

HEPPNER

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Nominations open next week for Town & Country

The next Heppner Chamber of Commerce Town and Country Community Awards will be held on Thursday, Jan. 15, 2015. Nominations will be accepted beginning Friday, Oct. 5 and running through Monday, Dec. 1, to give community members more time to submit nomination.

Everyone is encouraged to nominate a fellow community member for Woman of the Year, Man of the Year, Lifetime Achievement and Youth Award.

Nomination forms will be available at the chamber office, Bank of Eastern Oregon, Kuhn Law Office, Community Bank and the post office.

The completed nomination forms need to be completed and turned in the chamber office or to Kuhn Law Offices by Monday, Dec. 1, to be considered for 2015 community awards event.

More information on the event will be available soon.

Heppner basketball court the completion of a dream



Though empty on the morning of a school day, the new regulation basketball court on Riverside in Heppner promises hours of play for the city's youth. The court was a long-time dream for many, and finally became a reality thanks to contributions by several individuals and organizations. —Contributed photo

The regulation-sized basketball court on Riverside is a first for Heppner.

For many years the town and Willow Creek Park District had been approached by students attempting to get a basketball court that was open to the public. This year it became a reality. Many of those students have graduated, but their determination and prodding make the court an asset to be shared by other youth of the community who also love the sport.

The court began its path to reality when it initially was funded by a grant from the Wildhorse Foundation. The land for the court was donated to the park district by Morrow County. Several community members and organizations assisted during the construction, including Turner Lindsay Farms, Thompson Ranches,

Columbia Basin Electric and the City of Heppner. Dice Construction poured the concrete and donated time and equipment to help finish the project.

The court is open from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m., but the park district requests that anyone using the court respect the neighbors and refrain from loud music. Heppner City Manager Kim Cutsforth also reminds those who enjoy the court that the hoops are set at regulation height and are not to be adjusted, as adjusting them without the correct tool damages the mechanism.

"The park district encourages everyone to enjoy the court," says Cutsforth. "Even if you do not play basketball, drive by at night and look at the court with the lights on. It looks like a little jewelry box on the edge of town."

County celebrates tower rededication, groundbreaking for new building



Officials mark the groundbreaking for new Morrow County administration building Monday. Left to Right: Ron Polintan, LKV Architects; Leann Rea, Morrow County Commissioner; Tom Moran, Community Bank CEO; Rob Naughton, Intermountain ESD; Ken Grieb, Morrow County Commissioner; Terry Tallman, Morrow County Judge; Ryan Swinburnson, Morrow County Counsel; Karen Wolff, Morrow County Personnel Director; Keith Baner, WC Construction; and Scott Rogers, Wenaha Group. A new administration building will be built on the site right next to the existing courthouse. —Photo by David Sykes

By David Sykes

Under clear skies and with a slight breeze, the Morrow County Courthouse clock tower was rededicated at its home atop the courthouse in Heppner Monday.

It had been over a year since a crane had removed the tower and clock from the courthouse for renovation, and many people involved with the difficult and painstaking restoration were on hand Monday to speak about the project, but none said it more eloquently than Master Clockmaker Gary Kopperud, who oversaw the restoration of the historic timepiece itself and did not receive any compensation.

"In 1902 this Seth Thomas Clock left the factory in Connecticut for Morrow County. Less than a year later the flood came through, and the Morrow

County Clock tolled," Kopperud said. "Through good times and bad it tolled. During World War I, it tolled. During the Great Depression it tolled. During Korea and Vietnam it tolled." He finished with the famous John Donne quote, "Ask not for whom the bell tolls, it tolls for thee."

Also "on hand" were the group of prisoners at the Eastern Oregon Correctional Institute who spent many hours working to restore the clock. The prisoners were not actually there in person, but could see the proceedings through a camera hook-up, which beamed the ceremony back to the prison. The crowd showed their appreciation for the prisoners' work with a round of applause, which they could hear and see.

Dwight Hawkins, who is in charge of the inmate work program at the Pen-

leton prison, said the project was very successful in that it gave the inmates meaningful work and purpose in their lives.

"At first I thought it would be a piece of cake, but when I went to the attic (where the clock was located above the courthouse) I knew this would be a big

project," he said of the restoration.

The clock works were taken to the prison and restored, partly by purchasing parts from around the country and also by machining some other original parts.

—See BELL TOWER, GROUND BREAKING/PAGE TEN



Morrow County Judge Terry Tallman (left) introduced Master Clock Maker Gary Kopperud, who oversaw the restoration of the historic clock works. —Photo by David Sykes

Health districts okays PMH cardiac monitoring system

Roth hired to fill clinic, home health directorship

By April Sykes

The Morrow County Health District, at their regular meeting Monday night, approved the purchase of a new \$91,979 cardiac monitoring system for Pioneer Memorial Hospital.

The district chose a

Fukuda Denshi, USA, Inc., system, which, according to MCHD CEO Dan Grigg and Director of Nursing Molly Rhea, fits the district's needs and was the low bid. The district also received a quote of \$115,166, which included a \$43,446

discount, from Philips Healthcare (Philips Electronics North America Corporation) and a \$110,200 quote from GE Medical Systems (GE Healthcare).

The Fukuda system includes four monitors.

Rhea says that the com-

pany came to Heppner to demonstrate the equipment and she and staff were impressed by the Fukuda system.

"The docs and nurses were pretty thrilled on how easy it is to use," said Rhea. "It's an exciting, revolu-

tionary system and it's a lot cheaper than the big guys," she said.

When asked whether the Fukuda system does everything they need it to do, Rhea replied a resounding, "Yes." She said Fukuda is a world-wide company

with a larger market share every year and has tech support out of the Tri-Cities. Fukuda has an office in Redmond, WA.

"It seems like it fits into our goal of providing qual-

—See HEALTH DISTRICT/PAGE FIVE

The Heppner Gazette-Times wants to see pictures of your trophy animals from this hunting season. Stop by to have your picture taken, drop off photos, or email them to editor@rapidsolve.net.



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