the HEPPNER GAZETTE TIMES

50¢

VOL. 139 NO. 51 8 Pages Wednesday, December 16, 2020 Morrow County, Heppner, Oregon

Knowles finishes eighth in the world

Takes first twice in his fifth trip to National Finals Rodeo

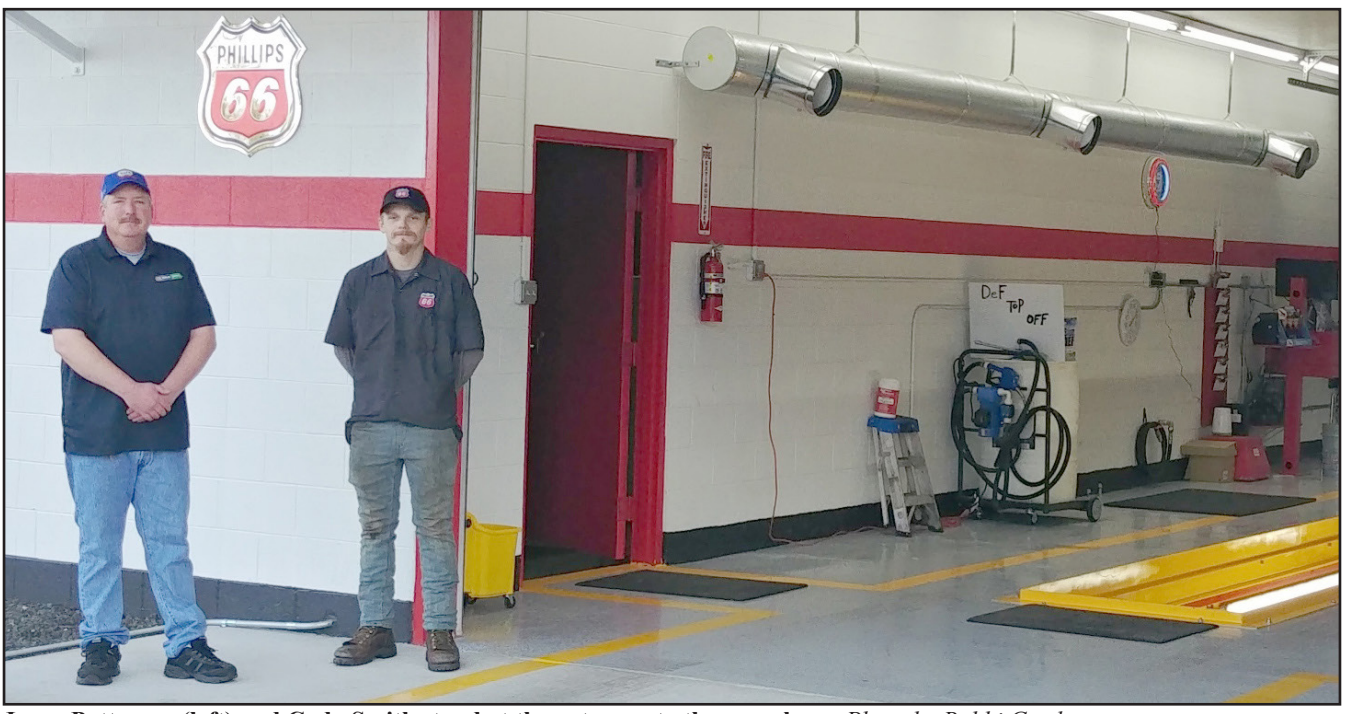
Blake Knowles, steer wrestler. -*Contributed photo.*

Heppner's Blake Knowles finished out the year in eighth place in the world standings for steer wrestling following his wins at the 2020 National Finals Rodeo (NFR) in Arlington, TX. He came in ninth in the average at NFR, placing in five of the 10 rounds. His total winnings for the event were $79,821 and winnings for the year added up to $132,303.81.

Knowles started out his run at the NFR by taking first place in the first round with 3.9 seconds. He also took first place in round eight, placed third in rounds three and 10 and sixth in round seven. His fastest time in the five rounds was 3.6 seconds in round eight, which earned his highest payout of $26, 231. His other times were 3.8, 3.9 and 4.0 twice.

The only other Oregon cowboy qualifying and competing in the NFR this year, Jesse Brown of Baker City, earned $88,558.70 for 2020. The 2020 National Finals Rodeo took place December 3-12 in Arlington, TX instead of Las Vegas due to COVID restrictions.

New Lube Shop opens in Heppner



Jason Patterson (left) and Cody Smith stand at the entrance to the new shop. -*Photo by Bobbi Gordon.*

By Bobbi Gordon

A new Lube Shop opened in November at 148 E Center Street in Heppner. The business, owned by Jason Patterson of Heppner Auto Parts and Kevin Tate, offers full-service lubes, oil changes and all other fluid services and maintenance for vehicles. Their hours are Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Patterson told the Gazette, "We always did some service work before, but decided to pick just one thing. We opened the Lube Shop to service a need for the town." Tate added, "We check all fluid levels when a car comes in to make owners aware of possible problems." He reported they try to educate their customers on what maintenance needs to be done, inspecting fluid levels, wipers and headlights as well as doing visual and safety checks. They top off all fluids at no extra charge to the customer.

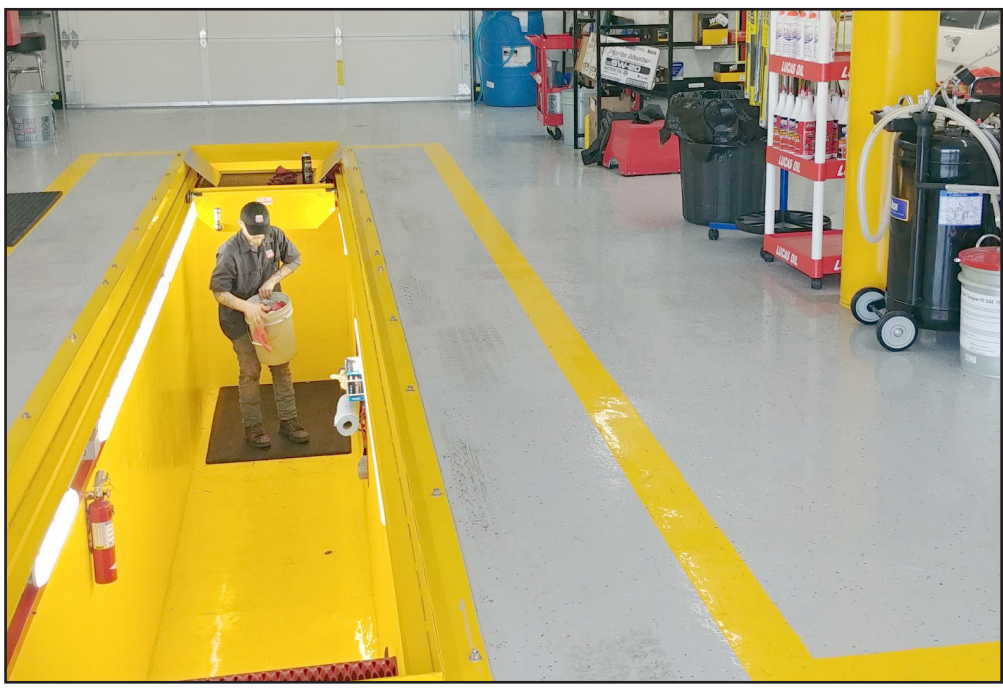
Currently the shop operates with Tate and one employee, Cody Smith, but they hope to expand and add more employees in the future. "We are looking forward to servicing Heppner," Tate said. He said they even offer auto detailing, including a full interior cleaning.

Vehicle owners can just drop in with their vehicles for service or call 541-676-0438 for an appointment. Tate says they will give customers a ride back home, to work or wherever they need to go and pick them up when their vehicle service is complete.

For the month of December, the Lube Shop is offering 15 percent off all services. Veterans and first responders are always offered 10 percent off.

Tate said they use Phillips 66 oil as he feels it is the best. All of the car's service records are entered into their software system that communicates and reports the service to Carfax.

Entrance to the shop for drop in or appointment service is at the back side of the building towards the grocery store parking lot. "Just drive across the bell strip and we will open the door," Tate noted.

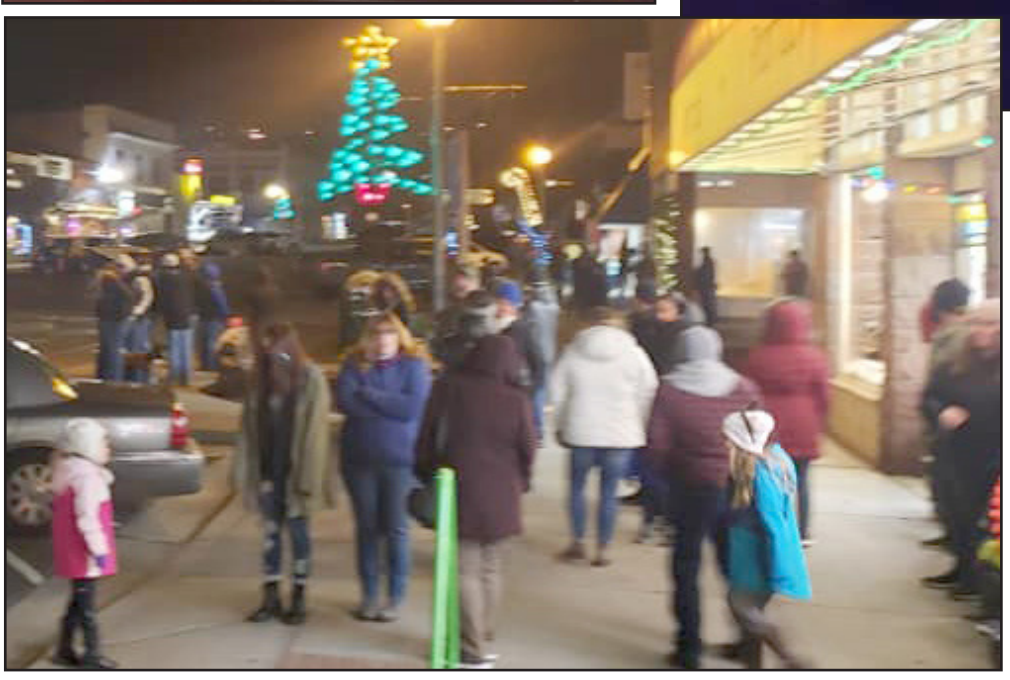


The shiny new pit in the Lube Shop, cleaned and shined by Cody Smith, makes it easy for the team to get the job done. -*Photo by Bobbi Gordon.*

Heppner holds Christmas light parade

See page eight for additional photos.

The Heppner Outreach Council's Christmas light parade, held December 12, boasted a good turnout of participants and spectators. The parade traveled down Main Street at 6 p.m. on Saturday. -*Contributed photos.*



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