

Clock tower back on watch

By Andrea Di Salvo

Nearly a year after the clock tower was removed from the Morrow County Courthouse for renovations, area residents are happy to have the familiar tower again rising above Court Street in Heppner.

"We tore it down July 23-24 (2013), right around there. Here we are starting July again," said Morrow County Judge Terry Tallman, who was instrumental in the push to get the tower repaired. "I'm very, very happy. I even sleep better at night."

The tower finally came home last Thursday, June 26. The entire project took a lot of time and money, but Tallman said he saw the clock tower as an investment in the community.

"I see it as something that says, 'This is Morrow County.' It was in a little bit of disarray, and we wanted it to get fixed. I think Burke (O'Brien, Morrow County Public Works Director) and Rod Wilson and all those people jumped right in and they did that. I just think they've done an excellent job. In an unspoken way, it says a lot about who we are."

Tallman said the entire "facelift" of the tower and

clock, including the cranes to remove and replace the tower, will run the county around \$250,000. That may sound like a lot—and it is—but Tallman said it paled in comparison with initial project bids, which ran around \$550,000.

"When I saw that, my heart just sank," Tallman said. "We didn't have that kind of money. As far as I'm concerned, \$250,000 is a lot. Then we put it out for bid the second time and didn't get any bids and I thought, 'Wow, are we in trouble.'"

That's when county staff and locals sat down to talk through the problem. Local men O'Brien and Wilson said they could do the bulk of the work, helping the county cut costs but keep quality.

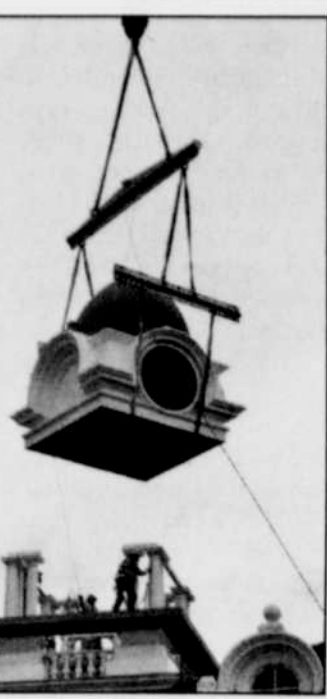
"It took a little longer than we were hoping. When we actually got it taken down, we found out the needs for repair were a little greater than we thought," said Tallman, adding that no one involved in the project wanted to cut corners. "Rod's the kind of guy who pays a lot of attention to detail, so he didn't want to put it back together in any haphazard way; he wanted to be reflective of the way

a lot of people here view this."

Tallman said some finishing touches remain. Wilson wants to do some final painting, and the county is still waiting for the finial—the spike on top of the tower—which was damaged in transit and had to be sent back to the company that worked on it. The clockworks also need to be positioned in order to keep time and return the familiar bell tone to Heppner; that will be overseen by Master Clockmaker Gary Kopperud of Pendleton.

All in all, though, Tallman said he is proud of the work that has been done, work that should last decades. The dome material alone, he said, is guaranteed for 100 years.

"To work in this building (the courthouse) every day, there's this



The tower dangles above the courthouse before finally coming to rest. —Contributed photo

trust, there's just a huge amount of history here," he said. "People want that history and that past, they want to make sure that gets maintained and that it looks good. It's a reflection of how they think about themselves. I think its import for us to maintain that."

"I think that's what we've got up on top of the courthouse now, something we can be very proud of."

PMH GETS A LIFT

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HoverMatt makes these pounds, and can be used for more weight than that in a pinch, Miller said.

"Three hundred pounds, it doesn't matter," added Miller after the demonstration. "I can move Rusty as easily as I can her (Fishburn)."

That's important in situations where patients are in pain and unable to move themselves.

"When we move patients from our ambulance stretchers onto our ER stretchers, it can be very difficult for the patient, very painful for the patient," added Miller.

"For the patient, the

transfers much more comfortable, and safer. For the Emergency Medical Technicians and emergency room staff, the HoverMatt reduces the lifting and straining," Rhea concluded.

The hospital was able to buy two of the mats, a total of \$4000 for the mats and the motors used to inflate them. The entire cost was covered by donations made through Friends Helping Friends.

"We want to thank that group so much, because this is just wonderful," said Miller. "A big, big thank-you from the South Morrow County EMT Association."



PMH staff members Rusty Estes, Tina Davidson and Delia Robinson, FHF member Peggy Fishburn, and PMH staff member Pennie Miller pose by a HoverMatt stretched on one of the ER gurneys. The hospital was able to purchase two of the inflatable mats thanks to donations received through Friends Helping Friends. —Photo by Andrea Di Salvo

Are ewe ready for fair?



Fourth grader Grace Ogden prepares her show lamb for the Morrow County Fair. She is a member of the Ione Community Livestock 4-H club and enjoys playing sports, dancing and music. Grace is the daughter of Jarrod and Alison Ogden. —Photo by Erin Heideman

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

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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

BMCC releases spring term honor roll

Pendleton—Blue Mountain Community College spring term 2014 honor roll recognition went to the following full-time students:

President's List (4.0 GPA): Bryan Altamirano, Alma Angulo, Andrea Arias, Adriana Armenta, Marlina Avila, Anna Aviles, America Ayuso, Randall Browning, Jessica Calvillo, Vanessa Calvillo, Kami Combe, Kandan Evans, Jessenia Gonzalez, Michell Gonzalez, Betsy Guadarrama, Erica Guzman, Bailey Haguewood, Gema Juarez, Mekayla Kindle, Carla Llamas, Nancy Llamas, Humberto Lopez, Yolanda Lopez, Ana Madrigal, Noe Madrigal, Jeny Mendoza, Tania Mendoza, Jessica Nava, Ky-Leigh Nelson, Nildia Resendiz, Guadalupe Rosales, Tashina Rushlow, Bruno Salas, Janette Sanchez, Joseph Schmidt, Nicholas Strong, Aileen

Velasco, Xenia Velasco, Maria Virelas.

President's List (3.85 to 3.99 GPA): Stephanie Ponce.

Dean's List (3.40 to 3.84 GPA): Jasmine Aguilar, Mayra Barrera, Sean Barron, Sarah Bose, Jassiel Carmona, Ivan Escobedo, Brian Gonzalez, Paige Grieb, Cristina Guerra, Tory Haughton, Karla Jimenez, Cheyanne Matlack, Mary McElligott, Asusena Munoz, Celina Munoz Orozco, Isabel Orozco, Jesus Pacheco, Laura Ponce, Carmen Puerta, Georgina Rios, Veronica Rodriguez, Betty Rowlette, Alesia Sterner, Hiranira Vera, Gabriela Villarreal, Alejandro Zavala.

Honor Roll (3.0 to 3.39 GPA): Jeremiah Alford, Jesse Boyd, Thomas Burnett, Janet Castaneda, Adam Cole, Kaleb Dumler, Yesenia Ellis, Josie Fernandez, Leticia Frias, Lauren Garrett, Rita Glover, Ryan Ibarra, Maddie Lindsay, Caren Llamas, Stephanie Madrigal, Shane Miles, John Propheter, Rene Ramos, Heidi Rippee, Maria Rodriguez, Julissa Sanchez, Lillian Sandford, Alisha Sorensen Joslynn Troxell, Yezmin Verduzco, Andres Zavala, Kaytie Zellner, Brittany Zuercher.

Heppner students make OSU honor roll

CORVALLIS, OR—Three Heppner graduates are on the list of students who have made the Scholastic Honor Roll Spring at Oregon State University, the university has announced.

On the roll with a straight-A average is Emily J. Thompson, senior, biology. On the roll with a 3.5 or better are Maggie K. Collins, sophomore, biology, and Ian A. Murray, junior, German.

Also making the honor roll from Morrow County are Alejandra Mendoza of Boardman, a junior in mathematics, with a 3.5 or better, and Cassandra A. Feyder, a senior in English and Adriana Sanchez, a sophomore in pre-business, both of Irrigon and both with a straight-A average.

To be on the honor roll, students must carry at least 12 graded hours of course work.

Pappas named to Pacific U. dean's list

FOREST GROVE, OR—Connor Pappas of Heppner has been named to the Dean's List at Pacific University (OR) for Spring Semester 2014.

To qualify for the Dean's List at Pacific, a student must achieve a term GPA of 3.70 and complete 12 or more graded hours.

Hughes reaps awards at Union livestock show



Kenzi Hughes of Heppner with her grand champion 4-H steer at the Eastern Oregon Livestock Show in Union recently. Hughes also won the Champion Home Grown award and Reserve Champion overall beef showman. Kenzi is the daughter of Kevin and Angie Hughes. —Contributed photo

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TOWN OF LEXINGTON BURNING BAN

Effective June 26, 2014, the Fire Chief of the Town of Lexington is imposing a **CLOSED SEASON** for open burning based on local fire safety concerns. This burning ban is for the Town of Lexington. A reminder that open burning also includes a "burn barrel."

The closed season will remain in effect until further notice this fall as per ORS 478.960.