

Heppner Lions complete projects, induct new member



Above left: Dean Robinson (left) and Steve Rhea (right) receive awards of appreciation from District Governor Gerald Hopkins. Above right: Jeremy Cimmiyotti (left) is inducted by Gerald Hopkins and sponsor Steve Rhea (right). —Contributed photo

Although the Heppner Lions took a winter break from meetings, projects continued through December and January with scholarships being distributed, flags given out to first-graders, funds sent to the Meadowood Speech Camp, and glasses purchased for individuals in need. President Dean Robinson said time would be given at the next meeting to evaluate strategy for the remainder of the year.

Members said they enjoyed scholarships, fireworks and the rifle fundraiser as projects, but the litter patrol topped the list as the favorite project. In evaluating new ideas, members said they would like to paint the baseball bleachers at the high school and create new youth projects. Visiting District Governor Gerald Hopkins handed out a booklet with a variety of projects for consideration by the membership.



Hopkins then recognized the club with a Club President's Member Satisfaction Banner Patch for display on the club banner. Immediate Past International President Barry Palmer wrote, "The 1.35 million Lions worldwide appreciate your club's contribution to membership growth as you and your club members follow your dreams and strive to improve your local and world communities."

Hopkins then inducted the newest member, Jeremy Cimmiyotti, sponsored by Steve Rhea. Hopkins gave Rhea a stress reducer boxing glove, theme of the district. Jimmie Fichter, Robinson, and Rhea were presented certificates of appreciation from the governor for outstanding work with the Lions. Fichter also received a chevron from Lions International for 15 years of service to his club.

MANHUNT LEADS TO ARREST

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A shed on Morgan Street. Ironically, that shed was next door to the Bennett's property, the scene of the original theft.

MCSO arrested Montano on one count of Unauthorized Use of a Vehicle related to the theft of Bennett's vehicle, as well as four counts of Criminal Trespass. The four counts of Criminal Trespass all related to Montano's flight during Thursday's manhunt, when several residents stepped in to help police maintain the perimeter and locate the fugitive. One Morgan Street resident reportedly "beat (Montano) off with a broom," according to the MCSO incident log.

Montano was also arrested on four felony fugitive warrants out of Washington State. The suspect was lodged at Umatilla County with bail set at

\$15,000. A written release from MCSO thanked the citizens of Heppner for their assistance in apprehending Montano.

"Multiple homeowners and residents were watching to see if Montano attempted to escape from the perimeter put in place. They exercised appropriate caution during the situation and played a significant role in the capture of this fugitive," stated the release.

According to MCSO Sgt. Sarah Smith, Montano is not being investigated in connection with the other recent vehicle thefts. Smith also said MCSO does not currently have suspects related to those incidents.

Anyone having any information regarding Montano's activities in the weeks prior to his arrest is asked to contact MCSO at 541-676-5317.

A wee bit o' your time needed for St. Pat's celebration

How would you like to help this year's St. Patrick's weekend be a success?

The 33rd Annual Wee Bit O' Ireland St. Patrick's celebration is scheduled for March 13-15, and the different groups involved are busy putting their events together.

Heppner's Wee Bit O' Ireland - St. Patrick's Celebration Committee is always looking for volunteers, because it takes a lot

of people to make the event successful. Coordinators also say there are many opportunities to get involved.

Those interested in finding out more can attend the St. Patrick's Committee meeting on Wed., Jan. 28, at 6 p.m. in the Heppner City Hall conference room. Pizza and beverages will be served.

Those who can't attend the meeting or who have questions can contact

the Heppner Chamber of Commerce Office at 541-676-5536 or email heppner-chamber@centurytel.net.

An evening of drama shorts planned at HHS

On Thursday, Jan. 29, at 7 p.m., the Heppner High School drama department will be performing Drama Shorts. It will be an evening of short clips from movies and TV, including some singing and dancing. It will be held in the high school cafetorium, and admission is free.

Participating will be students Jasmine Garcia, Julissa Sanchez, Kane Sweeney, Jacob Moses, Ryan Cecil, Joe Schmidt, Olivia Schmidt, Erica Nelson, Cara Arbogast, Meranda Lemmon, Emily Cecil, Caitlynn Bailey, Kaelyn Lindsay, Caitlyn Scrivner and Ryan DonPierre.

Local families needed for exchange students

ASSE International Student Exchange Programs (ASSE) is seeking local host families for international high school boys and girls. These students are 15 to 18 years of age, and are coming to this area for the upcoming high school year or semester.

The ASSE says the selected exchange students are personable and academically selected, as well as conversant in English, bright, curious and anxious to learn about this country through living as part of a family, attending high school and sharing their own culture and language with their newly adopted host family.

The exchange students arrive from their home

country shortly before school begins and return at the end of the school year or semester. Each ASSE student is fully insured, brings his or her own personal spending money and expects to contribute to his or her share of household responsibilities, as well as being included in normal family activities and lifestyles. The students are well screened and qualified by ASSE. Families can choose their students from a wide variety of backgrounds, nationalities and personal interests.

Those persons interested in obtaining more information about becoming a host family should call toll free 1-800-733-2773 or go to host.asse.com.



Dale Boyd in the field on the Ochoco in the early 1990s. —Contributed photo

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summers up there," recalls Kandy Boyd.

After seven years at Hines and Allison, Boyd's work took him back to Rager, where the family remained for the rest of his time on Ochoco.

Boyd then took a job working on the Bitterroot National Forest in west-central Montana. He spent two years there before looking back to his native state. When a position opened in the Heppner Ranger District on the Umatilla National Forest, he took it.

"I just wanted to get back to Oregon," says Boyd. "This position came up, and I've been here since 2003."

With nearly three decades fighting fires for the Forest Service, and nearly a third of that here in Heppner, Boyd says leaving the job will be bittersweet.

"It's time to do something else," he says. "It's been a good career. I'm definitely gonna miss the

camaraderie, because the people are the best part."

Boyd says he has a list of items to fill his planned free time.

"Right off the bat, finish all the remodeling projects I have that are half done," he says. "I'm not going to get too wrapped up in finding another full-time job, because I'd like to spend more time relaxing, doing things I enjoy, like camping."

Along with camping, hunting and fishing also make the list of his plans.

"All those outside enjoyments," adds Boyd.

Still, he says he's not ruling anything out right now.

"I'm not really calling it a retirement. I'm calling it a career change," he says. "I'm gonna play it by ear for a while."

The Forest Service is planning a retirement party for Boyd, with cake and gift presentations, Jan. 31 at 6 p.m. at the Heppner Elks.

SLOWER PACE FOR MED STUDENT

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Manning says. "I really like how, here, time slots aren't limited to 15 minutes per patient, because I have time to talk to the patient and figure out what's going on without feeling rushed."

Of course, Manning says life in Heppner is a far cry from life in Portland.

"There's the obvious difference in size," he says. "It's a lot more conservative (here). People are nicer here."

Despite the many differences, Manning says he has only found one real negative in his time here.

"At home I have my whole arsenal of things I like to cook, trying new recipes," he says, adding that the food selection in

Heppner is a little more expensive and less varied than what he is used to.

Other than cooking, Manning fills his spare time with "Whatever I'm feeling like in the moment—reading a book or reading up on something that interests me, whether it's something like medicine or politics. I try to exercise," he admits, "but that doesn't always happen."

Overall, Manning seems to value the chance to try something new, both in the medical setting and in the smaller community.

"I really like the exposure I have, in just having the doctors' confidence," he says. "Everyone here is really nice, and welcoming and warm."

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NE commission on transportation to meet Feb. 5 in La Grande

LA GRANDE, Ore.— The North East Area Commission on Transportation will hold its next meeting Feb. 5 from 9 a.m. to noon at the Oregon Department of Transportation Region 5 Headquarters, 3012 Island Avenue, La Grande, OR. The general public is invited to attend. The meeting location is accessible to persons with disabilities.

The NEACT is comprised of transportation stakeholders from Morrow, Umatilla, Union, Wallowa and Baker counties, and the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation.

Time has been set aside for public comments regarding project proposals and other transportation-related topics. To schedule time on the agenda at NE-

ACT meetings, contact Lisa Hill at 541-963-3179.

An Area Commission on Transportation is an advisory body chartered by the Oregon Transportation Commission to help address all aspects of transportation. More information about ACTs is available at the ODOT Web Site at www.oregon.gov/ODOT/COMM/act_main.shtml.

Meeting information can be made available in alternate format upon request for persons with disabilities, such as sign language interpreter, etc. To request alternate formats or for more information about this meeting, please contact Lisa Hill at 541-963-3179, email at Lisa.A.Hill@odot.state.or.us. Please request alternate formats at least 48 hours prior to meeting.

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