

HEPPNER

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Gazette Times

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Heppner man killed in ATV accident

Tragedy struck a local family during the holiday season when Robert Nelson Nichols, 31, of Heppner was killed in an all-terrain vehicle (ATV) accident Monday, Dec. 23.

Morrow County Sheriff's Office reports

that the call regarding the accident came in shortly before 9 p.m. that evening; MCSO and Heppner fire responded to the location at the Matt Clark residence on Hwy. 207 out of Heppner.

The sheriff's office had no information on the

circumstances surrounding the accident and could not comment on whether Nichols was transported for care or deceased at the scene.

-See obituary on PAGE TWO

Umatilla forest welcomes two new district rangers

Niesen replaces Buchholz as Heppner ranger

Pendleton, OR—The Umatilla National Forest has hired two new district rangers, one of whom will take over the post vacated by previous Heppner District Ranger Todd Buchholz this fall.



Ann Niesen

"We are pleased to have these two experienced and highly qualified individuals join the forest's leadership staff," says Umatilla National Forest Supervisor Kevin Martin. "They bring with them a diverse mix of resource management skills, fresh perspectives and enthusiasm that will serve the forest and our communities well," said Martin.

Ann Niesen is the new Heppner District Ranger based in Heppner. She replaces Buchholz, who transferred to the Coos Bay, OR Bureau of Land Management.

"I am thrilled to be working on the Umatilla and living in Heppner. I have spent the majority of my career living in small towns, and Heppner has been very welcoming. I look forward to meeting community members, helping out where I can and exploring the area," says Niesen, who reported to duty mid-December. "I have been on the job for a week and I am excited to

see the work the district and our partners are doing and happy to be part of the Umatilla National Forest."

Niesen was born and raised in northern Minnesota, and attended school at Mankato State University, where she received a Bachelor of Science in recreation, parks and leisure services.

Niesen began her career with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources in 1988, where she spent 14 years working for the Trails and Waterways Division managing public access acquisition and development, fishing piers, summer trail programs, snowmobile and cross country trail grooming and management of OHV Parks.

In 2001, Niesen moved to Idaho to work for the Boise National Forest and then later onto the Sawtooth National Forest, where she served as Recreation Program Manager on the Fairfield Ranger District and then Staff Officer for the Recreation, Lands, Heritage and Resource Information programs at the forest supervisor's office. She's also served for seven years on an Eastern Great Basin Type 2 Team as a Resource Unit Leader.

Niesen says she enjoys hiking, skiing, fishing,

paddling and quilting as well as spending time with her two grown daughters.

Ian Reid has been selected as the new North Fork John Day District Ranger based in Ukiah, OR. He replaces Bob Varner, who transferred to the Gifford Pinchot National Forest in Vancouver, WA.

Reid says he is passionate about sustainably managing natural resources of the national forests and providing a stable supply of goods and services to forest users and stakeholders.

"I am super excited to be a part of the Umatilla National Forest and live with my family in the spectacular Blue Mountains. I look forward to working with the outstanding resource professionals on the North Fork John Day Ranger District, hard-working local communities, and tribes in the area," says Reid.

Reid earned a fisheries science degree from Oregon State University in 2003 and bachelor's and master's degrees in biology from Southern Oregon University. Early in his career he worked in seasonal positions with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife. In 1999 he began working for the Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest near Medford, OR as a district

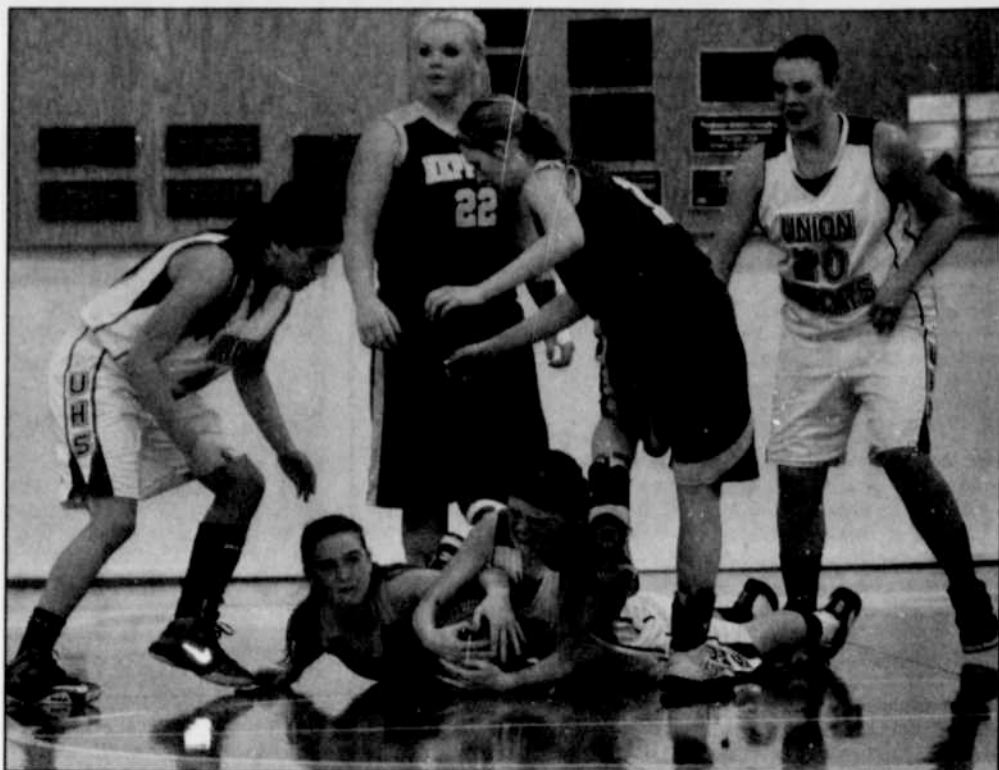
-See UMATILLA NF HIRES RANGERS/PAGE TWO

G-T Trophy Corner



Tiffany Akers, 12, of Irrigon shot her first doe on Dec. 1 during the Morrow County Youth Hunt at Green Wood Resources in Boardman. -Contributed photo

Looking back at 2013...



Mustang Blake Greenup fought for possession during a basketball game on the team's road to fifth place in the state tournament in 2013.

-See more memories from the past year on PAGE THREE

ESD superintendent speaks to Heppner Chamber of Commerce

By David Sykes

Intermountain Educational Service District Superintendent Mark Mulvihill was guest speaker at the Heppner Chamber of Commerce recently, and he laid out his vision for the future of education for Eastern Oregon and the State of Oregon, which includes "The Eastern Promise."

The Eastern Promise is a program that allows students to earn college credits while still in high school, thus driving down the cost of college and also better preparing the students for higher education.

"The least academic year for kids is their senior year," said Mulvihill. "It takes 24 credits to graduate from high school.

If they take eight credit hours per year then they have all of them by their junior year. Lots of seniors take one credit their senior year," he explained.

Under Eastern Promise students can be taking college-level classes that are guaranteed transferable, and thus be saving time and college tuition money while still in high school, he says.

So far \$4 million has been allocated to fund the program, and Eastern



Intermountain Education Service District Superintendent Mark Mulvihill tells Heppner Chamber of Commerce about "The Eastern Promise." -Photo by David Sykes

Oregon University, Blue Mountain Community College and Treasure Valley Community College are participating with the curriculum.

"Through Eastern Promise you can easily earn your freshman class in college," says Mulvihill. "That's like getting a \$20,000 scholarship. The idea is not to have kids have a \$28,000 debt when they graduate from college. Kids should not have to go into debt for 100 level classes."

"We are working on a common goal where colleges accept credits from high school. The old days

of wracking up a bunch of credits in high school and then they don't count in college are gone," he says. "Education is just too expensive."

Mulvihill says the cost of college education is typically divided 70 percent for the student and 30 percent provided by government grants and funding.

Locally Mulvihill says the schools in Morrow County are doing pretty well. With a state-wide high-school graduation rate

-See MULVIHILL AT HEPPNER CHAMBER/PAGE TWO

Wow, that's some stocking!



Heppner Shell continued its tradition this year of holding a drawing for a giant stocking over the holidays. They upped the ante for 2013, offering two huge prizes, both of which were won by local girls. Pictured are (L-R): beaming winner Faith Futter, Shell employee Melissa Pierson, and overwhelmed winner Elizabeth Ginn being comforted by father David Ginn. -Photo by Megan Futter

WE WILL BE CLOSED JANUARY 1ST
NEW YEAR'S DAY
HAPPY NEW YEAR!! 2014

Morrow County Grain Growers
Lexington 989-8221 • 1-800-452-7396 For farm equipment, visit our web site at www.mcg.net