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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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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.

Nichols resigns from health district



Dr. Russ Nichols

Morrow County Health District Board member Carri Grieb told the Gazette-Times Tuesday morning that long-time physician Dr. Russ Nichols has resigned from the district.

"It is with regret that we inform you Dr. Russ Nichols has decided to depart Morrow County Health District to pursue other opportunities. Dr. Nichols has been serving patients of the district for 10 years. We all wish him well in his future endeavors," said John Murray, MCHD Board chair, via Emily Reynolds Roberts, M.Ed., certified compliance and ethics manager for the district.

The board had also recently placed newly-hired administrator Ryan Fowler on administrative leave. The district has not disclosed the reason. Previous administrator, Bob Houser,

as colonoscopies. He also served as chief of staff.

He and his wife, Toni, had four children in the Morrow County School District, and both have coached track for several years. Toni Nichols is also employed with the health district as Pioneer Memorial Clinic director.

The district recently signed a contract with Dr. Emily (Thompson) Jack, who is from Heppner, but she will not be on board with the district until September of 2022. Subsequent to Jack's employment agreement with the district,

the board also increased the salaries of Nichols and current physician, Dr. Dan Hambleton.

In addition to Dr. Nichols and Dr. Hambleton, the district also employs Dr. Betsy Anderson in Heppner, physician's assistants, Danielle Mateleska, David Collins, Katie Mencos, Amanda Fabian and Jon Watson, and nurse practitioner Eileen McElligott in three clinics, Pioneer Memorial Clinic in Heppner, Irrigon Medical Clinic and Ione Community Clinic, in addition to Pioneer Memorial Hospital, Heppner.

retired in December after extending his contract until a replacement could be hired. Fowler came to Heppner from Reedsport where he also served as hospital administrator.

In addition to maintaining regular office hours, Dr. Nichols has provided hospital coverage and additional services for MCHD such

HHS drama club to present Matilda



The cast of Matilda.

The Heppner High School drama club will present Matilda on May 19 and 20 at 7 p.m. in the high school cafetorium. Admission will be \$3 per person and masks are required. Seating is limited so those interested in attending should call or text 541-701-7400 to reserve a seat.

Students participating in the production are

Hannah Palmer, Madelyn Nichols, Serena Humphreys, Roen Waite, Madison Palmer, Hannah Finch, Piper Kelton, Rylee Palmer, Jacob Finch, Nathan Ellsworth, Daemon Worden, Kelsi Workman, Sarah Munkers, Teegan Kelton, Harley Anderson and Ed Ellsworth.

New 10-acre residential lot size ordinance approved

Looks to address acute county-wide housing shortage

By David Sykes

In an effort to relieve a county-wide housing shortage and also provide residents with desirable smaller building parcels, Morrow County has approved a new zoning ordinance allowing for creation of smaller 10-acre parcels for sale as residential properties. The new ordinance is the result of months of work by the planning commission and staff to come up with a way that homeowners can have access to smaller parcels on which to build homes.

Restrictive state land use laws generally prohibit creation of these smaller parcels in rural areas, so the new county ordinance is being watched closely not only by state agencies, but by land use watch dog groups like the 1,000 friends of Oregon. Because of this scrutiny, even with the new ordinance County Planner Tamra Mabbott says it probably won't be easy for larger landowners to break off pieces of their property to create the new smaller parcels.

Under the new ordinance, which was passed to "provide lands for rural living in a rural residential atmosphere," one single-family dwelling, including mobile homes,

will be allowed for each lot. Livestock such as cows, horses, goats, sheep, hogs and poultry will be allowed but subject to certain density rules. For instance, there would be a limit of 10 cows, horses or mules, 30 sheep or goats, and four pigs per 10 acres. The ordinance states that the main purpose of the parcels shall be residential and the raising of animals "incidental" to its use.

Adoption of the new ordinance was praised by local organizations such as the Ione Community Agr-Business Organization, who in a letter of support for the new 10-acre lots, said the need for housing continues to be a major issue. "For years, local businesses have lost valuable employees and applicants because there is no suitable housing available. No housing means no growth and we are unable to sustain not only the way of life many are accustomed to but the services we are afforded by having a stable economy," ICABO President Ed Rollins said in a letter of support for passage of the new ordinance. Rollins also pointed out the new small-acre lots would provide opportunity for youth to participate in FFA and 4-H animal projects and "teach

them how to take care of the land and to overall aid those youth to become well rounded individuals."

The city of Heppner also wrote a letter in support of the new 10-acre parcels. "I personally cannot count the times that I have heard individuals want this as a choice when moving to this area," said City Manager Kraig Cutsforth. "Allowing this action will let more marginal land become productive and increase the need for services and businesses in and around this community."

Given the resistance from the Oregon State Land Conservation and Development Commission, LCDC, as well as 1,000 Friends of Oregon, to the new ordinance, Mabbott says while the process to create 10-acre parcels will not be impossible, it will be "robust." Application will be made through the Morrow County Planning Department, and she recommended anyone considering it to think about hiring a land use professional to guide them through the process.

Marriage Licenses

The Morrow County Clerk's office has released the following report of marriage licenses:

April 1, 2021: - Jose Mauricio Aguillon Martinez, 37, Boardman, and Elbia Maria De La Lima Claustro, 35, Boardman.

April 8, 2021: - Ruth Marlene Estrada, 31, Boardman, and Manuel Antonio Aguillon Martinez, 39, Boardman.

April 15, 2021: - Maria Guadalupe Navarrete, 33, Irrigon, and Jorge Madrigal, 36, Irrigon.

- Erika Tlapanco Estrella, 26, Boardman, and

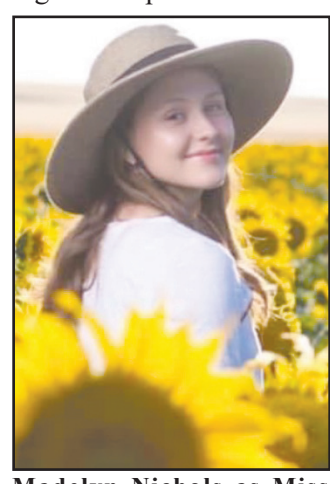
Luis Felipe Lopez, 27, Boardman.

April 20, 2021: - Andrew Phillip Shoemaker, 58, Kennewick, WA, and Donnetta Lynn James, 58, Kennewick, WA.

April 27, 2021: - Israel Villa Lopez, 46, Boardman, and Maria Elena Landeros Navarro, 46, Boardman.

April 29, 2021: - Mayra Patricia Ruelas, 44, Boardman, and Gerardo Mendieta Lopez, 46, Boardman.

DEADLINE:
MONDAYS
AT 5PM



Madelyn Nichols as Miss Honey.



Hannah Palmer as Matilda.

DA's Report

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

-Tyler Joe Stone was convicted of failure to appear in the first degree- felony and sentenced to eight months jail, two years' post-prison supervision and a \$400 fine and fees assessment.

-Jason Leon Bowles was convicted of contempt of court- violation of restraining order and sentenced to 45 days jail.

Re-Elect **Jerry HEALY**

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Port of Morrow Commissioner Position #3

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

COMMUNITY SUPPORTERS FOR THE RE-ELECTION OF JERRY HEALY FOR PORT OF MORROW COMMISSIONER POSITION #3

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Cecil Rock	Darcee and Slater Mitchell
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Steve Rhea	Duane and Linda Neiffer
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