

HEPPNER

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# Gazette Times

VOL. 133 NO. 22 8 Pages Wednesday, June 18, 2014 Morrow County, Heppner, Oregon

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Patton takes over as Neighborhood Center Director...PAGE FOUR

Christian Life Center welcomes new pastor, celebrates reopening...PAGE TWO

Group dedicated to keeping forest roads open to have Heppner workshop...PAGE FOUR

## New 'biological control' for Russian Knapweed released in Morrow County

This May, the Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) released a new biological control agent for Russian Knapweed in Morrow County.

The Gall wasp, (*Aulacidea acroptilonica*) was introduced just north of Ione near the junction of Hwy. 74 and McNab Lane and also near the Gilliam County/Morrow County line at Rhea Road.

The inconspicuous wasps tie up plant nutrients and interfere with plant reproduction. The small black wasps, which when fully grown can fit in this O, are a parthenogenetic species, meaning all individuals are female.

This marks the 77th species released in Oregon for bio-control of noxious weeds. The introductions started in the 1950s and continue to target over 30 species of weeds. ODA works closely with the USDA and local weed

-See GALL WASP/PAGE FOUR

## Clockworks back from prison, at home in the courthouse



Taking a break after moving the heavy clockworks into the courthouse lobby Tuesday morning are (l-r) Mike Cleveland of Eastern Oregon Correctional Institute, licensed master clockmaker Gary Kopperud, Tony Clement of Morrow County Public Works, Dwight Hawkins of EOIC, and local contractor Rod Wilson. -Photo by David Sykes

The historic Morrow County Courthouse clock has been refurbished by Pendleton prison inmates and is back at the courthouse awaiting its final installation, where it will once again tell the time from the familiar clock dome. Now, however, the clockworks will be

placed in the lobby of the courthouse for all to admire and observe.

The clock and the tower were earlier removed from the courthouse and sent to separate locations for refurbishing. The tower went to an old Kinzua mill building, where local contractor Rod Wilson

refurbished the structure. Meanwhile, the clockworks were sent to the Eastern Oregon Correctional Institute in Pendleton, where a crew of 40-50 inmates supervised by master clockmaker Gary Kopperud gave it a complete overhaul.

After the tower is

installed later this month, a portion of the courthouse lobby will be refurbished in order to put the clockworks on display for the public. A long metal rod will connect the works to the actual clock face atop the courthouse, where it will once again tell time for the people below.

## Local girl pricked by discarded needle

A local girl was pricked by a discarded syringe beside Willow Creek in Heppner, local sources say.

According to the Morrow County Sheriff's Office and Pioneer Memorial Hospital staff, the seven-year-old local girl, whose name is withheld for her privacy, was walking the path along Willow Creek behind Northwestern

RV Park the afternoon of May 31 when she saw what she thought was a thermometer with cap lying in the grass. She picked it up and accidentally pricked her right thumb. She later told PMH staff that it went "straight in" and she pulled it "straight back out."

Her father did not learn of the incident until the following day. When he

did, he took her to Pioneer Memorial, where staff checked her for symptoms and ran "baseline tests" in case she develops symptoms later. She was not tested for drugs.

Another adult initially took the needle and threw it away after the incident; it could not later be found for testing, so Director of Nursing Molly Rhea said

there is no way to determine what had been in the used syringe; the tiny puncture itself provided no clues.

"Only if you actually got something injected in your vein would we be able to tell...maybe," she said.

The Gazette-Times was unable to obtain further information about the incident.

## Enterprise Zone lays out four spending 'categories'

'I want to see us make a difference,' says board member Neal

By David Sykes

In an effort to organize and plan how it will spend millions of dollars coming into its coffers over the next 15 years, the Columbia River Enterprise Zone board of directors agreed upon four areas of spending at its last meeting June 6.

After much discussion the board agreed to divide the almost \$22.5 million it will be receiving in the next 15 years into four categories of spending:

housing, education, public enhancement and community enhancement. A fifth category of discretionary spending for public projects may also be added.

Board member Gary Neal said he saw the CREZ funding as an opportunity to improve our communities.

"I feel we should identify categories where we can help make a difference. It is a unique opportunity," he said of the funding, "and

the decisions we make can move our communities forward. I want to see us make a difference."

Unlike a normal taxing district such as a city or county, the CREZ is not required to have a budget committee, hold hearings or publish its budget. The money it receives comes from fees paid by businesses locating in the enterprise zone (mainly a 12-sq.-mile

-See CREZ CATEGORIES/PAGE FIVE

## Bar fight leads to stabbing in Irrigon

Morrow County Sheriff's Office responded to a reported stabbing in Irrigon on June 12; the stabbing took place shortly before midnight at the Sub Zero restaurant and bar in Irrigon.

Morrow County Undersheriff Steven L. Myren said preliminary reports indicate that a group of persons, including at least one of which was known by the bartender to be under 21, entered the establishment. They were told to leave and a verbal altercation ensued.

A patron of the bar, Aaron VanFossen, 37, of Irrigon, attempted to intervene on behalf of the establishment. Several of the group who had entered the bar then got into a physical altercation with VanFossen. During the course of the fight, Vanfossen was stabbed in

-See IRRIGON STABBING/PAGE THREE

## Woman arrested for crash that killed Ione man

Oregon State Police (OSP) arrested a 31-year old Hermiston woman Monday morning for her involvement in the March 2014 traffic crash that killed Ione man Bob Baker.

Monday morning, June 16, an OSP trooper arrested Alicia G. Breckheimer, 31, at her Hermiston-area residence. She was lodged in the Umatilla County Jail on a warrant for charges of Manslaughter in the First Degree, Manslaughter in the Second Degree, three counts of Recklessly Endangering Another Person, DUII and Reckless Driving.

The arrest is a follow-up to an accident that occurred early on the morning of March 7 of this year. Police say a 2005 Cadillac CTS four-door driven by Breckheimer was traveling westbound in the eastbound lanes of Interstate 82 near milepost 4 when it collided nearly head-on with a 2006

-See WOMAN ARRESTED FOR CRASH/PAGE EIGHT

## McEwen targets America in second novel

Heppner native's fiction an eerie shadow of current events

By Andrea Di Salvo

The terrorists are at it again in Scott McEwen's latest novel, and this time the target is America.

In "Target America," Heppner native Scott McEwen and co-writer

Thomas Koloniar have turned out "a heart-pounding military thriller in which the fabled domestic Special Ops Black unit is activated in order to stop a group of Chechen terrorists from launching a pair of 'suitcase' nukes somewhere in America."

The novel, released by publisher Touchstone on June 3, is the second installment of McEwen's "Sniper Elite" series; the first book, "Sniper Elite: One-Way Trip" was also coauthored with Koloniar and came out December of last year.

McEwen says Target America's reception has been good so far.

"It's right at national bestseller; whether it makes

it, whether it makes the New York Times list, I don't know, but it may make an Amazon list. We'll see," he says. "The numbers have been extremely good."

"It's got some good editorial reviews, but also the readers are really liking it, which is even more important," McEwen adds.

Both major news outlets and readers have also picked up on an unintended dovetail with current affairs...the Chechen terrorists in the novel were released from Guantanamo Bay. For many, that's an eerie foreshadowing of the release of the "Taliban 5" in exchange for Army Sgt. Bowe Bergdahl just a few days before the book's release.

"I got some calls from the press asking how I could have called it so close," says McEwen. "I thought it was interesting how life kind of recreates fiction sometimes."

"Unfortunately, I'm just hopeful the storyline does not recapitulate fiction, because

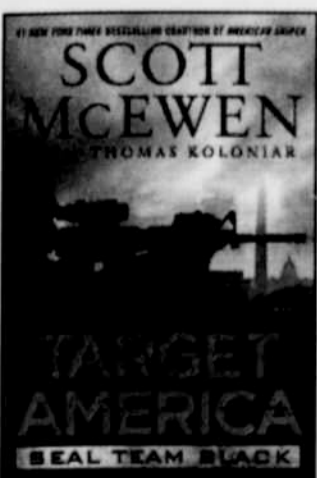


Scott McEwen

On a lighter note

McEwen also says

-See TARGET AMERICA/PAGE EIGHT



Target America was released June 3.

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