

Gazette Times

VOL. 137 NO. 30 6 Pages Wednesday, July 25, 2018 Morrow County, Heppner, Oregon

Andrea Nelson makes third trip to Kenya

Andrea Nelson of Lexington recently made her third trip to Kenya to work with educators from primary and secondary schools. She first visited the country in 2012 while a doctoral student at George Fox University.

Her second trip was in 2015 to complete her dissertation research on Kenyan principals and how they work within their diverse cultural communities. Since receiving her doctorate of education she has continued working at Heppner High School as well as teaching for George Fox University in their Master of Education program.

This most recent trip took her to Kisumu on the east side of Lake Victoria. There she led professional development sessions on student engagement, lesson development and teacher self-reflection. She worked alongside colleagues from George Fox University, including two recent graduates of the education program.

Nelson indicated the highlight of the trip was not in a traditional classroom. She said,



Andrea Nelson teaches students in Kenya. -Contributed photo.

“Working with the women’s group of Musembe was one of the greatest experiences of this most recent trip.



Andrea Nelson

I was able to combine my passion for teaching and my love of soap making in a way that was so rewarding. I taught the group simulated soap making, so that they no longer would have

to buy the higher priced, low quality soap from the market. Also, it gives them an opportunity to make and sell soap as part of their small business operations.”

She said other fun experiences of the trip included her visit to the Karen Blixen Museum in Nairobi and visiting the hippos on Lake Victoria. She hopes to return again to continue her work with the teachers there and to visit the many friends she has made over years.

Wilson Prairie fire burns at OHV park



Fire fighters respond to Wilson Prairie Fire in Morrow County. -Contributed photo.

The Wilson Prairie fire was reported Monday afternoon around 3:30 p.m. The fire was reported as burning on Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) protected lands within the Morrow County OHV park, approximately twenty-three miles southwest of Heppner.

The cause of the fire is under investigation and there were no evacuations or closures in place at the time of the press release. The fire was reported to have burned an estimated 120 acres, burning in grass, brush and timber. Firefighters made significant progress overnight building fire line around the fire.

Aerial resources, including five Single Engine Air Tankers (SEATs), two Type 2 helicopters and two large air tankers were engaged, along with dozers

and firefighters. ODF was assisted by resources from Umatilla National Forest and the Morrow County OHV park.

Overnight the fire held inside the existing retardant lines used to box in the fire and check the spread. On Tuesday additional resources arrived to relieve firefighting personnel who worked throughout the night to stop the spread of the fire. Since the fire was reported, firefighters were able to use dozers to build a fire line around most of the fire. Additional resources assigned to the fire include two contract crews, two Oregon Department of Corrections crews, three dozers, two water tenders, eight fire engines from ODF and three initial attack modules from the Umatilla National Forest’s

Heppner Ranger District. Work also began mopping up fire and heat adjacent to the fire line, strengthening the lines to reduce the risk of the fire moving outside the perimeter.

Regulated closure is in effect for ODF’s Central Oregon District. Specific restrictions, intended to reduce human caused fires, can be found at www.ODF-centraloregon.com.

Phase A of the Public Use Restrictions (PURS) for the Umatilla National Forest is in effect. For more information regarding these and other restrictions on the Umatilla National Forest visit www.bmidc.org.

Year-to-date the district has responded to 41 human caused fires, six more than the ten-year average for this time period. These fires have burned over 200

Hinton Creek fire burns nearly 20,000 acres



The Hinton Creek fire burned 15-20,000 acres last week. -Contributed photos.



A fire between Hinton Creek and Willow Creek started around 1 p.m. on July 17, burning between 15-20,000 acres before it was extinguished. Fire crews from all over the area fought the fire, aided by local ranchers and farmers.

Mutual aid calls went out and fire agencies responded from Lexington, Ione, Boardman, Station 7, Condon, Pilot Rock, East Umatilla County, Pendleton, Hermiston, Stanfield, Helix, South Gilliam County, Oregon Department of Forestry (from Pendleton and Fossil) and US Forest Service.

Morrow County Sheriff’s Office and Morrow County Emergency Management were on scene

along with Morrow County Road Department, ODOT and OSP for traffic control. Community members provided food and beverages for the fire fighters on the scene and locals filled the fire hall with more food and drink for the returning fire fighters.

Fire Chief Rusty Estes later commented that the wildfire tabletop exercise that was conducted earlier in the year did its job. He said this event went much smoother because of that exercise. It was a fairly calm and orderly event, with no chaos and no panic Estes stated.

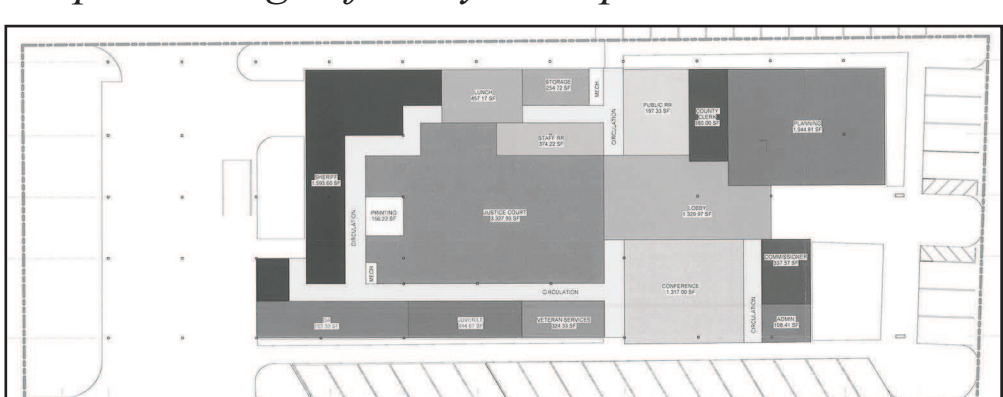
The fire burned mostly between Hinton Creek and Willow Creek and from a few miles east of Heppner

to a few miles up Hanna Arbuckle Road. It burned grassland, fences and corrals. No structures were lost in the fire. There were 11 residences and 43 outbuildings threatened on Hinton Creek and six residences and 23 outbuildings threatened on Willow Creek, with 17 residences and 66 outbuildings protected in total.

Emergency Management and the Sheriff’s Office would like to remind our citizens to sign up for AlertSense, our mass notification program. Please go to www.co.morrow.or.us or AlertSense.com or Morrow County Sheriff’s Office Facebook page to sign up. You can also email your information to Help@AlertSense.com.

New county building to be discussed at Chamber meeting

Proposed Irrigon facility to be presented



Above is the proposed floor plan and square footage of the proposed new county facilities in Irrigon.

By David Sykes

The proposed new 15,779 square-foot county building planned for Irrigon will be the subject of a Chamber of Commerce luncheon Thursday, August 2 in Heppner. The County Commissioners will be on hand to give an update on the progress of the building plans.

Cost of the building is

expected to be between \$3.5 and \$5.2 million, and will include substantial increases in space for the justice court, planning department and a common area for meetings, etc.

Planning for the new facility has been going on for some time, and Crow Engineering has produced a facility plan being used by the commissioners in their decision making. Crow had proposed to hold public meetings in each of the county communities to roll out the proposed facility, however those meetings may not be held after all, as there has been no announcement of any community meetings.

The Chamber of Commerce meeting is open to the public and will be 1 p.m. at city hall. A lunch of roast beef sandwiches with horseradish aioli, garden salad, chips and cookies will be served by the Gateway Café. The cost is \$10, and anyone wishing to attend needs to contact Sheryll Bates at 541-676-5536 by July 31 to ensure a lunch will be available for you. The public is invited to attend. Windfarm activities and other county business will also be reported at the lunch meeting.

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