

HEPPNER

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Gazette Times

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Neighborhood Center changes geared toward better service



Neighborhood Center Executive Director Lisa Patton (center) discusses a display with volunteers Terrisa McDowell (left) and Florence Nolan. —Photo by Andrea Di Salvo

Big changes are underway at the Neighborhood Center of South Morrow County, but Neighborhood Center Executive Director Lisa Patton says they are all changes geared to better serve the South Morrow community.

"I've gotten a lot of feedback from the public about concerns they had for the center," says Patton. "We're turning negatives into positives. A lot of people didn't know all we had to offer or that they might even qualify for some of these things."

One big change is the hours of operation for the center. As of last Monday, the Neighborhood Center will be open Monday through Friday from 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.; the center will no longer be closed for lunch.

Patton says the change, which the Neighborhood Center board voted into effect last week, is meant to be more accommodating for the community.

"Our hours should accommodate the community, not the center," says Patton, who says she received a lot of feedback on the center's hours of operation. Patton says the board members are fully behind the change, not only voting on it but also arranging their own schedules to come in and work the lunch hour to give Patton and center volunteers a break without closing up shop. She also says the board has added members, which has allowed the center to get more done.

Patton says she hopes the extended hours will make it easier for people to come in and shop, sign up for food boxes, drop off donations, and even volunteer. She says people in the past often didn't drop off donations—which cannot be left outside of business hours—because the center's hours didn't accommodate their schedules. She hopes the center will receive more donations now that the hours better fit working schedules.

—See NEIGHBORHOOD CENTER/PAGE FOUR

Parade winners announced

The 2014 Morrow County Fair and Oregon Trail Pro Rodeo parade winners have been announced.

In the category of court and royalty, first place went to the Umatilla Sage Riders Court and Riding Club with second place to Arlington Saddle Club Queen Shania Drinkwine.

For non-royalty riders, first place was the SunSation Rodeo Flag Team and second place was the Northwest Aside Group.

The top community float or entry was the FARM Foundation entry for the Ag Museum.

Bank of Eastern Oregon took first place in the commercial float category, followed by Community Bank in second place.

It's back to school for local students

It's time for area students to polish up those back-to-school apples.

School will begin for Ione students next Monday, Aug. 25, at 8 a.m.

Meanwhile, Heppner students will have an extra week to prepare for their first day of school on Sept. 2. Both Heppner schools will begin at 7:50 a.m. the Tuesday after Labor Day.

G-T closed for Labor Day

The Heppner Gazette-Times will be closed for the Labor Day holiday on Monday, Sept. 1. The deadline for all news and advertising for the Sept. 3 issue will be Friday, Aug. 29, at 5 p.m.

The G-T wishes everyone a happy and safe Labor Day weekend.

Thrills and spills at the 2014 Morrow County Fair and rodeo



The American Legion color guard advances down Main Street in Heppner during the fair and rodeo parade last weekend, unimpeded by the presence of the 2014 grand marshal, Morrow County Grain Growers, behind them. —Photo by Andrea Di Salvo

Ione author lauded for young adult novel

Ione resident Anne Osterlund recently received two International Latino Book Awards for her most recently published young adult novel, *Salvation*. The awards included Most Inspirational Young Adult Book and Best Young Adult Latino Focused Book — English.

Osterlund traveled to Las Vegas to participate

in the International Latino Book Awards held this summer in conjunction with the American Library Association Conference.

In its 16th year, the program recognized winners from across the U.S. and from 18 countries outside the U.S.

Latino Literacy Now, producer of the ILBAs, has produced more than 54 La-

tino book and family festivals around the USA. Their purpose is to "support and promote quality books by and about Latinos."

Salvation is about Salvador Resendez, a young man who hovers just below the pinnacle of leadership at his



Local author Anne Osterlund received awards for her latest novel, *Salvation*.

high school, and the year when he can no longer hover, due in part to Beth Courant, the "walking disaster area."

The novel is published by Penguin Books. A full list of award winners can be found on the web, www.LBFF.us.

CBEC to begin utility pole testing

Columbia Basin Electric Co-op will begin its annual utility pole checking work for 2014 starting Monday, Aug. 25, and ending sometime in November, weather permitting.

CBEC will be checking poles on the 3-2 circuit

that includes Hinton Creek, Little Butter Creek, Big Butter Creek, Upper Willow Creek, Blake's Ranch and Balm Fork.

National Wood Treating Company (NWT) has been contracted to perform this work for CBEC.

The pole checking will be conducted with a pick-up and ATV, and all NWT vehicles will be marked with CBEC signage.

The annual pole checking process is necessary to stay in compliance with

Oregon Public Utility Commission and National Electric Safety Code regulations.

Any questions or concerns, contact Brian Kollman or Josh Coiner at 541-676-9146.

Sections of forest roads 23, 24 temporarily closed for upkeep, rehabilitation

Pendleton, OR—"Two short-term road closures will go into effect over the next several weeks to allow for culvert replacement on Forest Road 24 at Indian Creek and Forest Road 23 at Willow Spring Creek. A third closure, implemented for public safety, will include a segment of Forest Road 23 and Forest Road 2200040 road within the Sunflower Fire footprint," said Ann Niesen, Heppner District Ranger on the Umatilla National Forest.

Timing for the two culvert replacement projects will be staggered, though there may be a few days where the closures overlap and impact access to the area.

"The closures will not cut off access to your favorite camping or hunting area, but it will require you to drive farther to reach the site," said Niesen.

Harney County Gypsum of Hines, OR will replace the Indian Creek culvert on Forest Road 24,

beginning Aug. 13 and running through the first week in September. Hanging Rock Construction of La Grande, OR will work on the Forest Road 23 Willow Spring culvert replacement Sept. 1-15. Forest visitors to the area can expect to

encounter construction traffic when traveling on open sections of these roads.

Forest Road 23, from its junction with Forest Road 22 and Forest Road 2128, and Forest Road 2200040 (Turner Mt Road) will remain closed until

hazard trees and other safety concerns resulting from the Sunflower Fire are mitigated.

A map of the temporary road closures is available at www.fs.usda.gov/umatilla or at any forest office. For info, call 541-676-9187.

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

REAL DEALS

\$299 TOOL CHEST
\$10 donation to Intrepid Fallen Heroes

\$49.99 SCREWDRIVER SET
\$5 donation to Intrepid Fallen Heroes

Morrow County Grain Growers
Lexington 989-8221 • 1-800-452-7396 For farm equipment, visit our web site at www.mccgg.net