

Gazette Times

VOL. 136 NO. 14 8 Pages Wednesday, April 5, 2017 Morrow County, Heppner, Oregon

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

Shoppers who stop at 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 prepare to hand over operations.

"It will allow us to spend more time focused on the pharmacy," says Ann Murray. "We think it's going to be a win-win for both of us."

Brannon says she has about nine years of experience in coffee shops; she has managed coffee shops

in Gresham and Klamath 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 streamlined." Hours will remain the same, Monday through Friday, 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Saturday, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Breaking Grounds Coffee will also honor coffee cards already sold, as well as punch cards that area already partly filled.

"We want to make it as smooth a transition for the public as possible," Murray says.

Planning commission approves land partition

The Morrow County Planning Commission last Tuesday approved a land partition on a 38-acre parcel at the Port of Morrow.

The parcel is located in the East Beach Industrial Park near the intersection of Lewis and Clark Drive and Highway 730. Dividing the larger parcel will facilitate development on the property.

Port of Morrow Gen-

eral Manager Gary Neal said the partitioning would "finish up loose ends" for planning in this area. The planning commission approved the partition unanimously.

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

Lauritsen retires from Pioneer Memorial after 32 years

By Andrea Di Salvo

The halls at Pioneer Memorial Hospital may be a little quieter from now on, after the retirement of long-time maintenance worker Carl Lauritsen. Lauritsen celebrated his last day as the hospital's maintenance supervisor last week, bringing to a close more than 32 years at Morrow County Health District.

The 67-year-old, who describes himself as a "Seattle transplant," was born in Seattle, graduating from West Seattle High School in 1968. He joined the U.S. Army in 1972 and served for three years, spending time stationed at Ft. Lewis, Washington and in Italy. He moved to Heppner in 1974 after coming down to visit his sister and deciding to

stay a while.

He first "put in his time" at Kinzua, working in the Kinzua Pine Mills Company plywood plant until 1979. He then went to work for the Umatilla Army Depot as a guard. He obtained his EMT (Emergency Medical Technician) Basic, or EMT-1, certification in 1982 "for fun."

"I was bored and it was something to do," he says.

In July of 1983, he went to work for Pioneer Memorial's maintenance department. Along with his more official duties, Lauritsen seemingly took on the less official role of office joke-cracker. While the soft-spoken man doesn't come

across as a class clown, his coworkers say they will miss his sly sense of humor on the job. It's a role Lauritsen easily accepts—he gave the Gazette permission to publish his quirky retirement photo (seen on PAGE THREE), saying, "Everyone knows I'm a clown."

Despite that, though, MCHD Human Resources Director Patti Allstott says Lauritsen brought many serious contributions to the health district staff.

"Carl always plays up his corny side, but he has had a great career as a paramedic and has saved many

-See LAURITSEN RETIRES/PAGE THREE



Carl Lauritsen

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 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 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 announcer Ryne "McRyne"

-See HARLEM AMBASSADORS/PAGE TWO

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@rapidsolve.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.



The Heppner 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 Bunny will make his appearance at 9:30 a.m.

Organizers say the continued community support for this event is appreciated.

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