

Gazette Times

VOL. 133 N.O. 23 10 Pages Wednesday, July 2, 2014 Morrow County, Heppner, Oregon

Access group urges citizen involvement to stop forest closures

Workshop teaches people how to comment on proposed Blue Mountain Forest Plan

By David Sykes

If the proposed Blue Mountain Forest Plan goes into effect without changes, citizens will see a dramatic reduction in their access to the forests, a group dedicated to keeping forests open told a gathering in Heppner Saturday.

Don George of Forest Access For All has been holding meetings and sounding the alarm over

a proposed use-plan developed by the U.S. Forest Service that covers the Umatilla, Wallowa, Whitman and Malheur national forests. His group claims that, if adopted, the plan will shut down hundreds of roads and limit access to huge portions of currently-open public forests over the next 10 to 15 years.

George has studied the

plan extensively, and is now traveling across Eastern Oregon holding workshops and teaching people how to submit comments on the plan and get it changed before it's too late.

"We are a group of volunteers who have watched the Forest Service slowly, bit-by-bit take away the citizens' access and

-See FOREST ACCESS/ PAGE FOUR

June cold but low on moisture

Get ready for a hot July, says weather service

June was slightly colder than normal, according to the National Weather Service in Pendleton, but the cold didn't bring along rainfall to make up for the water-year shortage.

The average temperature in Heppner during June was 61.9 degrees, which was 0.8 degrees below normal. High temperatures averaged 75.7 degrees, which was 0.9 degrees below normal. The highest was 88 degrees on the 24th. Low temperatures averaged 48.1 degrees, which was 0.8 degrees below normal. The lowest was 42 degrees, on the 21st.

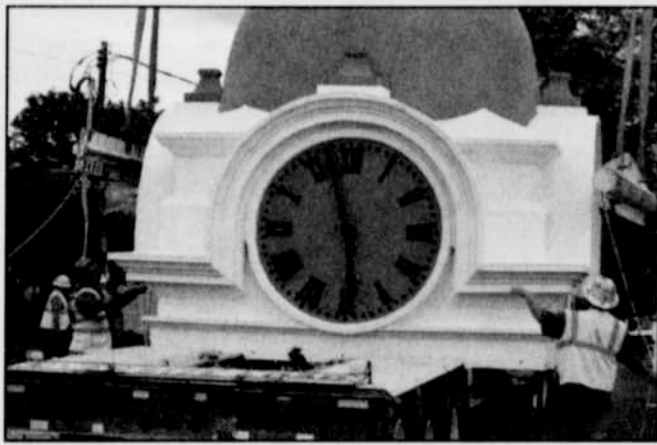
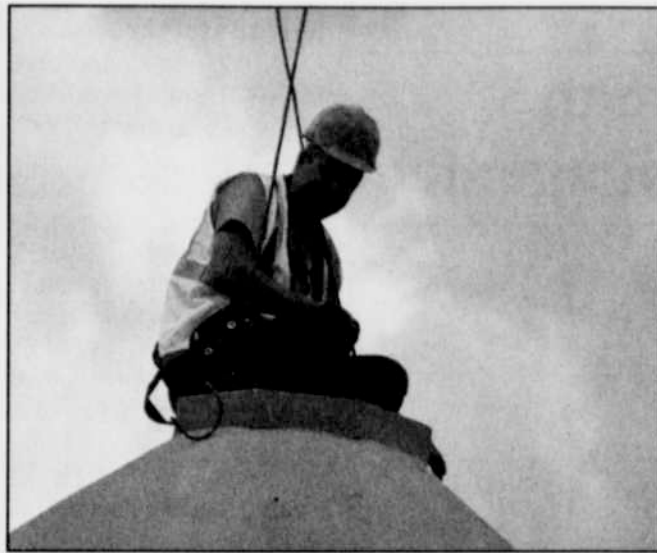
Precipitation totaled 1.16 inches during June, which was 0.22 inches

-See JUNE WEATHER/ PAGE FIVE

Clock tower back on watch



Left: The Morrow County Courthouse seems to receive an Irish blessing as a rainbow appears after its replacement on the tower's perch above Court Street. -Photo by Sandy Matthews Top right: Rod Wilson perches atop the tower in preparation for its replacement last Thursday. Bottom right: Workers guide the harness around the tower as it sits on the truck in Heppner. -Contributed photos



-See full story PAGE THREE

Relay for Life: Calling Morrow County residents

Looking for a great community service opportunity?

Look no further than the American Cancer Society Relay for Life of Morrow County being held August 2-3 at the Morrow County Fairgrounds in Heppner.

Event supporter and organizers say Relay for Life is a celebration of survivorship, "an occasion to express hope and our shared goal to end a disease that threatens the lives of so many people we love."

All funds raised from this event help cancer patients in Morrow County. Whether it is a fuel card to travel to a doctor's

-See RELAY FOR LIFE/ PAGE FIVE

PMH receives a helping hand from some 'Friends'



Pennie Miller demonstrates for Peggy Fishburn how easy it is for hospital staff to use the HoverMatts to move patients, as Rusty Estes looks on. -Photo by Andrea Di Salvo

Thanks to the efforts of Friends Helping Friends and the group's annual Remembrance Walk/5K

Run, Pioneer Memorial Hospital now has the ability

and the elderly, Friends Helping Friends committee members approached staff at Pioneer Memorial Hospital earlier this year and asked if the hospital needed any equipment that their annual fundraiser could help obtain. When staff members put their heads together over the question, the HoverMatt became the answer.

According to PMH Director of Nursing Molly Rhea, the HoverMatt is, simply put, an inflatable air mattress transfer system. The HoverMatt is positioned on the gurney, so when the patient needs to be transferred from the ambulance gurney, the staff is able to inflate the mattress using a portable air

compressor and "float" him or her on a cushion of air onto the emergency room gurney. The washable matt can also be used to transfer the patient onto an x-ray or CT table.

"It hovers the patient above the stretcher so there's no friction between them and the bed," said EMT Intermediate Pennie Miller.

In the past, when the ambulance brought someone to the local emergency department, Rhea said it took five to six people to simply transfer the patient from the ambulance gurney to the emergency room gurney. The HoverMatt allows two to three caregivers—or even one, as staff demonstrated—to safely and comfortably transfer patients.

Miller and Emergency Services Director Rusty Estes gave Friends Helping Friends member Peggy Fishburn a ride on the HoverMatt to demonstrate the ease of use. Both Miller and Estes were able to move Fishburn single-handedly, while Fishburn reported that the ride was comfortable.

The HoverMatt is designed to pull patients weighing nearly 400

-See PMH GETS A LIFT/ PAGE THREE

Heppner teacher named 'AgriScience Ambassador'

Dickenson will bring innovative learning techniques into science classrooms

WILMINGTON, DE—Beth Dickenson, an agriscience teacher at Heppner High School, successfully completed the 12th annual DuPont National AgriScience Teachers Ambassador Academy (NATAA) at the company's Chesapeake Farms in Chestertown, MD. Upon receiving the

certificate of completion, Dickenson became an "Ag Ambassador," joining the other 250 outstanding teachers from across the country who attended NATAA and earned that designation.

The NATAA "Ag Academy" is a professional

-See DICKENSON AG AMBASSADOR/PAGE FOUR

And then there were none...



A backhoe works to deconstruct the third and final house that will be cleared to make way for the construction of a new county building next to the courthouse in Heppner. -Photo by Andrea Di Salvo

Ione Red, White and Blues 2014

Friday, July 4

- Fireman's Breakfast - Ione Fire Hall....7-10 a.m.
- 5K Walk/Run (Lady Cardinal basketball /Wounded Warrior Project, \$10 fee)....7:30 a.m.
- Topic Club Book Sale - Ione Fire Hall/Post Office Lawn....9 a.m.
- Ken Turner Memorial Horseshoe Tournament....9 a.m.
- Basketball Tournament - Main Street....10 a.m.
- Food Vendors/Information Booths/Raffle Tickets - Ione City Park
- 2014 Craft Fair - Rietmann Building....10:30 a.m.- 3:30 p.m.
- Fourth of July Show & Shine - Ione City Park....10:30 a.m.
- Fish Pond, Frog Jump, Bike Raffle, Money Pile - Fire Hall/Park....11 a.m.
- Altar Society Pie Sale - Ione Fire Hall 11:00 am
- Red, White & Blues Parade - Grand Marshals, Ione Community Band....1 p.m.
- Bed Races - Directly After the Parade....1 p.m.
- Park Activities Begin - Dunk Tank, Duck Races, Photo Booth, and More....1 p.m.
- Free Swimming - Ione Swimming Pool....1:30-3:30 p.m.
- American Legion Bingo - Ione Legion Hall....2 p.m.
- Legion Auxiliary Baskets - Ione market....bidding ends 3 p.m.
- Talent Show - Amphitheatre Stage....3:30 p.m.
- Legion Auxiliary Baskets Winners Announced....4:30 p.m.
- Featured Entertainment - Amphitheatre Stage....After Talent Show
- She's Not Dead - Rythmn Culture - Lloyd Jones Struggle
- Boat Trip Auction - on stage, Ione Amphitheatre....7 p.m.
- Raffle Drawings - on stage, Ione Amphitheatre....7 p.m.
- Teen Dance - 3rd St. by Ione Community School....8-11 p.m.
- Fireworks Display....Dusk

Ione's Fourth of July celebration is sponsored in part by Morrow County Unified Recreation District.

PLANT SALE 50% OFF ALL ANNUALS
20% OFF PERENNIALS,
TREES & SHRUBS

CLOSED FRIDAY, SATURDAY & SUNDAY - JULY 4, 5 AND 6
Morrow County Grain Growers Green Feed & Seed
242 W. Linden Way, Heppner • 676-9422 • 989-8221 (MCGG main office)