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Gazette Times

VOL. 131 N O. 40 10 Pages Wednesday, October 10, 2012 Morrow County, Heppner, Oregon

Morrow County man sentenced to 56 years for child sex abuse

District Attorney Justin Nelson announced last week that Scott William Foster, 48, received a prison sentence of a little more than 56 years after being convicted of sexually assaulting a child.

The Morrow County man was sentenced last Thursday, Oct. 4, by Circuit Court Judge Eva J. Temple to 56 years and three months in prison for the repeated sexual abuse of a minor child.

After hearing testimony over a three-day period, a Morrow County jury on Sept. 28 found the defendant guilty of Rape in the First Degree, Unlawful Sexual Penetration, two counts of Sodomy in the First Degree, and four counts of Sexual Abuse in the First Degree.

Due to the ages of the victim in this case, several of the charges are subject to Jessica's Law. Jessica's law was enacted in Oregon in 2006, and provides for a 25 year mandatory minimum sentence for adults convicted of raping, sodomizing or sexually penetrating a child under 12 years of age. Under Jessica's Law, the defendant faced a mandatory 25 years in prison each on the Rape, Unlawful Sexual Penetration, and Sodomy in the first degree counts. Under Ballot Measure 11, the minimum mandatory sentence on each charge of Sex Abuse in the First Degree is 75 months.

Scott William Foster

The defendant was represented by defense attorney Robert Klahn of Pendleton. Defense counsel argued that the court should sentence all counts concurrently, for a total sentence of 25 years in prison. The state argued that most of the sentences should be run consecutively, for a total sentence of 62.5 years in prison.

Judge Temple imposed a sentence of 56 years and 3 months in prison, finding that the defendant had committed multiple instances of criminal sex acts against the child victim. At sentencing, Judge Temple stated that because of the sexual abuse caused by the defendant, the victim will have damage the rest of her life, and that she will never be made whole.

The case was investigated by the Morrow County Sheriff's Office with the assistance of the Guardian Care Center in Pendleton.

"Child sexual abuse crimes are among the most devastating crimes that can occur in a community. Crimes like these inflict severe physical, emotional and psychological trauma on their victims. As Morrow County District Attorney, I am proud of the successful prosecution of this case that lead to the conviction," said Nelson. "Deputy District Attorney Richard Tovey did a impressive job prosecuting this case and representing the interests of Morrow County residents. I also appreciate the hard work of Morrow County Detective Karen Dike, who handled this case. Only by working together as a team are we able to prosecute these cases."

Hunters use $35 worth of water

Donation box collects $50

By David Sykes

Deer hunters using the city's water hose at Heritage Park used $35 worth of free water during the last month, the Heppner City Council was told Monday night. The city put a meter on the water faucet after a citizen came to the council in September complaining about hunters coming through town getting free water, which citizens have to pay for.

Public works director Chad Doherty said that, following last month's meeting and at the direction of the council, he put a meter on the faucet located at Heritage Park. Doherty said the hunters used 2,870 gallons of water, which, if the same amount were used by a citizen, would cost that household $35. The water station is made available to hunters as a way to show they are welcome in town. Hunters are an economic stimulus because they spend money at local businesses for food, fuel and other items. While figures on how much individual hunters spend in Heppner are not readily available, the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife estimates that deer hunting alone in just Eastern Oregon generates $22 million per year in economic activity.

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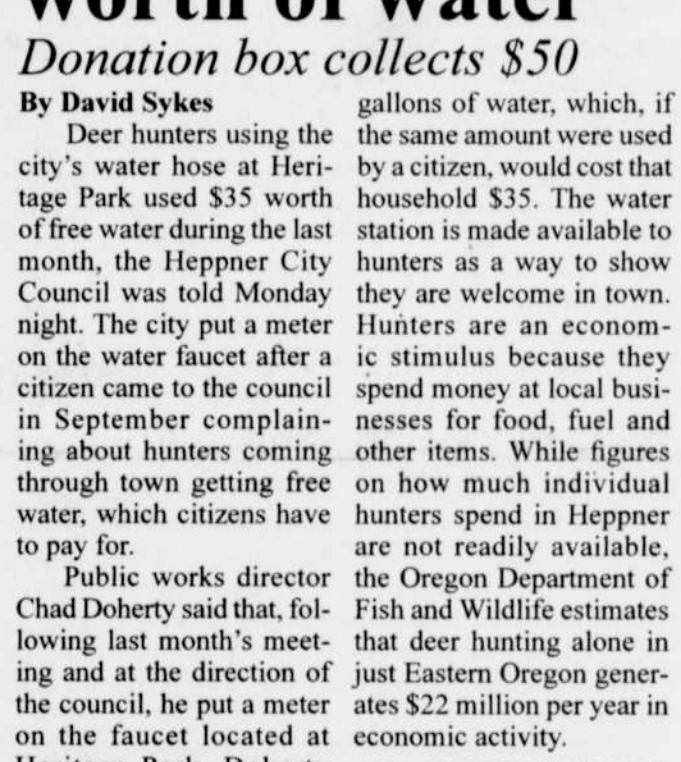
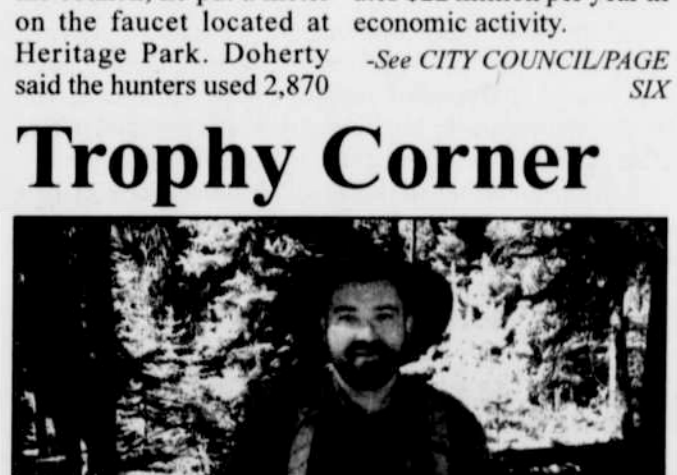
Trophy Corner





Top: Mike Gorman of Heppner took this 5 x 6, 29 1/2" buck Friday, Oct. 5, in the mountains above Heppner. He shot the buck "right in the boiler room" (a high shoulder shot where the heart and lungs are located). It is the largest buck Mike has ever taken. Bottom: Bryce Wilson (right), 9, and his brother, Trevor, 11, both of Hermiston, bagged their three-point bucks on Saturday, Oct. 6. This was Bryce's first buck, and Trevor's second year scoring a trophy. The boys were successful while hunting with their dad, Stacy Wilson of Hermiston, and Grandpa, Larry Runyon of Heppner. The boys were hunting under the Oregon mentored youth hunting program. *–Contributed photos*

Booster Club auction Sat.

A few of the many items donated for the Booster Club's auction are on display in the window of Holloman's in Heppner. Items up for auction this year range from pet food to getaway packages to jewelry…truly something for everyone who turns out to support the event. *–Photo by April Sykes*

The Heppner High School Booster Club has planned its annual steak dinner and auction for this Saturday, Oct. 13, at the Heppner Elks Club. A dinner of steak, potato, salad and dessert will be served starting at 6 p.m.; cost of dinner is $12. The auction will get underway at 8 p.m.

Proceeds from the event will go toward supporting athletic and academic programs at the school, in addition to funding four scholarships to graduating seniors each year.

Auction items this year include a Black Hills Gold heart-shaped ring donated

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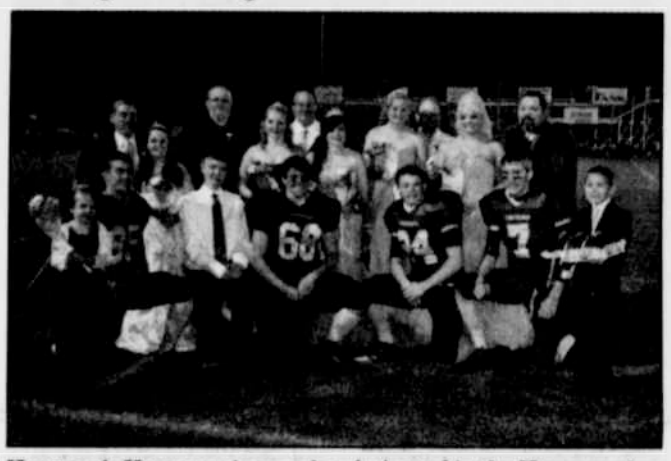
Homecoming royalty crowned



Heppner's Homecoming week culminated in the Homecoming game and dance last Friday, Oct. 5. The king and queen of the Homecoming court were crowned during the evening football game. Back (L-R): Fathers Will Lemmon, Jim Kindle, John Gould, Jess Osmin and Mike Bennett. Middle (L-R): Junior Princesses Samm Lemmon and Kayla Kindle, Senior Queen Tessa Gould, and Senior Princesses Emma Osmin and Baily Bennett. Front (L-R): Irelynn Kollman, Junior Princes JC Putman and Jeff Dowdy, Senior King Bryce Fowler, Senior Princes Aidan Wright and Stephen Thompson, and Landon Mitchel. *–Photo by Sandy Matthews*

Ione Seniors Tyrell Barnett and Lacey Thompson were crowned king and queen of a dazzling Cardinal Homecoming court last Friday night during the game against Sherman. (L-R) Freshman Prince Gorge Aguillar and Princess Jenna Taylor; Sophomore Prince Zac Irons and Princess Amanda Taylor; Seniors Queen Lacey Thompson and King Tyrell Barnett, and Prince Justin Estabrook and Princess Shadow Kendrick; Junior Princess Larissa Jones and Prince Bailey Haguewood. *–Photo by Paula Emmel*

General ballots go out next week

Voter registration deadline next Tuesday

Ballots have already been mailed to long-term absent and out-of-state voters for the November general election. All other ballots will go out Oct. 19-23. Remember, ballots are not forwarded.

For those who haven't yet registered, the voter registration deadline for Oregon is Oct. 16; registration must be postmarked Oct. 16 if sent through U.S. Mail, or received by 11:59 p.m. that night if registering online. Those who don't receive ballots but believe they should have should contact the Morrow County Clerk's office at 541-676-5604. Nov. 1 is the last day replacement ballots will be mailed.

As a reminder, Election Day is Tuesday, Nov. 6. All ballots are due by 8 p.m. that day. Ballots must be received, not simply postmarked, on that day. For voter convenience, 24-hour drop boxes are located throughout the county. Locations are as follows:

Heppner: Courthouse parking lot (24 hours) or the Morrow County Clerk's Office, Room 102 inside the courthouse. Open 8 a.m. to noon and 1-5 p.m., M-F and Election Day (Nov. 6) from 7 a.m. until 8 p.m.

Lexington: 365 West Hwy 74 (Public Works Parking lot). Turn off Hwy. 74 onto Tom Street and left into the public works parking lot. Open 24 hours.

Ione: Spring St. (in front of the turn to 3rd Street). Open 24 hours.

Boardman: NW Boardman Ave. (24 hours).

Irrigon: 205 NE 3rd St. (Irrigon Annex). Open 24 hours.

Election results will be certified by Dec. 6, 2012.

PERS problem conflict of interest, expert says

By David Sykes

An expert on the Oregon Public Employees Retirement System (PERS) says he has no problem with people receiving retirement benefits; it's just that everyone involved with regulating PERS is a member.

PERS expert Daniel Re was a featured speaker at a recent town hall meeting in Heppner, where he laid out the huge financial liability facing the government, how the system got this way, and what he proposes as a solution.

To illustrate the impact the liability will have on the public, Re says the PERS Board recently voted to increase PERS employer contributions by $900 mil-

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