

HEPPNER

50¢

Gazette Times

VOL. 136 NO. 43 8 Pages Wednesday, November 1, 2017 Morrow County, Heppner, Oregon



Larry Mills, the "Voice of the Mustangs" was honored for his 28+ years of service as the Mustangs football announcer before the game Friday night. He was presented with an inscribed microphone along with a Mustangs jersey and an autographed helmet to thank him for his many years of service. Pictured (L-R): Coach Les Payne, Larry Mills and Coach Greg Grant. - Photo by Kirsti Cason

Mustang football seniors and their parents honored



Mustang football seniors and their parents were celebrated at the game against Corbett last Friday night. Pictured (L-R): Wyatt Steagall (64) with his parents John and Jennifer, Beau Wolters (40) with his parents Kirk and Amy, Coby Dougherty (24) with his parents Cliff and Donna, JD Lehn (57) with his parents Joe and Janna, Kevin Smith (3) with his mother Melanie and Peyton Lehman (35) with his parents Andy and Jessica. - Photo by Kirsti Cason

Grieb, to be new announcer



Ken Grieb will be taking over the duties as the Mustangs football announcer to become the new "Voice of the Mustangs" after the retirement of Larry Mills. - Photo by Bobbi Gordon

Local businesses participate in the Heppner Haunt on Halloween



April Sykes (second from right) doles out trick or treat candy to the Heppner Day Care and Heppner Infant Center when they visited the Heppner Gazette-Times on Halloween. - Photo by Bobbi Gordon

Sports playoffs this weekend

Heppner Mustangs volleyball will fight to bring home the volleyball state championship Nov. 3 and 4 at Ridgeview High in Redmond, OR. First game will be against the Culver Bulldogs at 8 a.m. on Nov. 3. Mustangs football will host a first-round playoff game against the Neah-Kah-Nie Pirates at 1 p.m. on Nov. 4 at the Morrow County fairgrounds. Hunter Nichols will represent Heppner/Ione boys cross country at the OSAA Cross Country state championships on Nov. 4 at Lane Community College in Eugene, OR.

MCHD to complete Irrigon Medical Clinic addition

By April Sykes
The Morrow County Health District Board approved an architectural cost estimate of \$925,674 for completion of the Irrigon Medical Clinic addition and approved going out for bid on the project at their regular meeting held in Lexington Monday night. The cost estimate anticipates a start date of summer 2018. The district had budgeted \$685,000 for the project, which leaves a \$240,674 deficit, plus an additional \$91,878 for additional shell space for the project. The district is exploring funding for the project. Architectural Cost Consultants, LLC, of Tigard specified that the estimates were for direct construction costs only and did not include furnishings, equipment, architect and engineer design fees, consultant, inspection, or testing fees, hazardous material testing and removal, financing and other costs. The board also appointed a new board member, Carrie Grieb of north Lexington, to replace Jill Parker, formerly of Boardman, who resigned when she moved out of the district. The other candidate for the

board was Marie Shimer, Boardman. In other business, CEO Bob Houser said that he anticipates the endoscopy room at Pioneer Memorial Hospital will get the go-ahead for use shortly. He said that patients have already been scheduled for endoscopes in December. The services were shut down over a year ago after the state deemed the room unusable because of ventilation issues. The district completed a remodel of the room and has been awaiting state recertification for some time. Having endoscopes available locally is a valued service for Heppner area patients and is also lucrative for the district. In other business, the board: -learned from Chief Financial Officer Nicole Mahoney that the district had a \$132,768 loss for September. "The revenue just wasn't there," said Mahoney. The district showed \$854,098 in gross patient revenue, less \$909 for a provision for bad debts and a \$125,096 revenue deduction, plus \$149,591 in tax revenue and \$10,857 in other operating revenue for \$888,451 in total operating

revenue; \$1,031,820 in total operating expenses, and a \$10,600 non-operating gain for the \$132,768 loss for the year. -learned from Houser that he and human resources have met with a nurse practitioner, Dana Brannon, who may be open to employment with the district, filling in with flexible hours and scheduling. A tentative meeting was planned with her and providers for October 31 or November 2. -heard from Houser that a physician's assistant, Daniel Doherty, currently working in Hermiston, has expressed interest in a position at the Irrigon Clinic. -learned from Houser that Dr. Johnston, who previously signed a contract with the district, is still awaiting Oregon licensure. Houser also said that an interview has been set up for November 14 with Dr. Richard Aballay, who has indicated an interest in locating to Oregon. -heard from Houser that the district is still seeking a mid-level provider (physician's assistant or nurse practitioner) for the Irrigon Clinic and a registered nurse for Pioneer Memorial Hospital.

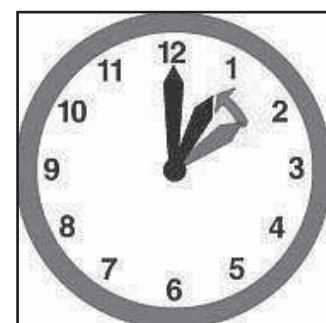
-learned that the Irrigon Medical Clinic will hold a disaster drill on Nov. 30 with Pioneer Memorial Clinic and the Ione Community Clinic conducting the drill on other dates. Houser said that it has been a problem for law enforcement to attend such drills. -heard from Houser that the first meeting with Scott Combs with Clark/Kjos architects has been planned for Nov. 21 to "go over" additional concepts for improvements to Pioneer Memorial Hospital and Pioneer Memorial Clinic. He said that the cost for additional work that the architect firm is doing for the district was \$11,500. He said that new conceptual designs and updates to the master facilities plan will be provided along with a cost estimate. -See MCHD/PAGE THREE

County Commission to hold 'business meetings' prior to regular meetings

No agendas, no public comments

The Morrow County business meetings. Actual Commission has decided to hold what are being called "business meetings" prior to its regular meetings twice per month. The meetings will start at 7:30 a.m. Regular meetings normally start at 9 a.m. According to the Commission, the purpose of the early meetings is "to allow for a less formal exchange of information." There will be no agendas made public and no public comment will be taken during the business meetings. Actual voting will be done at the regular meetings. It was not announced whether minutes of the business meetings would be made available, or if the meetings will be recorded. The business meetings will be done on a trial basis and if implemented, held twice per month rotating between Heppner and Boardman. The first business meeting was held Oct. 18 prior to a regular meeting in Boardman.

'Fall back' this Sunday, Nov. 5



The days are getting shorter, and it's time to "fall back." The Gazette-Times would like to remind everyone to set their clocks back for the end of Daylight Savings Time this Sunday, Nov. 5.

COVERALLS ♦ MUCK BOOTS
TANK DEICERS ♦ ICE MELT
IN STOCK NOW
Get ready for winter
Morrow County Grain Growers Green Feed & Seed
242 W. Linden Way, Heppner • 676-9422 • 989-8221 (MCGG main office)