

Condon teen killed in crash

A Condon girl was killed in a car crash last Wednesday.

On July 27 around 4:30 p.m. Oregon State Police troopers and emergency personnel responded to the report of a two-vehicle crash on Highway 206 at milepost 44 (east of Condon). Preliminary investigation indicated a 1995 Chevrolet Caprice was traveling eastbound when it collided with a 1995

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July cooler than normal despite blistering finish

Despite the warm trend in June and a blistering end to last month, temperatures at Heppner averaged slightly colder than normal during the month of July according to preliminary data received by the National Weather Service in Pendleton.

The average temperature was 68.9 degrees, which was 0.9 degrees below normal. High temperatures averaged 83.5 degrees, which was 2.2 degrees below normal. The highest was 99 degrees on the 30th. Low temperatures averaged 54.2 degrees, which was 0.3 degrees above normal. The lowest was 48 degrees, on July 4.

On seven days, the

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Two new building parcels approved by planning commission

Two new building parcels were approved for development near Heppner by the Morrow County Planning Commission last week.

Kyle Robinson, whose mother Merlyn Robinson owns ranch land on the east side of Heppner, applied for the land partition. The property is located south of Fairview Way across from the fairgrounds and east of Rock Street. It is located outside the city limits, but inside the urban growth boundary of Heppner.

Robinson apparently already has a purchaser lined up for one of the parcels.

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Cougar country



This mountain lion was spotted last Thursday by Morrow County Road Department workers on Basey Canyon, about nine miles out of Heppner. The big cat was close enough to the road for the work crew to get several good pictures, as seen above. Cougar season is open all year, so hunters with cougar tags may be out in pursuit, but Steve Cherry of ODFW says no further sightings have been reported, nor has anyone reported killing the animal. Most likely, says Cherry, the cougar has moved on or picked a less-populated spot to hunker down, and is out there, "doing what cougars do." -Photo by Charlie Ferguson

New equipment gives a helping hand to local emergency services

By Andrea Di Salvo by Pioneer Memorial Equipment purchased Hospital with funds from



Paramedic Tina Davidson holds the portable video laryngoscope that will make it easier to keep patient airways open in the ambulance. -Photo by Andrea Di Salvo

Friends Helping Friends has already gone to work saving lives.

The Friends Helping Friends Committee holds an annual Remembrance Walk in memory of local nurse Donna Schonbachler every year over St. Patrick's Day weekend, and each year the committee selects a local organization to receive the funds raised through the walk.

Committee members say care is taken to select recipients that benefit many people of all ages throughout the local communities.

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Enterprise Zone seeks boundary expansion

Would accommodate new hotel in Boardman

By David Sykes The Columbia River Enterprise Zone (CREZ) is prepared to seek an expansion of its boundaries in order to accommodate a new hotel which plans to build in Boardman and wants to be included in the tax exempt zone.

Rjiv Malhan and Nakul Butta of RNB Hospitality from Richland said in a letter to CREZ they are planning on building a Choice Hotel (Comfort Inn & Suites) on Front St. in Boardman. They are asking that the boundary of the Enterprise Zone be expanded to include the new hotel so

they may take advantage of the three-year property tax exemption that would be offered inside the CREZ boundary.

"This facility will have approximately 66-72 rooms. This hotel will provide a much needed state of the art Lodging Facility for Boardman and its surrounding area. We will be creating 20-25 new employment opportunities and a steady flow of customers for the existing restaurants in the area," their letter to the CREZ stated.

The CREZ board was generally in favor of the expansion, which would

Farm worker housing plan withdrawn

Community resistance cited as reason

By David Sykes

Threemile Farms Manager Marty Myers surprised everyone last week when he announced at a public hearing that his company is now canceling plans for construction of an 800-person migrant farm worker housing facility planned on Tower Road near Boardman.

Citing community objections, Myers said he did not want to jeopardize the farm's stature in the community and was with-

drawing his request for rezoning, which would have moved the company closer to construction of the facility.

After hearing public testimony Myers said, "Obviously this site has resistance from the community. I respect their issues." Myers, however, left open the possibility of moving forward with some type of migrant housing facility,

telling the Morrow County Court and others at the hearing that "We will come back with a better plan in the future."

The public hearing was held not to actually approve the housing project, but rather for the County Court to approve rezoning of 66 acres of City of Boardman-owned land on Tower Road, from

Space Age Industrial to Farm Use zoning. If approved the land was then to be sold to Threemile and the facility constructed. The Morrow County Planning Commission had earlier approved the zone change 5-1.

Farm worker housing is an approved use on farm ground, so if Threemile decided to construct the facility on some of the 93,000 acres of farm ground they already own, no planning commission or county court approval is needed. Following the hearing, Morrow County Planner Carla McLane said that if the farm decides to move forward it would only need approval from the planning department to proceed.

At last week's hearing before withdrawal of the request, Myers said the housing is needed because Threemile plans on expanding its organic farming operation by three to four thousand acres in the next three to four years. He said organic farming is very labor-intensive and the workers are just not available locally to do the work.

"With conventional crops, you tractor over the ground three times," he explained. "With organic farming you go over the ground 12 times, mainly to control weeds. We are challenged to find labor."

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Ione school welcomes new superintendent



New Ione School District Superintendent Jon Peterson with newly sworn-in Ione school board member Rob Crum. -Contributed photo

During its meeting on July 26, the Ione school board welcomed Jon Peterson to his first meeting as the Ione School District's new superintendent. Peterson then swore in the newest member of the Ione School Board, Rob Crum.

Peterson is replacing Phil Starkey, who served as Ione's superintendent for the past two years.

Crum will be serving

the remainder of the term vacated by Ann Morter's resignation in June. Morter had served on the board since the district's formation in 2003. Board members expressed appreciation for her 13 years of service to the district, saying her financial acumen and historic perspective will be missed, but that the board is excited

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