



VOL. 131 N.O. 46 8 Pages Wednesday, November 21, 2012 Morrow County, Heppner, Oregon

## Local man arraigned on multiple charges

Morrow County District Attorney Justin W. Nelson announced last Friday that Heppner man Jared Lee Wicklund, 36, was arraigned on two counts of Burglary in the First Degree, a Class A felony, and one count of Criminal Trespass in the First Degree, a Class A misdemeanor. The arraignment followed Wicklund's arrest the previous Sunday.

On the afternoon of Nov. 11, the Morrow County Sheriff's Office received

a report from a homeowner in Heppner who said she had caught someone in her home. The victim indicated that she caught the intruder before any items could be taken, and also indicated that she knew the burglar. Deputy Nathan Braun of the Morrow County Sheriff's Office investigated the case. Within two

hours, Deputy Braun had located and arrested Jared

Wicklund for the crimes.

The defendant was arraigned on the indictment on Nov. 16 by Judge Daniel Hill. Judge Hill set bail at \$20,000. Wicklund, who was represented by defense attorney Craig Childress, pleaded not guilty to the charges. The court set pre-trial conference hearing for Dec. 13, trial readiness for Dec. 27, and trial for Jan. 10, 2013.



Jared Lee Wicklund

## Governor seeks to reduce local school district role

Says state control of collective bargaining would be better financial decision

By April Sykes

Governor John Kitzhaber, through a recording of his speech to the Oregon School Board Association that was shown at the Morrow County School Board meeting Nov. 15 at Sam Boardman Elementary School, laid out his plan for education funding.

Kitzhaber said he would like to see the state take over collective bargaining from local school districts. He said that since Measure

5 gave school funding over to the state, it would be a better financial decision for the state to take over bargaining from local districts. He said there was "a disconnect" between bargaining at the local level and state funding, and recommended aligning state funding with local bargaining.

The governor said the state needs to address what diverts money from the school system, and suggested cuts in the amount

of money spent on public health care (Medicare and Medicaid) and public safety (law enforcement) to better fund education. Since both the Oregon House and the Oregon Senate have a Democrat majority, it is likely that Kitzhaber will get his way.

Kitzhaber also said that his administration will be working to resolve the issue of spiraling out-of-control-

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## City considers ordinance regulating sidewalk usage

New rules would require permission for fundraisers, bake sales and other activities held on city sidewalks

By David Sykes

A new ordinance under consideration by the Heppner City Council would

require anyone wishing to use downtown sidewalks to sell items or set up displays to seek permission

from the city beforehand. The ordinance would also cover sidewalk cafes, sandwich board advertising and booths during town-wide events such as the Morrow County Fair and Rodeo and the St. Patrick's Day Celebration.

Consideration of the ordinance began when council member Cody High, who works for Bucknum's Tavern on Main St., asked the council several months ago about setting up tables on the sidewalk in front of the tavern from which to serve food. The council felt at that time that there were inadequate rules to cover

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Wyatt Steagall, 12, of Lexington shot his first elk, a spike, in the Heppner unit this year. -Contributed photo

## Pioneer Memorial Hospice celebrates 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of helping

November is National Hospice Month



Pioneer Memorial Hospice celebrates its 10th anniversary this year. Pictured are some of the hospice staff (L-R): Robanai Disque, RN, Director; Mary Walker, Office Clerk; Lani Pryor, RN; Carmelo Di Salvo, Chaplin and Bereavement Coordinator; Sherry Ewing, Office Manager; and Ashleigh McIntosh, RN. -Photo by David Sykes

By David Sykes

Pioneer Memorial Hospice began as an organization 10 years ago when it received its Medicare certification in July of 2002, and has been helping terminally-ill patients and their families ever since, explains current director Robanai Disque from her office in the bottom floor of Pioneer Memorial Hospital in Heppner.

In conjunction with the

anniversary, November is National Hospice Month, and Disque sat down with the Gazette to talk about what hospice offers and how they have helped people over the years.

With a staff of four nurses, one part-time social worker, one part-time chaplain, two home-health aids, office staff and 30 volunteers, hospice offers service, support and care to individuals and their

families in the final stages of a terminal illness.

"We try and keep them as comfortable as possible through the dying process," says Disque, as she explains hospice's role during a very difficult time in a person's life. "Our motto is, 'We are going to give the best quality of life possible whether for two months or two years.'"

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## Courthouse shaken by bomb scare

By Andrea Di Salvo

The Morrow County Courthouse in Heppner received some unwanted excitement Monday afternoon in the form of a bomb threat that caused the evacuation of the building.

Morrow County Chief Deputy Clerk Kandy Boyd received the call around 2:41 p.m. Monday afternoon. Boyd said the caller was a male; his message was chilling.

"He said, 'There are several bombs located in several locations within the county courthouse and they are set to detonate in 25 minutes. This is not a bomb threat; this is not a bomb promise,'" Boyd recounted. "That was it. 'Click.'"

Boyd immediately went to Morrow County Court Executive Secretary/Personnel Director Karen

Wolff, who called 911 and proceeded to clear employees out of the building.

"We just got everybody out," said Wolff.

Though it was a situation no one in the Morrow County Courthouse had ever dealt with before, Wolff said the employees did an excellent job, staying calm and organized during the evacuation.

"Nobody got hysterical," she said.

"Kandy did an excellent job, getting all the facts and securing the elections office," she added, saying it was a big concern, since election results have not yet been certified.

Wolff said that, by the time employees cleared the building, first responders from the Morrow County Sheriff's Office and Heppner Volunteer Fire Department were arriving on the

scene. "When we cleared the building and came outside, Deputy Wilson was here and did an excellent job finding out the facts," said Wolff. "The fire department came and secured the building so no one could get close. They just did an excellent job."

Wolff said the experience was surreal, with the full impact not hitting home until everyone was safely out of the building.

"I didn't get worried or scared until everyone was out. Then it hit us," she said.

Unfortunately, this was not the first time Senior Deputy Paul Wilson had to deal with something like this; the MCSO deputy said he had to respond to a bomb scare this spring at the Irri-

-See BOMB SCARE/PAGE EIGHT

## New city council members take office in January

By David Sykes

Three new council members, a new mayor and a returning council member will be sworn into office at the Heppner City Council meeting in January.

Joe Perry will take the helm as Heppner's new mayor. He originally was running unopposed for the position but then beat out Alvin Liu, 438 to 139, in the election. Liu mounted an unsuccessful, last-minute write-in campaign for the mayor's position. Perry is replacing Les Paustian, who did not run for reelection.

Perry, 61, was born in Portland but lived all his life in Washington. He moved to Heppner a little more than two years ago to work for the Bank of Eastern Oregon as a commercial loan officer.

He holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in economics and a master's degree in agricultural economics from Washington State University. Prior government-related experience includes being a school board member in White Salmon, WA and

a member of the Morrow County Health District Board.



Skip Matthews

A widower, Perry has no family in the area, but has four children and 17 grandchildren in various states.

Skip Matthews will take the spot previously held by Cindi Doherty, who did not run for re-

election. Matthews, 56, is originally from the Willamette Valley but came to Eastern Oregon in 1979. He has made his home in Heppner since 1986. He holds a

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## G-T closed for Thanksgiving

The Heppner Gazette-Times will be closed in observance of the Thanksgiving Day holiday

Thursday, Nov. 22, and Friday, Nov. 23. Normal business hours will resume Monday, Nov. 26.

We wish everyone a safe and happy Thanksgiving weekend.

Nature's Nuts  
Premium Wild Bird Food  
25lb bag \$9.99



Morrow County Grain Growers Green Feed & Seed  
101 Linden Way, Heppner • 676-9422 • 989-8221 (MCGG main office)