

# Could you be the one?

By Greg Barron, Manager North Morrow Vector Control District

Any resident of Morrow County could be the one – the one infected by West Nile virus (WNV) in 2008. This threat has prompted North Morrow Vector Control District and the Morrow County Health Department to create and sustain an ongoing awareness of the danger of WNV. We, as a Morrow County Community, need to collaborate together to reduce the threat of mosquito-borne diseases like WNV. By working together, the citizens of Morrow County can enhance mosquito control, personal protection, and prevention to improve the public health in our county.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, in 2007, 27 Oregon residents were infected with WNV, and more than 3,500 people were infected nationwide. WNV, and the threat it poses to human health, has been sweeping across the United States for the better part of a decade, claiming and debilitating lives of individuals, young and old. Being infected with WNV can be devastating and sometimes deadly.

It only takes one bite from an infected mosquito to raise our concern and threaten the community's public health, but through education and awareness, Morrow County can help to protect and prevent WNV. Several of the mosquito species that transmit WNV are short-range flyers, which mean that most of these mosquitoes could be from your own backyard or a neighboring property. To protect and prevent WNV, each communities residents

must collectively work to eliminate breeding grounds, treat standing water, or begin a mosquito control program like the one formed in 1978 in the North end of Morrow County to reduce mosquito populations. This is an excellent opportunity for communities to band together and win the war on mosquitoes.

This spring, we have all noticed an increase in biting mosquitoes. Most of this activity could be directly related to the fact that we did have snowfall in January and February. We've had our fair share of rain late this spring and the snowmelt is swelling our rivers causing low areas to fill with standing water which are excellent breeding grounds for mosquitoes. The community of Irrigon is being plagued by mosquitoes blowing in from across the Columbia River from sloughs on the Washington state side. Most of the mosquitoes, we can't help but notice because of their bite, are not the disease transmitting type but they are still an annoying nuisance. This will start to change in June as the nuisance mosquitoes fade and the disease transmitting mosquitoes become more prevalent.

We all need to be on our guard against WNV. WNV made its arrival to Morrow County when it was found in a mosquito surveillance trap on September 5, 2007 near Irrigon. Here are some helpful ways to prevent the spread of mosquitoes and their diseases: eliminate standing water, clean out and place mosquito fish in your watering troughs and ornamental ponds. To protect yourself and your family against

WNV, stay inside when mosquitoes are most active, wear long loose and light colored clothing, make sure your house screens are in good repair and use a repellent when going outside.

Remember, WNV is a potentially serious disease primarily carried by birds. Mosquitoes contract the virus when feeding on infected birds; this virus is then transmitted to humans by infected mosquitoes. Approximately 80 percent of the people infected will not show symptoms at all, while less than one percent will develop severe illness or die as a result of the virus. Be aware of the symptoms like high fever, headache, chills, excessive sweating, lethargy, enlarged lymph nodes, stiff neck, diarrhea, fatigue, vomiting, nausea and loss of appetite.

You can help the Morrow County Health Department and North Morrow Vector Control District by reporting dead Corvids such as Crows, Magpies, Robins and Jays. All birds must be test within 24 hours after death before they become too decomposed. Remember, to vaccinate your horse against WNV.

For more information about WNV and mosquitoes contact the Oregon State WNV Information Line toll free at (866) 703-4636 or (866) 703-INFO; Morrow County Health Department at (541) 676-5421 and/or North Morrow Vector Control District at (541) 481-6082.

Prevention is the key to winning the war on mosquitoes and the diseases they transmit. It only takes the bite from one infected mosquito to change your life forever.

# Becoming better readers...one piece at a time



Fourth, fifth and sixth grade students at Heppner Elementary leaned their heads against quilted pillows Monday morning as they celebrated their reading success. The pillows, made up of 16 pieces of fabric, have been a year-long project for the young readers.

In the fall, teachers shopped for a wide variety of fabrics, allowing each student to choose their own special colors and designs. Each piece of fabric was earned by meeting a special reading criteria, such as passing an Accelerated Reading goal or by reading a certain genre of literature. The paper templates of the pillows were posted on the bulletin boards so students could pin up their fabric pieces as soon as they earned

them. The motto "We're becoming better readers one piece at a time" was posted above the boards.

All of the fabrics and pillow forms were purchased with funds earned by the 4-5-6 Birthday Bash Company. During the course of the school year 115 birthdays were celebrated at HES with balloons, a paper crown, ice cream bars or homemade cupcakes, and a special birthday song.

Once the pieces were earned one at a time, the sewing was underway. Several parents, and grandparents, helped stitch the pillows together, and a few volunteers spent an afternoon at school creating some of the 85 pillows. But the bulk of the pillows were finished by

Alaina Lemmon, whose son Jared is a 6<sup>th</sup> grader at HES. Sixth grade pillows were finished in time for Tupper Outdoor School, the fifth grade pillows before their field trip to The Dalles, and the fourth graders had their pillows to take on their field trip to the John Day Fossil Beds.

Teachers Pam Dowdy, Karen Smith-Griffith, Sue Gibbs and Jannie Allen all agree that the project would have been very difficult without Alaina's help. At Monday's "Piece and Quiet" reading time, Alaina was given a round of applause, from the students, and a Green Feed gift certificate, from the teachers, to purchase plants for her new yard.

# Heppner Chamber announces schedule of events for Celebrate Heppner

The Chamber of Commerce and downtown merchants are planning a fun filled day Celebrate Heppner events on Friday, June 13<sup>th</sup>.

The day will start out with the Merchant Sidewalk Sale at 9 a.m. and will last throughout the day. There will be games for all ages (3 years to 18 years), pictures with Smokey the Bear on a fire truck, a cartoonist, and you can even draw on the sidewalk with your choice of colored chalk.

There will be time to "catch the reading bug" at the Morrow County Library and either watch or participate in the hot dog eating contest. Participants must be 11 years old and older and must pre-register at the Heppner Chamber. A dunk tank will be running from 12-2 p.m. The cost is three balls for \$1. A Hoop Shoot will be held at HES from 1-3 p.m. for ages 3-15. People over 18 years of

age can participate in a few bingo games, which will be held at the Senior Center. The cost is 25 cents a card per game.

Don't forget to bring your small dog (25 pounds or less) to compete in the Small Dog Races at 2 p.m. Anyone wishing to participate in this event needs to register at the Heppner Chamber. The Heppner Forest Service Office will celebrate their 100<sup>th</sup> year anniversary by enjoying cake and refreshments from 2-4 p.m. at the Forest Service Office. The Youth Run will be held for 6<sup>th</sup> graders through high school at the City Park at 3 p.m. This event has been coordinated by Larry Palmer.

The local museums will be open from 1-5 p.m. Bring your chairs and find your perfect spot to enjoy the BBQ sponsored by BEO, salad and baked beans provided by Morrow County Fair and beverages provided

by John's Other Place, followed by the Dessert Auction and Talent Show to finish off the evening.

Beginning at 9 a.m. Murray Drugs will be donating shaved ice until 5 p.m. At 10:30 a.m., until it's gone, pick up your piece of the giant strawberry shortcake which will be served to the first 200 guests and is donated by Sweet Productions Ice Cream Parlour and Diner and Victorian Rose.

The HHS Drama Dept will be having a car wash at Les Schwab from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. The Alumni Football Game will be held at 6:30 p.m. on Saturday.

If you haven't signed up for the class to learn how to make a good pie crust on June 10<sup>th</sup>, from 10 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., please make sure you call the Chamber today and pre-register. The Heppner Chamber of Commerce can be reached at 676-5536.

## Sheriff's Report

The Morrow County Sheriff's Office reports handling the following business:

**April 12:** -MCSO received a report from a caller in Irrigon of a four-wheeler driving up and down Utah St. and not stopping at stop signs.

-Boardman Police Dept. received a report from a caller in Boardman of a suspicious person; it was determined to be a male subject doing community service.

-Boardman Police Dept. officer advised he was enroute to an accident. There was a collision between two players. Boardman ambulance was called.

-Boardman Police

Dept. received a report from a caller in Boardman of a bike stolen by five kids headed to the market.

-Irrigon ambulance received a report from a caller in Irrigon of a 69 year old male who had a heart transplant and was disoriented.

**April 13:** -MCSO Sheriff advised there was a female subject sleeping in a pickup at the Irrigon skate park. It was determined to be a tired driver who would be leaving soon.

-MCSO received a report from a caller in Irrigon that a large rat was stuck in their fence and they would like to know what to do.

-MCSO deputy cited Melinda Michelle Vanhorn, 35, for Violation of the Basic Rule, 78 mph in a 55 mph zone.

-MCSO received a report from a caller in Irrigon of a trespass in progress.

-MCSO, Boardman Police Dept. received a report from a caller in Irrigon of an assault in progress; a male subject was assaulted a female subject. Jaime Hernandez, 27, was arrested for Assault IV Felony and Harassment. He was lodged at the Umatilla County Jail.

-MCSO deputy arrested Timothy Page Stacy, 23, for DUII (BAC .08) and

cited for Driving while License Suspended Violation. He was cited and released to appear.

-MCSO received a report of a gasoline drive-off from a business in Boardman.

-MCSO deputy arrested Connie Jo Lawyer, 46, on an Irrigon Justice Court warrant for Failure to Pay Fine/Violation of Residential Animal Density Limitations.

-Boardman Fire Dept. received a report from a caller in Boardman of an ammonia alarm. It was determined all was okay.

**April 15:** -MCSO received a report from a caller on I-84 eastbound of

two trailer motor coaches driving over 70 mph and weaving in and out of traffic; it looks like they were going to jack-knife at any moment.

-MCSO received a report from a caller in Heppner who received a check from a company stating she was a secret shopping. The check was deposited and it bounced. It was determined the caller was not out any money and no action was taken by MCSO.

-MCSO received a report of a vehicle vandalized in the parking lot at the Heppner school.

-MCSO, Boardman Fire Dept. received a report of a general fire alarm at a

business in Boardman. It was determined to be a system malfunction.

-MCSO, Boardman Police Dept. officers arrested Santo Will Guardado, 44, on a Morrow County Circuit Court warrant for Unlawful Delivery of Methamphetamine and Unlawful Possession of Methamphetamine and other charges. He was lodged at the Umatilla County jail. Kelly Marie Rosas, 30, was arrested on Probable Cause charges of Unlawful Possession of Methamphetamine and Unlawful Delivery of Methamphetamine. She was lodged at the Umatilla County Jail.

-Boardman Police Dept. officer cited a subject for Violation of the Speed Limit, 41 mph in a 25 mph zone.

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 Let the good times roll!

**Customer Appreciation Day**  
 Friday, June 13, 2008  
 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.  
 (at City Park!)

BEO's Heppner Branch staff will be grillin' burgers (and hot diggity dogs for the kiddies!) and we'll have all the fixin's!  
 (Just to show how much we appreciate our customers and community!)

And! As an added attraction, members of the Morrow County Fair Board will be supplying assorted salads to accompany those burgers!

**See you at City Park!**

**Bank of Eastern Oregon**  
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 Come help us welcome Terry Riddle to the team!  
 Thanks for your continued support  
 Carmen Wilson

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