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HEPPNER

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# Gazette Times

VOL. 132 N.O. 39 10 Pages Wednesday, October 2, 2013 Morrow County, Heppner, Oregon

## New physician expected in March; health district receives good audit report

By April Sykes

Morrow County Health District CEO Dan Grigg told the board at their regular meeting in Boardman Monday night that Dr. Dan Hambleton has received his Oregon license and the district anticipates him coming to Heppner around March, which would give him sufficient time to relocate. He said that they are moving forward with the credentialing process.

Grigg also told the board that he is working on bringing a group of orthopedic surgeons to Heppner one to two days a month.

"I'm excited about extending the services offered to patients in the south part of Morrow County," commented

Grigg.

The board approved a three-year contract for John Adair, a physician's assistant who works at the Irrigon Medical Clinic, and a six-month contract for Dr. Ed Berretta, who works for the district on a part-time basis.

Also at the meeting, Grigg voiced concern that one of the Morrow County School District insurance plans through Moda Health requires that school district employees use a clinic that is certified as a "Patient Centered Primary Care Home." This option would leave the health district out in the cold, considering that the only PCPCH clinic in Morrow County is Columbia River Health Services in Boardman. This

particular option is called "Moda Home."

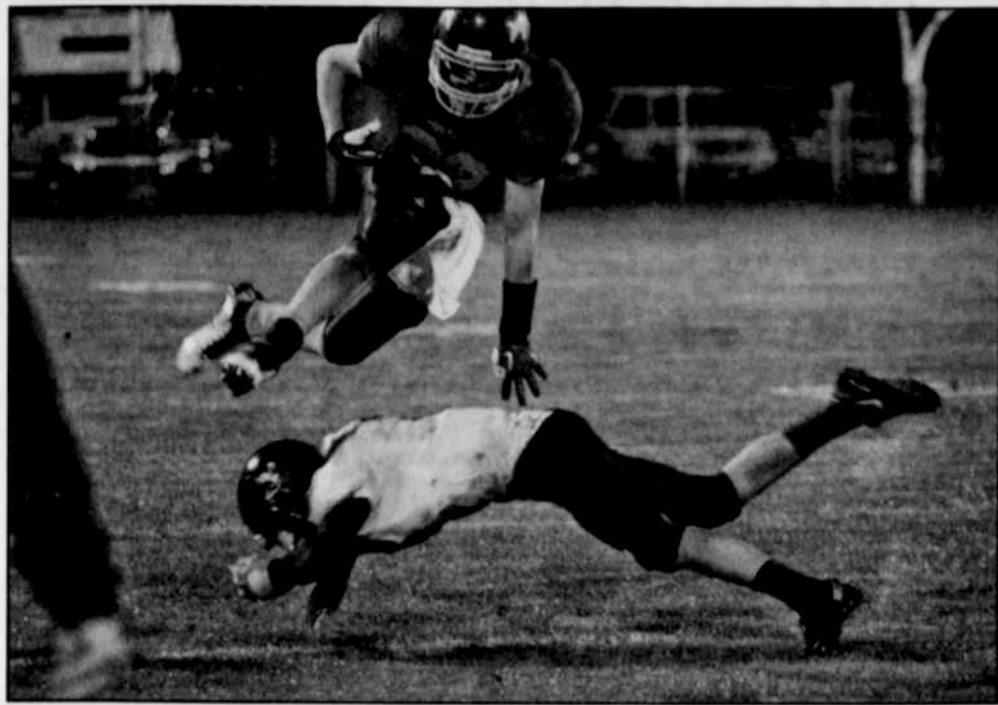
"We are concerned that Moda Health did not communicate with us directly regarding this new option for the school district employees," said Grigg. He said, however, that a second option, an in-network plan, does include MCHD clinics, and a third option was for out-of-network providers.

Grigg said that the health district has since been in contact with the school district and "they have assured us that communication has gone out to make sure their employees know that we are still an option for them."

He said the district plans

-See HEALTH DISTRICT UPDATE/PAGE FIVE

## Mustangs continue to leap ahead in standings



Mustang #28 Brian Rill escapes a tackle attempt by the Outlaws last Friday in Heppner. Mustang football is now 4-0 overall and ranked fifth among 2A teams in the state. See this and other sports stories on PAGE FOUR. -Photo by Sandy Matthews

## Heppner sees record wet for September

According to preliminary data received by NOAA's National Weather Service in Pendleton, OR, Heppner hasn't seen this much rain in a September since 1927; with a total of 2.37 inches, 1.81 inches above normal, September of 2013 was the second-wettest September on record. The area received 2.55 inches in September of 1927.

Measurable precipitation of at least .01 inch was received on 13 days with the heaviest, 0.38 inches, reported on the 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Despite the rain,

temperatures at Heppner also averaged warmer than normal during the month of September.

The average temperature was 64.6 degrees, which was three degrees above normal. High temperatures averaged 78.2 degrees, which was 1.6 degrees above normal. The highest was 92 degrees on the 16<sup>th</sup>. Low temperatures averaged 51 degrees, which was 4.4 degrees above normal. The lowest was 41 degrees, on the 27<sup>th</sup>.

On five days, the temperature exceeded 90 degrees.

The outlook for October from NOAA's Climate Prediction Center calls for near-normal temperatures and near- to above-normal precipitation. Normal highs for Heppner fall from 71 degrees at the start of October to 58 degrees at the end of October. Normal lows fall from 42 degrees to 35 degrees. The 30-year normal precipitation is 1.14 inches.

The NWS is an office of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, an agency of the U.S. Commerce Department.

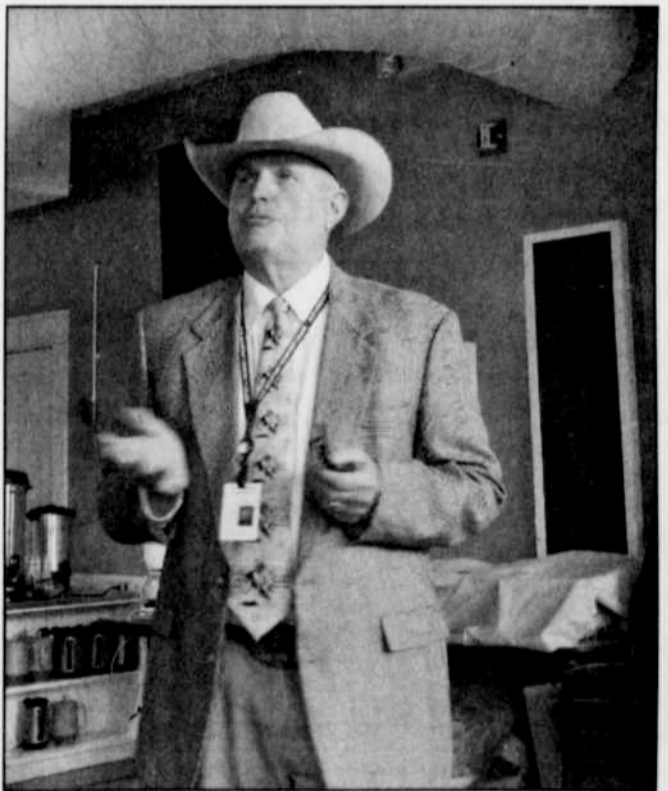
## Beard explains BMCC budget levy to chamber

By David Sykes

Casey Beard of Blue Mountain Community College was the featured speaker at last week's Heppner Chamber of Commerce. Beard, who now works for BMCC, explained the upcoming election, when voters will be asked to approve a \$28 million bond levy to finance for facilities and upgrades for BMCC.

If approved by voters, the bond levy will replace BMCC's current bond, which expires in June 2014, at the same tax rate (\$0.31 per \$1,000). The new levy will raise approximately \$28.1 million to support construction for new workforce training programs in Boardman, Hermiston and Pendleton, as well as

-See BEARD AT CHAMBER/PAGE EIGHT



Casey Beard of BMCC spoke to the Heppner Chamber of Commerce last week about the upcoming bond levy. -Photo by David Sykes

## G-T Trophy Corner



Twelve-year-old Sabastian Futter of Heppner shot his first buck with his first shot on the first day of hunting season. Sabastian bagged his 2x3 buck while hunting with uncle Jim Healy under the Mentored Youth Hunter Program. -Contributed photo

## Ione board talks school safety, video surveillance

By April Sykes

Ione Community School Principal Sarah Crane-Simpson, at the Sept. 24 regular board meeting, reported that the school "had a great startup" and now has 203 students.

The board is in the process of evaluating safety procedures at the school, including video surveillance, re-keying school doors and locking

external and classroom doors.

"If you can slow something down, you have a chance," commented board member Anne Morter concerning recent school shootings. "It can happen anywhere."

While the most obvious reason for installing video and taking other safety measures, such as locking and rekeying doors, is to

avoid a school tragedy, "More common is a custody issue," commented Superintendent Mark Mulvihill. This would be an instance where a parent is not allowed access to his or her children.

"What's perceived as 'big brother' doesn't have to be," Mulvihill added.

The board discussed other

-See IONE TALKS SCHOOL SAFETY/PAGE SIX

The Heppner Gazette-Times wants to see pictures of your trophy animals from this hunting season. Stop by to have your picture taken, drop off photos, mail them to PO Box 337 in Heppner, email them to editor@rapidservice.net or text cell phone photos to 541-980-6674.

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