HEPPNER Gazette Times

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Ione elevator being demolished

The demo of the Ione grain elevator is a slow process. *-Contributed photos*

Heppner student selected for D.C. youth tour

Caitlyn Scrivner, Heppner, will act as the student representative for the Columbia Basin Electric Cooperative (CBEC) NRECA youth tour in Washington D.C. this summer, June 8-14.

Caitlyn is a junior at Heppner High School, and the daughter of Cari and Matt Scrivner. During Caitlyn's high school career, she has been involved with the Technology Student Association (TSA), learning about technology and other Science Technology Engineering Mathematics, (STEM) ideas. Caitlyn has also been an active FFA member since her freshman year.

Caitlyn is currently working on a project, with two other classmates, planning a fourth-grade curriculum based around STEM. The project will involve delivering lesson plans, acquiring materials, and demonstrating these activities to students at Heppner Elementary. Caitlyn was creative in getting approval from the Morrow County School Board to make this project move forward.

Caitlyn is also a tri-sport athlete, competing in volleyball, basketball and golf. While participating on the Mustang golf team, the team finished fourth at state her freshman year and earned second last year.

The Washington D.C. trip is sponsored by Columbia Basin Electric Cooperative and hosted by the Oregon Rural Electric Cooperative Association.

Caitlyn Scrivner

While visiting the nation's capital, the students will have a chance to speak with Oregon's state representatives, learn about electric cooperatives, listen to motivational speakers and tour national landmarks including the Smithsonian and the Vietnam War Memorial.

Zabrena Masterson takes first in district hoop shoot, moves on to state

Winners of the Elks local hoop shoot pictured (L-R): Hallee Hisler, Mason Orem, Keaton Coiner, Cody Fletcher, Healy Hisler and ZaBrena Masterson. – *Contributed photo.*

After placing first in the local hoop shoot tournament, Zabrena Masterson advanced to the district event, where she took first place again. With her win at district, she will represent the Northeast District and the Heppner Lodge at the State Hoop Shoot in Milwaukie on Feb. 10.

The Heppner Elks Lodge sponsored the annual Local Hoop Shoot at Heppner Elementary School Dec. 10. 25 participants shot a total of 25 free throws with the top scorers advancing to the Northeast District Hoop Shoot. The local first place honors went to: 8-9 year old girls, Healy Hisler; 8-9 year old boys, Keaton Coiner; 10-11 year old girls, Hallee Hisler; 10-11 year old boys, Mason Orem; 12-13 year old girls, ZaBrena Masterson and 12-13 year old boys, Cody Fletcher.

Other participants in the local hoop shoot were Zariah Martin, Eva Worden, Lily Nichols, Tripp Stewart, Jace Wilson, Zaleta Masterson, Nickolas Wenberg, David Asbridge, Jackson Coiner, Madison Orem, Ireland Martin, Arianna Worden, Zandra Masterson, Jace Coe, Joe Sherman, Brock Hisler, David Cribbs, Daemon Worden and Trevor Nichols.

The Northeast District Hoop Shoot, held in Hermiston on Jan. 7 hosted the winners of the local hoop shoot, Hallee, Mason, Keaton, Cody, Healy and ZaBrena. Heppner competitors competed against shooters from Hermiston, Baker City, Condon, The Dalles, Enterprise and Milton-Freewater. Placing in the tournament were: third place in 8-9 year old girls, Healy Hisler; fifth place in 8-9 year old boys, Keaton Coiner; second place in 10-11 year old girls, Hallee Hisler; fourth place in 10-11 year old boys, Mason Orem; first place in 12-13 year old girls, ZaBrena Masterson and third place in 12-13 year old boys, Cody Fletcher.

ZaBrena claimed her first place win after shooting four of five shots in the tie breaker round against two other participants.

Global warming legislation targets Morrow County's biggest employers

Seven businesses on list for greenhouse gas regulation

By David Sykes

A study by the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) aimed at passing legislation to reduce greenhouse gases in Oregon, lists 100 of the largest producers in the state – with seven of them right here in Morrow County. The study was ordered by the last legislature, with the purpose of planning for passage of a "cap and trade" program in the coming February session. Proponents of the law say the regulation will force reductions of greenhouse gases, and slow down global warming.

On the list of local businesses the state plans to regulate are some of Morrow County's biggest employers, including ConAgra Foods/ Lamb Weston, Portland General Electric, Finley Buttes Landfill and Columbia River Processing/ Tillamook Cheese. The proposed global warming legislation puts a cloud over an otherwise bright economic success story at the Port of Morrow, which has added new businesses and producers at a pace where now thousands of workers are employed there. This success has propelled Morrow County to the number three position in the state, just behind Multnomah, for highest per capita income.

Under the proposed plan businesses would be "capped" with how much greenhouse gases they can release. This amount would be reduced over time until the state hits a 75 percent reduction by the year 2050. The study does not address if, or by how much, these onerous reductions will stop, or even slow down global warming.

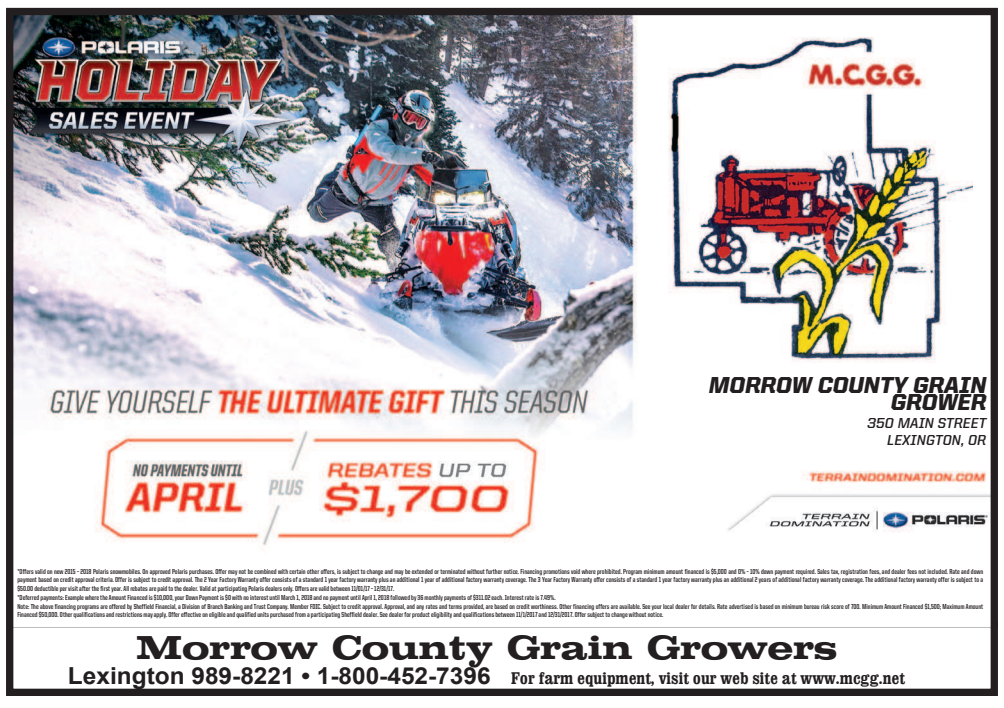
The program calls for the state to issue permits or "allowances" to businesses to release certain amounts of greenhouse gases (the cap). If a business reduces it's emissions below its cap, it could then sell the excess on an open market (the trade). If it cannot meet its reduced emission cap set by the government, it must purchase more on the open market to remain in operation. Initially the allowances will be auctioned off and sold by the state. It is estimated the sale of allowances will raise $700 million per year or maybe up to $1.6 billion every biennium for the state government.

The Lamb Weston plant at Boardman will be a major target of greenhouse gas legislation.

The study says the economic impact on Oregon's economy "on the whole" will be small, but "certain industries, such as food processing…. that compete with firms outside Oregon may not be able to pass the cost of purchasing allowances down to their consumers. This could pressure these local businesses to close or move out of state." This would cause job loss in Oregon and just shift emissions to another location and undermine the goal of the program, the study concluded. The state could hand out free allowances to those affected businesses to offset the increased compliance costs.

The study also said the cap and trade program could disproportionally affect rural areas and low-income families, since cap and trade will raise the price of energy, and low-income families spend a higher percentage of their income on energy. Also rural areas require more driving and heavy equipment operating in their economies than urban areas. "Rural parts of Oregon tend to be less economically diverse than urban areas, meaning impacts on industries in rural communities could be felt more acutely," the study said.

To offset the negative impact the study said payments could be made from government, such as energy bill assistance or rebates for low income households. There could also be state money aimed toward investments in rural communities and job training to help rural workers "transition to jobs in a low-carbon economy." The study did not identify what those low carbon jobs might be.

The Oregon plan also seeks to be integrated into the only existing carbon trading market of California and Quebec. California is currently the only state in the nation with a cap and trade program.

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