

Dickenson backbone of HHS ag program

By Doris Brosnan

As Heppner High School graduation neared, Beth Dickenson reflected over the past five years that she has been a teacher at the school. She is pleased to note that some seniors had been enrolled in the agricultural program since they were freshmen. This is the second year now for that distinction.

Five years ago, Heppner High had no agriculture curriculum and no FFA program, but parents, students and some board members saw the need to reinstate the classes. This year's enrollment shows between 60 and 70 students in the curriculum and 48 in the FFA program. Five years ago, a building for which ag instructor Bill Umbarger had had great expectations when he was here 15 to 20 years ago was being used for storage. This year, that building houses livestock.

Beth Dickenson came as the professional expected to prove the supporters correct and to create and build programs into viable contributions to the students' educations. "Rolling up her sleeves" with many volunteers, she tackled the building first. Eventually, after dumpster-loads of forgotten and obsolete items were removed, a potential barn was rediscovered. The state curriculum was applied, and enough students enrolled to keep the classroom door open.

Today, students may choose to take a progression of classes from freshman to senior year or may opt to enroll in single classes of special interest to them: Introduction of Agriculture, Plant Science, and Integrated Agriculture and Advanced Agriculture, both of which build sequentially as applications of the preceding theory classes. This next year, there will be Veterinary Science and Ag Leadership classes offered. FFA offers the enrollees experience in many and varied agriculture-related activities; for instance, work with animals and plants, in welding and research, and as writers and speakers.

In February of 2010, the students, Dickenson and adult volunteers added three pens and a corral to the barn. She credits the parents of her students, the FFA Alumni Association and local businesses with the added financial and physical support necessary for completion of the project. Similarly, last year, a second greenhouse was added. The concrete foundation was provided by generous supporters of the program.

Visitors can spot eight sheep—four of which belong to the FFA chapter—and one market steer grazing near the barn. Also on site now are ten hogs, one that belongs to the chapter. The four ewes' offspring (the delivery of which also became a learning experience) and the hog will be sold to benefit the treasury of the FFA program. Plants offered for sale at the greenhouse give the students hands-on experience and bring some added funding to the agriculture program. These two sources of revenue help the financially limited programs to continue.

The other livestock belong to students who have "Supervised Agriculture Experience Projects." These students must meet rigid criteria demands for these projects as they care for their animals and incur the expenses associated with the raising of market animals. They will show and sell their animals at the Morrow County Fair. Two exceptions to this step in the SAEP process have been made for two foreign-exchange students who will have returned to their homes before the fair. Ida and Marie wanted the opportunity to experience the many aspects of investing in and caring for livestock, so they have market hogs that they are responsible for and will show at the Union Livestock Show June 10-12, along with fellow member Zech Hintz.

When pressed to make a choice, Dickenson says that, of the joys she receives from her involvement with the HHS students, she finds most exciting that which she feels for the students who become involved in the FFA programs.

"Something, literally, for everyone," she reports. She is so happy for them when they reap the benefits of applying their learning. She notes the advantages that the speaking experiences give the students for the rest of their lives, the scholarship potential for those who plan to continue their formal educations, the "step-up" that students have when applying for agriculture-related employment.

Somewhat regretful over losing this year's seniors, who have been with her for four years, Dickenson is also confident that their agriculture-related education will serve them well in years to come, and she looks forward to new students eager to learn next year. She insists that the renewed agriculture curriculum at HHS is successful because of the desire and dedication of the parents, fellow staff and students, and the donations from the local businesses.

HWCD meeting June 23

The Heppner Water Control District will hold its regular meeting Thursday, June 23 in the Ag Service Center Conference Room at 7 p.m.

Items on the agenda include review of minutes of the previous meeting, treasurer's report, tree removal estimate, discussion of a diversion survey and budget documents for the fiscal year 2011/2012. Meetings of HWCD are open to the public.

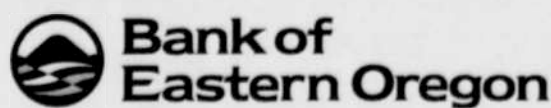
Chamber lunch meeting

The Chamber lunch will be held Thursday, June 16 at noon at the Heppner City Hall. The speaker will be Andrew O'Connell from Diversified Winds. Cost for the lunch is \$9; Alvin Liu of Cornerstone Gallery will cater. Those planning to attend are asked to RSVP by Wednesday morning of each week.

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OHSRA standings

Oregon High School Rodeo Association Standings as of June 5 are as follows:

- Bull Riding:** 7th, Willy Gentry, 9 pts.
- Boys Cutting:** 11th, Devin Robinson, 5 pts.
- Tie Down Roping:** 7th, Devin Robinson, 32 pts; 14th, Willy Gentry, 14 pts; 22nd, Garrett Robinson, 11 pts.
- Steer Wrestling:** 3/4th, Devin Robinson, 55 pts; 11th, Garrett Robinson, 30 pts; 12th, Willy Gentry, 29 pts.
- Team Roping:** 19th, Devin/Garrett Robinson, 16 pts; 28th, Willy/Tate Gentry, 6 pts.
- Breakaway:** 8th, Taighler Dougherty, 28.5 pts; 13th, Blake Greenup, 21 pts.
- Goat Tying:** 20th, Blake Greenup, 7 pts.
- Barrel Racing:** 6th, Blake Greenup, 40 pts; 15th, Taighler Dougherty, 17 pts.
- Poles:** 2nd, Blake Greenup, 68 pts; 5th, Taighler Dougherty, 58 pts.

Missoula Children's Theatre to return to Ione

Ione will host a Missoula Children's Theatre production during the week prior to the 4th of July.

Auditions for MCT's original musical adaptation of "The Tortoise Versus the Hare" will be held on Monday, June 27 at 10 a.m. at the Ione Community School cafeteria. All South Morrow County students who were in grades K-12 during the 2010-11 school year are encouraged to audition. No advance preparation is necessary and there are roles in the show designed for students in all age groups.

In addition to performance parts, there are assistant director positions available for students ages 10 and older. Assistant directors are selected to help teach and direct the show early in the week as well as take on technical responsibilities at performance time. Their logistical help and creative ideas are a vital part of the process and the experience of being an assistant director can be just as valuable as that of

any cast member.

Auditions will run from approximately 10 a.m. to noon, and some cast members will begin their first rehearsal at 12:30. Rehearsals will then run from 10 a.m. to noon and from 12:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. on Tuesday, June 28 through Friday, July 1. Not all cast members will be required at all rehearsals; lunch will be served between rehearsals each day.

The week will culminate with two performances on Saturday, July 2 at 3 p.m. and 5:30 p.m. Both performances will be in the Ione Community School cafeteria and are free to the public.

Missoula Children's Theatre, the nation's largest touring children's theatre, has been touring extensively for 38 years now from Montana to Japan, and will visit nearly 1300 communities this year, with up to 45 teams of tour actor/directors. A tour team arrives in a given town with a set, lights, costumes, props

and make-up, everything it takes to put on a play...except the cast. The team holds an open audition and casts 50-60 local students to perform in the production. The show is rehearsed throughout the week and two public performances are presented on Saturday.

All MCT shows are original adaptations of classic children's stories and fairy tales...a twist on the classic stories you know and love. Also included in the residency are enrichment workshops presented by the tour actor/directors. Creativity, social skills, goal achievement, communication skills and self-esteem are all characteristics that are attained through participation in this unique educational project. MCT's mission is the development of life skills in children through participation in the performing arts.

This program is sponsored by the Morrow County Recreation District and in cooperation with the Friends of the Heppner Library.

CITY COUNCIL

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"That is city property," DeMayo told the Gazette. "If he wants to use it, I don't feel it is my position to say that he can or can't. I want the city council to approve it."

DeMayo said allowing McBride to use the property without council approval would also set a precedent, and there would be nothing to stop others from doing it.

A public notice was printed in two issues of the Gazette "to consider a special request to utilize the City's Right-of-Way in the vicinity of the August street-Kirk street intersection for the parking of a temporary residence." The property is located two blocks from the courthouse along Willow Creek and looks almost like an alley way. One property owner accesses his shop across the creek on a bridge using Kirk Street. He has reportedly not complained about the situation.

Following the council meeting, four members of the council traveled to the site to look it over. The council took no action at Monday's meeting because proper notification to surrounding property owners had not been mailed out prior to the meeting. The council said it would take up the matter at a later meeting.

Purchased home for \$1
In other business, the council discussed its recent purchase of a former Housing and Urban Development (HUD) house for one dollar. The house, located at 160 S. Court St in Heppner, had been reposed by HUD and has been on the market for six months and not sold. According to HUD's website, HUD's Dollar Homes initiative "helps local governments to foster housing opportunities for low to moderate income families and address specific community needs by offering them the opportunity to



The Heppner city council recently purchased this HUD house on Court Street for one dollar. -Photo by David Sykes

purchase qualified HUD-owned homes for \$1 each." Dollar Homes are single-family homes that are acquired by the Federal Housing Administration (which is part of HUD) as a result of foreclosure actions.

The council discussed putting the home on the market through a local real estate agent to find an appropriate buyer. The city will decide what to do with the home at a special meeting on June 20.

The council also approved a city planning commission decision to approve a conditional use request by Mike Williams for his Destination Detail business to operate out of his residence at 355 Union St. The business does auto detailing and restoration, and his home is located in a residential zone, so he needed a city permit. The council approved the use with assurances from Williams that he would not allow excessive cars to accumulate on the property and that his activities would not cause undue problems for the neighbors.

Hogs in city limits
The council also ruled on two animal permits for hogs within the city limits. One applicant wanted to raise hogs on a year-round basis and sell them to 4-Hers. The other asked to raise hogs part of the year for the county fair. The council approved the temporary keeping of hogs, but voted against the applicant wanting to keep hogs year-round within the city limits.

The council also received the following sheriff report for the past month.

Sheriff's Report for May 2011
Traffic-

There were six traffic stops, all resulting in warnings.

A motor vehicle crash was reported at the high school with minor property damage.

Code Enforcement-

Two dogs attacked

another dog. The situation was resolved by contact with the owners.

MCSO received a report of a vicious dog residing at an apartment. The manager wanted the dog removed from the property.

Dogs were reported to be getting into garbage cans. The owners were contacted and warned.

Loose cattle were reported. The owner was contacted.

A deputy struck a dog with the vehicle. The owner was contacted. The dog was uninjured.

Two loose puppies were reported to MCSO. A deputy was not able to locate them.

MCSO responded to Heppner to assist with flooding.

A report of a barking dog was reported. The owner arrived home and took care of the problem.

Eight code enforcement complaints were handled regarding garbage, tall weeds, and other debris on properties.

Deputies located seven dogs and returned them home.

A loose horse was caught and returned to the owner.

Two cats were transported to Pet Rescue.

Loud music was reported coming from a vehicle parked at the city park. The owner was contacted and the music was turned down.

Loud music was reported coming from a vehicle. A deputy made contact with the driver, who turned the music down.

Theft Complaints-
A person reported a forged check to MCSO.

A person reported a scam via the telephone.

A deputy investigated identity theft, which occurred in Washington. Property was stolen from a residence.

An iPod was reported stolen. It was determined to have been lost.