

Good News Only by Doris Brosnan

On November 2, Columbia Basin Electric Co-op held this year's Annual Meeting in Fossil. Over 100 people attended and enjoyed a delicious tri-tip meal prepared by the Rea family. Honored guests included Ted Case, Executive Director of the Oregon Rural Electric Co-op Association. He spoke about the importance of hydropower in the Pacific Northwest, Wildfire Mitigation plans, and efforts to continue power upgrades in rural communities. Board President Gerry Arnson praised Columbia Basin's maintenance crew and office employees for keeping the system in top-notch shape. He also brought up the subject of electric vehicles and the infrastructure that will be needed to support them. CEO Andy Fletcher was a highlight with his usual humor and talked about tough decisions that must be made. Door prizes were awarded throughout the meeting, and everyone left with a goodie bag.

The Hugheses, "Great Grandad Merlin" and "Great Gramsie Claudia," proudly announce the arrival of their third great grandchild, Milo, son of Austin and Angela. Milo joins his cousins five-year-old Roane and one-year-old Karter. Congratulations!

Coby Dougherty, son of Cliff and Dawna Dougherty, recently earned the "2023 Rookie Ag Pilot" award for the State of California Ag Aviation. Congratulations, Coby! Coby graduated from BMCC in 2020 with a degree in Ag Production, obtained his private pilot's license in 2021, and then attended flight school in South Dakota, where he earned his "commercial/high horsepower/instrument/multi-engine ratings" and "tailwheel" endorsement. He is currently working in Sacramento as an ag pilot for Farm Air Flying Service. When Coby isn't flying, he is a snowmobile athlete for Sled Send and a snowmobile ambassador for KLIM, Oxbow, and a few other snowmobile associations. "As if he doesn't have enough going on," his mother says, "he has also been accepted into a Montana auctioneer program. He is definitely following his dreams!"

Last Thursday, twenty-two women gathered at the Heppner Elks club for lunch in honor and memory of Nancy Ekstrom, recently deceased and constantly missed. And she was the only November birthday in the core group of friends who meet monthly to celebrate each month's birthday(s). Nancy's daughters, Jan and Cindy, attended the tribute, and though her son Arthur could not attend, he sent a message and provided for everyone to have something to drink. A toast to Nancy was offered with sips of her drink of choice, some "Nancy stories" were shared, and a collection for the American Cancer Society in her name amounted to over \$700.

Good news for area residents and good news for UPS: Someone who grew up here and is familiar with local names and places has taken the delivery job in our area for UPS - Sheila Dunaway Holtz! Sheila also brings experience and know-how to the job. She worked for UPS in Bend for six years, first in "preload" and then "package car." She moved back to this area twelve or thirteen years ago and did various jobs, including for Connie Jones at The Barn "from the day she opened to the day she closed the doors." She then returned to UPS, working part-time night shift loading trailers until a year later when offered a driving job, which she has continued for about six years. "When Tom Hull retired, I bid the Heppner route and got it," Sheila reports. She drives to Hermiston every morning, averaging 230 miles a day, not including the commute. She is pleased to see her husband, Brian, occasionally when delivering and to see her student-son Austin when she delivers to Heppner High School. And her "most important last stop of the day" is the one that takes her back to her family. She adds, "I absolutely love the people in Heppner and surrounding areas!"

A couple more laughs from Dennis O'Donnell: "If only vegetables smelled as good as bacon!" "There is a fine line between a numerator and a denominator. (Only a fraction of people will find this funny.)"

Reasons for many people to smile and be thankful tomorrow: weather seems to be cooperating for travelers; some family members are able to gather, and some friends become family; for a day, hunger is a smaller challenge for some, thanks to the 85 turkeys given by the Neighborhood Center and 30 boxes of food given by the Hopeful Saints congregation.

Laughing feels so good! And simple, positive tidbits can help readers laugh or simply find moments of respite from less positive "stuff." Please take a few minutes, send to dbrosnan123@gmail.com or call 541-223-1490.

Here's hoping that good news comes to everyone reading this!

Gateways' Thanksgiving Feast Nov.23rd

On November 23rd at 1 p.m., the Gateway Café owner, for a delightful meal and pleasant company. You is hosting a free Thanksgiving feast. All are welcome may bring food contributions if you would like to join Alvin Lui, the café

McElligott retires from Good Sheperd Health Care System



Eileen McElligott

Eileen McElligott, ARNP, is retiring from Good Shepherd Health Care System. However, she is not retiring from Morrow County Health District and will continue seeing patients at Ione Community Clinic.

Catholic Men Fall Meeting and Memorial Mass

The men of St Patrick's Catholic Church of Heppner and St William's of Ione will hold their fall dinner meeting and memorial Mass for deceased members on Tuesday, November 28th. Mass will begin at 6:00 p.m. at the Church in Heppner, followed by dinner and a meeting in the Parish Hall.

Heppner Lights up Heritage Park



Freshly decorated Christmas display wagon.

- Contributed Photo



Hal Bergstrom runs the forklift while volunteer strings lights in the Heritage Museum.

- Contributed Photo

Thursday, November 30th at 6 pm, join us in welcoming the Holiday Season by turning on the Christmas lights at Heritage Park! Come see Santa and Mrs. Claus, enjoy a cup of hot cocoa, and get in the holiday spirit. There will be an ornament-making station and musical performances by the Heppner High School Choir, Sage Garden Preschool, and Heppner Daycare at 6 pm. The park lights will turn on at 7 pm! Last weekend, Saturday the 18th, members of the community, Hal & Rita Bergstrom, Cherrie Clark, Roy Taylor,

Peggy Fishburn, Buzz Wainwright, Braxton Adams, and Hepper Community Foundation and the Heppner Chamber of Commerce ladies Katie Murray and Madison Rosenbalm came to aid in decorating and putting up lights.

Any questions please contact the Heppner Chamber of Commerce email: heppnerchamber@gmail.com or 541-676-5536.

Sisters to sing at state recital



Hadlie (left) and Mikalie Duncan of Heppner sang in the annual Oregon Music Teachers Association ensemble festival held in Hermiston Nov. 18. More than 80 students from Umatilla and Morrow counties participated. The Hermiston event was adjudicated by Sheila Gephardt of the Tri-cities, WA. The two sisters were chosen to sing at the state recital on Dec. 9 in Eugene. Hadlie and Mikalie have been taking voice lessons from Kathy Turner, also of Heppner. -Contributed photo

Heppner Celebrates Christmas

Thursday, December 14th starting at 6pm we will be celebrating Christmas at the Morrow County Fairgrounds! With free admission come visit Santa & Mrs. Claus, enjoy a cup of cocoa & bring the family! Make sure to collect vouchers from local businesses starting Friday, November 24th and bring them to enter drawings. The Heppner Elementary Parent-Teacher Club will be putting on a Bake Sale to raise funds. Want to volunteer or have questions?

Heppner gears up for the Holidays



City worker Aleea Strouse dressing the main street trees with holiday lights. - Photo by Analynn Black

Print & Mailing Services
 * Design
 * Print
 * Mail
 Sykes Publishing
 541-676-9228

THE MORROW COUNTY HEALTH DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS HAS A VACANCY

Interested Morrow County residents may submit an application for consideration. Applications must be received by Monday, December 11, 2023 for consideration at the December 18, 2023 board meeting. Applications should be submitted to community@moco hd.org.

Applicants may reach out to the Chief Executive Officer, Emily Roberts, with any questions at 541-676-2915 or community@moco hd.org.



MORROW COUNTY HEALTH DISTRICT
 Excellence in Healthcare

HOLIDAY SHOPPER

Offering Extended Services

December 1st & 15th

Hermiston

OR

Kennewick

Wal-Mart & Safeway Plaza

Costco - Columbia Center - Winco - Fred Myers

Reserve your seat by noon on Thursday

Alternate Stops by Request, Based on Avbalability

Call today for details

(541) 676-5667



Proudly Serving Morrow County Veterans