

G-T azette imes

VOL. 134 NO. 16 10 Pages Wednesday, April 29, 2015 Morrow County, Heppner, Oregon

Crash outside Lexington claims life of Richland man

Oregon State Police (OSP) say they are continuing the investigation into the fatal traffic crash that occurred on Highway 207 just outside of Lexington April 22.

According to OSP Lieutenant Mike Turner, last Wednesday around 1:13 p.m., troopers from the OSP Hermiston and Pendleton offices responded to a reported fatal crash on Hwy. 207 near Nichols Road.

Preliminary investigation showed that a red, 2009 Honda Fit, driven by Neal Reau, 35, of Richland, WA, was traveling southbound



This crash near the Lexington airport claimed the life of Richland man Neal Reau. -Photo courtesy of Oregon State Police

when, for an unknown reason, his vehicle failed to negotiate a curve and crossed into the northbound lane. The Honda then sideswiped

a white, 2009 Chevy pickup towing a flatbed trailer.

Reau was pronounced -See LEXINGTON CRASH KILLS ONE/PAGE TWO

Getting to know your exchange students

Nupur Gorain
Age 17, Junior, Ione
Where are you from? New Delhi, India
Host Parents: Joel Peterson & Lea Mathieu
What do you think of Ione and Morrow County?

"It's pretty amazing. I'm glad I came to a small town because I got to meet a lot of people. Everyone's caring and helpful. I got a lot of opportunities thanks to the people here. I got to design the prom tickets and posters. That was a pretty big deal. I designed the book cover for Tupper. I like to draw, but I got a lot of opportunities here."

How has the experience been for you?

"Really amazing. I've changed a lot. I'm more confident and responsible—mature, I'd say. It's like life in a year."

What was the most difficult thing about this experience?

"Adjusting to a small town. I couldn't go out on my own because we had to drive everywhere. The school system is also pretty different from what I'm used to."

What did you like best?

"Definitely the people. The first day, I remember going to practice volleyball, and I was nervous because I didn't know how people would react, but my friends came up and talked to me. I definitely feel at home now. My host family is amazing; they treat me like family."

Did you have the chance to attend any special events? What did you think of that experience?

"Yes, it was amazing. This was my first experience (with a school dance). We don't really have any high school dances. It was really fun. Sports are pretty important here in the U.S. That was fun. I like to play."

Anything else?
"I'd like to thank my host family a lot. I wouldn't have made it through the year if they hadn't helped me a lot. My classmates and sports teams were really helpful. I really like the way people go out of their way to help you. I really appreciate that."

ALL NEWS AND ADVERTISEMENT DEADLINE:
MONDAYS AT 5:00 P.M.

Ione holds prom



Ione High School held its annual prom aboard the Columbia Gorge Sternwheeler in the Tri-Cities Saturday, April 18. Pictured above left are Ione prom king T.J. Patton with date Taylor Davis and above right are prom queen Karina Rios with date Enrico Macciotta. -Contributed photos

Getting to know your exchange students

David Smidmajer
Age 18, Junior, Ione
Where are you from? Pisek, Czech Republic
Host Parents: Deacon & Erin Heideman
What do you think of Ione and Morrow County?

"It's a really nice town; people are really nice. I love that everyone knows everyone else, everyone helps everybody else. I love it. I could live here. The town I'm from has about 40,000 people. I like the small town better than the big town."

How has the experience been for you?

"It was pretty awesome. A lot of things were really different in the beginning but I like it."

What was the most difficult thing about this experience?

"I don't think there was something really hard. I got used to everything pretty easy. I guess the hardest thing would be 10 months away from my parents. I miss them, for sure."

What did you like best?

"Sports. Basketball and football were the best. I have a lot of new friends and I like them a lot. I like school, too. It's very easy for me. It's nice that school is only four days. School is much more fun. I like it better."

Did you have the chance to attend any special events? What did you think of that experience?

"Prom, Homecoming. It's pretty similar to ours. It's fun."

Anything else?

"I would like to thank my host parents."

Clinic-\$54,925 resources/\$112,340 expenditures; Other revenue-\$334,920 resources; Donations and grants-\$133,000 resources; Interest income-\$11,000 resources; Community Service fees-\$70,000 resources; Electronic Health Record reimbursements-\$116,178 resources; Capital leases-0; Operating, capital, long and short term loans-\$190,400 resources; Community benefit grants-\$50,000 expenditures; Ione Community

Ione names new school principal

Ione has selected Henry Ramirez as the new principal at Ione Community School Principal, Ione School District Superintendent Phil Starkey announced last week. Ramirez will replace current principal Sarah Crane, who has announced she will step down from her position at the end of the school year.

Born in California, Ramirez grew up in Texas

but moved to Oregon in 1986 to attend Concordia University and Portland State. His educational roles include child development specialist for elementary students, a teacher at an alternative school for teen parents, and a behavior consultant for NWRES (Northwest Regional ESD). He has been both a vice principal and a principal at the kindergarten through

high-school levels. Ramirez also says he enjoys hobbies for which Eastern Oregon is known, including fishing, camping and archery hunting.

"The board and I appreciated all the feedback from staff and community members, as well as students," stated Starkey of the selection process. "After completing the interview process and doing a thorough reference check, we feel very confident Mr.

Ramirez is the right choice for Ione. He is an experienced educator and administrator, dedicated to the success of every student, and knowledgeable about important instructional initiatives."

Ramirez will take over as principal July 1; however, Starkey says community members will likely see him around before that time as he works with Crane through the transition process.

Health district talks budget at monthly meeting

By April Sykes

Andrea Fletcher, representing the Community Health Improvement Partnership of Morrow County, presented the Morrow County Health District Board with the 2015 Health Assessment at the MCHD Board meeting Monday night in Boardman.

Fletcher presented a wide range of data, including: demographics, the percentage of disabled in the county, the percentage of

people in poverty, education, the leading causes of death, deaths per year, age-adjusted death rate, cancer incidences, chronic and communicable diseases, health behavior, oral health, maternal and child health, teen pregnancy and student health concerns.

MCHD CEO Dan Grigg commended Fletcher on her report and he, the board and MCHD personnel indicated that the information would be invaluable in aiding the

district in responding to Morrow County's varied health-care needs.

Also at the meeting county health district Chief Financial Officer Nicole Mahoney presented the proposed fiscal year 2015-16 budget.

The proposed budget shows \$11,837,074 in total resources and \$11,645,697 in total expenditures, resulting in a \$191,377 net increase in cash. The district's proposed budget is up slightly over last year when they adopted a \$11,075,778 budget and spent \$11,090,058, resulting in a \$14,280 loss for the year.

FY 2016 resources

and expenditures are projected as follows: Hospital-\$6,411,526 in resources/\$6,713,975 in expenditures; Home Health and Hospice-\$488,441 resources/\$635,550 expenditures; Boardman Ambulance-\$348,067 resources/\$309,747 expenditures; Irrigon Ambulance-\$266,686 resources/\$194,926 expenditures; Ione Ambulance-\$15,086 resources/\$17,076 expenditures Ione Ambulance and Lexington EMS; Pioneer Memorial Clinic in Heppner-\$1,151,205 resources/\$1,259,964 expenditures; Irrigon Clinic-\$827,885 resources/\$648,733 expenditures; Ione Community

G-T Trophy Corner



Bev Crum of Ione poses with the turkeys shot by herself and a companion on April 18 at Wallowa. -Contributed photo

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