

Gazette Times

VOL. 134 NO. 16 8 Pages Wednesday, April 22, 2015 Morrow County, Heppner, Oregon

Getting to know your exchange students

Jan Glasen
Age 18, Junior, Heppner
Where are you from? Kaiserslautern, Germany, about 1-1/2 hours outside of Frankfurt

Host Parents: Brian & Amy Kollman



What do you think of Heppner?

"When I first came here, it was weird. The city I come from is like

the size of Kennewick or Richland, about 100,000 people. I came into Pasco and then, driving from Hermiston to Lexington, there was nothing, just desert. Then, coming into Lexington, everything was built in this old Western style. There are all these farms. Everyone has all these acres and, of course, we don't, because in Germany there's no room."

How has the experience been for you?

"It was pretty cool. I came here at fair time. That was interesting. Football was just a great experience, to be part of a team, the team spirit. That's what got me the most, the team spirit."

What was the most difficult thing about this experience?

"Because you have those cultural differences, you might say something that you mean to be nice, but here it might sound rude, because I guess we just speak differently. The beginning of school was hard, getting to know people and the language. I had a lot of trouble with the accent."

What did you like best?

"You have a feeling of freedom. Everything is so big. I don't feel they have that many restrictions like we do. That's really cool. Of course, the food can

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Retiring hospice volunteer is grateful for life lessons of 'living through dying'

On March 31, the Rev. Carolyn M. Willey retired from her role as Pioneer Memorial Hospice volunteer after 13 years and 1,432 total volunteer hours logged.

Willey, who will be 79 this year, began life on a farm outside of Buhl, ID, where she was born at home. She says her grandmother wrapped her in a receiving blanket and placed her in the stove to keep warm; years later, she visited her grandmother and saw that same stove still sitting in the house.

From that humble beginning, her life would take a winding and varied road.

She graduated from Buhl High School, but then her path took her eastward for many years. She earned an Associate in Arts degree from Colorado Women's College in Denver and then a Bachelor of Independent



Rev. Carolyn Willey retired as long-time hospice volunteer at the end of last month. Willey was instrumental in helping to start the local hospice program. -Photo by Andrea Di Salvo

Study from the University of South Florida in Tampa. She then went on to earn her Master of Divinity degree from Chicago Theological Seminary, becoming an ordained minister.

"My life opened," she says. "I didn't seek any of it."

Boardman police chief appointed to Port commission

At a special meeting April 6, the Port of Morrow Commissioners voted to appoint Boardman Chief of Police Rick Stokoe to fill the board vacancy commissioner Don Russell will leave when he resigns.

Stokoe lives in Boardman with his wife of 22 years and is active in several community organizations, as well as being on the board of directors of the Oregon Association Chiefs of Police.

He has served 25 years in the field of public safety, three of those years as Chief of Police for the City of

Boardman. Stokoe says he feels his years of law enforcement experience have given him the opportunity to learn about the "intricacies of government," including the legislative process and the relationship between the state and local municipalities.

"It is my sincere goal to continue to contribute to the betterment of all of our county in order to provide the brightest possible future for my children and our future generations. Al-

though Commissioner Russell will be truly missed, I am confident that I have the right experience, energy and judgment to ably complete his term. I look forward to serving with the rest of the commissioners to keep the Port of Morrow moving forward in a positive and proactive manner," said Stokoe. "The Port Manager Gary Neal and his strong team of employees have done a great job and I plan



Rick Stokoe

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Getting to know your exchange students

Len Havermeier
Age 16, Junior, Heppner
Where are you from? Lüdinghausen, Germany, about an hour from the Netherlands



Host Parents: Raymond & Jennifer Cecil

What do you think of Heppner?

"Small towns. Germany is big cities. Here's... nothing. But it's nice. You know everyone."

How has the experience been for you?

"It was really good. I saw a lot. I've been to Boise, ID, Portland, Las Vegas."

What was the most difficult thing about this experience?

"At the beginning, the language, of course."

What did you like best?

"At my school (in Germany) we didn't have sports at all. I enjoy sports, so that was kind of nice for me. I went skiing with the outdoor club and that was a lot of fun. We went camping, also."

Did you have the chance to attend any special events? What did you think of that experience?

"I played football, basketball, and now I'm in track. That's what I enjoy. I went to Homecoming. It was okay but it wasn't just the dance, it was the before and after, hanging out at someone's house, movie night, good food."

Any other thoughts?

"My brother just turned 19 and he went to Idaho Falls. That's the main reason I went on an exchange. Most of my friends don't want to go because they don't know if they'll get a good placement. I think you have to take the step. I want more people to go. I think it's great."

"My host family went to Germany several years ago. My host mother lived there on a military base. My host brother and some friends will go (now) for two weeks and stay at my home."

"We'll travel around a little bit so they can see my country, also. We'll go to Berlin, maybe Munich."

Heppner council endorses BMCC bond passage

By David Sykes

The Heppner city council voted unanimously last Monday to support the upcoming BMCC bond levy. Blue Mountain Community College will be going out for a \$23 million levy in May, with the money to be used for new programs and facilities, and to fix and upgrade existing buildings and infrastructure.

The college held a similar levy for \$28 million that failed in November, and the college pared down the request and decided to bring it back again for voter approval.

At last Monday's council meeting Friends of BMCC members Chris Brown and Louis Carlson, who are handling Morrow County's efforts to pass the levy, asked the council to show its support.

"Let's keep our young people home," Carlson told the council. "But we need to give them the training for

the jobs that are right here in Morrow County."

BMCC Morrow County Coordinator Anne Morter was also in attendance, and she also urged the council to show support for the college.

"People will come from all over to get this training (that the new facilities will offer)," she said. "It is getting bigger and bigger all the time."

The council responded and voted unanimously in favor of a resolution of support.

In other business the council voted unanimously to give all city employees a 2.45 percent pay increase for fiscal year 2015-16. The increase is based on the Portland CPI, or consumer price index, which is a measure of the average change in prices in a fixed market basket of goods and services over the past six months.

In other business the

council heard a report about progress on a new proposed fire hall in Heppner. Councilmember Corey Sweeney is heading up a committee to build the new hall, which would be located on Riverside Street. Sweeney said after taking in five bids the city has chosen the engineering firm of CK3 from Ontario to design and engineer the new hall. A cost analysis will now be done to determine how much money is needed for construction. The city has some funds and will seek grant money to help, but expects to ask voters for a bond levy to complete construction of the larger, newer facility. The present facility on Willow Street is too small and is in a deteriorating condition.

In other fire department business, Chief Rusty Estes gave the following report for activity in the month of March: two rural wild land fires, one tractor fire, secured the helicopter landing zone three times, one motor vehicle accident, two structure fires, five lift assists, two smoke alarm investigations, one mountain rescue and 29 chief calls.

In other business the council accepted a sheriff's department contract for police protection in the com-

ing fiscal year, which will stay the same. However, the department warned that next year there would most likely be an increase.

"I feel it is important to note that this contract has stayed 'static' with very little change in cost to the city for an inordinate amount of time," Undersheriff Steven Myren wrote in a letter to the city. "I cannot stress enough that next year we must begin to try and bring our contracts up to match our labor costs. I am hoping that our willingness to accommodate your needs this fiscal year will translate into a desire to meet us part way next year," he told the council.

Myren emphasized that the reason the sheriff's department was able to hold the line was that the department had two new deputies this year that are at entry level salaries, and therefore cost less than a "mid-level" deputy would.

In other action the council approved two animal permits inside the city limits. One was to Zach Bredfield at 560 Cowins St. for two pigs for Morrow County Fair animals, and the other was to Zabrena Masterson at 275 Church St. for two Morrow County Fair sheep.

Heppner native helps bring Pendleton Underground to life

Those who know Heppner native Chris Sykes won't be surprised that he has a bit of acting in his blood, but they may not know he gets to let it shine every year during Pendleton's Underground Comes to Life tours.

Sykes, 37, is the son of David and April Sykes of Heppner. He now works with brother, Andrew Sykes, operating Sykes Brothers Printing in Pendleton, which is coincidentally located right on top of the Pendleton Underground. It was through a friendship with Brooke McKay and



Chris Sykes, far left, with the group of misfits in the Pendleton Underground's Shamerock Room. -Contributed photo

Pam Severe, who work on the production, that he first became involved in the Underground Comes to Life

tours nearly 10 years ago.

"They asked me to act

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