

Gazette Times

Cougar sighting reported in Heppner

The Morrow County Sheriff's Office has issued a community safety bulletin regarding a reported cougar sighting early Sunday morning.

According to the MSCO bulletin, a cougar sighting was reported in the early morning hours of May 22 on Water Street in Heppner. Though the report

was not verified by any other parties, law enforcement said it came from "a reliable source."

MCSO asked that area residents continue to be vigilant and keep a close eye on children and pets.

If a cougar is spotted, please contact MCSO at 541-676-5317 or, in case of an emergency, dial 9-1-1.

HHS baccalaureate planned for next week

Heppner High School's baccalaureate celebration will take place next Wednesday, June 1, at 6:30 p.m. at St Patrick's Catholic Church.

Rep. Smith helps bring transportation committee to District 57 Public hearing scheduled on June 29 in Hermiston

HEPPNER—Rep. Greg Smith (R-Heppner) recently announced he was successful in working with Oregon House leadership to have District 57 listed as one of the nine locations where the Joint Committee on Transportation Preservation and Modernization will visit and hold public hearings. The committee is scheduled to hold a public hearing on June 29 at 2 p.m. in the Hermiston High School auditorium. All are invited to attend.

The Joint Committee on Transportation Preservation and Modernization was announced last month and tasked to develop a significant comprehensive and strategic transportation package for the Legislature to consider during the 2017 Legislative Session. Smith, a member of the committee, worked with House leadership to determine locations for public hearings outside of Salem. The hearings will allow local officials and the public to testify on various transportation projects and policies they believe

should be included in the anticipated transportation package.

The committee will also tour local transportation hubs and projects, and visit with regional ODOT officials and members of various Area Commissions on Transportation. After their hearing in Hermiston, the committee will visit the Port of Morrow to gain a first-hand understanding of transportation needs in the area and how targeted investments might strengthen economic growth for the region and state.

"I want to thank House leadership for allowing the committee to travel to Eastern Oregon and hear from our local communities, counties and ports," said Smith. "Our region relies on the transportation system to connect communities and export our commodities. I believe having the committee travel outside of Salem is the right decision. This will help develop a more robust and comprehensive package that will benefit all of Oregon."

G-T closed Memorial Day

The Heppner Gazette-Times office will be closed Memorial Day, May 30, for the holiday.

All news and ad deadlines will be this Friday, May 27, by 5 p.m.

The newspaper office will reopen on Tuesday, May 31.



Overflow crowd hears mostly positive comments on proposed new wind farm

By David Sykes

A large crowd of about 75 that overflowed into the hallway at the city council room last week in Boardman heard mostly positive comments about a new 292-tower Wheatridge wind farm proposed for 13,097 acres in Morrow and Umatilla counties.

After several years of development, the project is moving toward final approval by the Oregon Department of Energy. Part of the process is holding public hearings on the project. A second hearing is scheduled for June 6, also at Boardman City Hall.

At last Thursday's hearing, which was held in front of members of the State of Oregon Energy Facility Siting Council, most of the public was positive, with public comments

The 2016 Primary Election is over, and Morrow County voters have spoken. Here's a closer look at the unofficial results of some of the contested races:

Elected as new county judge/commissioner with 65 percent of the vote is Melissa Lindsay. Lindsay's victory over opponent Greg Sweek seems decisive, as she received more than 63 percent of the votes in each of the county's five precincts—68

percent in Boardman, 65 percent in Irrigon, 65 percent in Lexington, 65 percent in Lone and 64 percent in Heppner.

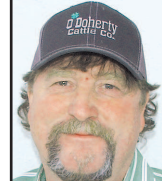
Incumbent Morrow County Commissioner Leann Rea was ousted by Jim Doherty by a narrow margin of 51 percent to 48 percent county-wide. The contest between Doherty and Rea was tense through-

out the county, with narrow margins in every precinct and Rea beating Doherty in both Lone and Heppner. Results by precinct are: Boardman—Doherty 60 percent, Rea 39 percent; Irrigon—Doherty 56 percent, Rea 44 percent; Lexington—Doherty 53 percent, Rea 47 percent; Lone—Rea 51 percent, Doherty 49 percent; and Heppner—Rea 58 percent,

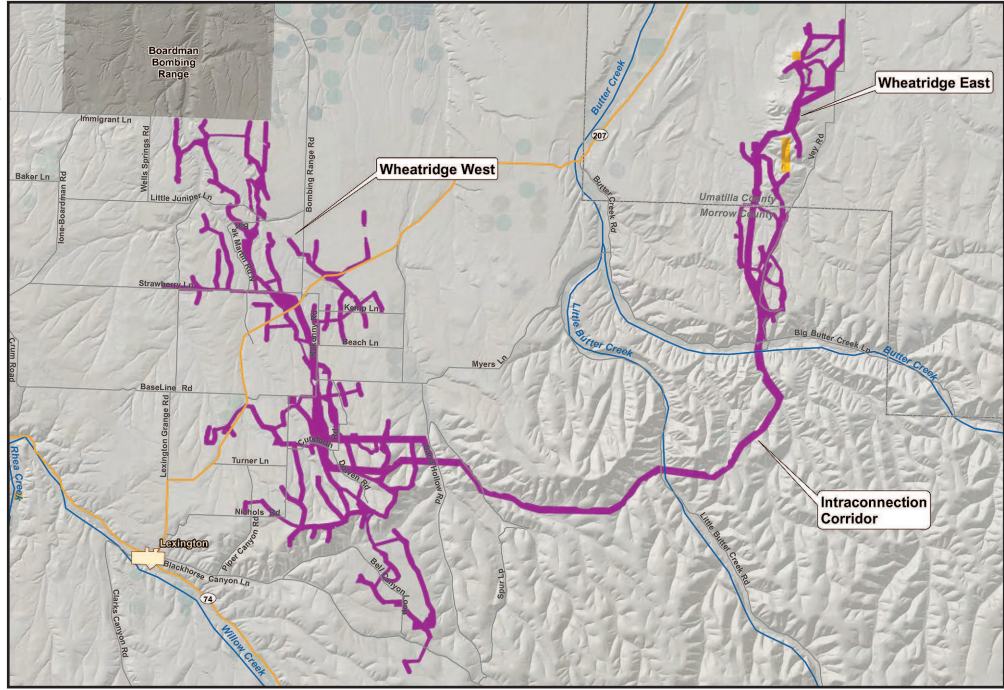
—See ELECTION RESULTS/PAGE THREE



Melissa Lindsay



Jim Doherty



This map shows the location of the new wind farm, part of which is located in Morrow County and part in Umatilla County. In Morrow County the towers will be built from the Bombing Range to the outskirts of Heppner.

ranging from the jobs that will be provided to the additional income flowing to farm families who have the towers on their property. It was also pointed out that the county's new \$4 million dollar Bartholomew building was built with funds from wind tower taxes in Morrow County.

As an example Dana Heideman of Lone said his family had 58 towers in the Shepherds Flat wind farm

in North Morrow County.

"It has been three years since we have been on this project and has been nothing but good. I am in favor of this," Heideman said he also had property in the Wheatridge project. "This is good for the economy, incomes and the land owners. We have things we hadn't had before," he said. Heideman also said the towers do not have a noise problem. "Not any more than

driving your pickup down the road," he said of the noise.

Not everyone was in favor of the project, however. Irene Gilbert spoke against the project. Gilbert is a member of the Friends of the Grande Ronde Valley, a group formed to actively stop windmills from coming into Union County. Gilbert testified that all public health and safety issues about windmills have not been addressed, and that noise is not being properly monitored at windmill sites. She also told the Facility Siting Council that the application was improperly put together and that the Wheatridge project is actually two separate projects, and that the towers in Uma-

—See WIND FARM HEARING/PAGE THREE

Gentry retires from teaching after 30-plus years

By Andrea Di Salvo

Heppner schools will be losing a long-time teacher at the end of this school year, but she won't be going far.

In fact, Terri Gentry, who teaches kindergarten through 12th-grade health and physical fitness in Heppner, implies that she may be using the term "retirement" rather loosely.

Technically, her last day on the job is June 10, but "I don't really plan on leaving," says Gentry. Although she will no longer teach full time, she says she intends to continue her involvement with Heppner Elementary and Heppner High. That means she will continue to do things like coach volleyball, substitute teach, and serve as adviser to the class of 2020.

Gentry has a long history with Heppner schools but she isn't native to Heppner. She was raised in Bend, where she graduated from Bend High School in 1976. She then attended Oregon State University, obtaining a teaching certificate in health and physical education in 1981.

She first came to Heppner during college because her boyfriend—now husband—Jerry Gentry's family is here. She started on

summer breaks during college, finding seasonal jobs like driving wheat truck, before moving here with her husband after graduation.

She started substitute teaching in Heppner schools right away, substituting for three or four years before a full-time position opened up. She stepped in when a teacher left in the middle of the school year and spent the next 30-1/2 years working with Heppner students.

Most of that time has been spent teaching health and PE, but "There's times off and on that I taught math and science, or sometimes daily living. Whatever they needed," she says.

Over the years, she certainly kept busy.

"In the summer I still, for a while, drove wheat truck. Now we have a small hobby ranch that I help work," she says. And, of course, there was school—not only teaching, but a whole community that went along with it.



Terri Gentry will retire from teaching after more than 30 years in Heppner schools, but she says she'll still be involved in many aspects of school life. -Photo by Andrea Di Salvo

"I grew up in a huge school. A small school is nice because you know everybody," she says, adding that that includes knowing when people need help with things like decorating for prom or when an extracurricular event like a dodgeball tournament is happening. "There are all these other aspects of life in the Heppner school system. I just enjoy helping them with everything."

And, while the Gentrys'

two boys, Willie and Tate, are grown and out in the local workforce, she says she still has nieces and nephews in school to help out and cheer on in their activities.

When asked why she's retiring now, she jokes, "Because I can."

She admits she won't really miss grading papers, but "I'll miss teaching. I've done it for so long, and I really like the kids."

—See GENTRY RETIRES/PAGE TWO

IN HONOR OF

MEMORIAL DAY

We will be closed Monday, May 30

HAVE A SAFE AND HAPPY WEEKEND!

Morrow County Grain Growers Green Feed & Seed
 242 W. Linden Way, Heppner • 676-9422 • 989-8221 (MCGG main office)

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