

Winter wheat had strong yields

With the close of wheat harvest, 2017 yields reported well county-wide. County averages overall were close to 50 bushels. Spring wheat struggled, producing in the low to mid 20s, while winter wheat had a successful season with yields of close to 60 bushels.

Dental office closes for repairs

Advantage Dental Clinics has announced it will close its Heppner location for repairs beginning this Thursday. In a letter to clients the dental clinic stated it would announce "if and when" it will reopen. Staff at the Redmond headquarters declined to comment on the prospective reopening date or whether the office would reopen.

Advantage Dental says locations in Boardman and Hermiston will remain open to serve Morrow County.

New massage therapist in Heppner

By Andrea Di Salvo

Those needing relaxation for body and soul will now be able to find it at the hands of Kaley Patterson, LMT, a massage therapist who set up shop in Heppner recently.

Born in La Grande and raised in Adel, OR, Patterson graduated from Lakeview High School. She then attended college in Walla Walla for two years, working toward an associate's degree in business.

Her life took a turn when her father was injured and she took time off to work the family ranch. When she returned to school, it was to Ashmead College in Portland, where she graduated in 2005 with a degree in massage.

"Massage allows the body to connect itself back together and, if allowed, help itself," Patterson says. "Massage gives the receiver...a chance to truly relax, leave the crazies of life for a few moments,

-See MASSAGE/PAGE FOUR

Back to school time for Morrow County



Isiah Martin and Nickolas Wenberg take a break for tether ball during recess the first day of school Monday at Heppner Elementary. School started across the county Aug. 28. -Photo by Megan Futter

Murray's Drug cancels Boardman pharmacy plans

By Andrea Di Salvo

Murray's Drug will not be expanding operations to Boardman as was reported in the Aug. 2 Gazette-Times. The decision to pull out came when the Murrays learned on Aug. 21 that the Columbia River Community Health Services (CRCHS) board had voted over the previous weekend to open their own pharmacy in Boardman.

"We have worked for the past four months in open communication and in good faith to purchase the Good Shepherd Clinic Pharmacy," the Murrays said in a written statement. "We were blindsided by the news this far into the

project."

John and Ann Murray informed the Morrow County Health District Board July 31 that they had purchased the pharmacy from Good Shepherd, which had been operating out of Boardman Select Market. The Murrays had planned to relocate the pharmacy to the Mountain Valley Land Co. building, which Murray's Drug also purchased, located kitty-corner to the market, which they said would provide a drive-through option to Boardman residents.

"After reviewing Mr. Murray's proposal and dis-

-See PHARMACY/PAGE FIVE

Ione, Riverside football teams to combine

Will play as Pirates on the Riverside 3A schedule

By David Sykes

Because of lack of participation, the Ione and Riverside High School football teams may combine this year, and field one team and play as the Riverside Pirates, the Morrow County School Board announced Monday night. The cooperative agreement is necessary to continue the sport at the two schools with the low number of students turning out.

Morrow County School Superintendent Dirk Dirksen told the board that because of health and safety concerns, football turnout across the country is going down, and this agreement will give students who want to play, the opportunity. Students are also apparently turning out for other sports. Riverside High School Principal David

-See PIRATE FOOTBALL/PAGE FOUR

Health district goes ahead with endoscopy room remodel

By April Sykes

The Morrow County Health District Board, at its regular meeting Monday night in Heppner, approved seeking a \$179,000 loan to

fund the completion of the Pioneer Memorial Hospital endoscopy room remodel project, laboratory equip-

-See HEALTH DISTRICT/PAGE FIVE

New county accounting position created

Commission votes to add additional staff

By David Sykes

The Morrow County Commission has decided to create a new position in the accounting department, to assist Finance Director/County Auditor Kate Knop with the additional duties to which she was recently assigned.

The new position will be full-time and according to the job description "is responsible for researching, interpreting, and understanding government accounting and regulations,

audit policies, and contract requirements." The job was created after the commission had appointed Knop the additional duties as county auditor, and determined she would need an assistant to handle the added work load. The auditor position was created by the county court in 1982, but had been vacant and unfilled since the 1990s. Knop was sworn in as the auditor at the commission's Aug. 14 meeting.

The new staff account-

tant, when hired, will report directly to Knop. Job requirements are a BS degree in accounting or related field and two years in governmental accounting. The salary will be \$90,000 per year which includes base pay of \$50,000 and benefits of approximately \$40,000 per year. A new computer and office equipment will be purchased for the position. In addition Knop's salary will also be increased by

-See COUNTY COMMISSION/PAGE FIVE

Velma Wight celebrates 100 years

By Bobbi Gordon

Local woman Velma May Wight celebrated her 100th birthday on July 30.

"I wanted to be 100 ever since I was a little girl," she said. "People kept telling me, 'You'll get there, Velma, knowing you.'"

She was born in St. Helens, OR, but was raised in Portland and attended school in Sellwood. When she was in her teens, she took on the task of raising her siblings when her mother passed away.

"In those days, you could do that. I didn't want my brothers and sisters to go here and there all over the place. I loved my brothers and sisters."

She says that in raising them, "I figure I accomplished something."

During her lifetime, she



Velma Wight at her joint birthday party with Ida Farra when she turned 100 last month. -Contributed photo

worked in restaurants and did housework. She and her husband ranched in Spray, logged in Joseph and retired in Terrebonne.

She raised three chil-

dren of her own, twin girls Darlene and Arlene and her son, Gary. Her daughters live in Portland and

-See WIGHT 100/PAGE FIVE

Latest Nike uniform design comes to Heppner football in honor of Bob Kilkenny

The Heppner High School football team will open the 2017 football season at home Friday, Sept. 1, versus St. Paul, wearing a new look normally seen in NFL and Collegiate stadiums around the country with specially designed Nike Vapor Untouchable uniforms. The state-of-the-art uniforms were designed to honor Heppner's historic success in Oregon High

School football, and the late Robert Kilkenny, who passed away last summer at the age of 86.

The Mustangs famously won a state record 81 consecutive league games from 1998 through 2011 under the leadership of head coach Greg Grant, who is 236-51 at Heppner, including state championships in 1992, and 2015 after an undefeated 13-0 season, and

assistant coach Les Payne who has been a fixture with the Mustang program for 41 years.

Kilkenny was a long-time booster club leader for the Mustangs and ardent supporter. He spent his entire life in and around Heppner, and took great pride in the Horseman—as it is sometimes known—

-See NIKE/PAGE THREE

CBEC, Wheatridge Cut Transmission Deal; Ball in Umatilla's Court

Reprinted with permission from August 11, 2017 issue of *Clearing Up*, a publication of Energy NewsData Corporation.

By Rick Adair

Columbia Basin Electric Cooperative has reached an interconnection-line settlement with the developers of the proposed 500-MW Wheat-

ridge wind project that the co-op says resolves jurisdictional issues it had with Umatilla Electric Cooperative (UEC).

Under an agreement with Wheatridge's previous owners, Umatilla was to build and own the 23-mile, 230-kV transmission line that would run from the project's col-

lector substation in Columbia Basin's territory and terminate at BPA's Morrow Flat substation in UEC's territory.

However, Columbia Basin said Umatilla's plan would violate state law regarding utility service territories, and brought the dispute before the Oregon PUC in January. UEC pushed back, saying that it

-See CBEC/PAGE FOUR

G-T closed for Labor Day

The Heppner Gazette-Times will be closed for the Labor Day holiday on Monday, Sept. 4. The deadline

for all news and advertising for the Sept. 6 issue will be Friday, Sept. 1, at 5 p.m. Normal business hours will

resume Tuesday, Sept. 5. The G-T wishes everyone a happy and safe Labor Day weekend.

10% OFF



RED FLANNEL PET FOOD

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