



the HEPPNER GAZETTE TIMES



High winds cause damage



High winds picked up the mobile shade structure at the Heppner cemetery and deposited it on top of the shop building. -Photo by Giselle Moses.

High winds on Sunday, March 28 caused damage and power outages in the south county area. A downed tree in Lexington at Hwy 74 near B Street hit power lines, causing a town-wide power outage and traffic to be detoured around the area for several hours. Peak winds of 54 mph were reported at the Lexington Airport Sunday.

Winds also toppled trees and caused damage in Heppner without causing power outages.

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Heppner High School honors seniors



Seniors at HJSHS and their parents were honored at the football game last week. Pictured (L-R): Jayden Wilson and his parents, Aymee and Robert; Jackson Lehman and his parents, Jessica and Andy; Blake Wolters and his parents, Kirk and Amy; Hayden Hyatt and his parents, Troy and Leah; Tim Jaca and his parents, Dave and Jennifer; Roy Collins and his parents, Tim and Jean; Genevieve Smith and her parents, Sherri and Greg; Kayla McAnninch and her parents, Jason and Stephanni. -Photo by Damon Brosnan.



Lexington and Heppner Fire Departments and Columbia Basin Electric made short work of removing the tree and repairing the power lines. -Photo by Wayne Gordon.



A tree fell onto the power lines in Lexington knocking out power to the town. -Photo by Wayne Gordon.

New Ione duplex construction progressing

Construction on the new Ione duplex is proceeding it was announced at last Wednesday's Willow Creek Valley Economic Development Group (WCVEDG) meeting. The duplex is being constructed in the Emert 2 section of Ione and is a joint venture between WCVEDG and Grow Ione. Grow Ione is the original developer of Emert 2 subdivision and donated this lot for construction. WCVEDG provided the funding for the new rental units.



The new duplex is being constructed at the top of the Emert 2 subdivision.



Each unit will have 3-bedrooms, 2-baths and a garage

Money for the project came through WCVEDG from the Columbia River Enterprise Zone II which disburses money throughout the county for education, housing, public safety and community enhancement projects. WCVEDG is a nonprofit economic development group that, among other things, is working to try and alleviate a chronic rental housing shortage in

the south county area. WCVEDG has representatives from Heppner, Lexington and Ione on its board of directors. Local building company Allstott Construction is handling the project.



A grain storage bin knocked down from wind on Kilkenny Road and a tree hit the ground in Heppner. -Contributed photos.



2,000 COVID-19 vaccinations coming to Morrow County next week

Free vaccinations for anyone over 18

By David Sykes

Several COVID-19 vaccinations events are planned for Morrow County in the coming weeks. The vaccinations are free and for anyone over the age of 18-years-old. They are the one-shot Johnson and Johnson variety. The vaccinations will be given on a first-come-first-serve basis and people only need to show up at one of the below locations to get their vaccination. The vaccinations are free to all, however it is asked that those with insurance cards to bring their cards with them.

The shot schedule is as follows:

Boardman at Sage Center	Irrigon at AC Houghton	Heppner at Fairgrounds
Monday, April 5 - 4 to 9 p.m.	Friday, April 9 - 1 to 7 p.m.	Monday, April 12 - 1 to 7 p.m.
Tuesday, April 6 - 4 to 9 p.m.	Saturday, April 10 - 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.	Tuesday, April 13 - 7 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Wednesday, April 7 - 6 a.m. to 12 noon		

The vaccination events are a collaboration between the Federal Emergency Management Agency, Oregon Health Authority, Morrow County Health District and Morrow County Health Department. "We feel exceptionally grateful to be able to bring these vaccinations to the people of Morrow County," County Commissioner Melissa Lindsay said in announcing the vaccination events.

Congressman Bentz supports passage of Farm Workforce Modernization Act

Congressman Cliff Bentz (R-Ore.) voted in favor of H.R. 1603 - the Farm Workforce Modernization Act of 2021, which passed the House of Representatives with bipartisan support 247-174. The bill goes to the U.S. Senate for consideration. Bentz was joined by 29 House Republicans in passing this legislation, which seeks to address the labor shortage

faced by many food and fiber producers in Oregon's Second Congressional District.

"As one who was raised on a cattle ranch in Harney County, I know firsthand just how much work must be done by those who work in agriculture. I have also spoken with local leaders across our district - including farmers, ranchers, orchardists, and produc-

ers; business owners; trade associations; and local governments. After many conversations and careful consideration, I agreed with my constituents that our district would benefit from the reforms this bill makes to the H-2A guest worker program. These reforms are important to ensuring that we have a stable and

-See BENTZ/PAGE TWO

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