

No harmful lead found in MCSD water, school district reports

In June, the Morrow County School District tested drinking water sites at all of its schools for the potential presence of lead. Results from Box R Water Analysis Laboratory in Prineville indicate that all sites tested showed “no lead

OHA to provide drinking water expertise to schools for support as they test.

Many schools receive their water from community or city water systems. These public water systems regularly test the water and many already treat the wa-



Morrow County School District recently conducted lead testing in all schools and determined that all sites had either no or acceptable lead levels. -Photo by Freemages.com/Emily Austin

detected” or were below the EPA limit of 0.020.

The Morrow County district joined school districts across eastern Oregon that are testing their drinking water this summer. Currently, there are no state or federal requirements for schools to test drinking water for lead, and it has not been a practice in the past. In mid-May, the Oregon Department of Education (ODE) and the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) created a plan regarding lead in school water. The plan requests all school districts that get drinking water from public water systems test for lead in school buildings; requires districts to use certified drinking water testing labs to process the water samples; asks ODE and OHA to develop a method for schools to report results to OHA; and for

ter to help reduce corrosion of plumbing. However, lead that is present in pipes and fixtures in building plumbing can enter the water at the tap and expose those who drink it—which is why sampling and testing for lead at each tap is important.

“The Morrow County School District is pleased to report that water at our schools is safe for drinking. We will continue to monitor this and will keep communicating to parents and our community,” said Dirk Dirksen, superintendent.

Some state funds may be available in fall 2016 to reimburse school districts who test their drinking water this summer.

For more information, visit the Oregon Health Authority website at <http://www.oregon.gov/oha/news/>.

Hermiston woman wins gun raffle



Maria Olea (center) of Hermiston, OR was the winner of the Lions Club rifle raffle held recently. Olea is pictured holding the .257 Weatherby Magnum that Lions Club Secretary/Treasurer Steve Rhea (left) presented to her, with husband Thomas Olea beside her. -Photo by Megan Futter

Rainy days slow down harvest



Harvest is underway outside of Ione Tuesday while, at right, the Morrow County Grain Growers' Ione grain elevator receives a belly dump from a grain truck. Unseasonably rainy weather has slowed progress for this year's harvest, though cutting is slowly moving south through the county. Morrow County Grain Growers reports that it is difficult to get an average because yields are “all over the place,” but so far both quantity and quality look better than last year. -Photos by David Sykes and Bronwyn Fichtenberg

Modern knights teach youth the truth behind medieval fighting methods

By Andrea Di Salvo

A knight in armor pauses during combat in Heppner City Park, his opponent's sword inches from his face after his failed attempt to block the thrust.

“How did that (move) go for him?”

“Good!” cries the crowd of children and adults.

“How did that go for me?” he asks wryly.

“Bad!” comes the response.

The knights in question were from Knights of Veritas (knights of truth), an educational program

that specializes in presenting interactive educational demonstrations of medieval arms, armor, combat and chivalry throughout the northwest. Director Eric Slyter and presentation assistant Michael Jones donned medieval clothing and armor for a large crowd gathered in the park last Friday, using humor and historical fact to dispel some of the Hollywood myths about knights and fighting in the Middle Ages.

Central to the presentation was the longsword, re-

-See KNIGHTS/PAGE EIGHT



Knights of Veritas Director Eric Slyter takes a few moments to explain the medieval longsword before donning his armor, while Michael Jones waits to assist and stage manager Rebekka Van Der Does oversees the table full of armor and artifacts in the back. -Photo by Andrea Di Salvo

Heppner grad helps students' dreams take flight

Heppner graduate Ben Ewing is helping a group of students make their own way to success, as a STEM/science teacher at Toledo High School in Toledo, OR. Ewing, the son of Heppner resident Bill Ewing and wife Sherry, graduated from Heppner High School in 1996.

Ewing and co-teacher Peter Lohonyay coached two Toledo student teams to first and second places at the Renewable Energy Challenge in Newport, OR this year. Nearly 200 students competed, bringing 59 devices for judging at



Toledo High School students watch Ben Ewing get ready to measure the output of their wind turbine. -Contributed photo

the challenge; the Toledo students designed and built wind turbines that, in a manner of speaking, blew away the competition.

Last month the young designers also traveled to New Orleans, LA to compete as one of 30 elite teams in the National Kid-Wind Challenge. While they didn't finish first at

-See WIND CHALLENGE/PAGE FOUR

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Morrow County Grain Growers

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