Bessie Wetzell Newspaper Library
University of Oregon
Eugene, OR 97403

HEPPNER 50¢
Gazette Times

VOL. 128 NO. 49 8 Pages Wednesday, December 9, 2009 Morrow County, Heppner, Oregon

Disque named director of Home Health and Hospice

Robanai Disque was recently named the new director for Morrow County Health District Home Health and Hospice in Heppner.

Raised in Heppner, Disque attended Blue Mountain Community College where she received associate of arts degrees in nursing, human resources, and liberal arts.

In 1976 Disque began working as a nurse's aide. She has also worked as a respiratory therapist aide and a surgical aide. From 1979-1983 Disque worked at St. Anthony's Hospital in Pendleton.

Robanai Disque

In 1983 she began working at Pioneer Memorial Hospital and has been there ever since. She began as a nurse with Home Health and Hospice and in September of 1983 was hired to fill in as a nurse in the hospital. Disque has now been working with Home Health and Hospice for 26½ years.

As the new director for Home Health and Hospice, Disque is responsible for all management areas of the organization. In addition to her duties she will also continue to work as a nurse for Willow Creek Terrace. "I'm excited for a new challenge," said Disque. "I'm excited to learn and be responsible for the other side of it (Home Health and Hospice).

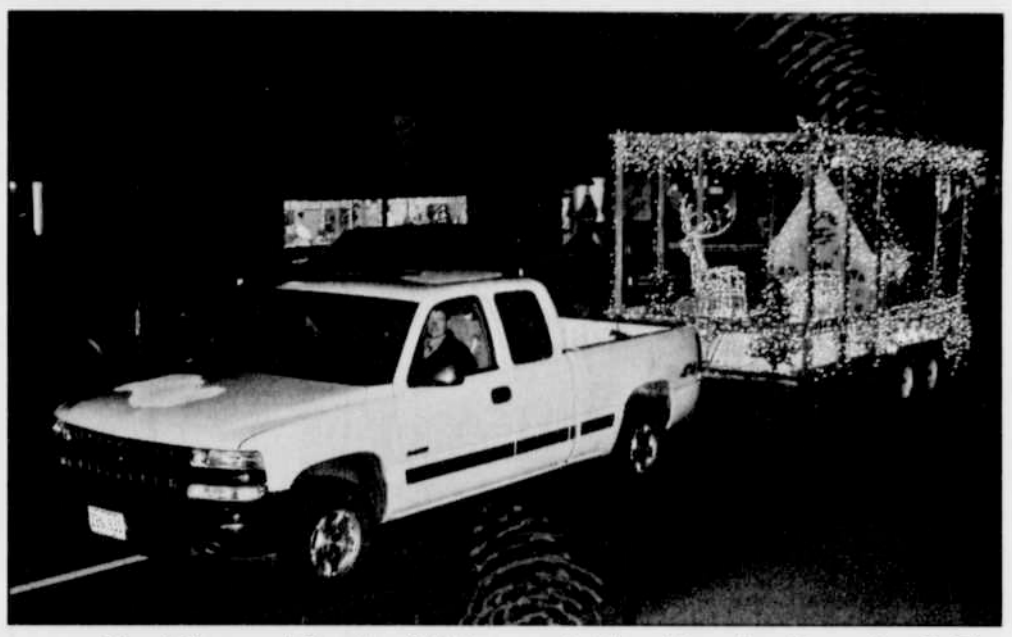
Disque and her husband, Duane, have two children. Kylee is currently finishing her student teaching through the University of Idaho. Taylor is a student at Blue Mountain Community College taking prerequisites for physical therapy.

When she has spare time, Disque has many hobbies to keep her busy. She enjoys playing golf, photography, gardening, traveling, and many crafts, including sewing, knitting, painting and watercolors. She is a,n avid reader who teaches youth group at Hope Lutheran/All Saints' Episcopal. She also enjoys camping, traveling and watching movies with her family.

Disque will be taking over for Molly Rhea who resigned from the position after five years. Rhea retained her position as director of nursing services with the Morrow County Health District.

"I love Home Health and Hospice so much," said Disque, "that I just thought 'why not?' when they asked (me to be the new director)."

Parade of Lights winners announced



The 13th annual Parade of Lights was held on Thursday, December 3. The winners, sponsored by Columbia Basin Electric Co-op, are:

Grinch of Christmas (Best Individual Float); Bank of Eastern Oregon (Best Commercial Float); Heppner/Hermiston Seventh Day Adventist Churches – "Journey to Bethlehem" (Best Community Float); and Heppner Junior High (Best School Float).

Local Tea Party group formed

'Enough is Enough' plans informational and other activities

By David Sykes

A local Tea Party group promoting, among other things, government fiscal responsibility and free enterprise, was recently formed to oppose "runaway government spending and our lawmakers' apparent disregard of our Constitution," a news release from the Willow Creek Tea Party Patriots says. The group's motto is "Enough is Enough".

The group is exploring different activities, including ways to inform the public about issues before the state and the country, including the effects of "cap and trade" legislation and the national health care bill.

The group has held several meetings and established an email address, post office box and internet blog for people who want more information. The email address the public may use to contact the group is wcteaparty@gmail.com. The address for those who want to contact the group by regular mail is: Willow Creek Tea Party, PO Box 114, Heppner, OR 97836.

A blog where comments came be made and people can sign up to be kept abreast of current activities can be accessed at: http://willowcreekpatriots.blogspot.com

The news release said the group is "a non-partisan group of concerned citizens opposed to runaway government spending and our lawmakers' apparent disregard of the United States Constitution." The group believes in "freedom of opportunity, fiscal responsibility, free enterprise and limited government."

The mission statement says "We the people remain firmly committed to the founding principles of these United States as set forth in the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution.

"We believe that all are created equal and are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights and have the right to own the fruits of their individual labors, unfettered by the self-serving heavy hand of a power hungry government."

The local Tea Party group takes some of its ideas from other Tea Party movements around the country, which have held meetings, demonstrations and put up web sites to question the current activities and political direction of the country.

Celebrate Heppner Christmas Event to be held

The Chamber Raffle Baskets are currently on display in the window at Heppner TV. Raffle tickets are available for sale at one for $1 and six for $5 and can be purchased at Community Bank, Heppner Chamber and Heppner TV through Thursday, December 17. The winner of each basket will be drawn during the Celebrate Heppner Christmas Event at the Elks Lodge on December 17.

The Elks will be serving lasagna, green salad and garlic bread. The cost for dinner will be $9 for adults and $5 for children 12 and under. Those who purchase a dinner will be given a $10 Rewards Card for each meal, up to $50 for a family.

Rewards cards can be entered for drawings for prizes from 7:30-9:30 p.m. upstairs in the Elks Lodge. A penny raffle board will also be available.

Santa will be available to take pictures ($5 per picture) from 6-7:30 p.m. Musical entertainment will by provided by exchange student Viktoria Bosch from 6:15-7:15 p.m.

The drawing for prizes will begin at 7:30 p.m.

Visitor for the holidays

This great horned owl lives in a tree next to Linda Bristow's home on Ella Road in Ione. Bristow took this photo on Sunday, December 6. For the past few days, Bristow has walked toward the tree, moving a little closer each day, to let the owl get comfortable with her presence. *–Contributed Photo*

FFA Greenhand initiation rescheduled

The fourth annual Heppner FFA Greenhand initiation has been rescheduled for Wednesday, December 16, at 6:30 p.m. in the HHS cafeteria. Refreshments will be served following the ceremony. The community is invited to attend.

Heppner man arrested for attempted murder

The Morrow County Sheriff's Office arrested Russ John Hickerson, 52, of Heppner for Attempted Aggravated Murder, Attempted Assault I, and Menacing. Hickerson was lodged at the Umatilla County Jail with a total bail of $106,000.

Russ John Hickerson

On Monday, December 7, the department received a report of a disturbance at a residence in Lexington.

According to the sheriff's department, deputies responded and an investigation revealed that Michael Stahl of Lexington had been attacked by a suspect who had thrown gasoline on him and threatened to light it. The sheriff's office reported that the suspect had also threatened to kill the victim with a handgun. A scuffle ensued and Stahl was able to prevent the gun from being fired and called 911 for assistance and deputies responded to the scene.

Health services unite to improve access to care and health status

Leadership from the Columbia River Community Health Services of Boardman, the Morrow County Health District and the Morrow County Health Department has convened to develop an integrated health care network – a first of its type in Morrow County health history.

A rural health care network brings together a diverse group of independent health care providers, employers, or community organizations to address problems that cannot be solved by any single entity working alone. The strength and success of the effort depends strongly on the participation of partners to include schools, local business, mental health care providers, oral health care providers, pharmacies, faith communities, law enforcement, senior, veteran and children's services.

The members of the Morrow County Community Health Improvement Partnership (CHIP) are key providers of the health care delivery system in the areas of public health, primary and acute care, behavioral health and human services. A common desire to improve the health status of the community and quality of life for individuals is shared among the health care providers and their partners.

The initial goal of the Community Health Improvement Partnership is to conduct a community health needs assessment. Health status indicators and health service utilization data will be collected and analyzed in addition to information collected through a community input process. This collaborative effort serves to encourage a more healthful community built by working collectively to solve problems and plan for action with local support and participation. The partnership is pursuing funding to support the Community Health Improvement Partnership because, as well as improved health, the benefits for the county will be both social and economic.

Pending developments and opportunities for citizen participation will be reported.

Roy Collins Medical Fund set up at BEO

A medical fund has been set up at Bank of Eastern Oregon to help the Collins family pay for their son, Roy's, medical bills.

Roy, a first grader at Heppner Elementary School, was hospitalized for pneumonia. He was transferred Monday from Kadlec Medical Center in Richland, WA to Doernbecher Children's Hospital in Portland.

Anyone wishing to contribute to the fund can do so at Bank of Eastern Oregon, or send the donation to: The Roy Collins Medical Fund c/o BEO, P. O. Box 39, Heppner, OR 97836.

GREEN FEED & SEED IN HEPPNER:
Montana Silver Jewelry & Gifts 25% OFF
MONTANA SILVERSMITHS
Christmas Trees Now In!
All Wrangler 13 MWZ Cowboy Cut Jeans $19.99
All other Wrangler Apparel 15% OFF
Morrow County Grain Growers Green Feed & Seed
242 W. Linden Way, Heppner • 676-9422 • 989-8221 (MCGG main office)