

Something for everyone during Celebrate Heppner event

Heppner's Main Street from Willow to May Streets will be closed from 2 p.m. - 9 p.m. to enjoy Celebrate Heppner event.

Local artists' are getting ready to show off their talents at City Hall from 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Sandra Haynes will be having a scratch board demo; Ray Grace, Denise Smith, Alita Nelson, along with members of the Morrow County Arts and Crafts Club members Tricia Sweeney, Bob and Sharon Harrison, Betty Mills will also be available. Carol Kight will be displaying her jewelry for sale and Carol Kline will be displaying and selling her "tie dye" items and will be set up outside GD's restaurant on Main Street.

Friday evening events begin at 5 p.m. with a hot dog barbecue meal served by Bank of Eastern

Dinner-at-the-Cemetery production to be held this weekend

"The title of this Saturday's stage production certainly captures much of the story that will be enacted," explains a spokesperson for the Dinner-at-the-Cemetery Players. "'Rails' brought goods and people to the Willow Creek Valley for a hundred years. That service combined with the shipping out of agricultural and forest products to enhance the 'riches' of the area. And 'rejection' describes what some locals felt when that long association disappeared."

For newcomers, visitors, and long-time residents, the play will provide entertaining scenes of days long gone and more recent history and will offer some stories probably not even familiar to many in the local audience. It will also present a scene unfamiliar to everyone, a scene from the future.

"RR&R" features the worlds of romance, of business, of law and lawlessness. And these worlds will be come alive through actors well known for their talents on the stage and newcomers to the world of theatre: Ed Berretta, Marty

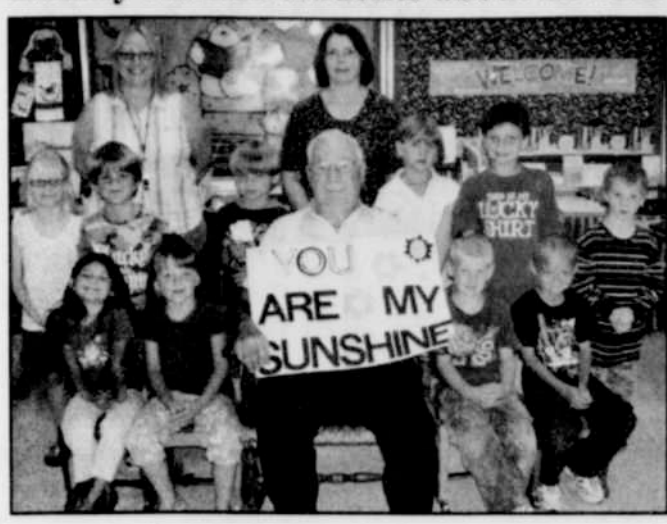
Oregon employees, followed by the dessert auction, a youth talent show and live, local entertainment.

On Saturday, June 13, "Rail, Riches & Rejection: The History of the Railroad in the Willow Creek Valley" will be held. Tickets are still available for the dinner theatre which will begin with dinner at 6 p.m. (catered by Dino's Delectable Catering Services) inside the Agricultural Museum, with the play beginning at 7 p.m. set up outside by the mural.

There also will be a couple of garage sales that will be happening during the Celebrate Heppner weekend.

There is something for everybody this year at the 2009 Celebrate Heppner event.

Zachry teaches students about flowers



Dave Zachry has been supplying Mrs. Elguezabal's classroom at Heppner Elementary School with flowers all year long. The students have not only enjoyed smelling the flowers, but they also have learned the names of 15 different kinds of flowers. Last week they learned how to spell Iris and Peony. The students listed some of their favorite flowers as: roses, daffodils, tulips, bleeding hearts, daisies, iris and peonies. Pictured are: top row - Mrs. Campbell and Mrs. Elguezabal; middle row - Heidi McLaren, Derrick Smith, Andrew Looslie, Jazmin Barrett, Logan Angell, and Mark Adams; and bottom row - Julie Teaman, Hailey Holmgren, Dave Zachry, Kegan Steagall, and Wyatt Wilhelm. -Contributed Photo

Over the Tee Cup invitational results announced

WCCC Ladies held their 18 Hole Invitational on Tuesday, June 2. Twenty-four players from neighboring clubs enjoyed a day of sunshine, gentle breezes and some great golf.

Low gross of the field: Nancy Propheter, WCCC, with a score of 69.

Low net of the field: Luvilla Sonstegard, WCCC, with a net of 54.

Winners by Club Big River Golf Club: Low gross-1st Paula Simmons; low net-1st Sandy Keyser

China Creek Golf Course: Low gross-1st Sally Dyer, 2nd Sarah Rucker; low net-1st Alene Rucker, 2nd Kay West

Kinzua Hills Golf Course: Low gross: 1st Lin-

da Dunn; low net: 1st Mary Mountain

Willow Creek: Low gross-1st Pat Edmundson, 2nd Virginia Grant; low net-1st, tie between Pat Dougherty and Karen Thompson, 2nd, tie between Sandi Hanna and Carol Mitchell

Birdies: Karen Thompson, #15, #18

Chip-in: Carol Mitchell, #11

Long Drive: Guest, Sally Dyer; Home, Pat Dougherty

K.P.-Guest, Marilyn Mabe; Home, Virginia Grant and Carol Mitchell

Long Putt: Guest, Anna Carpenter; Home, Karen Thompson

The WCCC Ladies 9 Hole Invitational is scheduled for Tuesday, June 30.

Physical, occupational therapists testing out "Wii-hab"

Nintendo Wii has taken the video game industry and many American households by storm, and now the game system is starting to be used as a form of physical and occupational therapy to help improvement movement and motor skills.

When Pendleton Academies closed its doors last fall, the Umatilla-Morrow Education Service District (UMESD) acquired several used Nintendo Wii game consoles. They were handed down to UMESD Assistive Technology Specialist Lon Thornburg, who began to research the use of Wii systems in physical and occupational therapy with special needs students. The results? "Wii-hab."

Now Thornburg, physical therapist Jodi Garberg and occupational therapist Christi Sullivan are working together to create a pilot program for the Wii therapy. They spent two days observing students us-

ing the system and several games at Sandstone Middle School and Hermiston High School to develop a baseline of activities and design a data collection model for the program. The trio are hoping to create a pilot program that will be used for six months at a time at two different schools (to be determined) next year. They'll study the effectiveness of the system to motivate special needs students, as well as how well it helps to improve their communication and motor skills.

The pilot program will also give them the opportunity to improve the program, its uses and effectiveness, as well as refine the data collection model. "We think it'll also be a good tool for diagnosing what some of these kids can't do," Thornburg said. "I think there are just tons of possibilities with this system." Thornburg emphasizes that this pro-

gram is not something for kids to have the chance to just fool around with. "We want to make sure people understand we're being very clinical about this," Thornburg said. He noted that the only expenses so far have been to purchase several Wii games, such as the sport pack, Outdoor Challenge and Wii Fit. All of the consoles and remotes were donated when Pendleton Academies closed.

The Wii Fit aerobics and balance programs have fun therapeutic movements such as the hula hoop, penguin slide, ski slalom, tightrope walk and balance bubble. The Outdoor Challenge features a "mole stomper," trampoline, water slide, jump rope and trail rider. These games help special needs students to improve their balance and motor skills.

Through his research, Thornburg has found other physical and

occupational therapists across the country who are using the Wii systems in rehabilitation centers, assisted living centers and even for war veterans in VA medical centers. "Doing the physical therapy can be quite painful for some of the veterans, so using the Wii helps them with their therapy while helping to take their minds off the pain by doing something fun," Thornburg said. Thornburg also has connected with Mershon Hinkel, an occupational therapist in Philadelphia known as the "Wii OT." The pair have shared various Wii therapy ideas and experiences. By refining the program through the pilot project, Thornburg hopes to collect enough tangible and effective data and experiences to apply for grant funding to help take the program take flight in more schools with the UMESD's physical and occupational therapists.

Utah man speaks his mind while on the road



Jerry Koleppel of Utah makes his feelings known by displaying them on the back of his truck. -Photo by David Sykes

A Utah man makes no secret of how he feels about the state of the nation, and especially the environmental movement. In fact he prints it right on the back of his pickup truck. One line says: "Wilderness the red carpet to socialism."

"We (in Utah) are going the way you went with the spotted owl," says Jerry Koleppel of Vernal, Utah, who was in Heppner this week visiting relatives. "They are counting cactus and shutting down the oil drilling," he says about his

home state of Utah. "They are taking away drilling permits and stopping all the oil drilling, and we need the oil."

Koleppel says he has had nothing but positive response to the messages on the back of his pickup. "People give me the thumbs up on the road," he says. Some of the other messages on his pickup are: "If you believe in global warming... why are you driving?" and "Go green and lose your job."

Teachers win all in donkey basketball game



The teachers won the donkey basketball game for the first time ever. Team members included: Jeannie Collins, Wendy Cannin, Petra Payne, Jason Palmer, Joe Lindsay, Luke Murray and Beth Dickenson. The May 29 fundraiser consisted of two games, and four teams playing. The teams included: two student teams of FFA members (freshmen, sophomores and juniors), an FFA alumni team and a staff team. The Alumni beat their student opponents and the staff beat their student opponents, as well - so the champion game was between the staff and the alumni. -Contributed Photo

FSA county committee nominations start June 15

Darcy Vial, County Executive Director for USDA's Farm Service Agency in Morrow County has announced that farmer and rancher candidate nominations begin June 15 for local Farm Service Agency (FSA) county committees. The nomination period continues through Aug. 3, 2009. Elections take place this fall.

To be eligible to serve on an FSA county committee, a person must participate or cooperate in a program administered by FSA, be eligible to vote in a county committee election and reside in the local administrative area (LAA) in which the person is a candidate.

The form and other valuable information about FSA county committee elections are available on line at: www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA/webapp?area=newsr&om&subject=landing&to&ic=cce. Nomination form for the 2009 election must be postmarked or received in the local USDA Service Center by close of business on August 3.

FSA will mail ballot to producers beginning November 6. The vote ballots are due back to the local county office either via mail or in person by December 7. Newly elected committee members alternate take office Jan 1, 2010.

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