

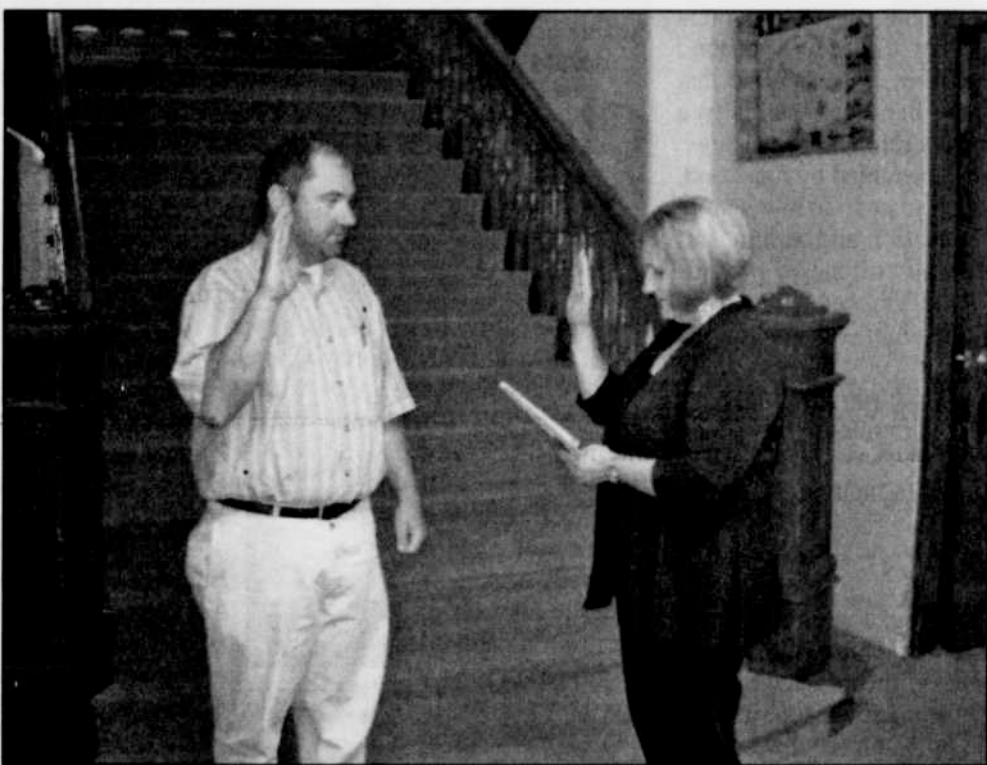
HEPPNER

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Gazette Times

VOL. 132 N.O. 38 10 Pages Wednesday, September 25, 2013 Morrow County, Heppner, Oregon

Gorman sworn in as new county assessor



Morrow County Clerk Bobbi Childers (right) swearing in Mike Gorman as the new Morrow County Assessor on Sept. 4. Gorman replaced retiring assessor Greg Sweek. —Contributed photo

Second scenic bike ride hailed a success



Twenty-five riders participated in the second annual Blue Mountain Century Scenic Bikeway ride last weekend. Back row: Lynn Roby, Bryan Scholz, Sandra Henning, Tom Mafera, Matt Browning, Alex Phillips, Paul Cuddy, Katrin Fink, Bill Miles, Chuck Hedges, Steve Watts, Barb Watts, Bonnie Hayslett, Will Brendecke, Craig Gutierrez, Deb Gutierrez, Jay Gibbs, Scott Kreider, Ric Hancock and Bill MacKenzie. Front Row: Evan MacKenzie, Gwen Strepek and Sharon Dunham. Not pictured are Jim and Colin McElligott. —Photo by David Sykes

The second annual Blue Mountain Century Scenic Bikeway ride took place this past weekend, Sept. 21-22, and was a huge success according to Heppner Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Sheryll Bates.

Altogether, there were 25 riders who participated in this year's event. The riders started in Ukiah on Saturday and rode to Heppner via Hwy. 395 north and Hwy 74 west, and rode from Heppner to Ukiah on Sunday via Forest Service Rd. 53. Breakfast was provided by A & M's Kitchen on

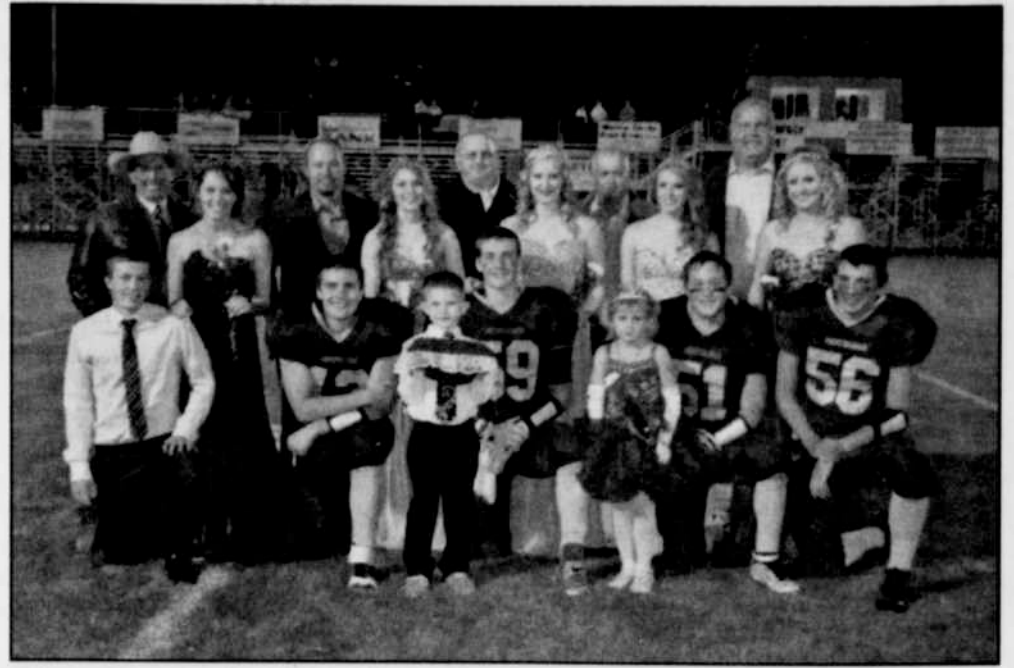
both Saturday and Sunday, lunch was provided by Heppner Family Foods, and a barbecue dinner was provided by Cornerstone Gallery, aka Alvin Liu, on Saturday. The riders were fortunate that the weather, although cool and breezy in the mornings, stayed dry.

For some of the riders, this was their second time riding the 111-mile, difficult BMC Scenic Bikeway loop, but for many others, this was a first trip to Heppner and Ukiah and participation in the event. Visitors came from Pendleton, Prineville, La Grande, Newberg, Lake Oswego, Aurora, Salem,

Terrebonne and Oregon City. Everyone said they are planning on being part of the third annual BMC Scenic Bikeway event again next year. "The visitors all commented on what great customer service they received from the Heppner businesses, how friendly the Heppner community was and how clean and neat Heppner is," said Bates.

Local participants included Will Brendecke, Matt Browning, Craig Gutierrez, Deb Gutierrez, Jay Gibbs, Colin McElligott and Jim McElligott. —See BIKEWAY SUCCESS/ PAGE TWO

Heppner celebrates Homecoming



Heppner High School celebrated homecoming last week with a variety of activities, including theme days and special events, which culminated with the football game versus the Irrigon Knights and the Homecoming dance on Friday. Pictured is the 2013 Homecoming Court. Front (L-R): Cade Arbogast, Jaden Orr, Jackson Coiner, King J.C. Putman, Sierra Greenup, Treston Maben and Ross Cutsforth. Back (L-R): Kevin and Kenzie Hughes, Travis and Blake Greenup, Jim and Queen McKayla Kindle, Cliff and Ryan Dougherty, and Todd and Maddie Lindsay. —Photo by Sandy Matthews

Local pharmacy tech garners state recognition

Wicklund named Oregon Pharmacy Technician of the Year

By Andrea Di Salvo

Excellence seems to be in the water at Murray's Drug, as another member of the pharmacy team at has garnered state recognition for outstanding service.

The honors this year go to Shannon Wicklund, 60, pharmacy technician at Murray's Drug in Heppner. Wicklund has been named Pharmacy Technician of the Year by the Oregon State Pharmacist Association. She will be honored for her achievement at the association's annual convention Saturday, Oct. 19, at the Pendleton Convention Center.

Wicklund says she was shocked when she got the call.

"I was very honored," says Wicklund. "It was quite a surprise for me. I had no idea that award even existed."

It wasn't a surprise to employer Ann Murray, who nominated Wicklund for the award earlier this year.

Murray said she had to complete a detailed nomination, which asked a lot of questions about why she thought Wicklund deserved the award, and a lot about community service.

Murray thought Wicklund deserved recognition on both counts.

"Sometimes pharmacy is really stressful but we have to stay calm," Murray says. "Shannon does a great job as a pharmacy technician because she's very accurate and diligent in her work and always stays focused and calm."

Murray also mentioned that, among other things, Wicklund was instrumental in bringing Relay for Life to Heppner; the program was held in Heppner for the second time last month.

Wicklund didn't set out to become a pharmacy tech.

She and her late husband, Tom, moved to Heppner in 1979 to help



Murray's Drug pharmacy technician Shannon Wicklund will be honored as the Oregon State Pharmacist Association's Pharmacy Technician of the Year at the organization's annual convention in Pendleton next month. —Photo by Megan Futter

her parents, Jack and Ruth Maben, operate Court Street Market. The Wicklunds took over the small grocery store next to the courthouse after the Mabens retired.

Then, as Wicklund says, Kinzua Mill shut down, Walmart went in, and a lot of things in Heppner changed. They were forced to shut down Court Street Market late in 2000.

Ann Murray says that she saw a chance to gain a valuable employee, and asked Wicklund to work for them at Murray's Drug.

"I just thought she was really nice and good with people," says Murray.

Wicklund started at Murray's in January of 2001, she recalls, working first as a clerk for a couple of years before beginning to study for pharmacy tech certification.

All pharmacy technicians in Oregon have to pass a national certification exam, which Wicklund says was a little nerve-wracking.

"That was very frightening for me, because it had been years since I had to do anything like that," Wicklund says, adding that pharmacy techs like herself also have to do continuing education to maintain their certification.

After completing her

certification, Wicklund was thrown into the fire, so to speak, during her first months behind the pharmacy counter.

"John and Ann (Murray) went on a trip to Italy, Jennifer (Palmer) was out with a baby, and that was my first year there, working with a visiting pharmacist," Wicklund recalls.

Despite her trial by fire, Wicklund didn't buckle under the pressure; a decade later, she seems happy in her place and is considered a valuable asset by the Murray's Drug team.

"She's very caring of people, very empathetic. We have to be careful and accurate and calm and focused, and she's all of those things," says Murray.

"(This award) is a big honor because there are a lot of pharmacy technicians in Oregon, more technicians than there are pharmacists, so for her to win is very cool and we're very proud of her."

"We're very proud of our entire pharmacy technician staff, and we really think Shannon deserves this honor."

"I have very good employees to work for. I couldn't do it without them all," says Wicklund. "A lot of support; we all just work together."

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