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Gazette Times

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Ione Schools education staff to be honored at Crystal Apple Awards

Ione School District employees Barbara Collin and Allison Rudolf are among the 35 education staff to be honored at this year's Crystal Apple Awards in Pendleton.

Collin has been a kindergarten teacher in the Ione School District for eight years, while Rudolf has served as an academic advisor in the district for six years. The two women are among six Morrow County award recipients.

The Morrow County School District was also represented in the awards, with several winners from North Morrow schools. Those winners include: Kyle Carpenter, who has been a language arts teacher for three years at Riverside High School; Bob Carson, fourth grade teacher at Irrigon Elementary School for 33 years; Tammy Ellis, an ELL educational assistant at Riverside High School for 18 years and Judy Yoder, a 15-year educational assistant at Windy River Elementary School.

The Umatilla-Morrow Education Service District (UMESD) will host its 12th annual Crystal Apple "Excellence in Education" Awards on May 11, at which time it will honor the 35 winners of the prestigious award from 12 Umatilla and Morrow county school districts, as well as the UMESD.

Each year, the UMESD, along with its 12 component school districts in Umatilla and Morrow counties, honors teachers and education staff for their dedication and commitment to students, as well as their abilities to go above and beyond the call of duty in their schools. Nominations are submitted over a two-month period by administrators, coworkers, parents, students and community members. Winners are selected from these nominees by school district office administration. The Crystal Apple honorees will receive their apples during a special ceremony May 11 at the Pendleton Red Lion Ballroom.

Barbara Collin

"The Crystal Apple Awards are a way for the UMESD and our local school districts to show their appreciation for staff who have shined over the past year," said Casey White, Director of the Crystal Apple Awards. "Since our area has so many outstanding teachers and education staff, it is truly an honor for those who are selected to receive this award."

Allison Rudolph

In addition to the 35 Crystal Apple Award winners, Lifeways will receive the UMESD's Community Partner Award for its strong collaboration with the UMESD in the growth of the Umatilla County Wraparound Program. The winner of the Doug Flatt Memorial Leadership Award—which honors outstanding leadership by a school district administrator—also will be announced during the ceremony. The name of this individual will not be revealed until that time.

Lexington boy wins agricultural scholarship

Local student Brett Harrison of Lexington was one of five students in the region to receive The McGregor Company's Standing Tall for Northwest Agriculture Scholarship.

The McGregor Company program is directed toward supporting agriculture at the student level. Harrison, a senior at Heppner High School, received the award because he "showed great interest in the ag industry" as evident in his application and essay, according to a McGregor Company release.

Harrison plans to attend Washington State University and focus on Ag Economics. He and the other four recipients will each receive $1,000.

"We want to encourage young people to consider careers in our most important industry in the Pacific Northwest—agriculture," says company president Alex McGregor.

Brett Harrison *-Contributed photo*

NOAA issues climate summary for Heppner

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

The average temperature was 44.7 degrees, which was 4.5 degrees below normal. High temperatures averaged 55.1 degrees, which was 6.2 degrees below normal. The highest was 71 degrees on April 2. Low temperatures averaged 34.2 degrees, which was 2.9 degrees below normal. The lowest was 26 degrees, on April 8.

There were 11 days with the low temperature below 32 degrees.

Precipitation totaled 2.64 inches during April, which was 1.24 inches above normal. Measurable precipitation, at least .01 inch, was received on 13 days, with the heaviest, 0.54 inches, reported on the 26th.

Precipitation this year has reached 6.45 inches, which is 0.76 inches above normal. Since October, the water year precipitation at Heppner has been 12.37 inches, which is 2.89 inches above normal.

Snowfall totaled 1 inch, with at least 1 inch of snow reported on 1 day. The heaviest snowfall was 1 inch, reported on the 29th. The greatest depth of snow on the ground was 1 inch on the 29th.

The outlook for May from NOAA's Climate Prediction Center calls for below normal temperatures and above normal precipitation. Normal highs for Heppner rise from 66.8 degrees at the start of May to 70.8 degrees at the end of May. Normal lows rise from 41.2 degrees to 44.3.

May 15 deadline approaches for controlled hunt tags

Tag proposals for controlled hunts for the 2011 hunting season are now online. Hunters now have less than a week left to apply for one of these controlled hunts before the deadline on May 15 at 11:59 p.m.

Hunters can apply for controlled hunts online, at a license sales agent, at ODFW offices that sell licenses, or by mail or fax order using the application found on page 17 of the 2011 Oregon Big Game Regulations.

Most tag numbers are very similar to last year, though some are down slightly. Winter conditions were more severe during the 2010-11 winter. Overwinter survival for deer and elk herds was generally fair. Fawns and calves did enter the season with excellent body condition due to a wet summer and good forage conditions.

Election Day Tuesday

Election day is Tuesday, May 17. All ballots must be received by the Morrow County Clerk's Office by 8 pm. that day.

Ballots may be mailed or returned to the following drop sites:

Boardman: New Boardman City Hall, 200 City Center Circle, Boardman, OR 97818, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday/on election day, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Irrigon: Irrigon Annex-outside drop box, 205 N.E. 3rd St., Irrigon, OR 97844, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m./election day 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Ione: Bank of Eastern Oregon Ione Branch, 280 W. Main St., Ione, OR 97843, Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m./election day 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Heppner: Morrow County Courthouse, 100 S. Court St., Rm. 102, Heppner, OR 97836, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Outside drop-courthouse parking log/election day 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

For more information call the Morrow County Clerk, 541-676-5604/ 541-481

Graduation is coming! Heppner - June 4th • Ione - June 3rd
We will be publishing our graduation pages featuring graduating seniors. If you would like to be included on the pages please call Megan at 541-676-9228 or email megan@rapidserve.net. The cost to have your name or business name added to the page is $10

Phone scams targeting "family in trouble" on the rise

The Morrow County Sheriff's Office is reporting an increase in the phone scams that involve the ruse that a family member is injured or in trouble.

"Typically, the caller will start the call with a plea for help that they either wrecked their car, or were injured, or even arrested," says Undersheriff Steve Myren. "The caller will sound very convincing and, as a result, the intended victim(s) are more shaken about their relative being in trouble or injured than whether or not the phone call is legitimate."

Myren adds, "In a recent case, the tearful female voice claimed to be the daughter of the elderly victim and said that she had been arrested in Canada. The female caller told the victim that she needed bail money and to go to Wal-Mart to 'wire' the money to a law firm, which, of course, did not exist. The victim went so far as to wire nearly $1,000 to the suspect.

"Happily, due to a very lucky spelling error, the suspect could not obtain the wire transfer. When the suspect called the victim back to ask them to correct the mistake, an alert Wal-Mart employee questioned the circumstances and suggested that the victim try to call the daughter at her home to confirm the story. The daughter was found to be safe and sound in the Portland area and most assuredly NOT in Canada."

Investigating these cases and ultimately prosecuting them is difficult at best and, frequently, near to impossible. These and many other scams occur nearly daily all over the United States. The suspects use fake ID and disposable cell phone, and are usually long gone before the victim realizes what has happened.

The Morrow County Sheriff's Office encourages everyone to be very careful if they receive phone calls of this nature. Those receiving such calls should ask the caller specific questions that only their relative could answer, and then make separate confirming phone calls to check on the relative.

ODFW to kill two wolves in response to repeated livestock losses

The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) will kill two wolves from the Imnaha pack in response to repeated livestock losses caused by the pack.

Under Oregon Administrative Rules (OARs) associated with the state's Wolf Conservation and Management Plan, ODFW may use lethal control of wolves after confirming two depredations by wolves on livestock in the area. In this case, there were two previous livestock depredations by Imnaha wolves that were confirmed by ODFW within the last week. There were also two cows killed in February, both confirmed as wolf kills.

Lethal control is used only after non-lethal methods have been tried. Landowners in the area have used electrified fladry (flagged fencing known to deter wolves), removed bone piles that can attract wolves, and installed Radio Activated Guard (RAG) boxes that emit a sound when collared wolves draw near. ODFW has been tracking wolf location information received by radio and GPS collars and a range rider is monitoring wolves and protecting livestock in the area. Wolves have also been hazed away from livestock operations. Many landowners in the area have changed grazing practices to reduce the risk of depredation by wolves.

ODFW will target sub-adult wolves, not the breeding pair. ODFW will conduct the operation on private land with livestock operations, in an attempt to kill wolves that are showing an interest in livestock.

"Our ultimate goal is wolf conservation, but we need to respond when chronic livestock losses occur," said Craig Ely, ODFW NE region manager. "Wolves need to rely on their natural prey, not livestock."

Wolves from the Imnaha pack were also involved in livestock depredations last year that killed six domestic animals between May and June 2010.

Oregon currently has three wolf packs: the Imnaha (10 wolves at latest count), Wenaha (six wolves) and Walla Walla (three wolves). The Walla Walla pack is new and wildlife managers are still trying to determine their range, which could primarily be in Washington State.

More information about Oregon's wolves is available at http://www.dfw.state.or.us/wolves/.

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

Pest Control
We have Victor mouse traps

Morrow County Grain Growers
Lexington 989-8221 • 1-800-452-7396 For farm equipment, visit our web site at www.mcgg.net