

The Official Newspaper  
of the City of Heppner and the County of Morrow

Heppner

GAZETTE-TIMES

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Morrow County's Home-Owned Weekly Newspaper

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All News and Advertising Deadline is Monday at 5 p.m.

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For Public/Legal Notices: public/legal notices deadline is Monday at 5 p.m. Dates for publication must be specified. Affidavits must be requested at the time of submission. Affidavits require three weeks to process after last date of publication (a sooner return date must be specified if required).

For Obituaries: Obituaries are published in the Heppner GT at no charge and are edited to meet news guidelines. Families wishing to include information not included in the guidelines or who wish to have the obituary written in a certain way must purchase advertising space for the obituary.

For Letters to the Editor: Letters to the Editor MUST be signed by the author. The Heppner GT will not publish unsigned letters. All letters MUST include the author's address and phone number for use by the GT office. The GT reserves the right to edit letters. The GT is not responsible for accuracy of statements made in letters. Any letters expressing thanks will be placed in the classifieds under "Card of Thanks" at a cost of \$10.

Engagements/Weddings

Send engagement and wedding announcements to editor@rapidsolve.net or upload to Heppner.net.

Lovgren-Nicol to wed  
June 12



Torri Lovgren and Kyle Nicol

Torri Raye Lovgren and Kyle Nicol, both Heppner, announce their engagement to be married.

Torri is the daughter of Patrick and Bobbette Lovgren, Heppner. She is employed at the MCGG Feed Store in Heppner.

Kyle is the son of Albert "Abby" and Martha Nicol, Austin, TX, formerly of McMinnville, OR. He is employed with the Morrow County Road Department.

They plan a June 12 wedding at the Lovgren family ranch, Heppner.

Births

Send birth announcements to editor@rapidsolve.net or upload to Heppner.net.

Ryder Stinson Worden

Richard and Kelsie Worden of Heppner announce the birth of their son, Ryder Stinson Worden. Ryder was born January 19, 2021 at 2:03 p.m. at St Anthony's Hospital in Pendleton. He weighed 7 pounds, 12 ounces and measured 20.5 inches.



Ryder Stinson Worden

Ryder joins siblings, Daemon (16), Arianna (15), Eva (10) and Lucas (3) Worden.

Grandparents are Kelly and Lorrie Fox and Robert and Pamela Worden, all of Heppner.

Teachers appreciate offer of COVID vaccines

The president of the Morrow County Education association told the MC School Board Monday night how much the teachers appreciate the district's efforts to offer immunizations for the COVID-19 vaccine. MCS D Superintendent Dirk Dirksen said that the county health department (Morrow County Health Department) "has done a tremendous job" of working with the school district to provide COVID-19 immunizations. He said Erin Stocker, Executive Director of Human Resources, organized the effort.

Dirksen said that there are still currently about "800 kids at home, the majority at the secondary level." He said that 100 percent of the Heppner Elementary students have been in attendance, with about 92 percent at Heppner Jr./Sr. High School; 85 percent at Irrigon Elementary; 81 percent at Sam Boardman Elementary; 78 percent at A.C. Houghton Elementary, Irrigon; 73 percent at Windy River Elementary, Boardman; 41 percent at Riverside Jr./Sr. High School, Boardman; and 31 percent at Irrigon Jr./Sr. High School.

Dirksen reported the district is currently in the green level district-wide in terms of Covid-19 infections. However, he said if the rate rises into the red or orange level, they will have to do COVID-19 testing in the schools. The green level is less than 30 cases; the yellow level, 30-59; orange, 60-89; red, 90-100. As of March 1, students cannot go into the school if the level is red or orange.

Dirksen said school volleyball, soccer, cross country and cheer could possibly start February 22 and continue to April 10.

However, he cautioned, "It could change tomorrow." "We're still looking at football," he added, with the first practice possibly in February.

The school board, putting off the superintendent's evaluation this year because of the COVID-19 epidemic, voiced their appreciation to Dirksen during the epidemic, saying, "Good job Dirk. We appreciate all you do."

The MCS D Board received the enrollment report for February as follows: A.C. Houghton Elementary, Irrigon-210; Sam Boardman Elementary-335; Heppner Elementary-173; Irrigon Elementary-193; Windy River Elementary, Boardman-255; Heppner Jr./Sr. High School-146; Irrigon Jr./Sr. High School-369; Riverside Jr./Sr. High School, Boardman-465; Morrow Education Center, Irrigon-123; total-2,269.

Enrollment by community shows that the Boardman schools lost 23 students over the past year, 1,078 to 1,055; Heppner schools lost four students, 323 to 319; Irrigon schools lost 28 students, 800 to 772; Morrow Education center gained 68 students, 55 to 123; district totals, plus 13, 2,256 to 2,269.

Also, at the meeting Rob Tremper of Dickey & Tremper, LLC, presented the district's annual financial report, citing "four significant deficiencies in internal control" on their financial statements, but expressing an opinion that the district presented a clean audit of its financial statements. He said that delays and changes in staff, with new people in those positions, may have contributed to the deficiencies. "Most of the audit corrections were

small, but they added up," said Tremper.

In other business: -The board received two calendar options for the 2021-2022 school year, one with a pre-Labor Day start with students beginning August 30, 2021 and students' last day June 9, 2022. With a post-Labor Day start, students begin September 7 and their last day is June 16. Winter break is December 17-January 2 and spring break is March 21-25 for both options.

-The board received the following statement of 2020-2021 anticipated revenues: total budget resources-\$32,918,383; year-to -date revenue-\$25,568,804; anticipated revenue-\$8,406,061; total-\$33,974,865. Projected ending fund balance: \$30,576 in revenues; \$30,849,744 in expenditures; revenues under expenditures (\$272,832); beginning fund balance-\$3,397,953; projected ending fund balance-\$3,125,121.

-The board approved the following action: resignations/non-renewals-Robert Barker, RJS HS junior high head wrestling coach; Laura Browne-Winters, HJS HS assistant track coach; Beth Harrington, A.C.H. assistant custodian; Belinda Lomas, SBE ed assistant; and Kalinn Prouty, IJSHS ed assistant; employment/promotions/transfers-Austinn Black, MCS D/SBE behavior tech; Alejandra Caldera Tellez, WRE ed assistant; Diana Chavez Barrera, WRE ed assistant; Paige Grieb, HJS HS ed assistant; Denis Lien, HES assistant custodian; Jacqueline Ritch, IJSHS temporary English Language Learner teacher; Lainey Rogers, SBE ed

assistant. -rescinded the May 12, 2003 counseling and guidance program and adopted a revised December 14, 2020 school counseling program. -adopted revised/re-adopted "equal educational opportunity" policy. -revised/re-adopted policy on "threats of violence." In this policy, if a student threatens harm to himself or others, threatens acts of violence, including threats to damage school property, the student shall be subject to discipline up to and including expulsion. "The district may enter into contracts with licensed mental health professionals to perform student evaluations." "Funds for evaluations, other disciplinary options or other procedures as may be required by law and this policy shall be provided by the district." The building principal is no longer required to "ensure notification" of violation of the policy and disciplinary action imposed," to the parent or guardian, but is required to "attempt to notify" the parent or guardian. -accepted and appropriated the following monies: HES-\$1,000 from EC Electric; HJS HS-\$4,000 from NW Farm Credit Services; \$19,237 from the Oregon Community Foundation; SBE-\$788.37 from the Benevity Community Impact Fund; RJS HS-\$1,769.99 from the RJS HS Booster Club. -approved an early graduation request for an IJSHS junior. -approved the ESD service plan. -announced there will be no school on Feb. 15, President's Day. -announced that the next meeting will be held March 8 at ACH.

DA's Report

Morrow County District Attorney Justin Nelson has released the following report:

-Jeffrey Alan Kelly was convicted of attempted sexual abuse in the first degree. He was sentenced to 45 months prison sentence to the Oregon Department of Corrections and five years' post-prison supervision. He was also convicted of failure to report as a sex offender and sentenced to 14 months prison sentence to the Oregon Department of Corrections and two years' post-prison supervision. For his conviction of fleeing or attempting to elude a police officer he was sentenced to six months prison sentence to the Oregon Department of Corrections and one-year post-prison supervision

-Liobaldo Villa Campos was convicted of unauthorized use of a vehicle and sentenced to 18 months formal probation, not use or possess controlled sub-

stances except pursuant to a medical prescription, submit to testing for controlled substance, cannabis or alcohol use, not possess weapons, firearms or dangerous animals, participate in a mental health evaluation as directed by the supervising officer and follow the recommendation of the evaluator, complete 80 hours of community service work, not use, possess, or attempt to use or possess any drug paraphernalia including items primarily designed to manufacture, process or use narcotics including marijuana, not associate with any person known to use, sell, manufacture, deliver, or possess unlawful controlled substances or narcotics including marijuana,

not knowingly be present at any place where unlawful controlled substances are used, kept, sold, grown, manufactured or distributed, neither use nor possess alcoholic beverages, not enter bars, taverns, or areas of other establishments where alcohol is the primary item of sale and complete an alcohol and/or drug evaluation and any required treatment programming.

-Rene Landeros Montes was convicted of assault in the fourth degree and sentenced to 36 months formal probation, participate in a substance abuse evaluation as directed by the supervising officer and follow the recommendations of the evaluator if there are reasonable grounds to believe there is a history of substance abuse, not

possess weapons, firearms or dangerous animals, participate in a mental health evaluation as directed by the supervising officer and follow the recommendation of the evaluator, complete 120 hours of community service work, complete an anger management evaluation and any recommended treatment through a court approved provider, neither use nor possess alcoholic beverages, not enter bars, taverns or areas of other establishments where alcohol is the primary item of sale, complete an alcohol and/or drug evaluation and any required treatment programming and have no offensive physical, verbal, non-verbal, or third-party contact with the victim.

-See DA's REPORT/PAGE SIX



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