

## Mosquitoes with West Nile found in county

West Nile virus, a mild flu-like disease spread by mosquitoes, has been reported to have been found in one testing site in Morrow County, according to Oregon Public Health officials. The mosquitoes were collected on the night of Aug. 24 near Irrigon. This is the second mosquito pool to test positive for West Nile virus in the area, with the first being detected on Aug. 10 on the Umatilla National Wildlife Refuge.

Health officials are advising people in Morrow County to take precautions against mosquitoes in order to avoid the risk of infection. They say they want people in that area to be especially careful to avoid getting mosquito bites over the Labor Day weekend.

"The risk of contracting West Nile virus may be low, but we do encourage people to take appropriate precautions to protect themselves against mosquito bites," said Greg Barron, Manager of North Morrow Vector Control District. "We will continue to increase our mosquito control operations utilizing our Ultra Low Volume (ULV) truck-mounted sprayers and possibly some spraying by helicopter to reduce adult mosquito populations," Barron added.

Dr. Emilio DeBess, public health veterinarian, says simple precautions can prevent the spread of West Nile virus:

- Eliminate sources of standing water that are a breeding ground for mosquitoes, including watering troughs, bird baths, ornamental ponds, buckets, wading and swimming pools not in use and old tires.

- When engaged in outdoor activities at dusk and dawn, when mosquitoes are most active, protect yourself by using mosquito repellants containing DEET, oil of lemon eucalyptus or Picardin and follow the directions on the container.

-See WEST NILE/PAGE FOUR

## G-T Trophy Corner



Luanne Brownfield holds a Chinook salmon she caught while fishing out of Hammond, OR on Aug. 18. The Brownfields said they didn't measure the fish, but it weighed about 27 pounds. It was taken on plug cut herring. -Contributed photo

## Long-distance running tests local man's endurance

By Andrea Di Salvo

Many of us feel a sense of pride if we manage to jog a mile or two—or, let's face it, even half a mile for some of us. However, one local man has put his endurance to the test in the field of long-distance racing, finishing the Leadville Trail 100 Run in Colorado last month.

Russ Nichols, MD has been a runner much of his life. From his growing up years in Gresham, through earning his Bachelor of Science degree in biology at Oregon State University and his medical degree at



Local doctor Russ Nichols heads for the finish line in the Leadville Trail 100, accompanied by children Madelyn, Trevor, Hunter and Lily, who also served as crew members during the grueling race. -Contributed photo

Oregon Health and Science University, Nichols says he has been involved in running. Cross country, track and field, "All of the above," he says.

"I've always been a runner."

His involvement in running continues not only in his own racing, but also as head coach of the Mustang cross-country team this year. Two of his children, Hunter and Madelyn, also carry on the family tradition as members of the team.

## Heppner coach, player participate in Shrine all-star game

Heppner was well-represented at the 2015 East West Shrine All-Star football game, played in Baker City on Saturday, Aug. 1. It was Oregon's 63<sup>rd</sup> annual all-star football game, which benefits the Portland Shriners Hospital for Children.

Heppner Athletic Director and head football coach Greg Grant was selected as co-head coach, along with Jon Gettman of Cascade Christian. Other coaches were Steve Turner

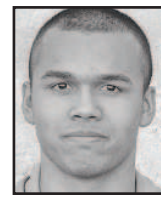
of Cascade and Bill Wortman of Adrian.

John Propheter, son of Gary and Nancy Propheter of Heppner, was one of 30 players selected to participate in this year's game. Players are selected from leading senior players in 4A, 3A,

2A and 1A high schools. "John did a great job all week in practices preparing for the game," said Grant, adding that Propheter played on both offense and defense and made sev-



Greg Grant



John Propheter

## Fatal crash takes lives of Boardman man and Washington toddler

A head-on collision on I-84 near Boardman has claimed the life of a young Boardman man and a three-year-old child.

Last Thursday around 9:30 p.m., Oregon State Police troopers and emergency personnel responded to the report of a head-on collision

on I-84 near milepost 165 (Boardman). Preliminary information indicates a 2005 Subaru Impreza was traveling westbound on I-84 when it crossed the median for an unknown reason. The Subaru struck an eastbound 2015 Chrysler 200 head-on.

The driver of the Subaru, Fernando Javier Castaneda, 23, of Boardman, was pronounced dead at the scene.

The driver of the Chrysler, Tami R. Graves, 44, of Burbank, WA, was taken by ground ambulance to Good Shepard Hospital in Hermiston for non-life threatening injuries. However, Graves' passenger and niece, Emmalee Kitchen, age 3, was pronounced dead on scene.

The eastbound lanes of I-84 were closed for approximately five hours while the investigation was conducted and the wreckage removed. OSP was assisted by the Morrow County

## More of the same expected on the weather front

September expected to be warm, dry

More of the same is the forecast expected by the National Weather Service as we move into September, as temperatures look to be near- to above-normal. Despite rain over Labor Day weekend, precipitation is also expected to remain below normal.

That continued the trend from most of the spring and summer. According to preliminary data received by the NWS in Pendleton, temperatures at Heppner averaged warmer

than normal during the month of August.

The average temperature was 71.4 degrees, which was two degrees above normal. High temperatures averaged 86.5 degrees, which was one degree above normal. The highest was 99 degrees on Aug. 1. Low temperatures averaged 56.3 degrees, which was 2.9 degrees above normal. The lowest was 47 degrees, on the 16<sup>th</sup>.

On seven days, the temperature exceeded 90

degrees.

No rainfall was measured during August, which was 0.39 inches below normal.

Precipitation this year has reached 4.73 inches, which is 4.65 inches below normal. Since October, the water-year precipitation at Heppner has been 8.77 inches, which is 4.67 inches below normal.

And, the outlook for September from NOAA's Climate Prediction Center -See WEATHER/PAGE TWO

## Open house planned for Ione clinic

An open house for the new Ione Community Clinic will take place this Thursday, Sept. 10, at 6 p.m. The clinic is located at 325 E. 3rd St., across from the Ione school.

This school-based clinic will be open to the whole community and staffed 20 hours a week through a partnership of Ione School District, Morrow County Health District, Morrow County Public Health, Community Counseling Solutions and Advantage Dental.

Grants for the building and remodel were received, among others, from the Ione Education Foundation and ICABO.

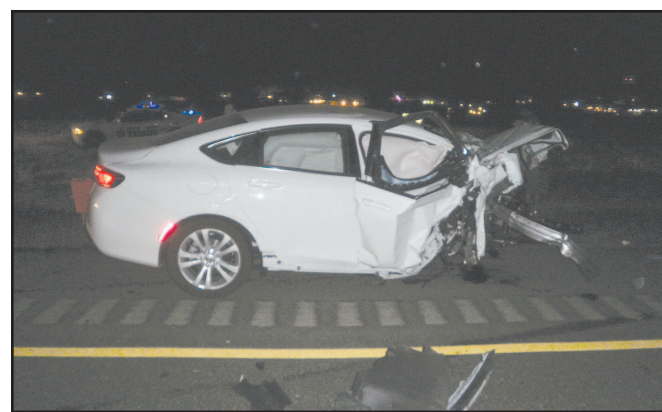
## Input sought for Business Retention & Expansion Project

Willow Creek Valley Economic Development Group (WCVEDG) has contracted with Bruce Sorte, OSU Extension Economist, to complete a Business Retention and Expansion Project to develop three initiatives to strengthen the South Morrow County economy. Sorte has completed two rounds of visits with people in Heppner, Lexington and Ione. He will do one or two more rounds.

In addition, WCVEDG will sponsor a community meeting on Wednesday, Sept. 16, from 6:30-8 p.m. in the Heppner City Hall Conference Room to get ideas from the public.

Sorte will briefly discuss some trends in the discussions to date and then it will be the public's turn to offer ideas or ask questions. There will also be an opportunity to write down thoughts or concerns and leave them at the end of the meeting. Sorte will submit a final report to WCVEDG in early October.

Anyone with questions about the meeting or project, contact Sheryl Bates at the Heppner Chamber of Commerce, 541-676-5536, or Sorte at OSU, 541-737-1403.



A crash on I-84 last week took the life of a 23-year-old Boardman man and a Washington toddler. -Photo courtesy of Oregon State Police

Sheriff's Office, Boardman Police Department, Boardman Fire Department, Irrigon Fire Department, and

the Oregon Department of Transportation.

The cause of the crash is still under investigation.

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