

HEPPNER

50¢



VOL. 132 N.O. 23 10 Pages Wednesday, May 29, 2013 Morrow County, Heppner, Oregon

Ione principal to retire

By Andrea Di Salvo

Jerry Archer, K-12 principal at Ione Community School, will retire—again—at the end of this school year.

This is his second attempt at retirement; Archer, who retired from the Pendleton School District in 2009, came to the Ione School District three years ago after deciding he wasn't quite ready to hang up his hat. Officially, he says his last day of work is "a good question"; Archer says he will have exceeded the number of days in his contract by the time he finishes, but adds, "You do what you have to do." Realistically, he says, his last day of work will be June 25 or 26.

Archer started life in Klamath Falls, OR, but says his family moved a lot while he was growing up. He attended school in 10 different Oregon school districts before graduating from Cascade High School, a school that served seven rural communities outside of Salem, OR. He then attended Oregon College of Education (now Western Oregon University) in Monmouth, OR. He graduated with his Bachelor of Science degree in elementary education in 1975.

He next went to work in the Klamath Falls School District in Klamath Falls, OR, teaching there for nine years, until 1984. While

there, he also attended the University of Oregon, where he obtained his Master of Education degree in curriculum and instruction in 1980. In 1983, he finished his certification work for a K-12 principal standard administrative certificate, which is necessary to work in school administration in Oregon.

From 1984-1988, Archer worked for the Riddle School District in Riddle, OR in an administrative capacity. Then, in 1988, he moved to Pendleton. Over the next 21 years, he spent time at Sherwood, Hawthorne and McKay schools as principal. After 21 years in Pendleton, he was ready to retire...he thought.

"I decided I missed kids too much and wasn't actually ready to retire," he says. "This (Ione) opportunity came up. I interviewed for it and was fortunate enough to get it, and have had a great three years here. It's one of the highlights of my career."

Now Archer feels it's time to give retirement a second chance. He says home improvement projects are high on his retirement list...he and his wife, Linda, still own their home in Pendleton. After three years of low maintenance as they

lived in Ione, projects have been stacking up. Since both of their children live in the Boise, ID area, Archer says they will face the decision of whether to stay in Pendleton or move closer to their kids. Antiquing has also been a long-time hobby, and he says it time to refinish some of that old furniture.



Jerry Archer

"And, of course, a little golf, a little fishing, things like that we'll find time for as well," he adds.

As for his retirement, Archer admits to mixed feelings.

"I'm excited about and ready to give retirement a second chance but I'm going to totally miss the staff and students and community here," says Archer. "The kids are what brought me in, so they're probably what I'm going to miss the most."

"This community is the most supportive community I've ever worked in," he adds. "I have been totally impressed with the dedication of the staff; it's been a great staff to work with. Our board and superintendent are both the most visionary leadership team I've had the opportunity to work with, and that's made it really fun for me."

County deputies involved in car chase, foot pursuit

On the morning of May 15, Marcario Salas Montoya called the Morrow County Sheriff's Office 911 Center with something interesting to say...Montoya had just seen his vehicle, which had been stolen, on Highway 730 near Irrigon.

Montoya had followed the vehicle, and reported he had last seen it going north on Power Pole Rd. Morrow County Sheriff Ken Matlack located the vehicle on Power Pole Rd. With emergency lights flashing, Matlack instructed the suspect to stop. That's when the suspect took off. Deputy Colleen Neubert and

Deputy John Bowles were each nearby and moved to intercept.

The suspect, later identified as 20-year-old Zachery Lawrence Bartz, drove through a farmer's field, destroying approximately 20 feet of wood fencing. Bartz then drove over a six-inch diameter, seven-foot tall steel pipe used as a fence post. The vehicle received substantial damage, according to police reports, and the steel pipe was lodged under the car. Bartz wasn't done,

though; he drove approximately 120 feet through the farmer's field and then drove through a large metal gate belonging to the same farmer.

Bowles was now behind the subject, with Neubert directly behind him. The stolen vehicle was leaking fluid and the steel pipe was throwing a trail of sparks under the vehicle.

Bartz continued northbound on West 4th Road, driving recklessly and

—See CAR CHASE/PAGE SIX



Zachery Lawrence Bartz

Fallen heroes honored at Heppner cemetery



American Legion Auxiliary member Evelyn Sweek distributes flags at the Heppner Masonic Cemetery last Thursday. Sweek was one of several volunteers out getting the cemetery ready for the Memorial Day holiday. —Photo by David Sykes

After 70 years, veteran gets high school diploma

By David Sykes

It took a while but Calvin Cox, 87, finally got his Heppner High School diploma last week.

It was the middle of World War II and Cox was 17 when he left Heppner High, prior to graduation, to join the Army Air Corps. He subsequently spent 26 years on active duty, and never did receive his diploma. But last Tuesday, Heppner High Principal Matt Combe took care of that when, at an assembly in front of the whole school, he presented Cox, now from Box Elder, SD, with his high school diploma.

On receiving the document, Cox urged students to get their diplomas and to study hard, especially math and science.

"The world is changing and you need to keep up," he told the assembled student body.

As part of his military



Calvin Cox receives his high school diploma from Heppner High School principal Matt Combe. —Photo by David Sykes

career, Cox was at one point stationed at Roswell, NM, the city made famous by a UFO incident in 1947. Cox said he helped guard the building on the military base where the material from the crash was kept.

Later he met and married his wife, Constance, in Canada; Constance was from England and in the Royal Air Force.

He also at one point flew on the B-29 bomber the Enola Gay (although not on the actual Japanese mission), which later dropped the atomic bomb "Little Boy" on Hiroshima, Japan. Cox was a flying photographer in the Air Corps.

A large group of Cox's relatives were on hand last Tuesday when he received his diploma.

Blockbuster author takes aim at fiction

By Andrea Di Salvo

Heppner native Scott McEwen is at it again.

McEwen, who gained a measure of fame as the coauthor of "American Sniper: The Autobiography of the Most Lethal Sniper in U.S. Military History," is back to writing, churning out what already promises to be another sensation. This time, though, he's using what he knows to delve into the world of fiction.

Scott McEwen's name is familiar to many in the Heppner area because 51-year-old McEwen was born and raised here. He was a local Eagle Scout and grew up hiking and fishing in the area, as well as hunting with his 300 Winchester. He graduated from Heppner High School in 1979 and then went on to attend Oregon State University and McGeorge School of Law at University of the Pacific, obtaining his law degree in 1987. He now lives in San Diego, CA and does corporate defense and litigation all over the U.S. He still has local ties; his brother, Bob-

bie McEwen, is a familiar face around town.

McEwen's latest project is the novel "Sniper Elite: One Way Trip." According to the jacket description, "In direct defiance of the president's orders, Navy Master Chief Gil

Shannon, one of America's most lethal SEAL snipers, launches a bold mission comprised of SEAL Team Six and Delta Force fighters to free a captured female

—See MCEWEN AUTHORS SNIPER NOVEL/PAGE FOUR

Mustangs mop up Heppner



Lilly Sandford, Kenzi Hughes and Maci Gibbs do some lot cleanup behind St. Patrick's Senior Center during Heppner High School's Mustang Mop-Up day, May 22. —Photo by Megan Fetter

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



Tru-Chek® rain gauge

The world's best rain gauge on sale
Made in the USA
Quality since 1875

\$9.99

Morrow County Grain Growers

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