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Hermiston woman found dead on farm near Ione

On Monday, October 4, at approximafely 11:45 a.m. the Morrow County Sheriff's Office received a telephone call stating that a female body had been discovered at an unoccupied residence on the Crum property off Ella Road near Ione. The victim, who had been shot, was identified as 30 year old Jessica Rae Killian of Hermiston.

The Morrow/Umatilla County Major Crime Team is continuing the investigation and the death is being treated as suspicious pending the investigation. An autopsy has been performed by the Oregon State Medical Examiners Office and results are expected within the week.

Members of the Morrow/Umatilla County Major Crimes Team include personnel from the Morrow County Sheriff's Office, Pendleton Police Department, Umatilla County Sheriff's Office, Oregon State Police, Hermiston Police Department, Boardman Police Department, Umatilla Police Department, Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation Police Department, Morrow County District Attorney's Office, and the Criminal Justice Division of the Oregon Department of Justice.

HEPPNER 50¢
Gazette Times

VOL. 129 NO. 40 8 Pages Wednesday, October 6, 2010 Morrow County, Heppner, Oregon

Tovey returns to Eastern Oregon to serve as Morrow County Deputy District Attorney

By Autumn Morgan

The new deputy district attorney for Morrow County, Richard Tovey, is no stranger to Eastern Oregon.

Richard Tovey

Born in Blackfoot, ID, Tovey moved to Irrigon when he was four years old. He graduated from Riverside High School in 1992.

Tovey received bachelor of arts degrees in history and anthropology from Oregon State University. He later received his law degree from University of Montana School of Law and passed the state Bar exam in 2004.

Not long after graduating from law school, Tovey began working for the Coos County District Attorney's Office where he was deputy district attorney for 5½ years. During his time with Coos County he served as a felony prosecutor and narcotics team prosecutor.

Tovey originally wanted to be a history teacher and football coach, then wanted to be an archaeologist, and finally chose to go into law "and it suits me."

Tovey and his wife Debbie have an eight year old son and two daughters who are six and two years old.

The 35 year old Tovey, whose parents still live in Irrigon, had been searching for an opportunity to move back to Eastern Oregon when the job opened up with the Morrow County District Attorney's Office. "I love the area," he said. "I'm more than excited to be back where you can see more than four feet in front of you. I much prefer the sagebrush. I'm glad to be back."

Ione School Board learns of Community Health Improvement Partnership project

By April Sykes

Andrea Fletcher spoke on the Community Health Improvement Partnership at the Ione School Board meeting September 28.

Fletcher told the board that the project is designed to facilitate a partnership among the health providers, schools, law enforcement, county and other entities to determine the needs of the communities and "strengthen health outcomes."

The board also hear a bond capital project update which listed the projects that had been completed at the school and those that are still pending, such as the playground softfall project, the painting of the school exterior, and the asphalt repair and seal coat. Principal Jerry Archer reported that the school fire alarm project is on hold and voiced his concern that the high school and elementary schools are not on the same alarm system. He reported that the principal's house roof and woodshop roof upgrade had been awarded to Palmer Roofing.

The board asked for an update on the unencumbered dollars remaining from the capital improvement project, so that they know how much they have to address remaining projects.

Also at the meeting, the board heard an update on state school funding which is expected to be less because of a poor economy and the governor's subsequent across the board cuts. However, with 195 students attending school in the district, Chief Financial Officer Beth O'Hanlon told the board that the district should receive $136,000 more than the budget (if membership is maintained)."

In other business, the board:

-received the following financial report from O'Hanlon with the Umatilla-Morrow Education Service District: in August the district collected $118,774 in basic school support, $1,466 in property taxes and $2,073 from the Ione Education Foundation for PE equipment. The district had the following projected ending fund balance: $2,039,837 in revenues, $2,144,524 in projected expenditures for 2011 for $104,687 over budget, with a $534,828 beginning fund balance and a $430,141 projected ending fund balance for a $370,000 unappropriated ending fund balance.

-heard an update on the merger of the Umatilla-Morrow ESD

-heard a report on upcoming national education standards.

Annual Booster Club Steak Feed and Auction to be held

The annual Heppner Booster Club Steak Feed and Auction will be held on Saturday, October 9, at the Heppner Elks Lodge. Dinner will begin at 6 p.m. and the auction will begin at 8 p.m. The dinner price is $12 per person.

Proceeds raised at this event help fund annual scholarships, state levels of FBLA, district and state competitions, Night of Excellence ice cream feed, new snack shack at the football field, dinners for out-of-town teams, as well as a hospitality room for coaches and officials at tournaments.

Tickets can be purchased at Heppner TV and Willow Creek Realty. Raffle tickets are also available.

Anyone interested in donating or helping with the auction can contact Nancy Gorham at 541-701-4167 or Ron Bowman at 541-676-5035.

Pictured above are some of the items to be raffled or auctioned off during the annual Heppner Booster Club Auction to be held on Saturday evening. A partial list of raffle and auction items can be found on Page TWO *-Photo by Autumn Morgan*

G-T Trophy Corner

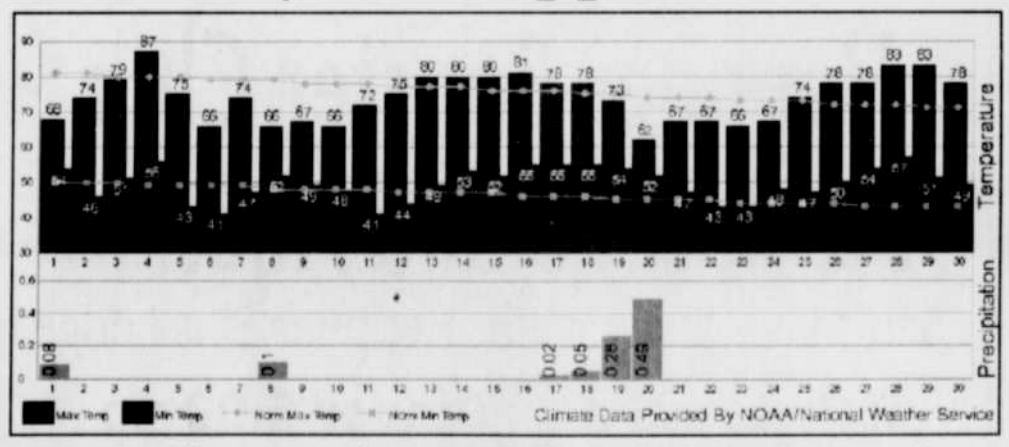
Tarin Troxell, 10, of Lexington shot his first buck on Saturday, October 2. Tarin was participating in the Youth Mentor Program. When he shot his buck he was with his dad Kevin Troxell, grandfather Tom Troxell, Uncle Roy, and cousin Shelby. *–Contributed Photo*

US Senate candidate Jim Huffman to visit Heppner

United States Senate candidate Jim Huffman will be in Heppner to meet and talk to the public this Friday, Oct. 8 at the Heppner city park at 11a.m. Huffman will take questions from the public. He is running against long time Democrat incumbent Ron Wyden.

Jim Huffman

NOAA issues monthly climate summary for Heppner



According to preliminary data received by NOAA's National Weather Service in Pendleton, temperatures at Heppner averaged slightly warmer than normal during the month of September.

The average temperature was 61.8 degrees which was 0.7 degrees above normal. High temperatures averaged 74.1 degrees, which was 1.8 degrees below normal. The highest was 87 degrees on the 4th. Low temperatures averaged 49.5 degrees, which was 3.2 degrees above normal. The lowest was 41 degrees, on the 6th.

Precipitation totaled 1.00 inches during September, which was 0.31 inches above normal. Measurable precipitation -at least .01 inch- was received on 6 days with the heaviest, 0.49 inches reported on the 20th.

Precipitation this year has reached 11.25 inches, which is 1.53 inches above normal. Since October, the water year precipitation at Heppner has been 14.39 inches, which is 0.88 inches above normal.

The outlook for October from NOAA's Climate Prediction Center calls for above normal temperatures and below normal precipitation. Normal highs for Heppner during October are 64.2 degrees and normal lows are 38.5 degrees. The 30 year normal precipitation is 1.12 inches.

The National Weather Service is an office of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, an agency of the U.S. Commerce Department.

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.

ALL NEWS AND ADVERTISEMENT DEADLINE:
MONDAYS AT 5:00 P.M.

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