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## Heppner Elementary, Heppner High administrators honored for excellence

By April Sykes

The Morrow County School District honored administrators Matt Combe of Heppner Elementary School and Daye Stone of Heppner High School, for achieving excellence at their schools at the regu-

lar meeting held June 13. Combe and Stone were each presented a plaque for their Exceptional School awards.

The district also honored Pat McNamee of Irrigon, who served 13 years on the school board, Craig Miles of Heppner, with eight years of service on the board, Daniel Dalto of Boardman, with four years on the board, and retiring administrators Superintendent Mark Burrows and Assistant Superintendent Phyllis Danielson.

New vice principal at Riverside High School, Marie Shimer, was introduced.

The board approved and adopted a \$29,587,303 budget for the 2011-12 fiscal year and imposed a permanent rate tax of \$4.0342 per thousand real market value and \$1 per thousand real market value for the local option levy.

In other business, the board:

-received the following enrollment report: A.C. Houghton Elementary, Irrigon (kindergarten through third grade)-255;

Heppner Elementary School (K-sixth)-189; Heppner High School (seventh-12<sup>th</sup>)-205; Irrigon Elementary School (fourth-sixth)-227; Irrigon High School (seventh-12<sup>th</sup>)-305; Riverside High School, Boardman (seventh-12<sup>th</sup>)-379; Sam Boardman Elementary (K-third)-319; Windy River Elementary (fourth-sixth)-217; Morrow Education Center-Morrow County School District students-61; Morrow Education Center (Umatilla School District)-24; MEC-lone-0; total-2,181.

-accepted the following resignations: Mari-bel Jimenez, Riverside High School counselor; Carolyn Rhinhart, Windy River Elementary special education; Joleen Odens, RHS assistant custodian; Stuart Dick, Irrigon Junior-Senior High School assistant girls' basketball coach; Chelsie Bonifer, Sam Boardman Elementary School education assistant.

-approved the following transfer: Sonia Sanchez, from "CDS" at Windy River Elementary and Sam Boardman Elementary to

RHS school counselor. -approved employment for: Sarah Poff, WRE and SBE music teacher; Kristin Anderson, RHS language arts teacher; Jolene Stensland, Heppner High School language arts teacher; Jessica Ramirez, Irrigon Junior-Senior High School middle school science and language arts teacher; Molly Blatz, IJSH science teacher; Pam Norton, Heppner Elementary School half-time Title I teacher.

-approved the following extra duty coaching contracts (Heppner only listed): Greg Grant-athletic director, head football coach, head golf coach; Les Payne-assistant football coach; Kevin Payne-assistant football coach; Jeremy Rosenbalm-assistant football coach, head boys' basketball coach; Pam Dowdy-head volleyball coach; Dieter Waite-assistant volleyball coach; Jeremy Wilson-assistant boys' basketball coach; Mark Lemmon-head wrestling coach; Jim Kindle-

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HEPPNER

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Gazette Times

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## Poison hemlock especially prevalent this summer

By Andrea Di Salvo

Morrow County residents may want to pay attention to some particularly poisonous plants this year.

Poison hemlock and water hemlock, both of which can be found throughout the state, are especially prevalent this summer. OSU Extension agronomist Larry Lutchter says the unusual growth is most likely caused by the excessive rain this spring.

According to Dave Pranger, Morrow County Public Works weed control supervisor, the hemlock seen in south Morrow County is predominately poison hemlock, which is the less toxic of the two species.

"I haven't seen any water hemlock," says Pranger. "If we have it, it would be very scattered."

Poison hemlock (*Conium maculatum*) is a member of the parsley family and is often mistaken for wild carrot or cow parsnip. It is a biennial that usually grows six to eight feet tall. It has extensive branches that are smooth, erect and solid with distinct ridges. It also has distinctive purple spots on the lower parts of



Poison hemlock plants like this one have been cropping up throughout Morrow County due to heavy spring rains. -Photo by Andrea Di Salvo

the stems.

Poison hemlock lives in lower elevations along roadsides, ditch and stream banks, creek beds, or anywhere there is enough moisture. While it's sometimes found in crops, it more commonly invades pasture areas, which can

become a problem for livestock growers as it crowds out less desirable foliage.

All parts of the plant are poisonous if eaten. According to information from the OSU Extension

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## Ione gears up for the red, white and blue



2010 Grand Marshal Betty Gray waves to the crowd during last year's Red, White and Blue parade. -Contributed photo

The city of Ione is getting ready for its annual 4<sup>th</sup> of July celebration with events beginning Friday, July 1.

This year's celebration kicks off the Friday before Independence Day. Events include a Bank of

Eastern Oregon customer appreciation barbecue, book sale, and a Texas hold 'em and cribbage tournament.

Saturday events are an all-school reunion, a production by the Missoula Children's Theatre and a wine and beer tasting with

music by Matt Howard.

On Sunday, participants can have breakfast in Paris, browse an art show, take part in a golf tournament, attend an interdenominational church service, or show off in the talent show.

The big day starts with a fireman's breakfast, 5K walk/run, various kids events and food vendors, Red, White and Blue parade and Cruisin' to the Blues car show, and the traditional 4<sup>th</sup> of July fireworks. One of the highlights of this year's event will also be a fly-over by the U.S. Navy.

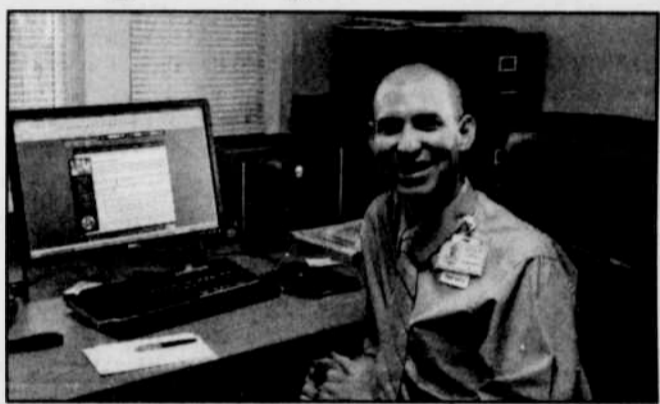
Ione's 4<sup>th</sup> of July celebration is sponsored in part by Morrow County Unified Recreation District and Wildhorse Casino. Look for a full schedule of events in next week's Gazette-Times.

## Blauer appointed examiner for national quality award

Michael Blauer, CEO of the Morrow County Health District, has been appointed by Dr. Patrick Gallagher, Director of the Commerce Department's National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), to the 2011 Board of Examiners for the Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award. The award, created by public law in 1987, is the highest level of national recognition for performance excellence that a U.S. organization can receive.

Blauer moved to Heppner from Colorado in 2009 when he took over the health district position from former CEO Victor Vander Does. He was raised on a farm near Burley, ID. Blauer has degrees in Spanish and business management, both from Idaho State University, and a master's degree in health services administration from the University of Michigan. He has traveled extensively, living in the Dominican Republic, Spain, and Mexico.

Blauer has worked as a legal and medical interpreter for the Idaho, Michi-



MCHD CEO Michael Blauer was recently appointed to the 2011 Board of Examiners for the Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award.

gan and Colorado court systems and hospitals, and as an administrative intern for St. Mary Mercy Hospital in Livonia, MI. He was also an administrative resident for the Poudre Valley Health System in Fort Collins, CO when one of its facilities, Medical Center of the Rockies, received the Malcolm Baldrige.

As an examiner, Blauer is responsible for reviewing and evaluating applications submitted for the award. The board is composed of approximately 500 leading experts selected from industry, professional and trade organizations, education and health care

organizations, and non-profits (including government).

Those selected meet the highest standards of qualification and peer recognition. All members of the board must take part in a preparation course based on the Baldrige criteria for performance excellence and the scoring and evaluation processes for the Baldrige Award.

The Baldrige Award may be given annually in each of six categories: manufacturing, service, small business, education, health care and nonprofit.

## City to keep list of at-risk water quality residents

If you have a health condition that puts you at increased risk from contaminated drinking water, the city of Heppner wants to hear from you.

City Manager Dave DeMayo said, following the

recent period when city water was contaminated and undrinkable, it was brought up that certain people in town have health issues that would put them at increased risk over other citizens.

If those people contact city hall, they will be put on a list. In the event of another water contamination issue, they will be personally notified by the city, DeMayo said.

## Get your articles in for special fair edition

If you have an event or activity going on during this year's Morrow County Fair and Rodeo, you will want to get an article into the Heppner Gazette's special Fair & Rodeo edition.

The Fair & Rodeo

is August 17-20, and the special edition will be published August 3. The deadline for news articles and photos is July 15. People may also want to publicize their event with an advertisement; the deadline for advertisements is July 22.

Submit your articles or advertisements by email to david@rapidserve.net, mail them to PO Box 337, Heppner, OR 97836 or drop them by our office at 188 W. Willow. Our fax number is 541-676-9211.

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