

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

**Heppner**  
**GAZETTE-TIMES**  
U.S.P.S. 240-420

Morrow County's Home-Owned Weekly Newspaper

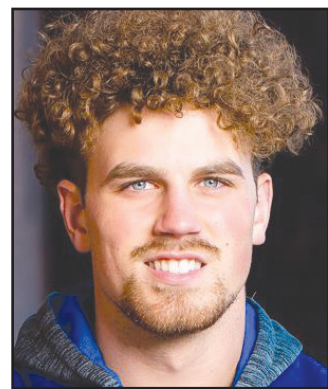
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Published weekly by Sykes Publishing and entered as periodical matter at the Post Office at Heppner, Oregon under the Act of March 3, 1879. Periodical postage paid at Heppner, Oregon. Office at 188 W. Willow Street. Telephone (541) 676-9228. Fax (541) 676-9211. E-mail: editor@rapidsolve.net or david@rapidsolve.net. Web site: www.heppner.net. Postmaster send address changes to the Heppner Gazette-Times, P.O. Box 337, Heppner, Oregon 97836. Subscriptions: \$31 in Morrow County; \$25 senior rate (in Morrow County only; 65 years or older); \$37 elsewhere; \$31 student subscriptions.

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# Heppner boys chosen to play in Oregon's East-West Shrine game



Jayden Wilson



Jackson Lehman



Jackson Lehman (left), #15, and Jayden Wilson (center), #13, helped lead the Mustangs to the win as they defeated the Stanfield Tigers 46-0 in the second game of the season. -File Photo.

Jayden Wilson and Jackson Lehman, Heppner, have been selected to play on the East team in the 2021 East-West Shrine game. Oregon's 69th annual game will be played August 7 in

Baker City. Pre-game pageantry will begin at 6 p.m. with the game kicking off at 7 p.m. They were the only two local players invited to play in the game this year. The East and West teams each have 22 players and there were no alternates chosen. Lehman, wide receiver/

outside linebacker and Wilson, quarterback/defensive back for the Mustangs helped take the team to a 5-0 record during the COVID season. Wilson will play college football at Linfield University and Lehman will play at Eastern Oregon University. Though the West won

the last game 43-10 in 2019, the East leads the series 33-31-3. According to Shriners International, the game is the largest fundraiser in Oregon for the Shriners Hospital and is considered the second-largest athletic moneymaker for Shriners Hospitals in North America.

## ETHICS

-Continued from PAGE ONE  
warehousing," Stokoe said as the reason for the violations.

However, according to the Ethics Commission report on one of those occasions, investigators found Port members had discussed a topic not allowed at all in any executive session. Quoting from the report: "In the March 26th executive session, the Board also discussed the Port of Morrow's newly adopted sick leave payout policy. This matter was not authorized for discussion in an executive session, and such a discussion should have taken place in the public session portion of the meeting," it concluded. Speaking for all the port commissioners, Stokoe told the Gazette, "Each Port Commissioner has taken the violation seriously and has already taken steps to guarantee topics discussed during executive sessions are properly communicated for public meetings

under ORS public meetings law." However, he did not respond when asked to identify those corrective steps. Stokoe also did not reply when asked if the Port would do an internal review of other executive sessions not covered by this state audit, for possible additional instances of unauthorized discussions.

It appears from dates on the ethics report, investigator Susan Myers had completed her probe by March 23, 2021, and submitted her final report to Executive Director Ronald Bersin for approval that same day. Bersin signed off and sent it on to Assistant Attorney General Joshua Nasbe, who reviewed and also signed off on the report March 23, 2021. Stokoe and commissioner Marv Padberg signed their final stipulation documents detailing the results of the investigation on May 20, Joe Taylor on May 24, Jerry Healy May 13 and John Murray on May 22.

## Propheter retires from Bank of Eastern Oregon

Bank of Eastern Oregon EVP, Gary Propheter, recently retired from Bank of Eastern Oregon, after a nearly 50-year career in banking. Propheter joined the bank in September 2006, as EVP and Chief Operations Office, according to Jeff Bailey, president, and CEO of Bank of Eastern Oregon.



Gary Propheter

"Gary has been instrumental in the growth of our bank from 11 branches and one loan production office, in 2006, to our current structure of 20 branches and five loan offices in three different states. Gary has made sure that we have remained up to date on technological resources, not only for our customers, but also for our employees," said Bailey.

have created and their support of the local communities where we do business has been a highlight of my career. I have truly enjoyed my time with the bank and look forward to watching its continued success for years to come," said Propheter.

"It has been particularly rewarding to spend the final chapter of my banking career with a truly community-based bank. The culture that our employees

"The employees and directors of the bank thank Gary for his years of service and wish him health and happiness in his retirement," concluded Bailey.

## Good News Only

By Doris Brosnan

The return of the Town and Country evening was welcomed last Thursday, partly as a sign that our community's social life is returning and partly as the long-overdue honoring of outstanding citizens who go beyond expectations in their work to keep our community such a great place to live. Congratulations and thanks to the recognized citizens.

Even further easing of pandemic restrictions in Oregon seem to be just around the corner, if only about three-plus percent more people get vaccinated to provide herd immunity to Covid. That will result in the lifting of all remaining restrictions.

We can keep visualizing the wonderful streets and sidewalks that will beautify Heppner and end the restricted accesses we are now coping with. No more potholes, cracks, and uneven surfaces will be great for drivers and walkers on Gale Street and parts of Church, Center, Willow and Jones Streets and Willow View Drive (up Water Street). Patience will be rewarded.

The weather was toasty, so shade and air conditioning or drives to the mountains were key ingredients for family celebrations of fathers on Sunday. (Where would we be without them?.) That day also marked the longest day of the year and the official beginning of summer. (Now daylight hours will shorten.)

The weather on the coast was cool but "okay" for Greg and Janet Greenup last week. Another major difference between there and here was a pleasant surprise; the winds were far calmer there..

Outstanding athletes are receiving recognition as high school sports draw to conclusions. HHS bas-

ketball teams continued in competitions on Monday.....; Hayden Hyatt and Jackson Lehman, who are on the Oregon All-Star baseball team, played on Tuesday, just the day after Jackson played with his basketball team; Jayden Wilson and Jackson Lehman will play in the Shrine football game; Jace Coe and Brian Collins will be competing at the state level in wrestling this weekend. Congratulations all.

Skyler and Seth Palmer recently shared exciting news with parents, Larry and Tina Palmer: Both became engaged on the same weekend, Seth on Friday and Skyler on Saturday, May 21 and May 22. Skyler will be marrying Aloura Tyler on August 10 in Manti, UT. Seth plans to marry Hallie Waite on October 16 in Star Valley, WY.

In time to replace her heat wave in Vernal, UT, with ours, Janet Keithley Kloeppel, is visiting family and friends through the end of June. Janet is a sister to Vern Keithley, Sharon Harrison and Trish Sweeney - the sibling everyone forgets, jokingly says her daughter Tina Palmer.

Remember: The Farmers' Market is back on Thursdays in the Main Street Park.

Thanks to individuals who don't just read about others' good news but also share theirs. If you take time to submit yours, you will be adding to all our readers' pleasure. So, please, send your tidbits to dbrosnan123@gmail.com, or call 541-676-5382 or 541-223-1490 or stop me on the street.

Here's hoping that some good news comes to everyone reading this.

## Boardman solar farm seeks extension of building permit

By David Sykes

Developers of a new solar energy facility planned on 798 acres west of Boardman along interstate 84 adjacent to the Gilliam County line, are asking for more time to build the facility, the state energy licensing department has announced.

Under its original permit from the Oregon Department of Energy, Boardman Solar Energy LLC, a subsidiary of Invenergy, was supposed to start construction on the new 30 module, 75 megawatt farm by Feb. 23, 2021, and have it completed by Feb. 23, 2024.

The developer is now asking for a three-year ex-

tension on its construction permit, making Feb. 23, 2024, as the date it must start building, with a completion date no later than 2027.

The solar panels are all to be located in Morrow County with a new transmission line to take the power to the grid located within Gilliam County.

To understand the size of the new 75-megawatt facility, according to the Solar Energy Industries Assoc., it could supply 12,300 homes with power. The Association calculates that on average one megawatt of solar power generates enough electricity to meet the needs of 164 homes.

## Heppner American Legion closes down

The Heppner American Legion Post 87, of Heppner has announced that has closed down due to lack of participation. "Due to the increased age of members and the lack of younger veterans joining, the post was closed June 1, 2021," Mike Sweek told the Gazette.

According to Sweek,

## Justice Court Report

Morrow County Justice of the Peace, Glen Diehl, has released the following Justice Court report:

-Michael D Lynch, 61, Heppner, was convicted of driving while suspended, fine \$440; driving uninsured, fine \$265; and fail to renew registration, fine \$115.

-Michael M Hams, 55, Heppner, was convicted of passing in a no passing zone, fine \$265.

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*"To know the rose is to know God. To know the faded rose will bud again is to know eternity."*  
-BW Douglas

**Corleen Elda Overby Coe**  
1918-2021  
Thankful for 102 years...

Daughters: Claudia (Merlin) Hughes & Kathleen (Gary) Bell  
Grandchildren, Great-Grandchildren & Great-Great-Grandson

-Service-  
11:30, July 2, 2021 at Milton-Freewater Cemetery