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Gazette Times

VOL. 129 NO. 26 6 Pages Wednesday, July 7, 2010 Morrow County, Heppner, Oregon

Nelson appointed as Morrow County District Attorney

Governor Kulongoski announced the appointment of Justin Nelson as the Morrow County District Attorney, effective July 6. Nelson was elected as Morrow County District Attorney in the May primary, but his term is not scheduled to begin until January 2011.

The office of Morrow County District Attorney has been vacant since the resignation of former District Attorney Elizabeth Ballard in March. Since that time, the Oregon Department of Justice has fulfilled the duties of the office at the governor's direction.

Justin Nelson (right) was sworn into office as Morrow County District Attorney by Morrow County Clerk Bobbi Childers (left) on Tuesday, July 6, in the Morrow County Courthouse. *–Photo by Autumn Morgan*

Nelson previously served as a deputy district attorney for the Umatilla County District Attorney. He earned a bachelor's of science degree from Oregon State University and a Juris Doctorate from Willamette University School of Law.

Corrections officer arrested for assault and sex crimes

According to the Morrow County Sheriff's Office, Robert Ray Grindstaff, 37, was arrested for rape, among other charges, on June 30. Grindstaff is a corrections officer at Two Rivers Correctional Institute.

On June 28, MCSO received a report from a female citizen who stated that her tires had been slashed the night of June 27. After an investigation, Grindstaff was arrested on June 29, by MCSO for Criminal Mischief III for slashing the victim's tires. Grindstaff was cited to appear in Irrigon Justice Court on July 26, 2010.

On June 30, the same female citizen called 911 to report that her ex-fiancé had just held a pistol to her head and assaulted her. During the assault a struggle ensued and the weapon discharged inside the residence.

Deputy Lehman with the Morrow County Sheriff's Office responded to the scene with cover units from the Oregon State Police, Boardman Police Department, and Umatilla Police Department. The suspect, Grindstaff, had left the scene and returned to his home in Irrigon. All responding units made contact with him at his residence and he was taken into custody without incident.

Grindstaff, who is employed with the Oregon Department of Corrections as a corrections officer at Two Rivers Correctional Institute, was lodged at the Umatilla County Jail on the following charges: Rape I (x2), Unlawful Sexual Penetration, Sodomy I (x2), Menacing (x2), Harassment (x2), Tampering with Physical Evidence, Pointing Firearm at Another (x2), Unlawful Possession of a Firearm, Burglary I, Coercion, Recklessly Endangering Another Person (x2), Assault IV-Domestic Violence, Strangulation and Attempted Assault I. Bail was set at $356,500.

Rusty Glen Harley, 34, was also arrested and lodged at the Umatilla County Jail on charges of Tampering with Evidence, Hindering Prosecution, and Offensive Littering with a bail of $15,000.

Heppner students compete at OHSRA Finals

The Intermountain High School Rodeo Team secured its place in Oregon High School Rodeo at the state finals held June 17-19 in Prineville. Both boy's and girl's teams won dual titles for the third time in four years. The team is made up of students from Umatilla and Morrow counties. Representing Heppner at the finals were Taighler Dougherty, Willy Gentry and Devin Robinson.

Devin Robinson won an individual title in tie down roping and Hermiston's Jade Crossley won the barrel racing. Robinson won Round 1 in a time of 10.69 seconds and was second in Round 2 in 11.29 seconds to win the average. The top ten advanced to the final round where he placed third. Crossley of Hermiston and Koty Kamm of Stanfield took home all around titles. The top four in each event at the end of the season qualify for the 62nd National High School Finals which runs July 18-24 in Gillette, WY.

Taighler Dougherty came to the finals in strong positions in the standings; 5th in pole bending and 13th in barrel racing. Dougherty suffered a set back when her horse became ill shortly before her runs during the first performance. On a borrowed horse she had never ridden she finished in a 5th place tie with Crossley in poles and 13th in barrels. She was awarded the Ariat "Put Your Best Foot Forward" award for sportsmanship. Fifth-tenth places in each event qualify for the Silverstate High School Rodeo in Fallon, NV.

Willy Gentry finished 6th in the bull riding season standings qualifying for the Silverstate High School Rodeo. He won Round 1 of bull riding with a score of 74. Gentry earned the right to compete at the NRA Shotgun Trap Shooting Competition at the National Finals Rodeo after sharing a three way tie for first place at the OHSRA State Competition.

Pictured is Devin Robinson, winner of the Oregon High School Rodeo Association Tie Down Roping, with John Gould, manager Les Schwab Tire Center Heppner. The OHSRA award saddles were sponsored by Les Schwab Tire Center, Prineville, OR. *–Contributed Photo*

Fifteen Intermountain team members qualified for the Silverstate High School Rodeo. They are: Heppner's Gentry – Bull Riding, Dougherty – Poles, Robinson – Steer Wrestling and Team Roping; Hermiston's Dalton Massey, Brooke and Zane Davis, Trent Ezell, Fabian Scotto, Jade and Callahan Crossley, Mary Shae Hays, and Michael Pederson; and Pendleton's Pake Sorey, Cain Smith and Alex Simonton. Morrow County will also be represented by Boardman's, Whitley Reece, member of the Columbia Basin Team at the Silverstate Rodeo and Nick Armstrong, independent will compete in bull riding at the National High School Rodeo.

Featuring over 1500 contestants from 41 states, five Canadian Provinces and Australia, the National High School Finals is the world's largest rodeo. In addition to competing for over $200,000 in prizes, NHSFR contestants will also be vying for more than $350,000 in college scholarships and the chance to be named the National High School Rodeo National Champion. To earn this title, contestants must finish in the top 20 after two go-rounds of intense competition before advancing to Saturday night's final championship performance.

School district budget up over $3.2 million

The Morrow County School District 2010-11 budget is up over $3.2 million over last year's budget, according to the district's financial summary. Total requirements for the upcoming year are at $32,048,381 compared to $28,763,539 last year. Required resources, not including taxes, are up over $2.5 million to $25,173,098 for the upcoming year, compared to $22,619,906 last year. Property taxes required to balance the budget for 2010-11 are up over $731 thousand from $6,143,633 last year to $6,875,283 this year. The permanent tax rate is $4.0342 per thousand valuation, with the local option levy at $1 per thousand. The levy for payment of bonded debt is $2,207,666, up from $1,351,193.

Total instruction is up over $140 thousand, from $13,704,353 last year to $13,844,465 this year. Support services are up over $1.7 million from $9,039,375 to $10,774,786. Total enterprise and community services is up over $75 thousand, from $1,049,560 to $1,124,730 this year. Total other uses, including debt service and transfers, are up over $460 thousand from $3,618,251 to $4,078,400. Facilities acquisition was not funded this year or last. The contingency fund is up $220 thousand from $500,000 to $720,000. Other expenditures and requirements are up over $2.6 million from $27,911,539 to $30,542,381. Total unappropriated or ending fund balance is up over $650 thousand from $852,000 to $1,506,000, in the event that the district is required to make additional budget cuts.

All Saints Episcopal welcomes Anderson as new pastor

Katy Anderson recently preached her first service as the new full-time pastor at All Saints Episcopal Church.

Katy Anderson

Anderson, a fourth generation Lutheran pastor, always wanted to be a pastor. She served as the pastor of Valby Lutheran from October 2007 through November 2009. In 2008 she completed seminary at Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary in Berkeley where she enrolled in a special program for people wanting to be a pastor as a second career. She was ordained as a minister in December 2008.

Before becoming a full-time pastor, Anderson was a family law paralegal for 25 years. Before that she worked for seven years teaching in the Hong Kong International School.

Anderson's husband, Bruce, works in La Grande as a lawyer. They have three children: Adam and his wife Connie of Portland, Malia of Boston, MA, and Micah of Corvalis. They also have one grandson, Elliott of Portland.

Anderson pastors services at Hope Lutheran on the first and third Sundays of each month and at All Saints Episcopal on the second and fourth Sundays. On the fifth Sunday in August a service and picnic will be held at Heppner City Park.

Anderson can be reached at the shared ministry office at All Saints Episcopal Church Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Deadline for Open Class livestock registrations July 9

The deadline for Open Class livestock registrations is July 9 at 5 p.m. To reserve a pen for your animal call the fair office at 541-676-9474. This is for Open Class livestock animals only.

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