

No answers for neighborhood suffering on-going nuisances

City offers apologies, but no solutions to junk cars, trash and disturbances



Neighbors came to city council Monday to complain about a worsening problem of junk cars, accumulating trash and late night noise and activity on property at Water Street in Heppner. -Photo by David Sykes -See NEIGHBORHOOD NUISANCE/PAGE TEN

Getting to know your county candidates

Morrow County Judge

Editor's note: While the position of Morrow County Judge remains on the ballot in name, a decision by the Morrow County Court last September has changed the function of the position to that of a part-time commissioner without the traditional juvenile judicial duties of the county judge. The position remains a six-year term.

Greg Sweek

Age: 63
Where are you from? I was born at Pioneer Memorial Hospital. Heppner has always been my home.

Greg Sweek

Educational background: I graduated from Oregon State University with a BS in agriculture.

Family: My son, Ian, and my daughter, Talia and her family, live in Boise.

Prior government experience: I was Morrow County Assessor and Tax Collector for a combination of 34 years.

Why are you running for judge? I decided to run for Morrow County Judge,

-See JUDGE CANDIDATES/PAGE SEVEN

Melissa J. (Turner) Lindsay

Age: 48
Where are you from? I am proud I was born and raised in Morrow County. My children are the fifth generation to work on the family farm at Sandhollow/Baseline, in the middle of Morrow County.



Melissa Lindsay

Educational background: Graduate of Heppner High School; Associate Degree in social science from Mt. Hood Community College, Gresham, OR; and Bachelor of Science Degree in business administration, San Diego State University, San Diego, CA.

Morrow County Commissioner

Position 1

Leann A. Rea

Age: 75
Where are you from? While I was born in Portland, I grew up in Morrow County. My husband and I lived in Condon, OR for a few years (1965-1969) before returning to Morrow County to farm ground in the area of Finley Land Fill.

Leann A. Rea

Educational background: I graduated Valedictorian from Ione High School. Following graduation, I married my husband of 54 years. During that time, I attended Blue Mountain Community College, with business law and bookkeeping being my major classes.

Family: My husband of 54 years passed away in September of 2013, and

-See COMMISSIONER CANDIDATES/PAGE SIX

Jim Doherty

Age: 51
Where are you from? I was born and raised on Joe P Doherty Sheep Ranch. Our home was in Umatilla County; however, our range and wheat land lay as much in Morrow as in Umatilla County. My family and I for the past 18 years have resided along the mighty Columbia on the outskirts of Boardman.

Jim Doherty

Educational background: I have a two-year production agriculture degree followed by a BA in business and history.

Family: My wife of 30 years, Kelly, and my son Bryce (who owns and operates O'Doherty Outfitters) make up my immediate family. Yet cast a stone any-

Father sentenced in death of infant

By Andrea Di Salvo

Nearly a year after the death of his 10-month-old daughter, Travis Michael Martin, 22, of Irrigon was sentenced to 10 years in prison for his role in her death.



Travis Martin

Martin appeared in Morrow County Circuit Court last Friday and pled guilty to one count of first-degree manslaughter, one count of third-degree assault, and one count of first-degree criminal mistreatment, all felony counts.

In May of 2015, Martin reportedly threw his 10-month-old daughter, Savannah Martin, to the

ground. Investigation began after the child became unresponsive while in the care of her mother, KaSandra Martin; the mother took her daughter to St. Anthony Hospital in Pendleton on May 28, 2015. Savannah was then transported by Life Flight to Providence Sacred Heart Medical Center and Children's Hospital in Spokane, WA, where she died later that afternoon.

Investigators determined the mother had no role in the child's death, but Martin was arrested on multiple charges of man-

-See MARTIN CONVICTED/PAGE SIX

Juvenile arraigned on rape, sex abuse charges

A 15-year-old Irrigon male is awaiting arraignment in the alleged rape of an 18-year-old female in Irrigon last weekend, according to a press release from Morrow County Sheriff Ken Matlack.

On Sunday, April 10, Morrow County Sheriff's Detective Brian Snyder responded to a call from Good Shepherd Hospital in Hermiston, where an 18-year-old female had reported being sexually assaulted by a 15-year-old juvenile.

The incident reportedly occurred at the 15-year-old male's Irrigon residence, where the victim and her boyfriend said they were visiting the 15-year-old. The victim

reported that she was sexually assaulted by the juvenile around 1 a.m. that night; she informed her boyfriend the next morning that the 15-year-old had done something to her during the night but did not disclose the details.

The victim said she was "upset, confused and didn't know what to do," according to Matlack. She said she called a friend, who advised her to tell her parents. She said she followed her friend's advice, and her parents took her to the hospital.

Detective Snyder initiated a sexual assault investigation and received sufficient

-See RAPE INVESTIGATION/PAGE TEN

Heppner man creates a living legacy with trees

By Andrea Di Salvo

Arbor Day is April 29, but local man Gerald "Jerry" Smith is a little ahead of schedule with his tree planting—about 20 years ahead.

Locals who drive down Cannon St. in Heppner may think nothing of the stand of evergreens by the site of the previous swimming pool, but those trees represent decades of care by Smith and his family.

Smith, 75, was born in southern Colorado and worked in the oil fields during his early adulthood. In 1962, his wife, Sonja, an Oregon native, persuaded him to move to Heppner, where her father worked at the local mill. Smith also took a job at the mill, and the family put down roots

in Morrow County.

Daughter Vicki Rayburn says her parents always loved the outdoors.

"When the weather started getting nice, they were always out there working in the yard," she recalls.

And out there working in his yard was where the Gazette-Times found Smith on a sunny day in April—though he works there alone since his wife's passing a couple of years ago.

The stand of trees towers over the intersection between Cannon and Chase, looking slightly out of place in the midst of their more deciduous neighbors. Smith says he has four varieties in the row of trees he planted along the creek, including



With his health failing, Heppner's Jerry Smith still cares for a yard full of roses. -Photo by Andrea Di Salvo

Sequoia, Douglas fir, and a couple each of pine and blue spruce.

Several of the trees come with memories attached. Smith says his personal favorite is the

Sequoia, which he brought home from Crescent City, CA. The larger of the pine trees stands as a memorial to his son.

-See LIVING LEGACY/PAGE TEN

Bicycle enthusiasts to stop in Heppner during 360-mile bike tour

Wheels will be rolling through Heppner next week—bicycle wheels, that is.

Bicycling enthusiasts will be rolling into town next Thursday, April 21, as part of a six-day, 360-mile bike tour of the state's scenic bikeways.

According to Travel

Lane County, one of the event organizers, bicyclists will set out this Sunday from the Eugene, Cascades & Coast Adventure Center in Springfield, OR and then pedal through Central and Eastern Oregon, climbing more than 22,000 feet in elevation, before the trip culminates at the Oregon

Governor's Conference on Tourism at Wildhorse Resort & Casino in Pendleton.

"Bicycle tourism is a significant part of economic growth in Oregon," said Kari Westlund, President and CEO of Travel Lane County. "Routes and trails provide connectivity between communities like

McKenzie River and the Oakridge/Westfir area, and continue to be a massive attraction to visitors from across the nation. In fact, bicycle tourism earned the state nearly \$400 million in 2012."

Throughout the ride, -See BIKE TOUR/PAGE TWO

Serious injury North Morrow accident under investigation

Morrow County Sheriff's Office is investigating a serious-injury motor vehicle accident involving a pickup and a semi-truck last Friday.

According to Morrow County Undersheriff John Bowles, MCSO was alerted to the accident on Tower Road, Boardman around 9:40 a.m. last Friday. The caller advised that the accident, which involved a Dodge pickup and a Milky Way semi-truck, occurred south of 1-84 on Tower Road near Loves Truck Stop. The driver of the Dodge was reported to be trapped inside the vehicle.

The first emergency responders arrived on the

scene about five minutes after the call. Crews removed the pickup's driver from the wreckage and the driver was air-lifted by Life Flight to Kadlec Regional Medical Center in Richland, WA. MCSO stated that, at last report, the patient was receiving medical attention and the family was being notified.

MCSO is currently investigating the accident, and Oregon State Police is assisting with accident reconstruction. MCSO also was assisted by Boardman Police Department, Boardman fire, Boardman ambulance, Morrow County Public Works, Discount Towing and J&J Towing.

Information sought on local poaching case

The Oregon State Police is seeking information regarding a deer poaching in which three mule deer does were shot and left to waste.

The incident occurred

on Dick Snider's property on Brenner Canyon Road, approximately two miles off lower Rhea Creek Road. Police suspect the deer were shot Monday, March 21.

Information leading to

an arrest could qualify for a TIP (Turn-In-Poachers) reward. Anyone who has information regarding the incident should call Senior Trooper Brian Jewett at 541-980-6081.

UP TO \$2000 REBATES

POLARIS

SPRING SALES EVENT

CALL JASON FOR MORE INFORMATION BEFORE APRIL 30TH

Morrow County Grain Growers

Lexington 989-8221 • 1-800-452-7396 For farm equipment, visit our web site at www.mcgrr.net