

HEPPNER

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Lost boys found

Three teenage boys who were reported missing in the mountains south of Heppner were located safe and sound, Morrow County Sheriff Undersheriff/Emergency Manager John Bowles has reported. Bowles said that the report that the boys were lost was received second and third hand, so the sheriff's department had to gather additional information and details to be able to respond. "After contacting schools, family and friends, we had a possible location to respond to. The Morrow County Sheriff's Search and Rescue was activated and started working on the incident."

According to Bowles, on the evening of September 10, Jordan Spaulding and Jasen Lester, both 16, and Bryan Collins, 14, all Heppner, were separated from their hunting party near Sunflower Flat Rd. and the 17 Rd. south of Heppner. The next day, they were reported missing.

Around 10:30 a.m. the next day, Spaulding was located on the 17 Rd. heading south and Lester and Collins were located near the camp, says Bowles. According to a sheriff's department news release, "Jordan said they were lost, but were able to stay warm through the night, and could hear coyotes nearby. The boys said



Bryan Collins (L) and Jasen Lester (R) stand in front of Morrow County Sheriff's Office Search and Rescue members (l-r) - OHV Deputy Jerry Roberts, Criminal Sergeant Brian Snyder, Patrol Sergeant Randy Rayburn, SRO Deputy Phil Morris, SRO Deputy Todd Siex.

they were able to find a road and started walking out. The three had no injuries and were in good spirits for being lost all night. The boys were reunited with their families and all is well."

The sheriff's department "reminds all to report these types of incidents as soon as possible. The sooner we are notified, the sooner we can respond and provide assistance. Our number one objective is public safety and security."

(l-r) Bryan Collins, Jasen Lester and Jordan Spaulding



Morrow County schools to receive funds from local windmill project

By April Sykes

Morrow County School Superintendent Dirk Dirksen has announced that schools in Morrow County will receive a million dollars a year when a local windmill project comes on line.

Dirksen said, at a regular meeting at Heppner Elementary School Monday evening, that the Morrow County Court has reached a SIP (Strategic Investment Program) agreement between the county and the Wheatridge windmill project which will give Morrow County School District and the Ione School District a shared \$1 million to go toward STEM (science, technology, engineering and math), music and art programs. Dirksen said the project is expected to go online between two and five years from now and is expected to last for 15 years.

The windmill project covers territory from Lexington to Buttercreek and will include 200 towers in both Morrow and Umatilla counties.

"It would be a pretty fantastic opportunity to not worry about \$1,000 here or \$1,000 there," said Dirksen. "It's an exciting opportunity for Morrow County students." He said it may provide an opportunity to open schools on Friday mornings, add music and art programs, in addition to STEM programs. He said the district won't see the money until the windmills are up. He estimated that \$600,000 of the funds could go to STEM programs, and around \$400,000 to music and art programs.

Also at the meeting, Dirksen announced that district enrollment is still growing and has increased 15 students over last

year. He said that Boardman schools have seen an increase of 17, Irrigon schools, a loss of 17, Heppner schools, an increase of six students, and Morrow Education Center, an increase of nine. "Exciting opportunities are abounding around us," said Dirksen.

September enrollment saw the following: A.C. Houghton Elementary, Irrigon, grades K-three, 273; Sam Boardman Elementary, Boardman, K-three, 361; Heppner Elementary, K-six, 172; Irrigon Elementary, four-six, 217; Windy River Elementary, Boardman, four-six, 250; Heppner Jr./Sr. High School, seven-12, 175; Irrigon Jr./Sr. High School, seven-12, 374; Riverside Jr./Sr. High School, Boardman, seven-12, 408; Morrow Education Center, Irrigon, 60; total-2,290.

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Council votes to ban all marijuana sales

Large crowd turns out to voice opinions in public forum

By David Sykes

A large crowd turned out at City Hall Monday night to let their voices be heard about marijuana sales in the city of Heppner, and the opinions ranged from allowing all types of sales, recreational and medical, to no sales at all, but in the end the council voted 4-2 to ban all types of sales.

Heppner resident Sheryll Bates started off the discussion at the public hearing saying: "We don't need it in our community. I am in favor of banning it." Long-time resident Joe Miller agreed saying he was totally against marijuana sales medical or otherwise.

"There is no dividing line," he said. Local pharmacist John Murray said he believes marijuana to be a gateway to stronger drugs and something not needed in the community. He said there is an opiate addiction problem here and as a pharmacist he deals with it regularly, and having raised five children here, does not want any recreational sales in the city. Murray was open to some "avenues" for medical uses however, having seen the good marijuana has done for some people suffering pain, and for the relief of the ill effects of cancer treatments.

Morrow County Health Department Nurse Molly Rea agreed, saying as a nurse she has seen medical marijuana for years and watched as it gave welcome relief to those in her care. She said however, these people are not using it to get high, and they should have a safe and proper way to obtain the drug. Rea said there are different types of marijuana available for treatments, and she doesn't want to see patients getting street level drugs. "I have

seen good from it. Medical marijuana does good for some people," she stated.

The biggest advocate for doing away with a ban altogether was Heppner resident Jerry Olson, who said he has used marijuana for 40 years and hasn't had a bad experience. "I am not an addict," Olson said opiates, cocaine and alcohol are worse drugs than marijuana, and he has been addicted to them all and "kicked all of them." Olson also said alcohol is more of a gateway drug than marijuana, and what he called cannabis has a "bad reputation in this town because of other drugs, and we all know what those are," in reference to alcohol. He said if you can buy alcohol at the local pharmacy, why not cannabis? Olson stated he had no objection to allowing both medical and recreational sales in town.

Others in the crowd spoke of the drug and alcohol addictions they had experienced in their families, and also the good marijuana

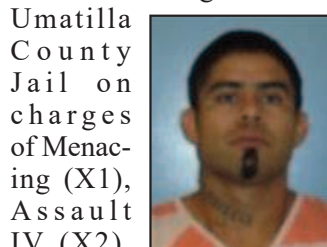
-See MARIJUANA/PAGE THREE

Man stabbed in Irrigon

On Sept. 5 at 7:51 p.m. the Morrow County Sheriff's Office (MCSO) Dispatch Center received a call advising that 2 men were fighting in the street near Highway 730 and West Fourth Street in Irrigon, and that one might have been stabbed. MCSO responded, and was assisted by the Boardman Police Department. Oregon State Police also assisted in looking for the suspect vehicle. Deputy Bose and Deputy Crowell were on scene within two minutes of the call coming in and Detective Snyder arrived 10 minutes later.

The Irrigon ambulance crew assisted and transported the stabbing victim, Jeffrey Alan Kelly, 39, of Irrigon to the hospital. Meanwhile law enforcement investigated the crime and located the suspect. Joel Ernesto Rodriguez, 31,

of Irrigon was arrested by MCSO and lodged in the Umatilla County Jail on charges of Menacing (X1), Assault IV (X2), Unlawful use of a weapon (X1) and Assault I (X1). Bail is set at \$275,000.



Joel Ernesto Rodriguez

A possible second victim, an unidentified male left the scene before law enforcement arrived. He is being sought for a welfare check and as a possible witness. If the public has any information regarding his identity or further information on this incident, please contact the Morrow County Sheriff's Office at 541-676-5317.

Morrow County schools to receive CBEC announces projects

Columbia Basin Electric Co-op will be starting its annual utility pole checking and treatment work for 2017 beginning the week of Sept. 18. CBEC will be checking poles on lines out of the Ione substation in the following areas: Baseline Rd. to North Lex, Ella Rd., Baker Ln., Rietmann Ln., Morgan, Fairview, 4-Mile and Lower Willow Creek. CBEC expects the pole checking and treatment activity to take approximately 8 weeks.

National Wood Treat-

ing Company (NWT) has been contracted to perform this work for CBEC. The pole checking will be conducted with a pick-up and ATV and all NWT vehicles will be marked with CBEC signage. The annual pole checking process is necessary to stay in compliance with Oregon Public Utility Commission and National Electric Safety Code regulations.

CBEC, and their subcontractors, Trees Inc., will be also be conducting its biennial tree trimming opera-

tion throughout the service territory during the next few months. Trees Inc. is scheduled to begin trimming on Sept 25 and are expected to be in the Columbia Basin Electric service territory for approximately three months.

Any inquiries about trees obstructing power lines or the removal of them may be made to Brian Kollman at 541-676-9146, briank@columbiabasin.cc or Josh Coiner, joshc@columbiabasin.cc.

The Heppner Gazette-Times wants to see pictures of your trophy animals from this hunting season. Stop by to have your picture taken, drop off photos, mail them to PO Box 337 in Heppner, email them to editor@rapidsilver.net or text cell phone photos to 541-980-6674.

G-T Trophy Corner



Above: Faith Fatter of Heppner bagged her first buck Sunday on Buttercreek out of Heppner. Faith took the three-point buck while hunting with her uncle Jim Healy under the mentorship youth hunter program. Below: Diana Heath, 16, of Heppner also took her deer on Buttercreek Sunday. This is her fifth consecutive successful hunt and her largest take to date. (Contributed photos)



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