



Neighborhood Center’s act of giving hearkens back to WWI ‘Donut Lassies’

By Andrea Di Salvo

On a recent Friday, the Neighborhood Center of South Morrow County handed out free doughnuts in honor of National Donut Day. National Donut Day is celebrated on the first Friday of June each year.

While Donut Day may sound like a fluff holiday celebrating one of America’s sweet treats, though, it turns out that it is much more than that.

The holiday was established in 1938 by the Salvation Army to honor the “Donut Lassies” who served soldiers during World War I and to raise funds during the Great Depression. Many doughnut shops and bakeries still honor the day by giving out free doughnuts.

“In 1917, a group of women from the Salvation Army, the Donut Lassies, traveled to the front lines of World War I to bring



Salvation Army “Donut Lassies” serve soldiers on the front lines in World War I. -Contributed photo

soldiers hope with the sweet taste of home,” says local Salvation Army representative Kelly Nolan. “Today, the Salvation Army celebrates by recognizing first

responders, civic leaders, elected officials, and other local heroes and sharing the story of Donut Day’s humble beginnings.”

The Donut Lassies were a group of women from the Salvation Army who served American soldiers during World War I, particularly on the front lines in France starting in 1917.

These women, known for their dedication and bravery, provided moral support and comfort to troops by cooking and serving fresh doughnuts, coffee and other baked goods in the trenches.

The doughnut became a practical and symbolic treat: it was simple to make with limited supplies, could be cooked using soldiers’ helmets when necessary, and brought a taste of home to weary soldiers.

Two Salvation Army volunteers, Ensign Marga-

ret Sheldon and Adjutant Helen Purviance, are credited with frying the first doughnuts in war zones.

The efforts of the Donut Lassies helped establish the doughnut as an American icon and laid the foundation for National Donut Day.

Neighborhood Center Coordinator Nikki Clark said her own mental wheels started spinning when Nolan told her about the holiday.

“I immediately thought to myself, we live in such a great community full of people who serve each other in so many ways every day, that everyone needs a doughnut,” says Clark. “Everybody in this beautiful community of South Morrow County is performing active service for each other every day. We have a community full

-See DONUT DAY, PAGE TWO



Waylon and Sophie Sykes stop by the Neighborhood Center for doughnuts on Donut Day. -Contributed photo

Election results now certified

Off-year elections don’t garner a lot of attention—usually. That wasn’t the case for the May 20 special election in Morrow County, which saw the passage of a school district bond hang by a razor-thin margin, as well as the overhaul—or sometimes failed overhaul—of some special district boards.

With so much at stake, no one was anxious to celebrate too soon. Entities like the Morrow County School District, with a \$204.4 million bond at stake, waited anxiously for the election results to be certified.

As of this week, those results are finally official. Here’s the breakdown:

With hotly-contested races, Morrow County’s voter turnout of 39.66 percent far surpassed the state average of 23.82 percent. That still meant that only 2,874 ballots were counted out of the 7,247 active registered voters in the county.

Of those voters, a slender majority of 50.12 percent voted in the MCSD bond, 1,245 to 1,239—a difference of only six votes.

As for the rest, there weren’t enough changes

from the unofficial results to upset the election apple cart, so to speak.

For Morrow County Health District, Ann Spicer secured Position 1 with 62.7 percent of the vote. Russ Nichols won Position 2 with 56.57 percent, and Janet Greenup took Position 3 with 65.31 percent. Jason Hanna secured the final open position, Position 4, with 56.37 percent of the vote in that three-way race.

The contested races for the Port of Morrow Commission also stayed largely the same.

Incumbent Rick Stokoe walked away with 47.16 percent of the vote for Position 1—still enough to secure a win in the three-way race with J. Fletcher Hobbs and Heather Bishop. With no incumbent, Danny Kerns defeated Raymond Seastone in the race for Position 2 with 65.7 percent of the vote. Incumbent Joel Peterson held on to Position 3 with 58.95 percent of the vote.

For a full breakdown of election results, visit <https://www.co.morrow.or.us/clerk/> and click on the elections tab.

Dhan Lama ministry to visit Lexington



Nepali Pastor Dhan Lama with wife Bimala Thapa and his three daughters, Upashan, Christina and Marilyn. -Contributed photo

Dhan Lama Ministries from Nepal will be coming to Eastern Oregon and Eastern Washington the last week of June. The Nepali pastor will be at the Lexington Community Church this Saturday, June 21, beginning at 6 p.m. There will be a potluck and worship service to follow.

Lama is known as the “Apostle Paul of Nepal.”

-See DHAN LAMA, PAGE SIX

Gazette-Times closed this week

The Heppner Gazette-Times will be closed Wednesday, Thursday and Friday this week, June 18-20. Regular hours will resume Monday, June 23. We apologize for any inconvenience.

Hisler selected for OACA All-Star Series

Heppner athlete named Player of the Game

Hallee Hisler capped off her high school basketball career in spectacular fashion last weekend, earning a spot on the OACA East Team for the Oregon Athletic Coaches Association Basketball All-Star Series.

Players are selected for the All-Star Series based on their performance during the regular season, including All-League and All-State honors. Coaches nominate players from their respective leagues, and selections are made by a committee of coaches. Representing Heppner



Hallee Hisler with her Player of the Game award. -Contributed photo

-See HISLER EAST TEAM, PAGE SEVEN

It’s official: Morrow County voters pass school district bond

After three weeks of waiting, Morrow County School District is finally celebrating the passage of the district’s General Obligation bond, which was passed by voters on the May 20 ballot.

The wait was tense as voters and school district staff alike waited for the certification of the election results.

In the end, the bond passed with a narrow 50.12 percent of the vote—a margin of only six votes county-wide.

“After an anxious waiting period and a close vote, we are very pleased that voters supported the bond and the projects it will fund,” MCSD Board Chair Richard Cole said, “Thank you to all the voters who committed to improving facilities for student success in our community.”

Cole and MCSD Superintendent Matt Combe said that passing the bond was more than a year-long effort and they appreciate the work of the Community Bond Advisory Committee (CBAC), school board members, district administrators, members of the district facility and business departments, teach-

ers, school staffs, Wenaha Group and InterMountain ESD Communications for all their work.

The district representatives say they also appreciate all the community organizations, chambers of commerce and other local entities who hosted bond presentations.

“It has truly been a huge team effort across our district to evaluate facilities, develop projects and inform our community about the need for this bond. We appreciate everyone who worked on it,” Combe said.

The bond will fund these projects:

Irrigon Jr/Sr High School—replace school to provide modern educational environment for students.

Riverside Jr/Sr High School—remodel and build addition for more classroom space and gym to support future enrollment.

Heppner Jr/Sr High School and Heppner Elementary—remodel junior/senior high to become a K-12 campus with thoughtful grade level separation, resulting in operational savings and safer location

-See SCHOOL BOND PASSES, PAGE EIGHT

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