

New fire hall celebrated with open house



The Heppner Fire Department and Heppner Rural Fire Protection District celebrated the opening of the new fire hall on Riverside in Heppner with an open house this past Saturday. The fire department threw open its doors, figuratively speaking, and allowed community members to tour the facility and take a closer look at the fire equipment. The event saw a packed house (above), although not, of course, beyond fire regulations. Visitors also were treated to cake and coffee. Below: Ida Farra, flanked by fire chief Rusty Estes (left) and assistant fire chief Steve Rhea (right), was honored for the contributions her family made to the project. Behind them, the members of the volunteer fire crew (L-R): Tylynn Cimmiyotti, Erik Patton, Dean Robinson, Mike Jones, Adam Bergstrom, Trevor Rhea, Jeremy Cimmiyotti, Stacy Lauritsen, Brian Kollman, Dan Sharp, Jim Kindle and Jay Keithley. -Photos by Sandy Matthews



MCGG PROPANE

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secure the best possible outcome for members, employees and the wider agricultural community.”

“The PGG board of directors has been seeking a local buyer for the cooperative’s propane assets that would serve as a strong partner for our agricultural community,” said Tim Hawkins, chairman of the co-op board. “We believe that MCGG, a local business that is well known to our members and other customers, is the right partner.”

The two co-ops were founded within a short time of each other, MCGG in 1930 and PGG in 1929. MCGG is now a 600-member cooperative serving

north central Oregon and south central Washington. The co-op’s diversified business interests include grain, agronomy and fuel operations, as well as auto parts and farm equipment sales and service.

Financial terms of the sale have not been disclosed. However, the agreement covers the sale of all PGG assets that are exclusively used in the propane business, including vehicles, inventory and related information. MCGG is also expected to hire current PGG employees involved in the propane business.

The PGG board expects the sale to return the Umatilla County co-op to financial stability, enabling the board to fully restore the employee benefits pro-

gram and “continue to stay focused on returning the best possible value to the membership,” the board statement said.

MCGG manager John Ripple led the Morrow County co-op’s interests, and says he expects the purchase to be a good thing for the local co-op.

“The PGG assets will add meaningfully to the scale of our propane business,” said Ripple, “which will better position us to take advantage of growth opportunities in a sector that can provide a good return on our invested dollars.”

“We look forward to strengthening the energy services we provide to our members,” Ripple added.

Ione kicks off season with Basketball Bonanza

Ione kicked off its basketball season this past weekend when the school hosted the Weston-McEwen, Irrigon and Enterprise boys’ and girls’ JV and varsity teams for the two-day Basketball Bonanza tournament.

The Ione varsity girls played against Weston-McEwen Friday, losing the contest 21-58. They then played versus Enterprise in the consolation game Saturday, ending that game with a 16-67 loss.

The Ione varsity boys also started off facing Weston-McEwen Friday, ending that contest with a 40-77 loss to the Tiger-Scots. In the consolation game versus Irrigon on Saturday, the boys suffered another defeat, losing 34-72 to the Knights.

No stats were received for the boys’ games. Ione varsity girls’ stats are as follows:

Ione v Weston-McEwen
Ashley Medina 2 PF, Morgan Orem 1 PF, Maggie Flynn 14 PTS, 4 PF, Ivy Sandford 7 PTS, 4 PF, Katelyn Bass 1 PF, Annabelle McDaniel 3 PF, Sydney Qualls 1 PF, Zoe



Above: Ione varsity player Maggie Flynn (22) takes the ball to the basket with Katie Gilbert (right) ready to assist during Friday’s game. Below: During the girls’ JV game versus the TigerScots, Rene’ Peterson throws the ball inbound as Sara Knopp (30), Mackenzie Heideman (22) and Emily Taylor (4) scramble to bring the ball into play.-Photos by Sylvia Sandford



Gilbert 1 PF.
Ione v Enterprise
Ashley Medina 4 PTS, Katie Gilbert 1 PF, Morgan Orem 4 PTS, 1 PF, Mag-

gie Flynn 2 PTS, 4 PF, Ivy Sandford 2 PTS, 2 PF, Katelyn Bass 1 PF, Annabelle McDaniel 3 PTS, 2 PF, Sara Knopp 1 PT.

Chamber Chatter

2017 Morrow County Fair Court Chaperone and 2017 Fair Court Applications now available: Applications are now be accepted for the 2017 Morrow County Fair Court Chaperone. The position is open to Morrow County residents; The Morrow County Fair Court program is open to Morrow County students enrolled in ninth, 10th, 11th and 12th grades, between the ages of 14 and 19. Fair court applications will also be available at Morrow County high schools and at the fair office. For more information, contact Ann Jones at mcfair@co.morrow.or.us or 541-676-9474. Applications are due to the fair office no later than 12 p.m. on Monday, Dec. 19. Late or incomplete applications will not be considered; please return all completed forms and required documents. Fair staff will contact all accepted applicants to schedule interviews.

Wheatland Insurance Canned Food Drive – now through Friday, Dec. 16: Help support Wheatland’s canned food drive by dropping off any non-perishable canned food items. This canned food will go to help local families during the holiday season. All canned foods collected will be taken to the Neighborhood Center for distribution.

Les Schwab Tire Center - Giving Tree for Morrow County Foster Children: Stop by and pick a tag from the tree and help support foster children in Morrow County. Please have the gift back to Les Schwab no

later than Thursday, Dec. 8. Bring the gift, unwrapped with the tag.

Friday, Nov. 11 – Jan. 13, 2017 – Nominations open for Heppner Chamber’s Annual Town and Country Community Awards event: Nomination forms and guidelines (Man and Woman of the Year, Citizen-Educator of the Year, Youth and Lifetime Achievement Awards and Business of the Year) can be picked up at Bank of Eastern Oregon, Chamber Office, Heppner City Hall, Community Bank or the Post Office, or call the chamber office at 541-676-5536 for emailed copies. The event will be held on Thursday, Feb. 9, 2017 at the Morrow County Fairgrounds.

Monday, Nov. 21 - Thursday, Dec. 15 - Collect rewards cards when purchasing from our local participating merchants: Starting on Monday, Nov. 21, you will receive rewards cards when shopping local at our participating merchants. Make sure you put your name on the rewards cards and bring them to Heppner Chamber’s Christmas Event on Thursday, Dec. 15, at the Morrow County Fairgrounds.

Wednesday, Nov. 30 – Dec. 15 – Giving Tree for local families, sponsored by the Neighborhood Center: Stop by Market Fresh Foods and select a family tag from the Giving Tree and drop off your gifts unwrapped, with the tag, to the Neighborhood Center to be delivered.

Friday, Dec. 9 – 9 p.m.

– Second Annual Ruckus Raiser fundraiser at Bucknum’s Tavern: The evening will feature live music by Corey Peterson, Aaron “Dog Bite” Harris and Jake Roy. Entrance will be by donations at the door; donations may be cash or a new, unwrapped toy. Proceeds will go to the Neighborhood Center.

Saturday, Dec. 10, 2016 – 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. - SAGE Saturday Holiday Gift Workshop: Free admission into the SAGE Center and create your own gift from one of our many craft options while you are there. The SAGE Center is located at 101 Olson Road, Boardman; 541-481-7243.

Sunday, Dec. 11 – 3 p.m. – Christmas Music Fest to be held at Hope Lutheran Church: Come out and enjoy some Christmas music featuring musicians from throughout the community and concluding with a carol sing-along. New additions to the program are encouraged and welcome; please call Katy Anderson at 541-676-9970 to discuss the details. Ticket Price: one can of food for the Neighborhood Center.

Friday, Dec. 16 – 2-4 p.m. – Retirement Reception for Judge Terry Tallman and Commissioner Leann Rea: The reception will be held in the Bartholomew Building – Upper Conference Room, next to the historic Morrow County Courthouse; refreshments will be provided. Stop by and thank Terry and Leann for their many years of dedication and contributions to Morrow County.

Thursday, Dec. 22 – 6:30 p.m. - Wine and Design Night at Country Rose/Murray’s: Call and make reservations to participate in the wine and design event at the Country Rose inside Murray’s. The cost is \$30; please call Murray’s at 541-676-9158 to register.

Thursday, Jan. 5, 2017 – 12-1 p.m. Heppner Chamber’s Annual Luncheon: Heppner Chamber’s Annual Luncheon is scheduled for Thursday, Jan. 5, 2017, we would love to have you join us if you can.

Thursday, Feb. 9, 2017 – Heppner Chamber’s Annual Town and Country Community Awards Event Morrow County Fairgrounds – 6 p.m. no host bar with 6:30 p.m. dinner.

THE UPCOMING WINTER STORM SEASON IS NEAR

Morrow County Road Dept. would like to remind all motorists there will be **NO winter maintenance on Coalmine hill (USFS route 53)**

For the rest of the County winter maintenance practices include applying deicing agent, plowing and sanding.



The combination of practices used at each site may vary to accommodate the different climate, traffic, and storm conditions encountered. Morrow County's goal is to provide a safe roadway. However, it is always up to the motorist to drive according to conditions. Please use extreme caution and common sense. They will do their best and would appreciate your patience.

For your convenience the road department would like to direct your attention to a towing service in the area if needed. A-1 Martin's Towing 541-571-4260. Again be prepared and be safe.

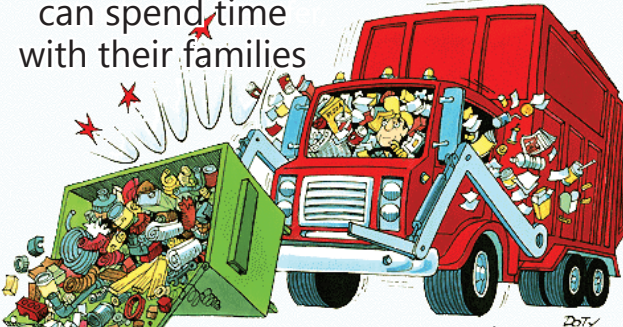
Questions or concerns may be addressed 541-989-9500.

ALL NEWS AND ADVERTISEMENT DEADLINE:

MONDAYS AT 5:00 P.M.

The North end and South end Transfer Stations will be closed for the Holidays! Dec 24th & 25th and Dec 31st and Jan 1st

So the attendants can spend time with their families



69900 Frontage Lane, Boardman, Oregon 97818 South end Transfer, 57185 Hwy 74, Lexington, Oregon 97839

Questions or concerns please contact Sandi Putman at 541-989-9500 or sputman@co.morrow.or.us