Bessie Wetzell Newspaper Library
University of Oregon
Eugene, OR 97403

HEPPNER 50¢
Gazette Times

VOL. 127 NO. 37 8 Pages Wednesday, September 10, 2008 Morrow County, Heppner, Oregon

Local woman wants farmer's market in Heppner

By David Sykes

Local woman Margaret Flaherty wants to start a farmer's market in Heppner for people to sell their produce and products.

Flaherty came to the Heppner City Council Monday night asking about holding the farmer's market in the city park, probably starting next year.

Contacted Tuesday, Flaherty said she envisioned a market where people would first be selling produce from their garden, flowers and items they have made for sale. She said she would be going to Pendleton and Hermiston in the next couple of weeks to talk to people who run farmer's markets in those cities to get ideas on how to organize and put on the markets. She was not sure if it would be held weekly, every other week, or monthly.

On Monday Flaherty asked the city council about holding the market in the city park, and what problems there would be. City Manager Steve Bogart said he has served in cities which go "both ways" with farmer's markets. One city he was in had a hands-off policy, and the other went to the other extreme and required a license, separate electrical metering and other control features. The city attorney said if there prepared foods were not sold, then a food handler's license would not be needed. "I like the idea, but there would be issues," city attorney Ann Spicer said, adding that liability insurance would also be a question.

Most members of the city council seemed to be receptive to the idea, but agreed the proposal, and the city's involvement needed to be studied further. "I think it's a good idea," said Mayor Les Paustian.

Flaherty said the market would run through the summer and end in September, so it was probably too late to start this year, but said she would be forming a group to study how to set up the market for next year. She urged anyone with ideas or wanting to help to contact her.

Vandalism case solved

In other business the council heard from Morrow County Deputy John Bowles, who said he had solved the vandalism case at the Farm Museum in Heppner. He said five juveniles, all elementary age, confessed to damaging two pieces of antique farm equipment at the museum last week.

Bowles said he wanted to solve the case and started asking kids about it. The 10th one he talked to got a funny look on his face and then said he did it, Bowles said "And then it just went from there and we wrapped it up today." He said the kids who were responsible received community service as punishment but added that "they are being disciplined more by their parents than what we (the justice system) gave them."

Bowles is also a member of the city council and normally does not give reports to the council. A deputy is usually at the monthly meetings to give the reports, however a deputy was not in attendance so Bowles agreed to give the monthly police report.

-Continued on Page FIVE

Morrow County students lead pack of area schools reaching benchmarks

By April Sykes

The Morrow County School District's emphasis on student learning has paid off. According to figures released by assistant superintendent Phyllis Danielson at the MCSD regular meeting Monday night in Heppner, MCSD lead the pack among area schools in the number of students passing 10th-grade benchmarks in reading and math.

Sixty percent of Morrow County students passed their 10th-grade benchmarks in math, surpassing Milton-Freewater with 55 percent; Pendleton and Hermiston, both with 41 percent; Echo with 35 percent; Umatilla with 32 percent; and Stanfield with 18 percent.

Sixty-seven percent of Morrow County students also passed their 10th-grade benchmarks in reading, putting Morrow County ahead of all area schools-Echo with 65 percent; Milton-Freewater with 60 percent; Pendleton with 58 percent; Hermiston with 51 percent; Umatilla with 47 percent; and Stanfield with 46 percent.

Morrow County was third among area schools for all students passing their benchmarks in reading with 70 percent. Seventy-five percent of Pendleton students in all grades passed their reading benchmarks; 72 percent of Hermiston students passed their reading benchmarks; 67 percent passed in Milton-Freewater; 62 percent in Echo; 59 percent in Stanfield and 58 percent in Umatilla.

In a two-year comparison of assessment results (Oregon Assessment of Knowledge and Skills), all Morrow County students, except for seventh and eighth graders, improved their scores in reading and math.

Sixty-six percent of seventh graders passed the math assessments in both 2006-07 and 2007-08; and sixty-one percent of the seventh-graders passed their reading assessments in both years. The eighth graders dipped a bit in both years with 69 percent passing their math assessments in 06-07, compared to 56 percent in 07-08. Sixty percent passed in eighth-grade reading in 06-07, compared to 56 percent in 07-08.

The district as a whole made gains in math and reading, however, with 67 percent of students meeting or exceeding in math in 07-08, compared to 56 percent in 06-07; and 69 percent meeting or exceeding in reading in 07-08, compared to 65 percent in 06-07.

Also at the meeting, Kristen Marshall, engine module leader/camp coordinator with the Heppner Ranger District, and Heppner High School senior Kylie Doherty reported on the success of the pilot program to hire high school seniors in a partnership with Morrow County Schools. In the program, out of 60 original applicants, 14 students were hired to work for the Forest Service, which accomplished a dual benefit. The program provided work for the students and at the same time educated them to the opportunities in the Forest Service. Marshall said that they plan to expand the program to include Umatilla County students as well. She said that they are already exploring new funding opportunities so that they may be able to continue the program once the current three-year grant expires.

In other business, the board:

-heard a report from A.C. Houghton Elementary Principal John Sebastian concerning the pilot program of using sugar-cane biodegradable lunch trays at ACH. Sebastian said that the program will reduce the amount of waste that goes into dumpsters, which will benefit the environment. Sebastian also spoke of a partnership with the city of Irrigon concerning solid wastes and said they are exploring expanding the recyclable program with more biodegradable items and possibly a pulping system. "We're trying to become 100 percent green at our school," he said. Sebastian also said that while the program will save the school money in some areas, waste disposal, for example, it could increase costs in others, such as increased costs in sugar cane vs. Styrofoam trays. "We're not necessarily spending less money, but we're spending it differently," he said. "I, for one, think it's the right choice," added board Chair Craig Miles.

-heard from Superintendent Mark Burrows that the district's enrollment appears flat with the loss of around 10-11 students at Heppner Elementary School. Each high school was up a little, though, he said. He said that enrollment

-Continued on page FIVE

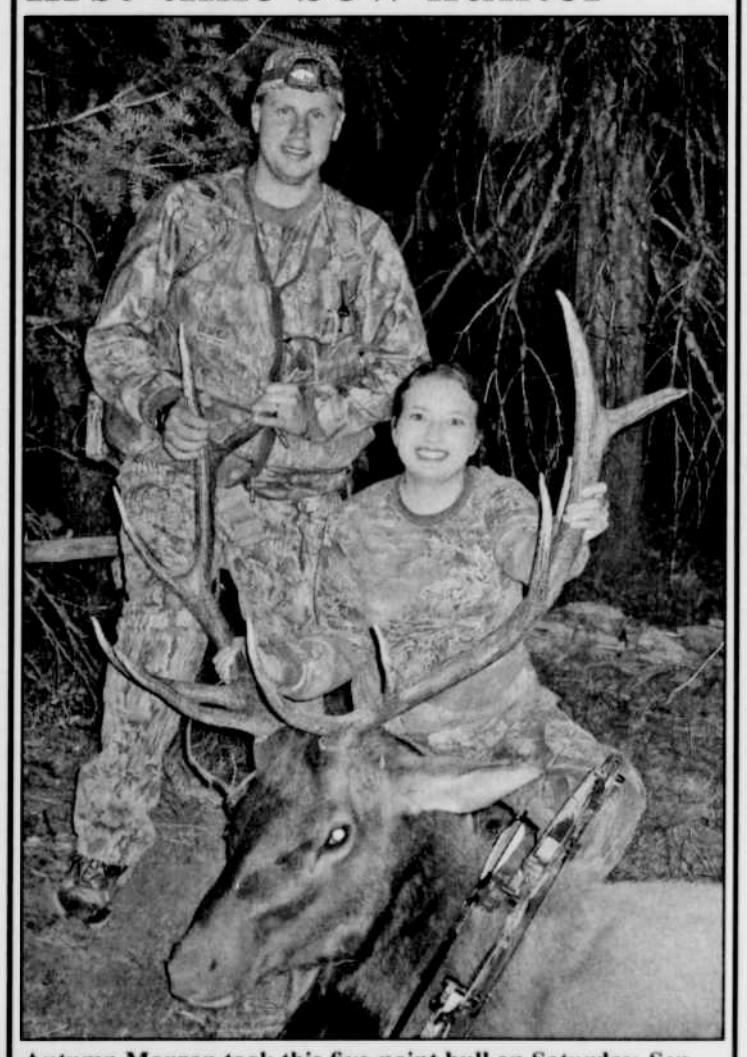
Ione School District to put bond before voters

A bond measure will go before the Ione School District voters on Tuesday, November 4.

If approved, the measure would provide funds to finance construction, renovation and repair at the Ione School. Improvements include: construction of two new classrooms at the elementary school; repair and improvements the pool and pool deck; replacement of the high school gym floor; replacement of the high school roof including gym and cafeteria; replace the high school air-quality systems and windows; modernize classrooms with new technology; and pay fees associated with issuing and administering the bonds.

If approved, this measure would cost property owners an estimated average of $2.43 cents per $1,000 of assessed value per year. For example, owners of a $50,000 home would pay $121.50 per year; owners of a $100,000 home would pay $243 per year; owners of a $150,000 home would pay $364.50 per year, etc.

Morgan successful as first-time bow hunter



Autumn Morgan took this five-point bull on Saturday, September 6. This was her first year bow hunting. Pictured with Autumn is her husband, Troy. *-Contributed Photo*

The Heppner Gazette-Times wants to see pictures of your trophy animals from this hunting season. Stop by to have your picture taken, drop off photos, or email them to editor@rapidserve.net.

Levy to be placed before MC Health District voters

A levy will be placed before Morrow County Health District voters on Tuesday, November 4.

If approved, the Morrow County Health District will continue a $.39 per $1,000 assessed property value for continued operations for five years beginning in 2009. For example, owners of a $50,000 home would pay $19.50 per year, owners of a $100,00 home would pay $39 per year, owners of a $150,000 home would pay $58.50 per year.

The Morrow County Health District will use the tax revenue from this measure to help maintain and improve the present level of services. The levy is the same rate approved by the voters for fiscal years 2005-2006 through 2007-2008. Increased unfunded care, increased supply and labor costs, and the need for full-time EMS/Ambulance staff indicate that the permanent rate will be insufficient to continue to fund district operations at current levels.

The estimated tax cost for this measure is based on the information available from the county assessor at the time of estimate. The proposed rate will raise approximately $357,800 per year in fiscal years 2009-2010 through 2012-2013 and $381,200 in fiscal year 2013-2014, for a total of $1,812,400.

Dickenson Chiropractic to offer massages

Tammy Smith will be joining Dickenson Chiropractic to practice massage therapy on Monday, September 15.

Smith will be available on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Early, late and weekend sessions are by appointment only.

Costs for Swedish, deep tissue, and pregnancy massages are: $75 for 90 minutes, $55 for an hour, and $35 for half an hour. A hot stone massage is $90.

Smith will be offering $5 off for a customer's first massage. Special discounts are available for Heppner High School athletes. Other specials are available upon inquiry.

Smith is a 2002 graduate of HHS. She graduated in 2005 from the Oregon School of Massage in Portland. She is nationally certified in massage therapy and is licensed by the state of Oregon.

ALL NEWS AND ADVERTISEMENT DEADLINE:

MONDAYS AT 5:00 P.M.

115 Volt FP130 MIG/FLUX Welding System and MIG Welding Cart
Welds up to 1/4" mild steel. Features four-position welding power control, heavy duty wire drive, infinite wire speed, thermostatic heat protection and more; while the welding cart makes it easy to move your portable MIG welding system to the job.
Welding System - $768. Your Price $650 / Cart - $151. Your Price $128.
Firepower Welding
Morrow County Grain Growers
Lexington 989-8221 • 1-800-452-7396 For farm equipment, visit our web site at www.mcgg.net