

Annual bike ride takes place

The 8th annual Blue Mountain Century Scenic Bikeway ride started last Saturday in Ukiah and ended in Heppner with a barbecue dinner. On Sunday morning the riders rode back to Ukiah. The difficult ride covers 108 miles.

The riders reported great weather, great food and great people. Rain was anticipated Sunday but was warm and sunny on the ride back to Ukiah where they ended the day with ice cream at Rhodes Supply.

The ride is organized by the Heppner Chamber and is held the third weekend of September each year. The chamber is responsible for transporting riders back to where they started when they head home.



Riders stopped for a photo in Heppner. -Photo by David Sykes.

Lexington recall ballots go out

Mayor's recall effort stalls over employee job title

By David Sykes

Ballots have gone out in the recall against Lexington town councilmember Bill Beard. County Clerk Bobbi Childers says she mailed out 191 ballots within the Lexington town limits, and they are due back by Oct. 1. Childers said as of Tuesday there were 13 ballots returned. To gauge possible turnout, about 68 percent of Lexington voters returned their ballots in last year's November general election.

The recall was initiated by town maintenance man Eddie Dickenson who says Beard, among other things, failed to come to a budget meeting, causing the town to shut down, and also has caused a "hostile work place by threatening employees if they argue with him." Beard has denied these accusations; however, he was not able to have his response included on the ballot.

Mayor recall stalled

Another recall effort, this one against Mayor Marcia Kemp, has apparently stalled over a techni-

cality on a title Kemp has assigned to a new town employee.

According to state law the county clerk must first validate signatures on a recall petition (which has been done). From there notification is sent to the town's election official, who in this case and according to the Lexington town charter, is also the town recorder. The recorder/election official then in turn notifies Kemp she is being recalled. After notification Kemp has five days to respond to the recall and tell the clerk whether she is going to resign or for the clerk to schedule an election. Kemp has told the Heppner Gazette-Times she has no intention of resigning.

The problem has arisen because the Lexington town recorder resigned several weeks ago, leaving the town not only without a recorder, but also without an election clerk. Therefore, there is no one at the city to receive the notice from the county clerk, and in turn deliver it to Kemp. Beard's recall notice was

delivered to him prior to the recorder's resignation so his election was able to move forward. Kemp has publicly stated that she has not received notice of a recall.

The problem was further complicated when a new employee was hired at the city to do book work. Kemp told the Gazette-Times that the new employee, Kevin McCabe, was hired as a town billing clerk, but not as a recorder. Therefore, she contends, the town still has no election officer and no one to deliver the recall notice to her. McCabe was hired on a temporary basis for 10 hours per week.

However, an email correspondence sent by Kemp and obtained by the Gazette-Times seems to contradict McCabe's job title as town clerk. He was hired by an email vote that was sent out by Kemp Sept. 12. The subject of the email clearly says: Temporary town recorder (see below).

From: Marcia Kemp Date: Thu, Sep 12, 2019, 5:15 PM Subject: Temporary

Morrow County Sheriff's Office Sergeants graduate

Morrow County Sheriff's Office Communications Sergeant Sarah Smith and Patrol Sergeant Todd Siex graduated from the Oregon State Sheriffs' Association Executive Command College in Bend on Sept. 13. The college consisted of a week long, 52-hour executive level law enforcement training and networking.

The class included 42 executive level sheriff's office employees from across the state representing 30 counties. The training cov-

ered a wide range of topics including history of the office of sheriff, servant leadership, public relations, employee and personnel process, immigration, budgeting and legal responsibilities.

The office of sheriff is directly accountable to the citizens who elect him or her. The Morrow County Sheriff's Office strives to have a well-trained staff of professionals to serve the public.

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@rapidserve.net or text cell phone photos to 541-980-6674.

DEADLINE: MONDAYS AT 5PM DEADLINE

Volunteers replace flooring on schoolhouse



Butch Laughlin (left) and Archie Ball, both Heppner, worked to replace the flooring on the porch of the Democrat Gulch Schoolhouse in the Heppner City Park on Thursday. (Not pictured is Ron Bowman, who also helped with the project.) Many donations and contributions were made to the original restoration project by area residents.

Watch out for wildlife this fall

New license plate raises funds to help wildlife migration

Late September marks the beginning of the migration period for deer and elk, which must cross major highways as they head towards wintering grounds.

Between 2007-2017, ODOT documented 12,540 animal-vehicle collisions, including deer and elk. The actual number of collisions is higher, as many are not reported if there is minimal damage or no human injuries.

Collisions with deer and elk tend to peak in October and November, when migration and breeding (the "rut") puts wildlife on the move, making them more likely to cross roads.

ODFW is asking Oregonians to Watch out for Wildlife by being aware of the following:

-The deer breeding season typically lasts from late October to late November, increasing deer activity and the potential for deer to cross roads.

-During the next few months there will be fewer daylight hours and visibility will be challenged by darkness and winter weather conditions.

-Be attentive at all times, especially sunset to sunrise for any potential hazard on or near the highway.

-When driving in areas that have special signs indicating the possible presence of wildlife, please use extra caution. These signs are posted for a reason.

-Be cautious in areas with dense vegetation along the road or while going around curves. Wildlife near the road may not be visible.

-If you see one animal, stay alert for others nearby.



-When wildlife are near or on the roadway, reduce your speed and stay in your lane. Many serious crashes are the result of drivers losing control as they swerve to avoid wildlife.

-The same advice applies for smaller wildlife like raccoons; try to stay in your lane and do not swerve for these animals. They are less dangerous to vehicles than big game animals; losing control of the vehicle is a larger concern.

-Always wear your seat belt, even the slightest collision could result in serious injuries.

Highway 97 south of Bend is a hot spot for wildlife vehicle collisions as it runs through a historical deer migration route. ODOT has worked with ODFW, the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, Oregon Hunters Association and others to build wildlife crossings that allow wildlife to safely cross over or under this busy highway.

Currently there are two undercrossings near Sunriver that have reduced wildlife vehicle collisions by 90 percent since 2012. To the south, a third undercrossing is under construction north of Gilchrist and more are planned in central Oregon.

Dedicated funds are critical for implementing projects to support safe wildlife migration. The non-profit Oregon Wildlife Foundation (OWF) is currently selling vouchers for a Watch for Wildlife

-See WILDLIFE/PAGE SIX

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