



the HEPPNER GAZETTE TIMES

50¢
VOL. 140 NO. 19 10 Pages Wednesday, May 12, 2021 Morrow County, Heppner, Oregon

Threemile changed to Marty Myers Road

Threemile Road in north Morrow County west of Boardman has been changed to Marty Myers Road in honor of the recently deceased, longtime and respected farm manager. Myers, who passed away Dec. 1, had been general manager of the large Threemile Canyon Farms west of Boardman since 1998.

"Marty was a good friend of mine, and a good partner to Beef Northwest. He was a leader and innovator in agriculture and through his efforts, brought many innovations and positive changes to the industry," said Beef NW Feeders Managing Partner John Wilson in a letter to the



Long-time Threemile Farms Manager Marty Myers

Morrow County commission supporting the name change. "Marty was also a champion of community causes and supported Morrow County and our local

communities."

While it is a private road, the county does have overall responsibility for coordinating and naming roads in the county and the commissioners voted unanimously in favor of the name change. The newly named Marty Myers Road intersects to the I-84 freeway west of Boardman.

Threemile Canyon Farms covers approximately 145 square miles and grows 39,500 acres of irrigated crops including potatoes, onions, corn and sweet peas. The farm also runs four dairies, with 33,000 milking cows and nearly 70,000 total cattle. The milk is sold to the Til-

lamook County Creamery Association, which operates a large cheese-making plant 20 miles away at the Port of Morrow.

Along with his position at Threemile Canyon Farms, Myers had served on the Oregon Board of Agriculture since 2015. Members are appointed by the governor and advise the state Department of Agriculture on policy issues. In 2020 Threemile Canyon Farms was recognized for Outstanding Dairy Farm Sustainability at the 2020 U.S. Dairy Sustainability Awards for its closed-loop system, pioneered by Myers, to minimize and recycle dairy waste.

Umatilla National Forest selects new Heppner District Ranger

Umatilla National Forest Supervisor Eric Watrud has announced that Doug McKay has been selected as the new Heppner District Ranger, with an anticipated start date toward the end of June. McKay currently serves as a district ranger on the Winter Rim Zone (which includes both the Paisley and Silver Lake Ranger Districts) of the Fremont-Winema National Forest.

"The Umatilla is fortunate to have such a highly qualified individual join our forest leadership team," Watrud said. "Doug's skills, experience actively managing National Forest lands, and his background are outstanding complements to the priority work the forest has underway and the interests of the communities and partners that we serve."

McKay replaces Brandon Houck, who has taken a District Ranger position on the Bighorn National Forest. McKay brings a variety of experience to the Umatilla National Forest, including a strong natural resources and fire management background and experience working with a variety of tribal governments, county commissioners, partners, public stakeholders and other federal agencies.

McKay has worked as the Winter Rim Zone District Ranger on the Fremont-Winema National Forest since 2015. McKay is responsible for leading

a large and geographically dispersed organization, managing a complex landscape, leading fire management efforts to protect communities and working closely with a variety of external stakeholders.

McKay also brings leadership experience through a number of temporary assignments, including serving as the acting Public Services Officer on the Sierra National Forest, the acting Regional Manager for the Tribal Relations Program for the Pacific Southwest Region based out of Vallejo, California, and the acting Heritage Program Manager on the San Bernardino National Forest.

McKay has an extensive background in archaeology and heritage and has served in various archaeology roles throughout his career, including as a District Archaeologist on the San Bernardino National Forest and the Forest Archaeologist on the Sierra National Forest.

Born in Dallas, Texas, but raised in a small farming community in the Mississippi Delta region of eastern Arkansas, McKay has personal connections to rural communities, the unique cultures that define them and a strong desire to promote healthy forest practices that support local communities and their economies. McKay has a bachelor's degree in sociology and anthropology

from Henderson State University.

"I am extremely excited to be a part of the Umatilla National Forest and the local community," McKay said. "I look forward to meeting the district and forest staff and working collaboratively with the public and our partners throughout the area in the very near future."

McKay will move to the Heppner area with his wife. In his free time, McKay enjoys working with the Rosal Community Purchase group in Scotland. His hobbies include learning Gaelic, painting, photography and fishing.



Doug McKay

ies include learning Gaelic, painting, photography and fishing.

Fowler no longer with health district

The Morrow County Health District Board of Directors has announced that newly hired CEO Ryan Fowler is no longer with the district as of May 7. He

started as MCHD CEO at the first of this year. Fowler was previously with the Lower Umpqua Hospital in Reedsport. Previous MCHD CEO Bob Houser

retired at the end of the year.

An earlier MCHD CEO, Victor VanderDoes, has been hired as an interim CEO until the district can find a permanent replacement. VanderDoes served as CEO of the district for over 10 years before retiring in 2009. "We are grateful that Victor has agreed to return to Heppner to serve as interim CEO during our search for a permanent replacement for our outstanding organization," said the board in a news release.

"We, as the board of directors of Morrow County Health District, wish to emphasize that every decision made as a governing board is with the understanding that our primary duty is to work diligently to safeguard the continued delivery of quality healthcare for every resident of our county. Though change can be perceived as an adverse

event, we at Morrow County Health District are resilient and we view change as an opportunity to make us stronger, better, and the place where the communities we serve can always rely on for their health and wellness needs."

The MCHD executive team now includes Dr. Dan Hambleton, chief medical officer, Nicole Mahoney, chief financial officer, Kathleen Greenup, chief nursing officer, Kris Jones, chief operating officer and Patti Allstott, human resources director. Dr. Russ Nichols, the previous chief medical officer, had been with the district for 21 years and had been a full-time physician with MCHD since 2008.

Dr. Emily Jack (Thompson), who is from Heppner, recently signed as a physician with the district, but will not come on board until next year.



New Morrow County Sheriff's Office patrol deputies Jacob Stutzman (above), Collin Brill (below) and Zachary Killgore (left) were sworn in by Under-sheriff John Bowles on May 4.



YOU'VE BEEN WAITING ALL WINTER FOR THIS MOMENT.

SPRING SALES EVENT

GOING ON NOW

REBATES UP TO \$1,000 ON 2020 MODELS

TERMS AND CONDITIONS APPLY

POLARIS SPRING SALES EVENT

Morrow County Grain Growers

CALL 541-989-8221 EXT. 204 FOR MORE INFORMATION

WARNING: Polaris off-road vehicles can be hazardous to operate and are not intended for on-road use. Driver must be at least 16 years old with a valid driver's license to operate. Passengers, if permitted, must be at least 12 years old. All riders should always wear helmets, eye protection, and protective clothing. Always use seat belts and car seats (as equipped). Never engage in stunt driving, and avoid excessive speeds and sharp turns. Riding and alcohol/drugs don't mix. All riders should take a safety training course. Call 800-342-3764 for additional information. Check local laws before riding on trails. ©2021 Polaris Inc.

POLARIS OFF ROAD