

HEPPNER

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Gazette Times

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Suspect sought after recovery of stolen motorcycle

Two men were arrested and a third is wanted after police recovered a stolen motorcycle in Morrow County over the weekend.



Chester Brent Paradiso

An Irrigon resident whose motorcycle had been stolen Aug. 16 contacted the Morrow County Sheriff's Office last Saturday, saying he had received information regarding the stolen motorcycle and requesting police assistance in locating it.

MCSO, with the help of Oregon State Police and officers from the Blue Mountain Enforcement Narcotics Team, was able to follow up on the information. As a result of the investigation, law enforcement arrested Chester Brent Paradiso, 44,

of Irrigon on two felony warrants out of Benton County, Washington, one for Non Compliance for Burglary in the 2nd Degree and one for Non Compliance for Stolen Property Trafficking. Bail is set at \$10,000 for each warrant. Paradiso also faces possible charges from Morrow County.

Also contacted as part of the investigation was Daniel Roy Walchli, 41, of Irrigon. Walchli was allegedly trespassing on the property of Greenwood Resources, and was arrested and released at the scene for Criminal Trespass II.

Morrow County Sheriff's Office did recover the stolen 2006 Honda motorcycle, which has been re-

turned to the owner. MCSO is also seeking information on a third suspect who was able to flee the scene. Morrow County is asking the public's help with any information on the whereabouts of Wallace Gary Smith, 45, who is wanted for Theft I in connection with this case. Anyone with information regarding Smith is asked to call the Morrow County Sheriff's Office at 541-676-5317.

Smith is wanted for the charge of Theft I and other possible charges that are pending. Smith is also wanted by the U.S. Marshal's Service for a federal felony warrant out of Arlington, VA for Probation Violation for Theft of Government Property, no bail.

No photo of Smith was available at press time.

Morrow County Rodeo, OTPR results announced



Above: Jason Minor (center) of Ellensburg, WA won the All-Around title and the saddle donated by Bank of Eastern Oregon at the Oregon Trail Pro Rodeo last month. Below: Bo Foster, pictured with Morrow County Fair and OTPR Queen Macy Gibbs, took home the Morrow County Rodeo All-Around title, along with the buckle donated by Les Schwab Tires. -Photos by Lindsey Wylie

Jason Minor of Ellensburg, WA won the All-Around title for the \$35,000 Oregon Trail Pro Rodeo in Heppner by winning out by half a point over Randy Thompson of Yoncalla, OR in the wild cow milking contest. With the title, Minor also won the OTPR All-Around saddle donated by the Bank of Eastern Oregon.

In other events, Cameron Craig won the bareback title with an 83, while Jacob Ramirez won bull riding with a 70, Danny Alires took saddle bronc with an 86 and Justin Quint scored 80 points on ranch bronc. Other champions were: barrel racer Callahan Crossley of Hermiston with 17.22 seconds; tie-down roper Paul Cope with 9.7 seconds; breakaway roper



Kayse Winkle with 2.0 seconds; steer wrestler Sean Santucci with 3.9 seconds; team ropers Andy Carlson (Hermiston) and Bryan Reay (Adrian) with 4.9 seconds.

On the home front Sunday, Aug. 23, excitement had a more home-grown feel at the Morrow County Rodeo. Bodeen Foster took home the All-Around buck-

le donated by Les Schwab Tires.

Before that, though, the events started with the stick horse races. In the three and under division, Kamryn Dickenson took first, Charlie Mullins second and Maddox McMasters third. For the four- and five-

See more rodeo results and photos at RODEO RESULTS/ PAGE FIVE

Send trophy shots to the G-T

It's that time of year again! Whether you shot it with an arrow or reeled it in with a hook, the Heppner Gazette-Times wants to see pictures of your trophy animals from this hunting season.

Getting your photos to the G-T is easy. Stop by to have your picture taken, drop off photos at our office on Willow St. in Heppner, mail them to PO Box 337 in Heppner, email them to editor@rapidsolve.net or text cell phone photos to 541-980-6674.

Please be sure to include your name and other details--such as your age and where you're from, and even what gear you used--so we can show off your hunting skills in our local paper.

G-T closed for Labor Day

The Heppner Gazette-Times will be closed for the Labor Day holiday on Monday, Sept. 7. The deadline for all news and advertising for the Sept. 9 issue will be Friday, Sept. 4, at 5 p.m.

The G-T wishes everyone a happy and safe Labor Day weekend.

Search continues for new health district CEO

By April Sykes

The Morrow County Health District, at its regular meeting Monday night in Heppner, agreed to authorize an electronic vote on a proposed CEO contract. The district is seeking a new CEO since the resignation of Dan Grigg in June, and Chief Financial Officer and acting CEO Nicole Mahoney and board member Aaron Palmquist are in the process of refining the contract verbiage. The board hopes to get a new contract approved by Sept. 10.

Concerning Pioneer Memorial Hospital's deteriorating sewer system, Maintenance Supervisor Carl Lauritsen told the board that a cost-saving solution to install liners in

the sewer would not work because the sewer system has a "belly," which is a lower sagging portion where waste and water accumulate. He said that the "belly" would have to be replaced before liners could be installed. The district is planning to let bids again on replacing the sewer system. The district plans to utilize the current system until new lines can be installed and then abandon the old system.

Mahoney and Lauritsen say they believe the system could be replaced in the neighborhood of \$75-80 thousand; however, board member Aaron Palmquist, who is also the city manager for the city of Irrigon, said he thought it could cost up to a quarter of a million.

Mahoney said that she would reprioritize other planned capital improvement projects in order to help fund the sewer project. She said that the district would let bids as soon as possible.

Mahoney told the board that according to Merritt Hawkins, the physician recruitment firm hired by the district, there are no new developments on any of the previous physician candidates, but a female doctor from Florida has recently responded to their ad. Dr. Betsy Anderson left her position with the district as of the end of August.

Mahoney also told the board that the CEO search committee has conducted preliminary interviews with two candidates, one

of whom has been invited to interview in person later in September. That candidate is currently working and residing in Alaska.

Mahoney said that construction has been completed on the Ione Community Clinic and that staffing is underway. She said that Shelly Rietmann of Ione was hired as a part-time medical assistant for the clinic and that two CNA students, Pam Piper and Ariel Knight, will join the hospital team after they complete their training and certification.

An open house for the Ione Clinic is set for opening day on Sept. 10 at 6 p.m.

Mahoney also presented the profit and loss -See HEALTH DISTRICT/ PAGE THREE

Red Barn 5k planned for Sept. 19

Local walkers and runners, as well as anyone who wants to bring the family out for a fun event on a fall day, are asked to mark their calendars for the Red Barn 5k on Saturday, Sept. 19.

The event will include a one-mile, two-mile or five kilometer run/walk.

Registration will be held that morning from 7:45-8:15 a.m. at the Latter-day Saints church in Lexington, on the corner of Hwy. 74 and Tom St.

Cost to participate is \$5, or \$10 for a t-shirt.

Proceeds go to the Morrow County cross country team.

WCVEDG announces grant recipients

Willow Creek Valley Economic Development Group (WCVEDG) has announced the recipients of the Community and Public Enhancement Grants awarded to local groups last month.

In July, WCVEDG announced that it had received funds from the Columbia River Enterprise Zone Board (CREZ) to be used for community and public enhancement for South Morrow County. The group has now announced that eight local entities received

a total of \$34,141.49 in funding. Recipients are as follows:

-Morrow County Museum received \$5,000 to digitize county newspapers so they are available online and can be accessed by the public.

-The Town of Lexington received \$5,000 to add a picnic facility at the old fire hall/town hall site, including planting grass and installation of a pergola picnic table.

-City of Heppner received \$5,224 for improve-

ment of playground equipment at Heppner City Park.

-Morrow SWCD received \$967.50 to remove an old concrete curb and replace it with recycled plastic/rubber parking stops, as well as an additional \$699.99 to purchase a DR TreeChopper ATV attachment for the control of Western Juniper in South Morrow County, to be used by landowners.

-Heppner Jr./Sr. High Booster Club received \$5,000 toward refurbishing the high school gym floor

and to install three water bottle fill stations for use by community and students.

-Ione American Legion and Auxiliary received \$2,250 to purchase new chairs and lightweight tables and to purchase a storage container into which to put existing chairs and tables for use by community members.

-Heppner Day Care received \$10,000 for renovation and construction costs for an infant and toddler child care center.

Applicant organiza-

tions had to have been local organizations, clubs, special districts or governmental entities who reside in the South Morrow County Service Area (as defined by the WCVEDG Service Area Map). The requestor had to have at least 50 percent of funding, which could include in-kind and cash contributions from local and regional sources, for the total project budget committed before application, with exceptions granted at the discretion of the board.

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