

HEPPNER



Staff photo by E.J. Harris

Showtime in Morrow County

Madison Orem, 13, of Heppner leads her black Angus market steer in front of an open door in the large animal barn before showing the animal at the Morrow County Fair on Friday in Heppner.

Washington motorcyclist dies in Harney County crash

BURNS — Another crash on an Eastern Oregon highway in Harney County has claimed a life.

The Oregon State Police reported the collision occurred Tuesday at about 3:25 p.m. on the northbound side of Highway 205 a couple of miles out of Burns.

Randolph Pointere, 67, of

Hines, operated a semi-tractor hauling two trailers. He was turning left onto Hotchkiss Lane when motorcyclist David McNeill of Bellingham, Washington, tried to pass. The motorcycle slid under the first trailer before coming to a stop, according to state police, and both trailers stopped without running over McNeill.

An ambulance took McNeill to Harney District Hospital, Burns, then an air ambulance flew him to Saint Alphonsus Regional Medical Center, Boise. State police reported McNeill, 74, died Wednesday from his injuries suffered in the crash.

Pointere was not injured and drove the semi from the

scene.

McNeill is the 13th person state police confirmed died since Aug. 15 on state roads in Eastern Oregon. The spike in deaths promoted the La Grande office of the Oregon Department of Transportation to issue an alert urging drivers to "Always think safety on the road."

HERMISTON

Deans of students added to elementary schools

By JAYATI RAMAKRISHNAN
East Oregonian

to improve student attendance by five percent," Bacon said.

The Hermiston School District is introducing a new position to all five of its elementary schools — the dean of students.

According to district representative Maria Duron, the position was created to give principals and teachers more support due to increasing enrollment in the district.

Four of the five deans were hired from within the district, and Becky Bacon, the new dean of students for Rocky Heights Elementary School, used to work as a teacher on special assignment for the Echo School District, where her duties included coordinating testing for the district.

Bacon said the roles of the deans of students will vary a bit based on the needs of each school.

"With increasing student enrollment, we're looking at focusing the deans' role on student support, so the principals can focus on teacher support," she said.

The deans will also coordinate Talented and Gifted programming, behavior interventions, and focus on improving student attendance.

"The district goal is

Jolene Davis, a long-time teacher in the district, will serve as the new dean of students for Highland Hills Elementary School.

She described the role as a "bridge between students and teachers."

While all the deans have their administrative license, or are working toward it, the dean of students position is not officially listed as an administrative role, but falls under the category of a teacher on special assignment. But Bacon likened her role to that of a vice principal.

Duron said the positions are permanent, and the deans were hired specifically for their buildings. She said the deans will get paid in the same salary range as an elementary school teacher, but will spend 10 additional days at the beginning and end of the school year. Duron said the salary range is between \$37,354 and \$74,560 annually, depending on experience.

There is also an existing dean of students position at Hermiston High School. That position was vacated this year by David Melville and will be filled by Blaine Braithwaite, who previously taught in the Stanfield School District.



Photo courtesy Tom Roberts, Umatilla County Emergency Management
A farm implement that was struck by a semi-truck on Interstate 84 is surrounded by debris.

I-84 wreck injures one

East Oregonian

A crash between a farm tractor and a semi-tractor on Interstate 84 sent one person to the hospital and closed down the eastbound lanes in the freeway near the Echo-Stanfield exit.

The accident was at milepost 187, just west of the Pilot Truck Stop in Stanfield.

Crews were still on scene into the evening working to clean up spilled diesel fuel and debris. As of 6:15 p.m., the Oregon Department of Transportation lifted the freeway closure, but one lane of the freeway was still expected to be

closed for a while.

Around 2:30 p.m., a farm tractor towing an implement was traveling in the right lane at an unknown speed, when it was struck from behind by a semi truck, according to Battalion Chief Jimmy Davis of Umatilla County Fire District.

The driver of the farm tractor, a man in his mid-20s, was taken to the hospital. Davis said both the drivers were male. He did not release names or where they were from.

"It's a mess out there," Davis said. He said traffic was being rerouted at Highway 207 through Echo, back onto the highway at exit 193.

Morrow County launching housing analysis

By JADE MCDOWELL
East Oregonian

Morrow County is launching a major housing analysis and buildable lands survey in September.

The county and its five cities, along with consultants Angelo Planning Group and Johnson Economics, are partnering for the study. County planning director Carla McLane said everyone knows anecdotally that the county is short on housing, but an in-depth analysis that is "truly county-wide" should help point the way toward fixes that the county and cities can implement.

"Hopefully it begins to help answer some questions about where we're at and what we need," she said.

The buildable lands inventory part of the project will also include commercial and industrial lands, while the housing analy-

sis will look at components such as demand in each city, barriers to development and the makeup of the current housing market.

Boardman's housing shortage tends to get most of the attention, because the Port of Morrow is creating jobs far faster than developers are adding housing. But McLane said it's a county-wide issue. In Heppner, the county, the health district and Community Counseling Solutions are all employers that have seen new employees have issues getting into a house or apartment.

"Folks have struggled to find housing in Heppner," she said. "It's the same when you look at Lone and Lexington."

One reason for that, she said, is that people who are retiring from jobs in that part of the county are staying put, meaning their homes aren't opening up for new employees coming in to replace them. Other housing is empty but not available, such as homes in foreclosure or houses that children are keeping empty while their parents are in assisted living facilities.

The analysis project is kicking off on Sept. 6, and McLane said they anticipate having a final prod-

uct in March. They plan to release some findings along the way, and to solicit feedback from the community during the process.

Contact Jade McDowell at jmcdowell@eastoregonian.com or 541-564-4536.

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12:10* 2:30* 4:40 7:10 9:40

ALPHA [PG13]
12:00* 2:10* 7:00
ED 4:30 9:20

CRAZY RICH ASIANS [PG13]
1:30* 4:10 6:50 9:30

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11:50* 2:20* 4:50 7:20 9:50

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