

HEPPNER

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Gazette Times

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Local man shows he is a 12th man with parody on YouTube



Will Lemmon says, "You might be a 12th man."

There is no doubt Will Lemmon of Lexington is a 12th man for the Super Bowl Champion Seattle Seahawks. And if you do doubt it, check out

his video on YouTube at: www.youtube.com/watch?v=onsFbJrAwfY. Lemmon does a nice job parodying Jeff Foxworthy's "You might be a redneck."

If you don't like typing in all those letters, you can also find his video by going to YouTube and searching for: 12th man parody.

Hometown woman now Director of Oregon Dept. of State Lands

Mary Abrams speaks at Chamber of Commerce

By David Sykes

Mary Abrams grew up in Heppner, graduated from high school, and then went on to a diverse career before being appointed in 2012 as Director of State Lands by Governor John Kitzhaber. She spoke to the Heppner Chamber of Commerce last week about her travels and her new job.

Abrams is the daughter of the late Bob and Marion Abrams of Heppner. Bob had a law practice and served as Circuit Court Judge during their many years in Heppner.

Mary Abrams graduated from Heppner High in 1973. She worked as a country director for the U.S. Peace Corps in Africa in 2006. Prior to that, she was a division administrator and water quality specialist at the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ). Abrams also worked for the City of Portland and the Oregon Graduate Institute. She holds a Ph.D. and an M.S. in soil science from the University of California at Davis, and graduated from the University of Arizona with a B.S. in agronomy. She also worked in La Grande for several years while with DEQ.

Abrams said her time working with farmers in Africa was very satisfying, helping the young farmers



Former Heppner resident Mary Abrams addressed the Heppner Chamber of Commerce last week. —Photo by David Sykes

improve their lives. She received a Ph.D. in soils from UC Davis and she said her family chided her that she had "a doctor of dirt." But she said coming back to speak at the Heppner Chamber "was like coming home."

While working with the Peace Corps Abrams volunteered to go to Rwanda, which has seen tremendous political and violence problems over the years.

"The entire country suffers from post traumatic stress," she says. She actually said there some comparisons to Morrow County in that everyone knows everyone else and it is a tight-knit society. She worked in Rwanda for two years on conflict resolution before returning

to the United States to help out with her mom, Marion, who was having health problems.

From there she went back to Zambia, home of Victoria Falls.

"I was expecting this great place since Victoria Falls was there," she told chamber members, "but it looked like the Columbia Gorge."

From there she got a call to interview for the job with the Dept. of State Lands and was hired on Oct. 9, 2012.

"As an Oregonian who grew up in eastern Oregon farm country and attending public schools, I am honored to lead Oregon's Department of State Lands," Abrams said

—See ABRAMS AT CHAMBER/PAGE FIVE

Normal temps for January, but still not enough wet

According to preliminary data received by NOAA's National Weather Service in Pendleton Oregon, temperatures at Heppner averaged near normal during the month of January, but the year is still on the dry side.

The average temperature was 35.5 degrees which was 0.3 degrees above normal. High temperatures averaged 43 degrees, which was 0.6 degrees below normal. The highest was 65 degrees on the 16th. Low temperatures averaged 27.9 degrees, which was 1.1 degrees above normal. The lowest was 19 degrees, on the 6th.

There were 22 days with the low temperature below 32 degrees. There were six days when the high temperature stayed below 32 degrees.

Precipitation totaled 0.64 inches during January, which was 0.83 inches below normal. Measurable precipitation of at least .01 inch was received on four days with the heaviest, 0.39 inches, reported on the 29th.

Since October, the water-year precipitation at Heppner has been 3.01 inches, which is 2.52 inches below normal.

The highest wind gust was 43 mph, which occurred on the 11th.

The outlook for February from NOAA's Climate Prediction Center calls for near- to below-normal temperatures and near-normal precipitation.

Normal highs for Heppner during February are 47.4 degrees and normal lows are 28.2 degrees. The 30-year normal precipitation is 1.12 inches.

BMCC listens to Morrow County College to decide if levy goes to voters again

By David Sykes

Blue Mountain Community College came to Morrow County recently as part of their listening tour, to find out why voters rejected the recent \$28 million bond measure.

The college's district covers both Umatilla and Morrow County, and although the bond levy passed in Morrow County, it failed in Umatilla, providing enough no votes to defeat the measure.

About 27 people showed up at the SAGE —See BMCC LISTENS/PAGE FIVE



Casey White-Zollman of ESD conducts a BMCC listening meeting with county residents in Boardman recently. The college is contemplating putting a \$28 million bond on the ballot again but wanted to hear from voters first. —Photo by David Sykes

Health district discusses moving to 'the cloud' with data backup program

By April Sykes

The Morrow County Health District Board, at their monthly meeting on Jan. 28, approved a proposal with Healthland,

the company which currently provides the district's electronic medical records services, for a one-year contract for services and software in the neighborhood of \$87,000.

Chief Financial Officer Nicole Mahoney said that she believes the district can recoup 75-80 percent of its costs through Medicare.

CEO Daniel Grigg said that the Healthland quote was comparable to other vendors and Mahoney added that the district "was already down the road with Healthland," meaning that it would probably be more expensive to switch companies. Electronic medical records are required now by federal law.

"What we're getting is what we're required," commented Director of Nursing Molly Rhea.

"Cloud-based storage is required," added Mahoney.

Mahoney said that the district has met stage one of the electronic medical records Medicare and Medicaid "Meaningful Use" requirements and is now moving to stage two. She said that the system would eventually allow patients to have electronic access to their records.

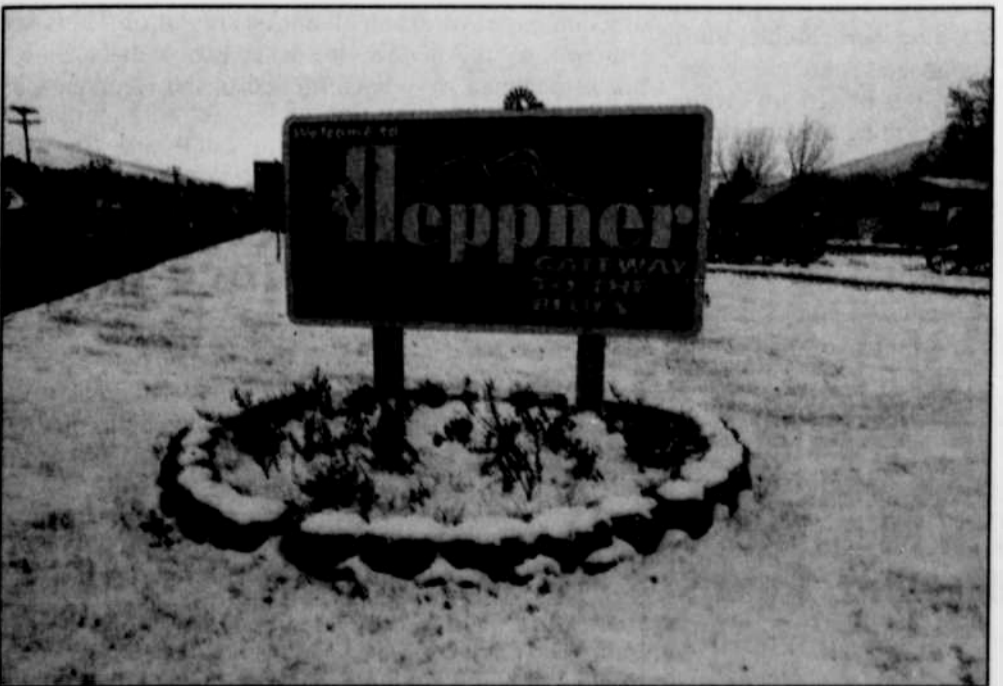
The board also approved a cloud hosting program through 3t Systems, an exchange hosting and data backup company, which would allow up to 78 users at a

cost of \$3,600 per month and a set-up fee which is estimated at around twice the monthly fee. Each additional user over the 78 would cost the district an additional \$15 per month per user. The board directed Mahoney to try to negotiate with the company to up the number of district users over the proposed 78, but still stay at the \$3,600 per month proposed fee.

In an "information technology assessment and proposal executive summary," district management said that going with 3t would outsource the district's email system, storage and data backup.

—See HEALTH DISTRICT/PAGE FIVE

Welcome to the snow



Visitors to Heppner received a chilly welcome earlier this week, in weather if not in spirit, when temperatures dropped and a light snow blanketed the area. —Photo by Mallorie Jones

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