

2011 4-H camp a success



For the fourth year in a row, all the 4-H campers and counselors at the tri-county 4-H camp made it to the top of the hike, an accomplishment of which everyone was proud. —Contributed photo

The 2011 "Under the Sea" 4-H camp was a great success, according to camp coordinators.

The camp had a large turnout this year, with 76 campers, 27 counselors, 4 adult staff, 3 camp cooks and 2 nurses hailing from Gilliam, Morrow and Wheeler counties. Even a full dining hall and the occasional sprinkles of rain never hampered the spirits of the campers.

The camp offered plenty of hands-on classes this year, including fishing, dissecting fish, bugs in the water, water around the world and, of course, crafts.

The weather this year was especially cool, with a nice layer of frost discovered the last morning of camp. Only three fish were caught this year, but the fishing derby was the weekend prior, so staff and camper hopes are high for future years. For the fourth year in a row, all campers and counselors made it to the top of the hike.

"This is a huge ac-

complishment and we could not be prouder of all those that make the trek," said one camp representative.

Next year's camp theme was voted on by the campers; the theme will be Disney/Pixar. All in all, there were no major problems reported, and everyone went home tired and happy. The 2012 tri-county 4-H camp dates are June 26 - 29. For more information on how to participate in 4-H or attend 4-H camp, contact the Morrow County Extension Office at 541-676-9642.



Riley Gorham does some leather craft during one of the classes at this year's 4-H camp. —Contributed photo

Commission on Transportation to meet

The North East Area Commission on Transportation (NEACT) will hold its next meeting on August 4 from 9 a.m. to noon at the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) Region 5 headquarters, located at 3012 Island Avenue, La Grande.

The general public is invited to attend.

Time has been set aside for public comments regarding project proposals and other transportation-related topics. To schedule time on the agenda at future NEACT meetings, contact Lisa Hill at 541-963-3179.

HEALTH DISTRICT

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set amount of state money to care for their Medicaid patients, regardless of how little or how much care each patient required. The program would cover all spectrums of health care, from medical to mental health to eye and dental care. Blauer said that they were assured that the managed care plan would not apply to rural hospitals if the concept did not pencil out for them. He added that the plan would probably work better for urban settings, rather than rural areas. Mahoney said that in this plan, a hub would most likely receive payments, then dole out the payments to health care facilities. She said that the "whole point of the plan is to reduce costs."

—learned from Blauer that City of Irrigon Administrator Jerry Breazeale has indicated interest in the Community Health Improvement Plan with regard to funding assistance for providing walking trails in Irrigon, which would meet the CHIP criteria of improving community health. Blauer, who is on the CHIP committee, said that the volunteer group is continuing to make progress.

—received a report on the Columbia River Community Health Services clinic construction. McCormack Construction, Pendleton, was awarded the contract for the \$4,723,795 project. Groundbreaking took place on April 25 and the estimated completion date is April 2012. Lavern Gertlar with CRCHS was in attendance at the meeting and reported that they are now in the process of pouring concrete for the clinic project.

—heard from Mahoney that the amount of

time in which the district collects on accounts has been dramatically reduced. She praised the business office for their hard work in reducing the days from a high of 69.5 in January to 65.3 in February, 57.5 in March, 56.4 in April, 60.5 in May and 63.0 in June.

—received the following report: Pioneer Memorial Hospital had two admissions in June, two swing bed admissions, nine admitted for observation, 478 total outpatients, 67 total emergency room encounters, 1,737 lab tests, 129 x-ray procedures, 26 CT scans, 27 EKG tests, one treadmill procedure, six colonoscopy procedures, one endoscopy procedure, 102 respiratory therapy procedures; Heppner Ambulance had 17 page-outs with 15 transports for \$19,082 in revenue; Boardman Ambulance had 28 page-outs with 17 transports for \$19,401 in revenue; Irrigon Ambulance had 29 page-outs with 22 transports for \$23,082 in revenue; Home Health had 103 patient visits; Hospice had four admissions; Pioneer Memorial Clinic had 449 patient visits with 36 new patients, 39 seen by a nurse and 11 no-shows; Irrigon Medical Clinic had 174 patient visits, 38 new patients, 53 seen by a nurse and six no-shows.

The district showed a \$49,237 gain for the month with \$665,192 in gross patient revenue, less \$12,344 in bad debts and \$112,329 in contractual and other adjustments, for a net patient revenue of \$540,518. The district took in \$94,733 in taxes and \$6,814 in other operating revenue. The district had \$621,327 in total operating expenses and a \$28,498 in a non-operating gain.

Annual football camp scheduled

The 19th annual south Morrow County football camp will be held August 8 through August 11 at the Heppner High School.

All students grades five through 12 are welcome.

Camps will be held every afternoon. The camp for grades five through eight will be from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m.; the camp for ninth through 12th grades will take place from 5:30 to 8 p.m.

The cost is \$25. Every participant will also receive a hat.

If you or someone you know has a gambling problem, help is available and that help is FREE of charge.

If YOU have a family member who suffers from gambling addiction, YOU can also receive FREE treatment even if the gambler is not receiving treatment. If you are a resident of Morrow County and you wish to take advantage of the services above or desire more information, Please call any of the following numbers to set up a LOCAL appointment or just to talk: Bobby Harris @ 541-676-9925 or 541-256-0175 Community Counseling Solutions (CCS) @ 541-676-9161 OR 1-877-695-4648 (1-888-MYLIMIT)

Wedding Tables

Brad Adams & Katelyn Brizendine
Saturday, July 30th

Allison Halvorsen & Andrew Tetrick
Saturday, July 30th

— Drink Specials! —

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Chocolate truffle mocha \$3.50

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Disaster assistance available for small businesses

Small, non-farm businesses in Morrow County and four other Oregon counties are now eligible to apply for low interest disaster loans from the U. S. Small Business Administration (SBA).

"These loans offset economic losses because of reduced revenues caused by unseasonably warm weather followed by frosts and freezing temperatures in Umatilla County that occurred February 24 through February 26, 2011," announced Alfred E. Judd, Director of SBA's Disaster Field Operations Center-West.

While Umatilla County is the primary affected area, loans are also being offered to Morrow, Grant, Union and Wallowa counties, as well as Benton, Columbia and Walla Walla counties in Washington.

"SBA eligibility covers both the economic impacts on businesses dependent on farmers and ranchers that have suffered agricultural production losses caused by the disaster and businesses directly impacted by the disaster," Judd said.

Small, non-farm businesses, small agricultural cooperatives, small businesses engaged in aquaculture and most private, non-profit organizations of any size may qualify for Economic Injury Disaster Loans (EIDLs) of up to \$2 million to help meet financial obligations and operating expenses which could have been met had the disaster not occurred.

"Eligibility for these loans is based on the financial impact of the disaster only and not on

any actual property damage. These loans have an interest rate of 4% for businesses and 3% for private, non-profit organizations, a maximum term of 30 years, and are available to small businesses and most private, non profits without the financial ability to offset the adverse impact without hardship," Judd said.

By law, SBA makes EIDLs available when the U. S. Secretary of Agriculture designates an agricultural disaster. Secretary Tom Vilsack declared this disaster at the request of Oregon Governor John Kitzhaber.

Businesses primarily engaged in farming or ranching are not eligible for SBA disaster assistance. Agricultural enterprises should contact the Farm Services Agency (FSA) about the U. S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) assistance made available by the Secretary's declaration.

Applicants may apply online using the Electronic Loan Application (ELA) via SBA's website at <https://disasterloan.sba.gov/ela>. Disaster loan information and application forms are also available from SBA's customer service center at 800-659-2955, emailing disastercustomerservice@sba.gov, or visiting SBA's web site at www.sba.gov/services/disasterassistance. Hearing impaired individuals may call 800-877-8339.

The deadline to apply for these loans is March 20, 2012.

For more information, visit SBA's website at www.sba.gov.

Hope to hold yard sale, ice cream social

A yard sale will be held at Hope Lutheran Church on the corner of Alfalfa and Cowins in Heppner on Saturday, August 6 from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. The sale is to raise funds for painting of the church.

Di Salvo's Italian Ice Cream will be available for purchase between 11 a.m. and 2 p.m.

Marriage Licenses

The Morrow County Clerk has issued the following marriage licenses:

July 19: -Jose Juan Sanchez-Paz, 40, of Irrigon and Amanda Ann McBride, 30, of Irrigon.

July 21: -Abel Muniz Navarrete, 24, of Irrigon and Mireya Salas, 19, of Irrigon.

July 22: -Irwin Parcerio-Perez, 23, of Boardman and Nayeli Calvillo, 17, of Boardman.

Sheriff's Report

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

May 23 (cont.): deputy.

-MCSO received report that BPD arrested Lino Covarrubia Covarrubia, 32, on an Irrigon Justice Court warrant for Failure to Pay Fine/Driving While Suspended. He was lodged at Umatilla County Jail with \$412 bail in full.

May 24: -Caller advised MCSO that he found two black (wild) kittens and would like them transported to pet rescue. He will leave his trap at the sheriff's office for the

-BPD was advised that someone caught a ten-foot snake in a parking lot. Snake was caught; they will let it go down the road.

-BPD received a report of a truck trying to catch on fire. The caller advised that the back tires of the semi were on fire and it was pulled over at the Three Mile Canyon exit.

May 25: -Morrow County Sheriff's Office, Boardman Police Department

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The Heppner Jr/Sr high school wrestling team is collecting batteries for an ongoing team fundraiser. Auto, tractor, RV, and four wheeler batteries will be accepted. Please bring your batteries to the South end Transfer station free of charge located at 57185 Hwy 74, Lexington, OR. For further information or if you need batteries picked up, call Mark Lemmon at (541)215-9248.