

## Heppner Garden Club sponsors HES students in poetry contests

The Heppner Garden Club recently sponsored elementary school students for state and national poetry contests. The theme is nature's song. A few of the poems that were entered will be run each week in the Heppner Gazette-Times.

**Alligator**  
Lazy, hunter  
Hungry, rude, mean  
Biting, slashing, splashing,  
smashing,  
Sleepy hunter

By Hayden Qualls  
Second Grade

**Snake**  
Big, fat,  
Fat, long reptile  
Slithering, hunting, molt-  
ing, basking,  
Bull snake

By Hunter Nichols  
Second Grade

**Buck**  
Brown, tall,  
Some have spots  
Grazing, jumping, sleep-  
ing, laying  
A hungry grazer

By Leo Waite  
Second Grade

**Panda Bear**  
Cute, furry  
They like bamboo,  
Swinging, caring, playing,  
climbing,  
White and black bear

By Morgan Burch  
Second Grade

## FFA alumni meeting to be held

A Heppner FFA alumni meeting will be held on Monday, December 15, at 7 p.m. in the HHS Ag classroom. You do not have to be a current or former member to attend.

## State economy prompts school budget cut

-Continued from Page ONE  
dance variance for a MCSD student to attend Umatilla High School.

-received the following enrollment report as of December 1: A.C. Houghton Elementary, Irrigon-347 students; Heppner Elementary School-187; Heppner High School-236; Irrigon Elementary School-121; Irrigon High School-324; Riverside High School, Boardman-392; Sam Boardman Elementary-310; Windy River Elementary, Boardman-228; Morrow Education Center (Morrow County School District students)-77; MEC (Umatilla School District students)-29.

-received the following employment report: resignations/retirements-Sam Thurston, HHS special education teacher at the end of

the school year; Jill Wright, Irrigon High School head volleyball coach; Heather Miller, Irrigon Junior/Senior High School; employment/promotions-Jessica Lehman, HES educational assistant, replacing Tammy Lien; extra duty contracts-Joy Hearn, IJH assistant girls' basketball coach; Sheila Corpus, RHS drama advisor; Mindy Wilson, Heppner Junior High head girls' basketball coach; Keith Price, HHS assistant girls' basketball coach; Melissa Coiner, HHS head track coach.

-heard the following announcements: December 18-last school day before Christmas; December 22-January 2-winter break; January 5-school resumes; January 12-next school board meeting, Heppner Elementary School, 7 p.m.

## Port of Morrow announces commission meeting date

The Port of Morrow will hold their next commission meeting on Wednesday, January 14, at 1:30 p.m.

**AFTER NEARLY 30 YEARS IN THE INSURANCE INDUSTRY IN IONE, JIM SWANSON HAS DECIDED TO RETIRE FROM WHEATLAND INSURANCE CENTER, INC. ON DECEMBER 31ST, 2008.**

**PLEASE JOIN US IN CONGRATULATING JIM FOR ALL HIS HARD WORK AND DEDICATION TO WHEATLAND. AN OPEN HOUSE WILL BE HOLDING JIM'S HONOR ON THURSDAY DECEMBER 18TH FROM 10AM TO 3PM AT WHEATLAND INSURANCE IN IONE.**

**EVERYONE IS WELCOME!**



**Daily lunch specials & Homemade soups**  
from Sandi's catering



**Christmas boxed cards 25% off**  
**Yankee Candles Christmas scents 25% off**

**Open Sundays for Christmas 12-5 p.m.**

**Murray's Drug, INC.**

217 North Main • Heppner • Phone 676-9158 • Floral 676-9426  
Serving Heppner, Lexington & Ione

## IRZ Consulting Study discovers method to conserve Oregon's dwindling water resources

In an effort to maximize the state's water resources, IRZ Consulting, an irrigation resource management engineering firm known for its creative solutions, has developed a process to store thousands of acre-feet of Columbia River water in groundwater aquifers during winter months in Oregon's Umatilla Basin and recover the water for farmers when agricultural needs are high. IRZ's design is the first ever large-acreage Aquifer Storage and Recovery (ASR) system developed specifically for agriculture, and if implemented by the state and landowners, has the potential to significantly boost Oregon's agricultural revenue.

The Oregon Water Resource Department (OWRD) selected IRZ in the spring of 2008 to conduct a study to determine how to replenish Umatilla Basin aquifers in Umatilla and Morrow County through ASR. IRZ performed the

study, formally known as the Umatilla Recharge Project, over the summer and presented the initial results that demonstrated the feasibility of the project to OWRD and other regional stakeholders this November.

Municipalities have successfully implemented ASR for some time, but to date no one has attempted an agricultural ASR system of the Umatilla Recharge Project's scope. "Although some said an ASR project of this size - across two counties - was impossible, our study is indicating otherwise," said Fred Ziari, president of IRZ Consulting. "Our hope is that this system, beyond helping us here in Oregon, will serve as an example of how the new water resource management technologies of 21st-century agriculture can solve food and water shortage issues on a global basis."

Due to continued decline of groundwater, last year OWRD allowed farm-

ers to use only 33 percent of the potential amount of groundwater available. This came at a high cost to Umatilla and Morrow County, which combined generate an estimated \$1.65 billion from crops and food processing activities each year. Beyond Oregon, farmers around the nation and globe are facing the same groundwater shortages as the scarcity of water from aquifer depletion and irrigation from wells threatens the future of their food production.

"Innovation and sustainability are at the heart of the Umatilla Recharge Project," said Barry Norris, technical services administrator of OWRD and project manager for the Umatilla Recharge Project. "This represents a huge opportunity to solve the water needs of our farmers while positively impacting our economy in the long term." The proposed ASR system would transport massive

amounts of water each winter from the Columbia River, estimated at between 50,000 to 100,000 acre-feet, making it the largest agricultural ASR system in the nation. The water would be injected and stored in designated underground aquifer recharge areas across Umatilla and Morrow County. Water would then be released in the summer for agricultural use, resulting in a process that minimizes the impact on the environment.

OWRD contracted with IRZ following the passage of the Agriculture and Community Water Act of 2008 (SB 1069) and IRZ will complete the study by June 30, 2009. If approved by the state, the Umatilla Recharge Project will undergo an initial pilot study followed by a full-scale implementation. Teaming with IRZ, GSI Water Solutions and HDR Engineering also contributed their expertise to the project.

## Chamber Lunch Meeting speakers announced

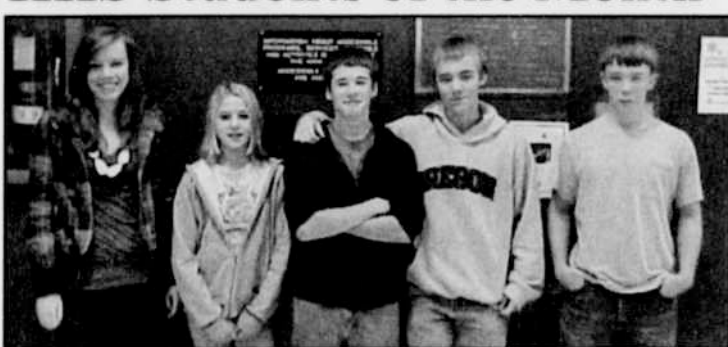
This week's speakers for the Chamber Lunch Meeting on December 11 will be Craig Miles, Beth Dickenson and some of Heppner High School's FFA students to give an update on FFA, and talk about the value of being an FFA alumni. The meeting will be held at noon at John's Place.

Those planning to attend are asked to RSVP by end of business day on Wednesday, December 10, so meals and seating can be planned.

There will not be a Chamber Lunch meeting next week so preparations can be made for the Celebrate Heppner Christmas event on Thursday, December 18.

Also, don't forget about other events happening this week on December 11: ICABO Meeting at 7:30 a.m. at Colliers in Ione. ODOT will be present to discuss Horseshoe Bend.; Welcome Home Open House for City Manager Dave DeMayo will be held on from 3-5 p.m. at City Hall.

## HHS Students of the Month



For the month of November the Heppner High School staff selected students who were "Trustworthy" as Students of the Month. From left to right are Emily Thompson, Blake Greenup, Seth Palmer, Quinn Chick, and Eric Chick. Not pictured is Bryce Fowler. -Contributed Photo

## Greenhand Initiation ceremony to be held

The Heppner High School Chapter of the FFA will be holding a celebration at the HHS cafeteria for the Greenhand Initiation ceremony on Thursday, December 11, at 7 p.m. Everyone is invited to attend.

## Public comment requested on West-End OHV Draft Environmental Assessment

District to Host Public Meetings in Heppner, Fossil and Monument

The Heppner Ranger District will host three public meetings over the next two weeks to discuss the five alternatives developed for the West End OHV Project Draft Environmental Assessment (EA.) announced Tom Mafera, Heppner District Ranger. The scheduled December 15th release of the Draft EA will begin the official 30-day public comment period, intended to provide those interested in

or affected by this proposal an opportunity to make their concerns known prior to a decision being made.

The meetings will be held at the following locations: Heppner Ranger District Office in Heppner on Wednesday, December 17, from 6-8 p.m.; Wheeler County Family Service Center in Fossil on Thursday, December 18, from 5-7 p.m.; and the Senior Center in Monument on Monday, December 22, from 5-7 p.m.

The Heppner District initiated the West End OHV project in response to the 2005 Travel Management Rule; Designated Routes and Areas for Motor Vehicle Use. The rule calls for the designation of roads, trails and areas open to motorized travel to provide better opportunities

for sustainable motorized recreation and high-quality access for all users while protecting natural and cultural resources, increasing public safety and reducing effects on big game. Designated routes for motorized travel are already in place on most of the Umatilla National Forest. The Forest's one exception is the 91,000-acre West-End OHV Project Area which is generally open to Class I and Class III OHVs for off-road travel. The West-End OHV Project Area is located on the west side of the Heppner Ranger District and includes all Forest Service lands west

of Forest Road 22 (Morrow County Road 670/Grant County Road 3). No decisions will be made concerning private or county lands. A copy of the West End OHV Project Area Draft Environmental Assessment will be available at the Heppner District Office or can be viewed on-line at: <http://www.fs.fed.us/r6/uma/projects/readroom/>.

For more information please contact Janet Plocharsky, Heppner District Planner at 541-676-9187, 117 South Main Street, P.O. Box 7, Heppner, Oregon 97836.

## Senior Center Menu

Heppner Christian Church members will be serving lunch on Wednesday, December 17. The menu will include baked chicken with orange sauce, new potatoes and peas, fruit cocktail, hot rolls, and apple crunch.

## 2009 Medicare Part D Plans

Advantage Freedom Plan by RxAmerica 800-429-6686 [www.Meds4Medicare.com](http://www.Meds4Medicare.com)  
Advantage Star Plan by Rx America 800-429-6686 [www.Meds4Medicare.com](http://www.Meds4Medicare.com)  
Asuris Medicare Script 800-452-2909 [www.regence.com](http://www.regence.com)  
Asuris Medicare Script Enhanced 800-452-2909 [www.regence.com](http://www.regence.com)  
Community CCRX Basic 866-566-8741 [www.communitycarerx.com](http://www.communitycarerx.com)  
Community CCRX 866-566-8741 [www.communitycarerx.com](http://www.communitycarerx.com)  
Community CCRX Gold 866-566-8741 [www.communitycarerx.com](http://www.communitycarerx.com)  
SilverScript Value 866-552-6106 [www.silverscript.com](http://www.silverscript.com)  
SilverScript Plus 866-552-6106 [www.silverscript.com](http://www.silverscript.com)  
SilverScript Complete 866-552-6106 [www.silverscript.com](http://www.silverscript.com)  
Sterling RX 866-228-8920 [www.sterlingplans.com](http://www.sterlingplans.com)  
Providence Part D 800-457-6064 [www.providence.org](http://www.providence.org)  
Trusted LOCAL care since 1959. For detailed information on these plans please contact them directly or visit the medicare website at [www.medicare.gov](http://www.medicare.gov). We would be happy to visit with you about our services. Celebrating 50 years of service to Eastern Oregon, thank you.

**Murray's Drug, INC.**

217 North Main • Heppner • Phone 676-9158 • Floral 676-9426  
Serving Heppner, Lexington & Ione