

HEPPNER

50¢



Gazette Times

VOL. 131 N.O. 45 8 Pages Wednesday, November 7, 2012 Morrow County, Heppner, Oregon

Cellular store opens in Heppner

By Andrea Di Salvo

U.S. Cellular customers—and those considering becoming customers—will be happy to know the company now has a local presence.

The new cell phone office is owned by Devin Oil, doing business as Devin Mobile, and is located at the Devin Oil Bulk plant on Riverside Street in Heppner. It is one of two U.S. Cellular offices Devin Mobile has opened in the county this month; the other is located inside the Circle K in Irrigon. Devin Mobile also plans to open a U.S. Cellular office in Pendleton, OR after the first of the year.

The Heppner office opened for business Monday, Oct. 22, but both Morrow County offices will celebrate official grand openings on Nov. 16-17 with events in Heppner and



Lisa Patton, sales associate, mans the desk at the new U.S. Cellular store in Heppner. —Contributed photo

U.S. Cellular Regional Manager Shannon Denton, 46, says the store is full-service and will provide anything clients need, from opening accounts and making payments to buying phones and accessories.

"(We) offer all same services, all the same phones," said Denton. "It's very small, but they can do everything a regular store can do. We also have

a number of accessories that corporate stores can't sell."

She also said Heppner was a natural location for the store.

"It was convenient; U.S. Cellular is one of the prime companies used in Heppner and Morrow County, so we saw a need for it. If (customers) wanted to visit a store, they would

See CELL STORE/PAGE FIVE

Wastewater irrigation project not feasible

City says price tag, regulations too great

The City of Heppner has announced that it has abandoned efforts to replace the current wastewater treatment facility with wastewater irrigation.

Two months ago the City of Heppner began to research the possibility of using its wastewater for irrigation down Willow Creek. It has been determined that the storage and irrigation use of wastewater will not

be feasible. The city, working with engineering company Anderson Perry and Associates and meeting with the local farmers involved in the irrigation project, discovered several "insurmountable issues."

The initial hope was that this project would be less costly than an ammonia-reduction plant. Also, it was believed that it would

permanently remove the problem of releasing treated wastewater into Willow Creek, and thereby ease the stress of changing Department of Environmental Quality regulations. As an additional benefit, it would have provided additional water to area agriculture.

The City of Heppner has discovered that the use of the treated water is also heavily regulated. It cannot be used in the winter, and crops cannot easily be changed or rotated after they have been irrigated with the water. The city has the highest need for wastewater removal during the winter months and, because it cannot be distributed for at least five months of the year, a storage pond of a minimum of 17 acres would have to be built.

The fields are required to have at least a 75-foot buffer, and evaporation and precipitation are constantly monitored to determine if the use is irrigation or runoff.

These obstacles create a shocking price tag of nearly \$1.2 million. This —See CITY WASTEWATER/PAGE EIGHT

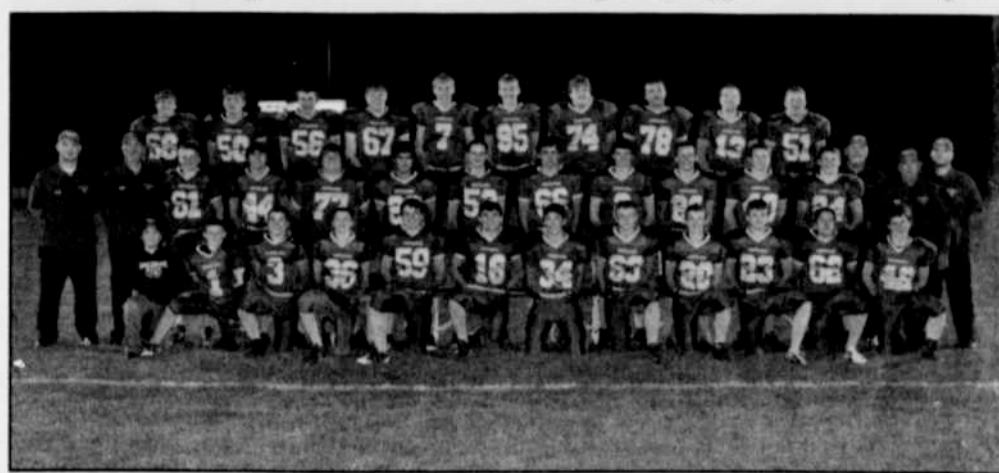
G-T Trophy Corner



Lance Lott of Bend, OR killed this five-point bull elk near Gilbert Creek on Oct. 26. Lott is the grandson of Sonny and Sharon Biddle, and Randy and Bernice Lott, all of Heppner. —Contributed photo

Mustangs take district championship

BMC champs head to state playoffs Saturday



The Mustang football team. Back (L-R): Bryce Fowler, Tim Nelson, Ross Cutsforth, Patrick Collins, Stephen Thompson, JC Putman, Ethan Ashbeck, John Prophet, Jaden Orr and Treston Maben. Middle (L-R): Coach Jeremy Rosenbalm, coach Greg Grant, Tom Gould, Jesse Corbin, Skyler Hawks, Earl Prophet, Jesse Boyd, Saul Erickson, Garrett Robinson, Brian Rill, C J Kindle, Aiden Wright, coach Les Payne, Jimmy Fichter and coach Kevin Payne. Front (L-R): Kellan Grant, Ryan Smith, Jared Lemmon, Duane Nicholas, Khayman Heard, Colby Hedman, Weston Putman, Jacob Moses, Kaden Clark, Jordan Bailey, Jose Andrade Guerra and Tommy Bredfield. —Photo by Sandy Matthews

—See DISTRICT CHAMPS/PAGE FIVE for full story.

Local man air-lifted after explosion

Now at home in good condition

By Andrea Di Salvo

Local man Troy Hyatt, 44, was air-lifted to Legacy Emanuel Hospital in Portland Sunday morning with severe injuries resulting from a welding accident.

According to Hyatt's wife, Leah Hyatt, the Heppner man was using a plasma cutter to cut the tops off 55-gallon drums in order to use them as burning barrels. He was working on Columbia Basin Electric Co-op property, but sources say he was working on his own drums on his own time, and not working for the company.

The contents of one of the drums were apparently flammable; an explosion occurred and Hyatt was knocked to the ground with extreme force. The explosion reportedly was heard throughout the northern part of Heppner. Acquaintances and friends rushed to the scene to give assistance,

and responders from Heppner ambulance, Heppner fire and the Morrow County Sheriff's Office responded to a 911 call regarding the accident.

Hyatt was rushed to Pioneer Memorial Hospital suffering "severe lacerations" to his face, a severely bruised back, a broken eye socket and a broken collarbone. Almost miraculously, he suffered no burns from the close-quarters explosion; all of his injuries apparently stemmed from the force of the explosion.

Staff at PMH treated and stabilized Hyatt, and he was then air-lifted to Emanuel for further treatment. According to Leah, the accident scalped his forehead and head an estimated four inches, from his eye backward on his head. He was in emergency surgery at Emanuel for around three and a half hours while

the surgeon there used micro-sutures on the laceration. Leah said the surgeon could not keep a count of stitches but said the number was "well above 200." The broken clavicle bone had also broken through the skin; doctors set the bone and stitched that wound, as well.

As severe as Hyatt's injuries were, his wife says they are thankful they weren't much worse.

"The way the laceration was on his eye," says Leah, "they (the doctors) didn't know how he didn't hit any main nerves."

Hyatt returned home Monday and, sources say, is well on the road to recovery. Leah says he will have to go back to the hospital to consult with the surgeons more next week, and he will be out of work on sick leave until the first of the year, but "his prognosis is good."

Man to be arraigned on sex abuse charges

Morrow County District Attorney Justin W. Nelson last week announced the arraignment of Patrick Alan Greer, 32, from Kent, WA, on five counts of sex crimes.

The charges, including two counts of sodomy in the first degree, a class A felony, and three counts of sexual abuse in the first degree, a class B felony, span from August 1, 2010 to February 28, 2011 and involve three separate minor victims, all under the age of 14.

Sixth Judicial District Circuit Court Judge Christopher Bruer arraigned the defendant on the charges. The defendant appeared via closed circuit television from the Umatilla County Jail. The court appointed Blue Mountain Defenders to represent the defendant. The state objected to release, and the court set bail at \$250,000. The court set a Pre-Trial Conference for

November 29, 2012 at 8:15 a.m. at the Morrow County Courthouse in Heppner.



Patrick Alan Greer

Every criminal defendant is considered innocent until proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt in a court of law.

The case is being investigated by the Morrow County Sheriff's Office. Anyone with any information should call the sheriff's office at 541-676-5317.

Police investigate shooting in Boardman

The Morrow/Umatilla County Major Crime Team responded to a shooting that occurred in the City of Boardman in the evening hours Saturday, Nov. 3. Just after 9 p.m., Morrow County Dispatch re-

ceived several 911 calls about a shooting that occurred at an apartment complex located at 111 N.W. Columbia Ave. in Boardman. Officers from the Boardman Police Department, along

with deputies from the Morrow County Sheriff's Office, arrived on scene to find the victim, a 30-year-old male identified as David Ramirez, being treated for apparent gunshot wounds.

The Morrow/Umatilla —See BOARDMAN SHOOTING/PAGE SIX



Alexandre "Alex" Perez Velasco

PORTER-CABLE 12V MAX COMPACT LITHIUM 2-TOOL KIT

- Drill/Driver
- Hex Impact Driver
- (2) 12V Lithium Ion batteries
- (1) 12V 30 min. charger
- (2) belt hooks
- (1) PH-2 screwdriving bit
- (1) double-ended screwdriving bit
- (1) storage bag.



ON SALE
\$159

Morrow County Grain Growers

Lexington 989-8221 • 1-800-452-7396 For farm equipment, visit our web site at www.mcgz.net