

HEPPNER

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Gazette
Times

VOL. 132 N.O. 22 12 Pages Wednesday, May 22, 2013 Morrow County, Heppner, Oregon

Indian memorial initiative withdrawn

Heppner citizen David DeMayo has withdrawn his request to have a citizens' initiative placed on the ballot for approval to have a Native American memorial placed in Heritage Plaza park in Heppner.

DeMayo said he had consulted with an attorney

and was advised that the request was an "administrative" request and therefore not valid under Oregon law. Initiatives may only deal with "legislative" decisions, the law says.

City Manager Kim Cutsforth had come to the same conclusion last week,

and therefore had denied DeMayo's request to put the matter before voters.

DeMayo said he was not sure if he would pursue the matter further.

"I am going to fall back and regroup," he told the Gazette.

Car ends up in Willow Creek



A vehicle ended up in Willow Creek after striking a travel trailer on Gale Street in Heppner around 11 a.m. Monday.

According to Morrow County Sheriff's Sergeant Randy Rayburn, the accident was caused by a medical problem. He said the driver of the vehicle, an "elderly gentleman," said

he blacked out. Rayburn said the vehicle struck the trailer, traveled down Gale Street, near Water Street, and luckily missed a power pole before landing in the creek.

The driver of the vehicle was transported to Pioneer Memorial Hospital in Heppner.

Local girls to play basketball for Mt. Hood



Alana Wilson of Heppner (left) and Shadow Kendrick of Lone confer with each other as they sign letters of intent last Friday to attend Mt. Hood Community College in Gresham, OR. The girls will each receive financial assistance in exchange for playing basketball for the MHCC Saints. -Photo by April Sykes

G-T closed Memorial Day

The Heppner Gazette-Times office will be closed Memorial Day, May

27 for the holiday. All news and ad deadlines will be Friday, May 24, by 5 p.m.

The newspaper office will reopen on Tuesday, May 28.

ALL NEWS AND ADVERTISEMENT DEADLINE:
MONDAYS AT 5:00 P.M.

Mustang softball swings for state champ double-header



Members of the Mustang softball team, 2013 Special District 5 champions. The girls begin their run for the state title Wednesday in Heppner. -Photo by Sandy Matthews

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Enterprise Zone to develop list of charities

New businesses will be encouraged to give

By David Sykes

New businesses locating in the recently formed Columbia River Enterprise Zone (CREZ) will be provided with a list of local charitable organizations to which they can donate money, and earn credit on fees paid to the Zone, the board of directors decided at a meeting Monday.

Under negotiated agreements between the CREZ and new businesses locating at the Port of Morrow, fees are paid instead

of property taxes. As part of these agreements, businesses sometimes choose to donate money to charitable organizations to become more involved with the local community. Under these agreements those payments, or "buy backs" can be deducted from their negotiated fees owed to CREZ.

Monday, the CREZ board of directors discussed ways to get more local organizations involved in receiving those donations,

and help new businesses make choices on where to give their donations. Most businesses want to give money to groups organized as nonprofits, which allows them to claim those donations on taxes.

As part of the effort, CREZ agreed to reach out and develop a list of county-wide charitable organizations that would be suggested to new businesses locating here as possible

-See ENTERPRISE ZONE/ PAGE FIVE

Health district under new leadership

By Andrea Di Salvo

The Morrow County Health District has a new leader at the helm.

Daniel Grigg, 48, stepped into his role as MCHD Administrator/Chief Executive Officer last Wednesday, May 15. He comes here from Salem Hospital in Salem, OR, where he spent the last eight years.

While not a native of Eastern Oregon, Grigg has area roots that go to childhood and beyond. Born in Boise, ID, his family lived there through part of his grade-school years before

moving to Ontario, OR and then Springfield, OR. When he was in fifth grade, they moved to Green River, WY, where he lived until he graduated from high school in 1982.

After high school, he worked in construction for a year before going on a Church of Latter Day Saints mission trip to Spain. He lived in Spain for a couple of years before returning to the U.S. to attend Brigham Young University (BYU) in Utah. He graduated from there in 1989 with a Bachelor of Science degree in human resource management.

From there, he pursued a graduate degree at Arizona State University, receiving a Master of Health Services Administration in 1991. While in Arizona, he also met and married his wife, Andrea.

After receiving his master's degree, he was offered a one-year fellowship by Holy Cross Health System. Though the Catholic health system was based in Indiana, it had hospitals all over the country, and Grigg ended



Daniel Grigg, new MCHD Administrator/CEO

up at St. Agnes, a 320-bed hospital in Fresno, CA. When his fellowship ended, St. Agnes hired him as quality director. He remained there, in one capacity or another, for 14 years. He was then hired by Salem Hospital, where he remained for the next eight years, first working as quality director

for six years and then with Willamette Health Partners directing and managing

-See NEW MCHD CEO/ PAGE FOUR

County court declares water emergency at fairgrounds

Last week, the Morrow County Court declared an Emergency Utility Situation at the Morrow County Fairgrounds. The declaration was thought to be in the best interests of public safety after it was determined that the aging water system at the fairgrounds was leaking large amounts of water. The county court concluded that, due to the excessive amount of water running through the meter and the resulting cost of this water, it was imperative to correct the issue immediately.

-See FAIRGROUNDS WATER/PAGE NINE



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