



Gazette Times

VOL. 136 NO. 46 6 Pages Wednesday, November 22, 2017 Morrow County, Heppner, Oregon

Brent Martin receives award

Brent Martin of Lexington, president of Morrow County Wheat Growers, was chosen to receive the Outstanding Board Member award at the Oregon Wheat Growers League gala held in Spokane, WA on Nov. 9.

A spokesperson said Martin never hesitates to go the extra mile in serving his fellow wheat growers, and his community. He was instrumental in leading a small band of community members in organizing neighbors and friends to harvest the fields of Virgil and Debbie Morgan this past summer, who found themselves in the middle of a family emergency in



Brent Martin of Lexington was presented with OWGL award by president Dana Tuckness at the Tri-State gala in Spokane. -Contributed photo

Texas just prior to harvest. OWGL Board of Directors as well as other organizations.

Chamber tours Willow Creek Dam



Heppner Chamber of Commerce group gets ready to tour the dam. The structure is 160 feet high. -Photo by David Sykes

The Heppner Chamber of Commerce took a tour of the Willow Creek Dam last week, including a walk through the tunnel at the base of the dam, and a look inside the control room where the water level is controlled.

The 160-ft high dam was constructed in 1983 and was the first major dam in the United States constructed of roller-compacted concrete. It cost a total of \$37 million and formed a pool of 125 acres of water.

Chamber members had an opportunity to walk through the tunnel which runs the length of the inside of the dam at its base and is a damp environment with small stalactites hanging from the ceiling of the rough concrete interior.

Later the group went through the control room and were shown the water discharge pipes and the valves that control the amount of water released. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers operates the dam.

Leading the tour were Kevin Moynahan, operations project manager, Tim Darland, resource manager and local man Dan Dunnett,



Inside the tunnels which run the length of the base of the dam. -Photo by David Sykes



The room where the release of water is controlled. -Photo by David Sykes

as he was here recently supervising the cleaning off of the dam vegetation with a herd of goats.

Commissioner Doherty elected 2nd VP at AOC



Jim Doherty (third from left) being sworn in.

Morrow County Commissioner James Doherty was elected as second vice-president of the board during the recently concluded Association of Oregon Counties annual meeting. Doherty is a first-time commissioner from Morrow County, and said he was surprised he won the seat.

in the cap for all of Morrow County that we are able to have a representative on the board of this organization," Doherty told the Gazette-Times. The conference was held Nov. 14 -17 in Lane County at the Hilton Eugene and conference center. According to the organization's website, "The

Association of Oregon Counties is a statewide organization representing Oregon's 36 counties. Established in 1906 to provide a forum for information sharing, AOC now provides a variety of functions and services aimed at supporting Oregon counties and the work they do."

National Rural Health Day celebrated Nov. 16



Morrow County Health District celebrated National Rural Health Day on Thursday, Nov. 16. Patients received cookies and coffee at district locations and Russ Nichols, M.D., Chief of Staff at Pioneer Memorial Hospital visited Heppner Elementary School to speak with fifth and sixth grade classes to "Celebrate the Power of Rural". Dr. Nichols engaged the students by asking them about the definition of rural, what types of healthcare jobs are part of our community, and by encouraging them to maintain healthy habits, such as eating right, exercising and getting their well child checks. He also gave them some ideas for pursuing careers in a rural health care setting. -Photo by David Sykes

Home Health and Hospice hold open house



Pioneer Memorial Home Health and Hospice held their open house on Thursday, Nov. 16. Pictured (L-R): Cyde Estes, Carmello Di Salvo and Sherree Mahoney. - Photo by David Sykes

Gazette-Times closed for Thanksgiving

The Heppner Gazette-Times will be closed in observance of the Thanksgiving Day holiday Thursday, Nov. 23 and Friday, Nov. 24. Normal business hours will resume Monday, Nov. 27. We wish everyone a safe and happy Thanksgiving weekend.

Polaris Holiday Sales Event advertisement featuring RZR, Ranger, and Sportsman vehicles with financing offers and rebates.