

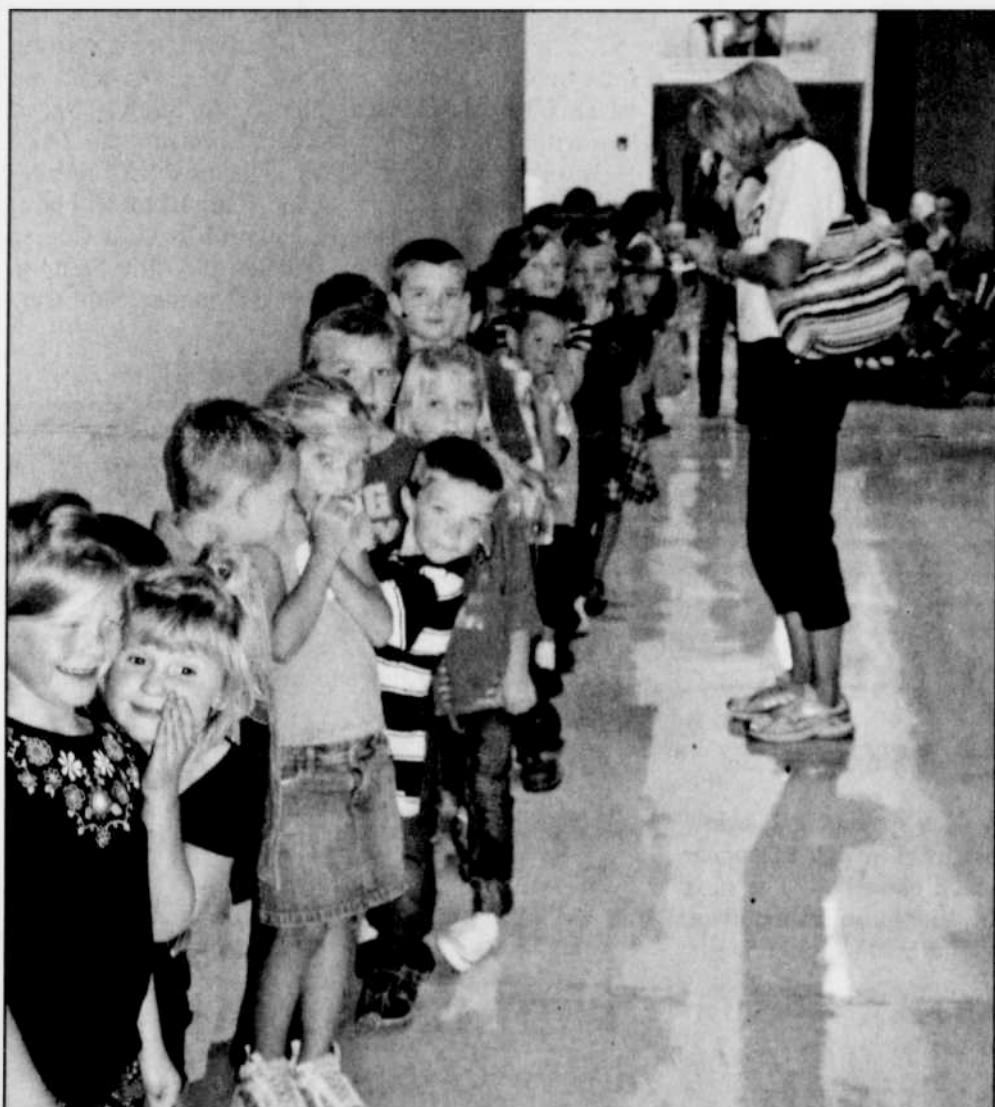
HEPPNER

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Gazette Times

VOL. 132 N.O. 34 8 Pages Wednesday, August 21, 2013 Morrow County, Heppner, Oregon

It's back to school Monday for Morrow County



Students line up after leaving lunch at Heppner Elementary School. -File photo

It's time to go back to school; Heppner Elementary School, Heppner High School and Lone Community School will all begin classes next Monday, Aug. 26.

Health advisory lifted for Willow Creek Reservoir

A health advisory for Willow Creek Reservoir was lifted last week by the Oregon Health Authority. The advisory was issued June 18 because of high levels of blue-green algae in the lake.

Water monitoring has confirmed the blue-green algae cells present in the lake are below health advisory guideline values for the cyanotoxins they can produce. Although a bloom is still present, the species

of blue-green algae in the bloom does not produce toxins.

Oregon health officials advise people who use Oregon water bodies for recreation to always be alert to signs of algae blooms. People and their pets should avoid contact if the water is foamy, scummy, thick like paint, pea-green, blue-green or brownish red in color, or if a mat of algae is visible in the water.

For local information,

contact U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Willow Creek Natural Resource Management office at 541-676-9009. For health information, contact the Harmful Algae Bloom Surveillance (HABS) program at 971-673-0400.

To find out if an advisory has been issued or lifted for a specific water body, visit www.healthoregon.org/hab call toll-free at 1-877-290-6767.

County volunteers plan to build Boardman pavilion

Morrow County participants of the Ford Institute Leadership Program have selected to build a pavilion on a popular Boardman beach.

The Ford Leadership Program's is based on the belief that vital rural communities develop

from a broad base of knowledgeable, skilled and motivated leaders. Morrow County's cohort has more than 15 individuals from Boardman, Irrigon and Heppner.

The Ford Leadership Program allows participants to select a project to benefit

their community. In April, the group elected to construct a pavilion and two shade pergolas in Boardman at Marker 40, a popular sandy beach located on the Columbia River in the Port of Morrow. The beach

-See BOARDMAN PAVILION/PAGE TWO

Governor declares county in 'drought emergency'



The wheat crop was one area affected by low moisture and high temperatures this year. The dry conditions have made Morrow County one of several counties in Oregon to be declared in a state of drought emergency. -File photo

Oregon governor John Kitzhaber last week signed an executive order declaring Morrow County in a "state of drought emergency" due to "drought and low water conditions."

In executive order 13-10, which Kitzhaber signed last Wednesday, the governor said he found that "...ongoing drought and low water conditions and weather patterns have caused local adverse natural and economic disaster conditions in Morrow County. Projected climatic patterns are not expected to significantly alleviate these conditions and drought conditions will continue. These conditions are expected to have significant economic impact, on Morrow County's agricultural, livestock, and

natural resources."

In the order, Kitzhaber added that current conditions are being addressed by state agencies, including the Department of Agriculture, the Department of Water Resources, and Oregon Office of Emergency Management.

The directives in the governor's order were as follows:

"1. The Oregon Department of Agriculture is directed to coordinate and provide assistance in seeking federal resources available to mitigate conditions and affect agricultural recovery in Morrow County.

"2. The Department of Water Resources is directed to coordinate and provide assistance and regulation in Morrow County as it

determines is necessary in accordance with ORS 536.700 to 536.784.

"3. The Office of Emergency Management is directed to coordinate and assist as needed with assessment and mitigation activities to address current and projected conditions in Morrow County.

"4. All other departments are directed to coordinate with the above agencies and to provide appropriate state resources as determined essential to assist affected political subdivisions in Morrow County."

Morrow County is one of several states for which Kitzhaber has declared drought states of emergency this year. Others include Klamath, Baker, Gilliam and Malheur.

Lexington native returns to help steer Irrigon school

By Andrea Di Salvo

A Lexington native is back on—or at least near—her old stomping ground as assistant principal of Irrigon Jr./Sr. High School.

Tina Joyce, 35, is the daughter of Gary and Marcia Kemp. She was born and raised in the Lexington area, living much of her life in a house at North Lex.

After graduating from Heppner High School in 1996, she attended Eastern Oregon University in La Grande, graduating with a Bachelor of Science degree in multidisciplinary studies in 2000. From there, she took a job in Ontario, OR,

working as eighth-grade math teacher and Ontario Middle School math coach before being promoted to Ontario School District math coach. She was later made instructional coach and Dean of Students at Ontario Middle School; she also served as summer school principal there for three years.

While working, she was also busy furthering her education. She took classes from Walden University in Minnesota, graduating with a master's degree in curriculum

instruction and assessment in 2005. She then went on to obtain a second master's degree in 2010, this time in educational leadership, from Northwest Nazarene University in Nampa, ID.

She wasn't on her own all that time, though. She met her husband, Philip

Joyce, in college at EOU. They were married in October of 2000. Philip also works in the north end, as a sixth-grade teacher at Windy River Elementary in Boardman. Their



Tina Joyce

-See IRRIGON ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL/PAGE SIX

City council hears several reports at Aug. 12 meeting

At the Aug. 12 meeting of the Heppner City Council, Bret Moore of Anderson-Perry Associates, La Grande, presented an update on the Wastewater Facility Plan. Several years ago the council requested an update to the Wastewater Facilities Plan to evaluate the needs and existing condition of the city's wastewater treatment facility. Grant funds were awarded from the Oregon Business Development Department (OBDD). The study has taken more time since the Oregon state rules have changed during

process. The plan has been submitted to the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) for review.

DEQ is requesting a plan from the city for ammonia abatement on Willow Creek and has provided a limit on the amount of ammonia the city is allowed to dump in the creek, but now has informed Anderson-Perry that a new temperature limit may be pending. DEQ is now attempting to determine how to provide a solid limit.

DEQ is holding a meeting in La Grande to

give clear information, and although it does not have all the answers, the final document will allow the city to plan ahead for the future of its waste treatment facility.

The pumps at the lift station at the plant are the first items that need to be addressed once the plan is completed.

In other business, Fire Chief Rusty Estes reported the following calls for the month of July:

-One instance of securing the landing zone
-See HEPPNER CITY COUNCIL/PAGE FOUR

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