

Hometown girl takes over Murray's espresso operation



Tayllor Brannon is taking over the espresso counter at Murray's Drug in Heppner, opening her own business, Breaking Grounds Coffee, May 1. - Photo by Andrea Di Salvo

By Andrea Di Salvo

Murray's Drug in Heppner to get their coffee fix will see a new but familiar face behind the espresso bar starting this week. Murray's owners John and Ann Murray have announced that Heppner native Tayllor (Gould) Brannon will be leasing the store's espresso bar from them beginning next month.

Brannon will officially open her new business, Breaking Grounds Coffee, May 1, but will be on the job during the month of April as the Murrays pre- streamlined." Hours will pare to hand over opera- remain the same. Monday tions.

in Gresham and Klamath Shoppers who stop at Falls, OR, as well as volunteering at church coffee bars while living in the Willamette Valley. However, her career started behind this same counter at Murray's, where she worked all four years of high school.

> "It's kind of like being home, being behind that bar," says Brannon.

Brannon says she will bring a kind of Portland flair to the espresso bar, and is planning a new spring menu with new drinks, food and pastries; she says the lunch menu may be "more through Friday, 7 a.m. to 6

New dairy will add 150 jobs, \$50 million to local economy

Locals support, environmentalists opposed

By David Sykes

A new mega-dairy with up to 30,000 milk cows has been approved for operation on what was once a dairy also at Threemile. In ment period that saw more large tree farm near Boardman.

Farm, the operation is expected to add 125 to 150 new jobs and pump \$50 million into the local economy, according to its operator Greg te Velde. Te Velde ment of Agriculture and Dealso runs a smaller 8,000cow dairy on land leased Quality issued the permit from nearby Threemile Friday noting that the farm

7,288-acre former Board-Called Lost Valley man Tree Farm located nine River on which to locate the

> dairy. He started the permit process at that time. The Oregon Departpartment of Environmental

across as a class clown,

THREE), saying,

"Everyone knows

though, MCHD Human

Resources Director Pat-

ti Allstott says Lauritsen

brought many serious con-

tributions to the health dis-

his corny side, but he has

had a great career as a para-

medic and has saved many

-See LAURITSEN RETIRES/

"Carl always plays up

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Despite that,

Canyon Farms. The new will be subject to "stringent dairy will be the second water quality regulations." largest in Oregon, the larg- The permit was issued after est being the 70,000-cow an extensive public com-2015 te Velde bought the than 4,000 comments accepted.

The two regulatory miles from the Columbia agencies said the permit is "the most protective of surface water and groundwater of any CAFO (confined animal feeding operation) permit issued to date." Water concerns were raised because the dairy will produce 187 million gallons of waste water and manure annually.

The new dairy is being located in a region known for having elevated levels of nitrate, so the regulations call for extra monitoring of groundwater, including 11 monitoring wells, and calls for the dairy to conduct soil monitoring as well as leak detection monitoring in the animal waste storage area. The dairy plans on recycling the animal waste for use in irrigation on more than 5,000 acres of nearby farmland used to grow feed for the cows.

A large number of environmental and other groups came out in opposition to the dairy. In a statement posted on the Oregon Riverkeepers website last week there was a statement from the following: Friends of Family Farmers, Oregon Chapter of the Sierra Club, Friends of the Columbia Gorge, Columbia Riverkeepers, Center for Biological Diversity, Humane Society of the United States, Socially Responsible Ag--See DAIRY APPROVED/ PAGE TWO

Weather levels off after hard winter

Lauritsen retires from Pioneer **Memorial after 32 years**

By Andrea Di Salvo

The halls at Pioneer Memorial Hospital may be time" at Kinzua, working will miss his sly sense of a little quieter from now on, in the Kinzua Pine Mills humor on the job. It's a after the retirement of long- Company plywood plant role Lauritsen easily actime maintenance worker until 1979. He then Carl Lauritsen. Lauritsen went to work for the celebrated his last day as Umatilla Army Dethe hospital's maintenance pot as a guard. He supervisor last week, bring- obtained his EMT ing to a close more than 32 (Emergency Mediyears at Morrow County cal Technician) Health District.

The 67-year-old, who describes himself as a "Seattle transplant," was born in Seattle, graduating from something to do," he says. West Seattle High School in 1968. He joined the U.S. Army in 1972 and served for three years, spending ment. Along with his more time stationed at Ft. Lewis, official duties, Lauritsen Washington and in Italy. He seemingly took on the less moved to Heppner in 1974 official role of office jokeafter coming down to visit cracker. While the softhis sister and deciding to spoken man doesn't come

stay a while.

He first "put in his his coworkers say they

Carl Lauritsen I'm a clown." Basic, or EMT-1, certification in 1982 "for fun."

"I was bored and it was

In July of 1983, he went to work for Pioneer Memorial's maintenance depart-

Harlem Ambassadors come to Heppner April 27 Free tickets available starting Friday

The Harlem Ambassadors are coming to Heppner to play the "Heppner Blues" basketball team on Thursday, April 27, at 6:30 p.m. in the Heppner High



cepts-he gave the Gazette permission to publish his quirky retirement photo (seen on PAGE

trict staff.

spend more time focused to 6 p.m. Breaking Grounds on the pharmacy," says Ann Coffee will also honor cof-Murray. "We think it's going to be a win-win for both of us."

Brannon says she has about nine years of experi- smooth a transition for the ence in coffee shops; she has managed coffee shops ray says.

"It will allow us to p.m. and Saturday, 8 a.m. fee cards already sold, as well as punch cards that area already partly filled.

"We want to make it as public as possible," Mur-

Planning commission approves land partition

The Morrow County eral Manager Gary Neal Planning Commission last said the partitioning would Tuesday approved a land partition on a 38-acre parcel at the Port of Morrow.

the East Beach Industrial Park near the intersection and Highway 730. Dividing the larger parcel will facilitate development on the property.

"finish up loose ends" for planning in this area. The planning commission ap-The parcel is located in proved the partition unanimously.

In other business the of Lewis and Clark Drive commission decided to put off until next meeting a work session on revising the Farm and Forest Model Code.

Port of Morrow Gen-

School gymnasium.

In 1997 executive Dale Moss formed Harlem Ambassadors, a small business with a big mission: to provide nonprofit and community service groups with comedy basketball shows they can use as fun, family-friendly fundraising events.

Moss assembled a team of young African-American men and women who have played college basketball, earned college degrees, are talented comedians and basketball players, and are good citizens and positive nouncer Ryne "McRyne" role models for kids.

Over the years, the Harlem Ambassadors' tour schedule has grown to more than 220 events each season and includes events in all 50 states and 20 countries.

The 2016-17 roster includes Brittany "Dorsey Bee" Dorsey, Nick "Spin" Simpson, Alexander "Pops" Wright Jr., Patric "HD" Massey, Melvin "Mel'O Matic" Dolberry, Marquette

Brittany Dorsey boogies with the local team and kids in the audience. The Ambassadors play against a team of local all-stars and community leaders, making every event one-of-a-kind. -Photo courtesy of Harlem Ambassadors

"Silky Smooth" Knight, Thorson. Yoshives "Yoshi" Belizaire, Darron Claxton, and an-

-See HARLEM AMBASSADORS/PAGE TWO

Spring weather is expected to return to normal after an unusually severe winter locally.

According to preliminary data received by NO-AA's National Weather Service in Pendleton, the upward trend has already begun, as temperatures at Heppner averaged slightly warmer than normal during the month of March.

The average temperature in March was 44.9 degrees, which was aaa0.7 degrees above normal. High -See WEATHER/PAGE FOUR

Pastors invited to submit Easter messages to G-T

Area pastors are invited to submit Easter messages to the Heppner Gazette-Times for publication in the April 12 newspaper. Deadline for submission is Monday, April 10.

Messages may be emailed to editor@rapidserve.net, mailed to Gazette-Times at P.O. Box 337, Heppner, OR 97836, faxed to 541-676-9211 or brought into the Gazette-Times office, 188 W. Willow, Heppner, OR 97836.



Easter egg hunts planned for **April 15 in Heppner, Ione**

Ione's annual Easter egg hunt will be held Saturday, April 15, at 10 a.m. in Ione City Park. Children up to the fourth grade are invited.

Anyone wishing to make a donation to help with this

event may do so at the Ione Branch of Bank of Eastern Oregon.



tinued community support for this event is appreciated.

Easter egg hunt, sponsored by the Heppner Elks Club, will be held on Saturday, April 15, beginning at 10 a.m. at the Heppner City Park next to the Heppner library. The Easter

Organizers say the con- Bunny will make his appearance at 9:30 a.m.