

Gazette Times

Chamber elects officers and gets tour of Gilliam Bisbee renovation

Houser elected 2019 President



Local contractor David Allstott (center) explains the work going on upstairs at the Gilliam Bisbee building to a group of Chamber of Commerce members. -Photos by David Sykes.

By David Sykes

The Heppner Chamber of Commerce held its annual meeting last week and, in addition to electing new officers and enjoying lunch, members were also treated to a tour of the now-in-progress renovation of the Gilliam-Bisbee building in Heppner. Elected president for the coming year is Morrow County Health District CEO Bob Houser.

Some rooms will have private baths and extra baths will be located outside the rooms. A fitness center with exercise equipment will be built for the guests and an elevator will be installed to access the upstairs. Allstott said work on the building is expected to be completed by November 2019.



Bob Houser, 2019 Pres.

After the meeting, members walked up the street to the Gilliam Bisbee building to get an update from contractor David Allstott on the progress of the complete renovation project.

Allstott gave members a tour of the downstairs first which has been completely gutted and is being restored to include a large area for community events, both public and private, such as weddings. Also downstairs will be a full commercial kitchen and bar with enough tables and chairs to seat 245 people.

The group then went upstairs, which is also being completely gutted and remodeled into four suites and space to accommodate up to 40 overnight guests. There will be open rooms with kitchenettes and a social-type gathering hall.

Department has moved to the Bartholomew building, leaving it mostly empty. The downstairs has been empty for some time after a hardware store that had been located there closed down.

With no potential renters, the county decided rather than tear down the 100-year-old building or continue to pay for maintenance, it would donate the building to a newly formed Heppner Community Foundation. The foundation was set up to take ownership of the building and also handle the renovation. In addition, the county has set aside \$235,000 to help with the upgrade. The Howard and Beth Bryant Community Trust plans on providing a sum of money to complete the renovation.



Incoming Chamber vice president Andy Fletcher (left) gives outgoing president Matt Combe a plaque of appreciation for his work the past year. -Photos by David Sykes.

No measles cases reported in Morrow County

The Morrow County Health Department has reported there are no measles cases in Morrow County at this time, but would like to share information on how to keep your children safe and what the school or child care will do if a case of measles is confirmed.

Measles is a very contagious viral disease that can spread through the air when someone sick with the measles coughs or sneezes. It can also be spread by direct contact with nose discharge and spit of someone sick with measles.

The symptoms of measles start with a fever, cough, runny nose and red eyes followed by a red rash

that usually begins on the head or face and spreads to the rest of the body. People are contagious with measles for four days before the rash appears and up to four days after the rash appears. After a person who is not immune is exposed to measles, symptoms usually develop in one to two weeks, but it can take up to three weeks. Complications of measles include ear infection, lung infection and, in rare cases, inflammation of the brain. About one in 1,000 children dies of measles. Anyone who is not immune to measles and believes they have measles symptoms should contact their health care provider

or urgent care by telephone before going in to the clinic to make arrangements to avoid exposing others to the virus. People are considered immune to measles if any of the following are true: -You are a pre-school age child with one measles vaccine (MMR - measles, mumps, rubella) -You are a school-age child (K-12) or adult who has had one measles vaccine (MMR - measles, mumps, rubella). -You were born before 1957. -You have had measles (diagnosed by a health care provider and confirmed with a lab test).

-You have had a blood test that shows you are immune to measles. With the current measles outbreaks, here are some important points to

keep in mind: -Measles is highly contagious. If a case is confirmed in a school or

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Asher gets his wish

Asher Schonbachler is a sweet-spirited 5-year-old boy who enjoys exploring the outdoors and above all else, loves to dig in the dirt. Camping is often his activity of choice. His family says they are limited to certain travel times in the year because of how the heat effects Asher, who is battling a rare critical illness called Leukodystrophy. Asher's one true wish was to have a travel trailer full of shovels, so that he could have place to rest and cool off while still doing what he loves. On Saturday, thanks to Make A Wish and others, that wish came true and he had his trailer.

Asher had not seen his travel trailer, but when he did he was a happy boy.

Friends and family gathered at the Morrow County Fairgrounds to present the trailer, which was packed full of Spiderman things and other toys and gifts. Little friends and relatives of Asher also piled in the trailer to help Asher explore all his new stuff. The trailer and all the things were a special gift from Make-A-Wish Oregon. When asked if he was happy, Asher simply said "yes."

"Our friends at WeeRoll in Florida took Asher's vision and went above and



Above: Asher hugs his Spiderman inside his new special trailer. Below: Asher and his dad Eric check out the special "Spidy" trailer made just for him. -Photos by David Sykes.



beyond to create a superhero-themed travel trailer unlike anything we've seen. The trailer was then driven across country and specially delivered to Make-A-Wish Oregon volunteers in eastern Oregon," a Make-

A-Wish spokesperson said. On Saturday, 40 plus members of the community who know and love Asher were part of this special surprise celebration, which included a scavenger hunt downtown and a barbecue.



New 2019 Chamber of Commerce officers are sworn in by Bank of Eastern Oregon Heppner Branch manager Tricia Rollins (far right) at the annual Chamber Luncheon last Thursday. Incoming officers are left to right: Directors Jeff Bailey, Bank of Eastern Oregon president and CEO, Nancy Snider owner of Wheatland Insurance, John Gould, manager Heppner Les Schwab, Andy Fletcher, Columbia Basin Electric manager of finance and administration, incoming vice president and directors Matt Combe, high school and junior high principal John Murray, owner Murray's Drug, and Kim Cutsforth, interim Heppner city manager and director of the Howard and Beth Bryant Trust. Not pictured are director Ann Murray owner of Murray's Drug, incoming Chamber president Bob Houser, CEO of Morrow County Health District and treasurer Tawny Miles, Director of Human Resources at Morrow County Grain Growers. -Photos by David Sykes

Chamber of Commerce recognizes local woman for volunteer work

Each year the Heppner Chamber of Commerce honors a local citizen for their volunteer work in the community. The volunteer is chosen by Chamber director Sheryll Bates who appreciates volunteers and their hard work. This year's recipient was Carolyn Willey who has done everything from give help with rewards cards at Christmas and helping with the annual Town and Country.

"It is this kind of volunteer that makes my job so much easier. She is dedicated, committed to the 'cause,' whatever it may be at the time and dependable, and she is always positive and supportive," Bates told the gathered Chamber members at their annual meeting last week.



Sheryll Bates (left) recognizes Carolyn Willey of Heppner for her volunteer work in the community this past year. -Photos by David Sykes

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