

HEPPNER

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Gazette Times

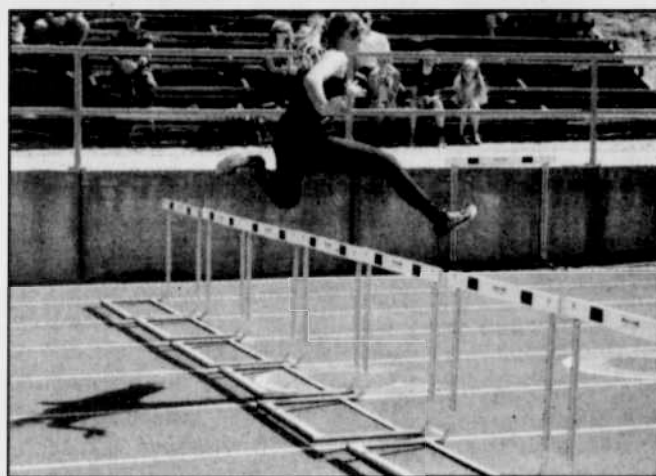
VOL. 133 NO. 19 10 Pages Wednesday, May 21, 2014 Morrow County, Heppner, Oregon

Mustang golf takes districts



Both the Mustang boys' and girls' golf teams took district titles last week at the tournament in Pendleton. Standing L-R: Coach Greg Grant, Shane Miles, Logan Grieb, John Propfeter, Tate Gentry, Jesse Corbin, Caden Hedman, Coach Matt Scrivner and Coach Barry Munkers. Kneeling L-R: Macy Gibbs, Emily Rea, Paige Grieb, Blake Greenup, Maddie Lindsay and Amanda Rea. —Contributed photo —See full story PAGE FOUR

Cardinals send three to state track meet



Jessie Flynn sails over the final hurdle in the 300M hurdles at the district meet in Moro; she took second and advanced to state in that event. —Contributed photo

The Cardinal track team attended the 1A Special District 3 Championship Saturday, May 17, at Sherman County High School in Moro. Out of a field of 11 teams, lone men placed fourth and women were sixth. Eleven Cardinal athletes achieved Personal Records (PRs) as noted in the stats below. Three lone athletes qualified for the state tournament. Advancing to state will be: Cord Flynn, discus; Bailey Haguewood, high jump, long jump and triple jump; and Jessie Flynn, 400M, long jump and 300M hurdles. OSAA 1A State Championships will take place Thursday and Friday, May 22-23, at the University of Oregon's

BMCC president says college asking why people voted down bond issue

Levy passed in Morrow County and Pendleton, but failed everywhere else

By David Sykes

President of Blue Mountain Community College Camille Preus was in Heppner last week and said the community college planned on putting a bond issue back on the ballot, but added, "We have a lot of work to do." The \$28 million bond measure was defeated in Umatilla County and passed in Morrow County. All cities in Umatilla voted against the levy except for Pendleton, where the college is located.

Preus praised the work of local men Louis Carlson and Chris Brown who served on the Friends of BMCC committee working to pass the budget in Morrow County. She also acknowledged Nancy Snider, a 17-year board member of the college.

When taking questions from the Chamber of Commerce members Preus was asked what would be cut from the proposed

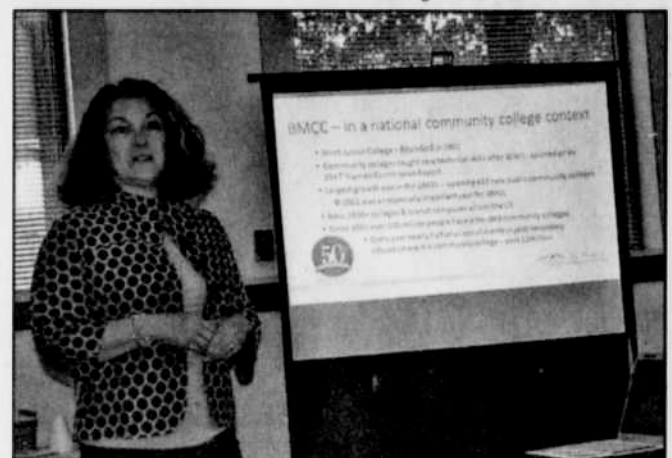
projects when the bond is put up for a vote again. The proposed construction of a rodeo arena at the college in Pendleton arose several times.

"We have had a lot of people ask, 'Why build an arena when there are already plenty around?'" Preus said.

She explained that the Round-Up arena cannot be used for high school rodeo because of the grass arena, which is not allowed, and that the arena could also be used for other animal training at the college.

She also pointed out the success of the rodeo team, with BMCC men ranked number one in the country and the women's team ranked second.

Other new construction projects that would have been funded had the bond passed were the STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts and math) Center, to be located near the SAGE Center in Boardman;



Camille Preus, President of BMCC, addressed the Heppner Chamber of Commerce last week. —Photo by David Sykes

the Precision Irrigated Agriculture Center in Hermiston; and the Applied Animal Science Education Center in Pendleton. Preus said currently the college has a total of just under 10,000 students with 338 of those from Morrow County. She said the majority of the students who use the college do so with online classes.

Preus said she has been in conversation with the Port of Morrow to see how the college can offer more training in the food

processing business, an area that is showing big expansions at the Port in Boardman.

In response to a question from the audience she said the college had no plans to implement a wind turbine training program, saying Columbia Gorge Community College in The Dalles has this type of training.

"This is a very expensive program and we can't afford to build it. Not as high of a demand for that skill now," she added.

Wyden to hold MoCo town hall Memorial Day weekend

U.S. Senator Ron Wyden will be in Boardman for a town hall meeting Sunday, May 25, at 3:30 p.m. The meeting will be held at the SAGE Center, 101 Olson Road, Boardman.

Local teachers, staff honored at Crystal Apple Awards

PENDLETON — Education Service District Three local women were honored for their role in educating area children at the InterMountain 2014 Crystal Apple Awards May 21 in Pendleton. —See CRYSTAL APPLE/PAGE FOUR

Getting to know your exchange students

Tobias Mueller
Age 16, Junior, Heppner
Where are you from?
Vienna, Austria
Host Parents:
Ashley and John Gould
What do you think of Heppner?
"It's awesome. Heppner is great. It is a great little town. I like the people, everyone is super nice."
How has the experience been for you?
"Really good. What was the most difficult thing about this experience? The food. It is kind of weird."
What did you like best?
"The school and the school activities. I really like the community."
Did you go to Prom?
What did you think of that experience?
"Great. It was a great night; I made lots of memories."



Tobias Mueller

Antonia Tebbe
Age 15, Junior, Heppner
Where are you from?
Munich, Germany
Host Parents: Amy and Brian Kollman
What do you think of Heppner?
"I like it here; it's way different. I like how everyone knows each other since they were little kids and are sticking together."
How has the experience been for you?
"Really good. Everyone is really nice. My host family is cool. I like Oregon and I like Heppner. It's really cool here."
What was the most difficult thing about this experience?
"Learning volleyball."



Antonia Tebbe

My mom was really good, but I'm not good at volleyball. Everyone else was really good which makes it kind of hard."
What did you like best?
"Basketball and track. I like my friends and family here."
Did you go to Prom?
What did you think of that experience?
"Really cool. We don't have it, so it was really nice. I like the dresses. It's cool that you can wear dresses like that. I like the corsages even though they are really uncomfortable. Some people asked each other to Prom, and that's really funny."

High-tech jobs offer unexpected opportunities in rural areas

By Andrea Di Salvo
The job landscape in Morrow County has long been nearly as predictable as the land itself. It's a landscape grounded in agricultural, built through timber and then expanded into the food processing plants along the Columbia River. As the county enters the 21st century with the rest of the world, though, that landscape is changing. Now, some seeking employment in Morrow County may swap out their tractors or potato chips to work on another kind of farm. New, high-tech server farms, or data centers, are popping up throughout Eastern Oregon, attracted to the state by tax breaks, relatively cheap power and a mild climate that helps keep their computers cool. Buildings like the new Vadata, Inc. structure at the Port of Morrow house some of the web's most advanced technologies, and they're hiring for jobs to match. Take, for instance, some of Vadata's current postings on internet job sites... cabling infrastructure engineer, senior manager of data center operations, data center technician, and lead cabling support technician. If the name Vadata doesn't sound familiar, you might be more familiar with its parent company, the web mammoth Amazon.com. It's through server farms like those at the Port that the internet giant powers its international commerce



Data centers like this one are popping up throughout Eastern Oregon and changing the face of jobs in the region. —Contributed photo

empire. Amazon isn't alone in its interest in Eastern Oregon, either. Facebook based its first-ever data center in Prineville, OR, while Google now has a state-of-the-art complex near The Dalles. While the complicated software processes are usually handled from a company's home base, it still needs people on the ground locally to make sure the hardware keeps running smoothly. For that, they're willing to hire locally, as long as the right candidates can be found. —See DATA CENTERS/PAGE FIVE

Graduation approaches for local seniors

Graduation day is quickly approaching for seniors at Heppner and Lone high schools. Heppner's commencement ceremony will take place Saturday, May 31, beginning at 2 p.m. in the Heppner Jr./Sr. High School gymnasium. Baccalaureate services for Heppner will take place Wednesday, May 28, at 7 p.m. at St. Patrick's Catholic Church. Lone's commencement will be held Friday, June 6, beginning at 7 p.m. Baccalaureate services will be held Monday, June 2, at 6 p.m. at St. William's Catholic Church.

G-T closed Memorial Day

The Heppner Gazette-Times office will be closed Memorial Day, May 26, for the holiday. All news and ad deadlines will be Friday, May 23, by 5 p.m. The newspaper office will reopen on Tuesday, May 27.

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