

HEPPNER

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Gazette Times

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Heppner diner goes vegetarian

Owners say they offer "vegan-friendly" alternatives for those seeking a healthy lifestyle

By Andrea Di Salvo

Willow Creek Diner, which has been a fixture on Heppner's Main Street for decades, isn't going anywhere. Regulars will, however, see a radical change to the menu.

The long-time burger joint and bakery is adopting a vegetarian menu, which owners John and Kathy Marick call "vegan-friendly." Vegetarian refers to a meatless diet, while vegan is entirely plant-based, without even dairy products such as eggs and cheese.

Many are questioning the wisdom of what seems like an odd move in the middle of cattle country.



Many of the popular bakery selections at the Willow Creek Diner will remain, but John and Kathy Marick (pictured) say they will also be adding desserts that diabetics can safely eat, such as these pies made without refined sugar. —Photo by Andrea Di Salvo

The Maricks admit the change has upset a few people. "We knew that by —See VEGETARIAN DINER/ PAGE FOUR

Park host arraigned on invasion of privacy charges

The Morrow County Sheriff's Office recently arrested John Earl McBride, the park host at the Morrow/Grant OHV Park, on allegations of Invasion of Personal Privacy.

During the weekend of July 7-8, MCSO received information that there might be a person at one of the Morrow County parks who was spying on persons as they used the restroom facilities.

Information was gathered and a female reserve deputy, along with a female detective from MCSO, were sent into the park to rent a cabin on Monday, July 9. On the morning of July 10, the female reserve entered one of the restroom facilities while the detective observed from a distance. The suspect was seen entering a maintenance space between the restrooms. The detective opened the door and found the suspect peeking through

a small hole in the wall.

McBride, 54, of Pilot Rock was arrested at the scene. McBride was a contract vendor acting as the camp host at the Morrow/Grant OHV Park. He has had that position as a contract vendor for the past two seasons. McBride was not an employee of Morrow County.

McBride was interviewed and subsequently lodged at Umatilla County Jail on multiple counts of Criminal Mischief-I and Invasion of Personal Privacy.

On July 11, McBride was arraigned on the Information of Misdemeanor by Morrow County Justice Court Judge Anne Spicer; he was arraigned on three counts of Invasion of Personal Privacy and eight counts of Criminal Mis-

chief in the Second Degree. Judge Spicer set bail at \$5,000. Morrow County

District Attorney Justin Nelson is prosecuting the case. The court appointed Heidi Van Kirk to represent the defendant on the charges. The court set a pre-trial conference for August 8 at 1 p.m. at the Ir-

rigon Justice Court. The MCSO continues to look for victims in this case. Anyone who believes they have been McBride's victim during a stay at the Morrow/Grant County OHV Park should contact the MCSO at 541-676-5317.

The case is being investigated by the MCSO. Anyone with any information should call the police department at 541-676-5317.



John Earl McBride

Large crowd hears wind farm info

Blakes Ranch residents not happy with project



Heppner wind farm developer Thomas Metzger talks to crowd at Heppner information meeting on the proposed new farm east of Heppner. —Photo by David Sykes

By David Sykes

A large crowd filled Heppner City Hall last week to hear information about the new 310-tower proposed wind farm on 61,000 acres east of Heppner. Also part of the project is construction of a new transmission line to a new proposed substation to be built at Stanfield.

The wind farm will be built close to the moun-

tain community of Blakes Ranch, so a large contingent of people concerned about the effects of the project came to the meeting. Four people even stood outside with signs to protest the project prior to the meeting. It was estimated later that towers may be as close as one mile to the Blakes Ranch community.

Project developer Thomas Metzger of Inve-

nergy told the crowd of about 55 people that this is the first Oregon project that has gone before the State Energy Facility Siting Council instead of to county planning commissions. If a wind project is over a certain size, state law says it will bypass the county and go straight to the state.

Metzger said Invenery —See WIND FARM MEETING/PAGE FIVE

Local woman celebrates 100 years

By Andrea Di Salvo

The infant girl born on Rhea Creek on July 12, 1912 couldn't have foreseen what the following century would bring.

"I can't think of very much all that interesting," Alice (Rhea) Buckley's says of her life. "We just lived a simple life. I was born after that Heppner flood, thank goodness."

Most people who get to speak with the centenarian, though, will find themselves gifted with a glimpse of history long forgotten by most people alive today.

Buckley is the daughter of Curtis and Cecil Alice (Rankin) Rhea; she was born in a large, two-story white house on Rhea Creek, the same house where her father was born.

"The place where I was born don't look like it did when I was born," she says, adding that most of the buildings are now gone. "You wouldn't even know it had been a place people lived."

She says the canyon took its name from her grandfather, who was said to be the first white man to settle along the creek. Of her four sisters and two brothers, only she and brother, Robert Rhea, remain.

Life was different on Rhea Creek in the early 20th century.

"We still were using horses and buggies, what we called a 'hack,'" says Buckley, describing the horse-drawn buggy with two rows of seats. "We went to a country school. My father had an old mare and a cart; we could hook this mare up and take her to school. We had to take along a bag of hay and feed the hay to the mare during



Alice Buckley (center) got the chance to celebrate her 100th birthday last week surrounded by friends and family, including daughters Margaret and Donna. —Contributed photo

lunch time." She recalls days of playing on stick horses around their farm as a young child.

"We gave them fancy names like 'Prince' and 'King.' At least, we thought they were fancy," Buckley says. "We would pretend we were driving cattle and all kinds of things."

She also remembers a time when a waterspout formed and her grandparents took the children on top of the root cellar to watch the small flood go by.

"We had a finger ring someone said had been made from a 10-cent piece, and we used to wear it all the time," she says. She added that the ring had been lost, but "When the flood was over, there was that ring, lying there on the ground."

Buckley says her family wasn't rich, but they had enough.

"We had enough to feed us and clothe us, but we didn't always have a lot of money," she says.

Buckley says she was in seventh grade when her father moved them closer to

school, graduating from lone High School in 1931.

While Buckley's mind remains sharp, time has worn the edges off memories, eroding the details.

Along the way, she married Carroll Eric Buckley, though the date of their marriage escapes her now. He was five years older than she, half Irish and half Norwegian. They had two daughters, Margaret and Donna. Margaret lives in Wisconsin with her family, while Donna and her family reside in Washington.

Late in life, Buckley's husband had a stroke, and she remembers caring for him during that time. Every day, she says, she got him out of bed, dressed him, fed him and took him for a drive in the car. Then, she said, the doctor would come for his weekly visit and be amazed that her supposedly bed-bound husband had no bed sores.

"I never did explain it to him," says Buckley.

She didn't work outside the home while Carroll was alive. After her husband died—nearly 30 years ago

—See BUCKLEY CENTEN- NIAL/PAGE FIVE

Fair edition deadline July 31

The Morrow County Fair and Oregon Trail Pro Rodeo are coming up. That means the yearly fair edition of the Gazette-Times is also upon us.

The G-T would like to remind everyone that the article and advertising deadline for the annual fair edition is July 31 at 5 p.m.

ALL NEWS AND ADVERTISEMENT DEADLINE:
MONDAYS AT 5:00 P.M.

HARVEST HOURS-

MONDAY - FRIDAY - 7 am - 6 pm
SATURDAY - 7 am - 5 pm

Morrow County Grain Growers

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