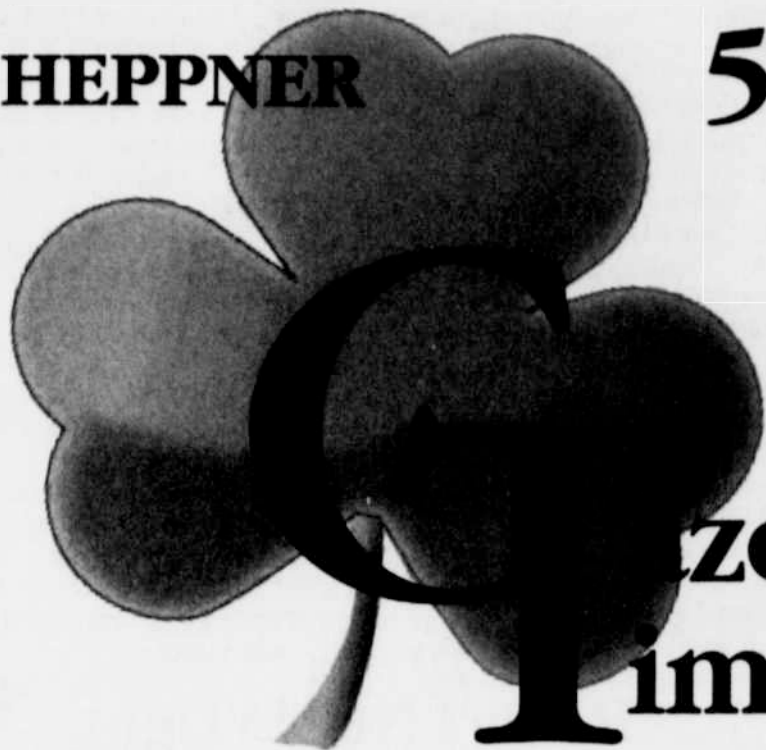


HEPPNER

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Gazette
Times

VOL. 132 N.O. 10 8 Pages Wednesday, March 6, 2013 Morrow County, Heppner, Oregon

McElligott named BMC coach of the year

By Andrea Di Salvo

Ione graduate Jake McElligott has been named 2012-2013 Blue Mountain Conference Boy's Basketball Coach of the Year for his role in leading the Irrigon Knights boys' basketball team to the BMC district championship.

McElligott, 32, is in his fourth year as head coach for the Irrigon Junior/Senior high School boys' basketball team. He was born and raised in Ione and graduated from Ione High School in 1998. After that, he attended Gonzaga University in Spokane, WA, obtaining his Bachelor of Arts degree in history and



Jake McElligott (fourth from right) with the Irrigon Knights basketball team. -Contributed photo

elementary education in 2003.

In 2004, he moved to Irrigon, where he started out as a sixth-grade teacher.

He transferred to the junior high/high school a couple

of years later, where he
-See COACH OF YEAR/
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Mulvihill tells board district 'very healthy'

By April Sykes

Ione School District Superintendent Mark Mulvihill told the board, at its regular Feb. 26 meeting that theirs was "a very healthy district and that reflects the quality of the classroom."

Mulvihill told the board to expect a very high level of rigor in state requirements for reading and writing in the near future. He remarked that third grade is the number one invest-

ment area because reading success in the third grade is "a huge indicator" of a child's future academic success. He also stressed that attendance is critical for students' academic achievement if they are to graduate in four years.

In other business at the meeting, the board:

-learned from Principal Jerry Archer that the school charter is in the process of being updated and a final

product will be presented at the March meeting.

-heard from Archer that three seniors currently have a four-point GPA. All three students have taken upper level and college classes. Archer said that all three students will achieve valedictorian status. The board is considering options for standardizing Latin honors. He said it was too late and

-See IONE SCHOOL BOARD/PAGE EIGHT

Nance fills in at G-T

Visitors to the Heppner Gazette office over the next couple of months will see a new face at the editor's desk. Editor Andrea Di Salvo will be gone for a couple of months to welcome a new addition to the Di Salvo family. Patty Nance, 56, a relative newcomer to Morrow County, will fill in for Di Salvo until her return, scheduled for May.



Patty Nance

Born in Ohio, Nance began her journalism career at age 25 in Chicago. She then relocated to Idaho in 1986. She began working for a small-town newspaper in south-central Idaho. She

and husband, Jerry, bought that paper and then purchased two more.

They owned the three newspapers for many years, as well as ranching near Shoshone, ID, where Jerry was county commissioner for 25 years. The couple moved to the Heppner area in 2011 and bought a ranch on Rhea Creek. They have four grown children, 14 grandchildren and are expecting their second grandchild.

Nance says she is looking forward to getting to know more members of the community.

Relay for Life to hold rally March 16

On Saturday, March 16, in Heppner, the American Cancer Society Relay For Life of Morrow County will officially get underway as event volunteers and participants gather at Farmer's Insurance Office, 133 N Main, Heppner, for a kickoff rally to launch their fundraising efforts for the year.

The rally will feature speakers from the area. This will also be the first opportunity to register a team or sign up as a corporate sponsor for the overnight event. Teams signing up during kickoff will pay \$35.

MoCo queen crowned



Morrow County Fair and Oregon Trail Pro Rodeo Queen Krysten Powell was crowned Saturday during a night of prime rib and hot-selling auction items. The queen says she is excited for St Patrick's celebration this month in Heppner. Pictured (L-R standing): Lindsay Soliz, Jefferson County Fair and Rodeo Queen; Sara Marcus, Miss Northwest Professional Rodeo Association; Lillian Sandford, Miss Oregon High School Rodeo; Desiree Robinson-Strange, Grant County Fair and Rodeo Queen; CheyAnne Maley, Grant County Fair and Rodeo Princess; and (seated front) Queen Krysten Powell. -Photo by David Sykes

Forest road closures spark controversy

By Andrea Di Salvo

Many of us feel annoyed when a road closure sends us on a detour away from a planned route. Now, many hunters in the Heppner Ranger District of the Umatilla National Forest (UNF) feel that forest road closures may detour their hunting plans, or even derail them altogether.

The roads in question are FSR 2202, below Sunflower Flat, and FSR 2120020 at Hog Creek near Tupper. Both roads are located in the Wall Creek watershed, which, according to District Ranger Todd Buchholz, is identified as a priority watershed at the national level.

Buchholz explained that the Forest Service districts conduct environmental analysis each year, taking into account areas that



Road closures on the Umatilla National Forest have sparked controversy as hunters express concern over the loss of forest access.

higher-ups have designated as environmental priorities. Then, local rangers like himself determine what needs to be done to protect priority areas.

"We do analysis at the local level to see what needs to happen at the local level," he said, adding that strategies could include tree

planting, fencing or introducing fire to the terrain, among other things. Part of the environmental analysis, he said, is a road analysis. Roads, he said, are major contributors to sediment in the Wall Creek watershed.

One of the people up-
-See ROAD CLOSURES/
PAGE SIX

Filing deadline March 21 for May election

Interested in becoming more involved in the area? Several boards and districts will hold elections on May 21.

They include: Heppner Rural Fire Protection District, three directors with four year terms, Ione Rural Fire Protection District, three directors with four year terms; Boardman Rural Fire Protection District, three directors with four year terms and one

director with two year term; Irrigon Rural Fire Protection District, positions 3, 4 and 5 with four year terms; Morrow County Unified Recreation District, Zone 1 and 2, with four year terms; Ione Library District, three directors with four year terms; Oregon Trail Library District, positions 3, 4 and 5 with four year terms; Port of Morrow, positions 1, 2 and 3 with four year terms; Heppner Cemetery Main-

tenance District, two directors with four year terms; Ione Lexington Cemetery District one director at large with four year term; Boardman Cemetery District, two directors at large with four year terms; Irrigon Cemetery Maintenance District. One director at large with four year term; Willow Creek Park District, two directors at large with four

-See ELECTION/PAGE FIVE

Committee will talk statue, options

The Heppner Beautification Committee will meet Thursday, March 14, at Heppner City Hall. A discussion will be held about the proposed Heritage Park statue and other options concerning the space. The meeting begins at 8 a.m. and is open to the public.

MS awareness week

Heppner Mayor Joe Perry has issued a proclamation designating the week of March 11 through 17, 2013, as Multiple Sclerosis Awareness Week.

This proclamation kicks off the annual WALK MS fundraiser, which will be held in Heppner on April 20. For questions and additional information, contact Dana Voelker, 503-445-8538, or dana.voelker@nmss.org.

Daylight Savings Time begins

Daylight Savings Time will begin Sunday, March

10. The Gazette-Times reminds everyone to "spring

forward" and turn your clocks forward one hour.

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