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HEPPNER Gazette Times

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Heppner Fire Department greets new arrival, ushers out old

By Andrea Di Salvo

The Heppner Fire Department greeted a new arrival last Friday, July 1.

Engine 25-533 takes both the place and the number of its predecessor, which the city purchased new in 1965. The previous engine 533, which is now retired, will live on in parades and in the hearts of the firemen who used to drive it.

The city secured a loan to buy the new $189,800 engine, which will be a structure engine used to battle building fires. It is the first new truck the city has bought since engine 25-532 arrived in 1994, but Heppner City Manager David DeMayo says another truck will arrive later this summer. The next engine will be paid for with grant monies, says DeMayo.

New engine 25-533 (L) sits side-by-side with it predecessor in front of the Heppner fire station at a "changing of the guard" on July 1. *–Photo by Andrea Di Salvo*

Meanwhile, excitement is running high at the fire station.

"This is a big day for Heppner," says Heppner Rural Fire Protection District's Steve Rhea.

Cardiologist to have office hours in Heppner

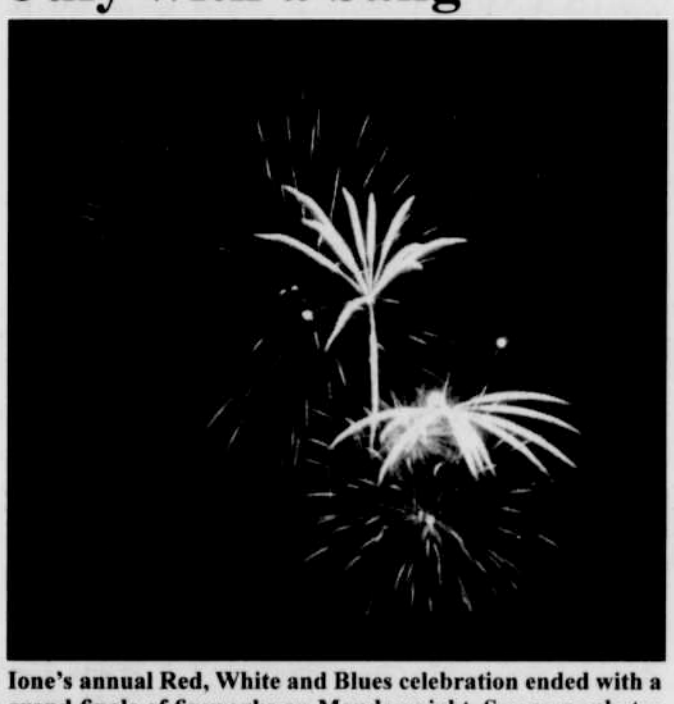
A new cardiologist, David L. Guarraia, M.D., has begun taking patients at Pioneer Memorial Clinic. Guarraia is associated with Oregon Health Sciences University in The Dalles.

Dr. Guarraia, 38, will be coming to Heppner once a moth to see patients. He has studied internal medicine at the University of Arizona and also worked designing and developing drugs. He did research work at Cornell and also worked at The National Institutes of Health and the University of St. Louis.

David L. Guarraia, M.D.

He and his wife, Caroline, have two children, three and two years old. They reside in The Dalles, where Guarraia enjoys bike riding, running and wind surfing. Guarraia says his wife enjoys dirt-bike riding and that they have ridden in the Mt. Hood area.

Ione celebrates 4th of July with a bang



Ione's annual Red, White and Blues celebration ended with a grand finale of fireworks on Monday night. See more photos on page six. *-Photo by Andrea Di Salvo*

Fair's coming soon

The Morrow County Fair and Rodeo is August 17 through 20 this year. Those planning on participating can do several things to start preparing now.

One way to get a jump-start on fair preparations is to pick up a premium book to see the variety of categories available for entries. As always, exhibitors are welcome to visit the fair office ahead of time and pick up a number and tags; office hours are 8 a.m. to noon and 1-5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

The Wheat League is having a harvest picture contest. Contestants may enter two photos but only one will be judged. The contest is for adults only. They are also having their traditional Wheat League cake contest; the recipe is on page 53 of the premium book.

Anyone interested in showcasing their cooking skills will also want to check out the variety of canning and food contests in the book again this year.

For those looking for opportunities to volunteer, the fair needs superintendents in the Superkids (7-9 years old) and Community Booths categories, or they can volunteer to help a superintendent.

Finally, the Open Class livestock deadline to reserve space and cages is August 4 this year.

Books will soon be available in several locations. If you cannot find a book, please contact the fair office at 541-676-9474.

Shed destroyed in fire

Heppner experienced some unexpected fireworks over the weekend when a shed at 180 Gilmore caught fire.

Fire chief Rusty Estes said the building was already burning when he arrived on the scene, but there were reports of a small explosion. The cause of the fire and explosion haven't yet been investigated, but preliminary assessment is that flame from burning weeds probably spread to the shed and set fire to a lawnmower and gas can, which then exploded.

As a precaution, Estes called for mutual aid from the Ione fire department, but he said fire crews quickly had the fire under control.

ALL NEWS AND ADVERTISEMENT DEADLINE:

MONDAYS AT 5:00 P.M.

Ione School Board revisits strict cell phone policy

By April Sykes

Intermountain ESD Superintendent Mark Mulvihill told the Ione School Board at their regular meeting June 28 that he believed their cell phone policy was a little "heavy handed" and recommended that they modify their regulations.

Mulvihill said that rather than employing such strict rules and strict punishment for cell phone use in the school, the board should rather incorporate the devices into the classrooms. He said that cell phones and smart phones are basically little computers that can be utilized as learning tools. Another aspect of the recommendation was that it is almost impossible to ban the use of the ubiquitous devices.

This was the first year that the Ione community has had cell phone service. The board agreed to revisit the issue.

At the meeting the board held their budget hearing and adopted the 2011-12 budget for $3,868,603. The board approved the 2011-12 budget as follows: general fund-$1,303,668 for instruction, up from $1,234,072 last year, and $995,983 for support services, up from $954,218, $45,000 in fund-to-fund transfers, with a $420,000 unappropriated ending fund balance; special revenue funds-$392,019 for instruction, $46,574 in support services, $117,154 for enterprise and community services and $62,230 for contingences; debt service fund-$255,975 bond payment; capital projects fund-$224,400; and housing fund-$5,600. Resources include $2,244,651 in resources other than property taxes and $520,000 in property taxes.

The board imposed taxes at the rate of $4.0342 per thousand of assessed value for operations and in the amount of $178,759 for bonds.

The board also accepted the resignation of long-time teacher Barb Collin and agreed to her request to retire as of June 1 but continue to finish her contract through the end of August and work part-time through the 2011-12 school year. Mulvihill and Principal Jerry Archer said that creating a job-share position would enable Collin, who is in her 34th year of teacher, to go to part-time.

In other business, the board:

-approved the 2011-12 meeting schedule with meetings held on the fourth Tuesday of the month with some modifications: the July meeting would be changed from July 26 to July 19, the third Tuesday, rather than the fourth Tuesday because of the Eastern Oregon Executive Summit set for July 26; the December meeting changed to Tuesday, December 13, due to the Christmas holiday; the March meeting changed to Tuesday, March 20, due to the holiday; the work session meeting start time changed from 3 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. for the school year, with the regular board meeting start time changed from 4 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. Meeting dates are as follows: July 19, August, 23, September 27, October 25, November 22, December 13, January 24, February 28, March 20, April 24, May 22 and June 26.

-received the district's financial update for May and through June 23. The district: has collected $234,086 in basic school support, including the final payment for the 2009-2010 fiscal year totaling $59,031 and $14,022 in property taxes; is expected to receive around $52,000 from the Morrow County School District's education for SPED children; learned that three general fund cost centers will end the year over budget; received $15,329 in federal REAP Title grants

-See IONE SCHOOL BOARD/PAGE FOUR

NOAA issues monthly climate summary

According to preliminary data received by NOAA's National Weather Service in Pendleton, temperatures at Heppner averaged colder than normal during the month of June.

The average temperature was 59.9 degrees, 2.8 degrees below normal. High temperatures averaged 72.2 degrees, which was 4.8 degrees below normal. The highest was 88 degrees on June 23. Low temperatures averaged 47.7 degrees, 0.8 degrees below normal. The lowest was 40 degrees, on the 3rd.

Precipitation totaled 2.02 inches during June, which was 0.94 inches above normal. Measurable precipitation of at least .01 inch was received on 8 days. The heaviest, 1.16 inches, was reported on June 2.

Precipitation this year has reached 11.83 inches, 3.60 inches above normal. Since October, the water year precipitation at Heppner has been 17.75 inches, which is 5.73 inches above normal.

The outlook for July from NOAA's climate prediction center calls for near-normal temperatures and near-normal precipitation. Normal highs for Heppner during July are 85.7 degrees and normal lows are 52.8 degrees. The 30-year normal precipitation is 0.35 inches.

The National Weather Service is an office of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, an agency of the U.S. Commerce Department.

Police seek information on ram shooting

Morrow County Sheriff's Office is offering a $500 reward for information regarding the shooting of a Suffolk ram near Boardman early on June 25.

On Saturday, June 25, the MCSO received a report that Jerry Carr's Suffolk ram had been shot on Wilson Road near Boardman.

The six-year-old ram, "Buddy," had been shot sometime early that Saturday morning, possibly from Wilson Road. Buddy was a family pet as well as a registered Suffolk breeding ram. Jerry Carr and his wife, who had owned the ram for a little more than a year, told the police that Buddy was friendly and would approach anyone who went near his pen.

In light of the shooting, the MCSO encourages everyone to be aware of the risk to animals and property when shooting from roadways. Animal owners and the public are asked to report any suspicious activities to the sheriff's office.

The sheriff's office is offering the $500 reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the person or persons involved in Buddy's shooting. Those with information regarding the case can contact Deputy Scott Carter at 541-676-5317.

Get your articles in for special Fair Edition

If you have an event or activity going on during this year's Morrow County Fair and Rodeo, you will want to get an article into the Heppner Gazette's Special Fair & Rodeo edition.

The Fair &Rodeo is August 17-20 and the special edition will be published August 3. The deadline for news articles, photos is July 15. People may also want to publicize their event with an advertisement, the advertisement deadline is July 22.

Submit your articles or advertisements by email to david@rapidserve.net, mail them to PO Box 337, Heppner, OR 97836 or drop them by our office at 188 W. Willow. Fax number is 541-676-9211.