writers, are invited to submit their works for consideration in a LEO anthology of the works of Eastern Oregon writers of all levels, intended to be published within the next year.

For further information, please contact Craig at 541-763-2355 or Richmond at 541-481-3365.

HES schedule of events

- A Town Hall Meeting will be held on May 19 at 7 p.m. in the HES Library. This event is open to all community members.
- The HES Spring Concert will be held on May 27, at 6:30 p.m. in the HES gym.
- HES will be having their annual barbecue lunch for all students and parents on May 30. Those planning to attend are asked to call the school on the morning of May 30.



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Stanley's Steakhouse

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May 9
Soup or Salad,
Freshly Baked Bread & Creamery Butter,
Generous Cut of Aged Prime Rib of Beef,
Baked Potato with Traditional Toppings,
and Fresh Vegetables

May 23 & 24
Soup or Salad,
Freshly Baked Bread & Creamery Butter,
Grilled Kobe Beef Top Sirloin Steak,
Signature Sweet Potato Fries, and Fresh Vegetables

May 30 & 31
SEAFOOD EXTRAVAGANZA
Soup or Salad, Freshly Baked Bread & Creamery Butter,
King Crab Legs, Coconut Curry Prawns, Tempura Batter Fish,
Signature French Fries, and Fresh Vegetables



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HEPPNER ELKS 358
676-9181 "Where Friends Meet" 142 North Main

- Thursday, May 8th -

LADIES NIGHT DINNER

Serving: Country Style Pork Ribs

Mary Jean's Baked Beans

Coleslaw Salad • Bread

Peach Crisp Dessert

Dinner starting at 6:00 p.m.

Chefs: Sweeneys and Coes



Also that night...

**Mother's Day
Ceremony
at the Lodge**

Community charity sewing workshop rescheduled

The community charity sewing workshop will not have a May meeting due to the holiday weekends in this month. The next scheduled workshop is for June 8 in the afternoon at Artisan Village.

This workshop is open for all the community and there is no charge. Just come and sew or make projects for your favorite charity organization. If you would like to come and do not have a charity to make things for there will be ideas for you to find one. Bring your projects and have fun sewing and doing things to help others that need to feel loved.