

Trucks collide near Lexington

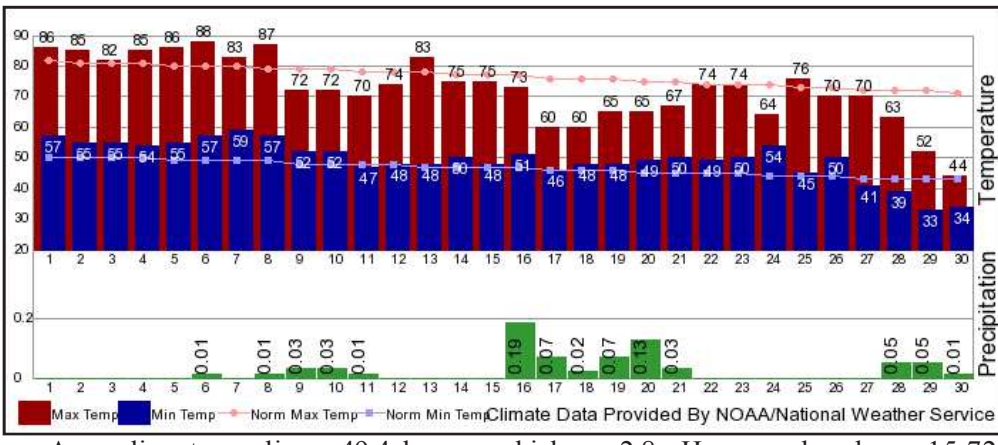
An accident along Highway 74 between Lexington and Heppner had traffic blocked Monday morning after a collision between two semi trucks. According to the Morrow County Sheriff's Office, who assisted Oregon State Police on the accident, a hay truck was signaling and turning right into a driveway between mileposts 39 and 40. The driver

of the hay truck swung wide left to make the turn when the vehicle was struck by a grocery truck that was following. The grocery truck driver apparently assumed the hay truck was moving to the left and proceeded forward in the right lane, which put the trucks somewhat side by side. The hay truck continued with his right

turn into the path of the grocery truck, causing them to collide. Sunlight on their windshields may have been a contributing factor. OSP, MCSO, ODOT and Heppner Ambulance and Fire all responded. There were no injuries and neither driver was transported. There was minor leakage on the roadway from a radiator.

Heppner weather slightly colder last month

Low temperatures above normal



According to preliminary data received by NOAA's National Weather Service in Pendleton, temperatures at Heppner averaged slightly colder than normal during the month of September. The average temperature was 61 degrees which was 0.6 degrees below normal. High temperatures averaged 72.7 degrees, which was 3.9 degrees below normal. The highest was 88 degrees on the 6th. Low temperatures averaged

49.4 degrees, which was 2.8 degrees above normal. The lowest was 33 degrees, on the 29th. Precipitation totaled 0.71 inches during September, which was 0.15 inches above normal. Measurable precipitation, at least .01 inch, was received on 14 days with the heaviest, 0.19 inches reported on the 16th. Precipitation this year has reached 11.71 inches, which is 1.77 inches above normal. Since October, the water year precipitation at

Heppner has been 15.72 inches, which is 1.72 inches above normal. The outlook for October from NOAA's Climate Prediction Center calls for below normal temperatures and near to above normal precipitation. Normal highs for Heppner fall from 71 degrees at the start of October to 58 degrees at the end of October. Normal lows fall from 42 degrees to 35 degrees. The 30-year normal precipitation is 1.14 inches.

Arrest solves nine cases

After investigations into multiple crimes led the Morrow County Sheriff's Office to Chalen James Ottmar, 24, Hermiston, a search warrant was issued to search the Ottmar residence at 19 Westview Drive in Hermiston. The search recovered property involved in approximately nine criminal cases in Morrow and Umatilla County. A theft reported to the Morrow County Sheriff's Office on August 6 by Barton Leveling, Inc near Pole Line Road and Homestead Lane outside Boardman began the investigation. Deputy Wasserman found the stolen item was sold on

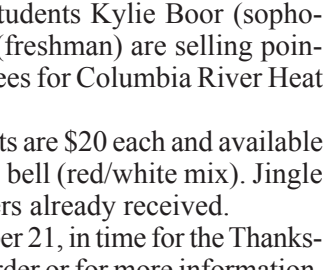
eBay by Ottmar to a party in Fairview, Illinois. With cooperation between MCSO, the individual in Illinois and the Fulton County Sheriff's Office, the property, valued at approximately \$20,000, was returned to Oregon and the owner. During the course of the investigation and searching the property, many stolen items were recovered, solving cases from multiple agencies, including MCSO, Umatilla County Sheriff's Office, Hermiston Police Department, Oregon State Police and US Fish and Wildlife. Ottmar was lodged at the Umatilla County Jail



Chalen James Ottmar on charges of two counts each of aggravated theft I, unauthorized entry into a motor vehicle and criminal trespass II for a total bail of \$54,000. Additional charges are pending following further investigation.

Girls selling poinsettias

Heppner High School students Kylie Boor (sophomore) and Hailey Wenberg (freshman) are selling poinsettias to offset their player fees for Columbia River Heat ASA 16U softball. These big, beautiful plants are \$20 each and available in red, white, pink and jingle bell (red/white mix). Jingle Bells are limited due to orders already received. Delivery will be November 21, in time for the Thanksgiving holiday. To place an order or for more information, call or text Shannon Boor at 541-377-5879, Sheena Shank at 541-980-5881 or speak to one of the girls.



Hailey Wenberg (left) and Kylie Boor are selling poinsettias to earn money for their player fees.

Ballots go out in mayor recall

Kemp cites positive efforts to 'make Lexington Great'

Ballots have gone out in the recall effort against Lexington Mayor Marcia Kemp. The mail-in ballots are due back to the clerk's office by October 22. The recall was initiated by Lexington resident Will Lemmon who says, among other things, Kemp has failed in her oath of office, exceeded authority and is uncommunicative with other members of the council (see below for complete text of the charges). Kemp has responded by citing the positive things she says are being accomplished in Lexington (see below).

Reason for recall: "Kemp has failed her oath of office regularly exceeding the authority of the Mayor. Kemp refuses to work with nor even communicate with 3 of our 4 councilmembers circumventing the authority of the council in absolutely clear violation of the town charter. She has publicly slandered their character and by her own admission based solely on hearsay. She has created an us vs. them atmosphere. Kemp continues to put her own personal feelings, issues and agenda above the whole electorate of the town of Lexington. We deserve better!"

"With the help of Lexington community members, we are improving the livability of the town by having safe neighborhoods, attracting more families to move to our community, providing clean water, maintaining our streets, parks to enjoy and promoting and supporting businesses. We are actively applying for grants and establishing partnerships to help us." "Lexington has a bright future and together, we can make Lexington Great, a town to be proud of."

Morrow County Health District was recently awarded Top Performer in quality reporting and improvement efforts by the Oregon Office of Rural Health. The Oregon Office of Rural Health recognizes Critical Access Hospitals (CAH) in Oregon for their outstanding work as proactive leaders in ensuring CAH's are prepared to meet and exceed present and future quality measures.

Members for their outstanding quality reporting, and especially their leadership among rural Oregon quality teams. This award demonstrates our promise of excellence and unwavering commitment to the health and safety of our community," said Bob Houser, CEO of Morrow County Health District.

Another recall, this one against councilmember Bill Beard concluded last week with voters rejecting that effort 54 to 43 (see related story).

Morrow County Health Dist. earns Top Performer award

Rebecca Sanders, Quality Manager, Morrow County Health District accepts the Top Performer award.

Morrow County Health District's Quality Manager, Rebecca Sanders was present to accept the award at this year's ORH Awards luncheon at the 36th Annual Rural Health conference.



Lexington says 'no' to councilmember recall

Voters have spoken 54 to 43

The voters have spoken and Lexington has rejected an effort to recall councilmember Bill Beard. Beard was the target of a recall effort initiated by town maintenance man Eddie Dickenson. The recall

campaign grew contentious but in the end the voters turned down the recall by a vote of 54 no to 43 yes. According to County Clerk Bobbi Childers there were 189 ballots mailed out and 99 ballots returned for a 52

percent voter participation rate. Next up is a recall against Mayor Marcia Kemp, with those ballots having been mailed out this week and due back Oct 22.

Columbia Basin Electric announces rate increases

The Bonneville Power Administration recently announced a 3.6 percent increase to its transmission and other fixed-fee rates to your local electric cooperative, effective October 1, 2019. While it is Columbia Basin Electric's intention to keep electric bills as affordable as possible for our members, it is now necessary to recapture these increases from the BPA via a monthly base charge increase to our members.

to our commercial 3-phase class base fee, a \$2.20 per month increase to our general demand class base fee, and a \$2.20 increase per month to our industrial class base fee. As BPA has not increased the kilowatt (kw) power rate at this time, there will be no increase

in the kwh consumption rate to our members. These increases will be effective with your October electric bills, due on November 11. If you have any questions or concerns, contact your local Columbia Basin Electric office at 541-676-9146 in Heppner, or 541-384-2023 in Condon.

The Heppner Gazette-Times wants pictures of your trophy animals from this hunting season for our Trophy Corner. Stop by to have your picture taken, drop off photos, mail them to PO Box 337 in Heppner, email them to editor@rapidsolve.net or text cell phone photos to 541-980-6674.

ALL NEWS AND ADVERTISEMENT DEADLINE: MONDAYS AT 5:00 P.M.

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