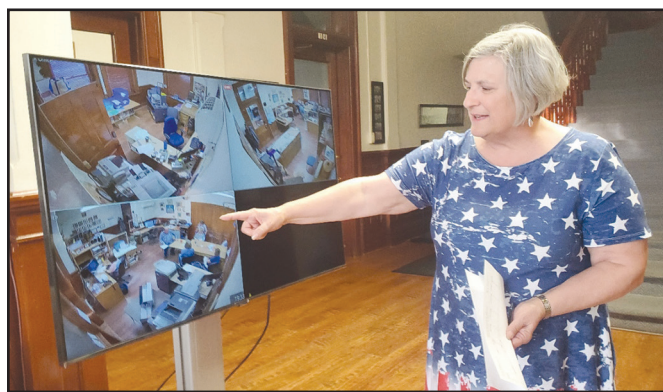


Sykes and Wenholtz lead commissioner races

However, final tally still not known

Winners of the May 17 county commissioner race may not be known until as late as June 13, says Morrow County Clerk Bobbi Childers. Childers says with the new state rules covering vote counting, ballots post-marked on election day but still in the mail system need to be counted, and her office will wait one week until May 24 to count any ballots that may still come in.

As of May 8, the day after election however, the vote count shows Jeff Wenholtz leading Melissa Lindsay by 26 votes in the race for commissioner position number two, 1,296 to 1,270. In the other three-way contest for position number three, however, David Sykes leads the other candidates by a wide margin. To win the seat in this primary, however, and avoid a runoff in the November election, Childers says a candidate must receive a majority of votes 50 percent, plus one vote. As of May 18, Sykes had 50.34 percent with 1,273 to Mike McNamee's 776 and Gus Peterson's 476, but if the slips below 50 percent in further counting, he will need to face McNamee in



Morrow County Clerk Bobbi Childers describes the action going on in the vote counting room via closed circuit video set up at the courthouse on election night May 17. Dressed in her customary election day stars and stripes, Childers could explain to visitors what the vote counters were doing on the big screen she had set up in the courthouse lobby. With the video feed visitors to the courthouse could watch all the action of election night. -Photo by David Sykes.

the fall.

Childers says the public and candidates will get a clearer look at current vote totals when she updates them again Wednesday, May 25, saying the results will be posted on her page on the county website.

However, results may still be challenged after that, and "We might not have a certain winner in the primary until certification on June 13," she said told the Gazette-Times.

There was no doubt about the outcome of the school district bond issue however, as it went down

1454 to 874, losing in every precinct.

Voter turnout across the county was low this election with just 38.75 percent of voters bothering to turn in their ballots. The county beat the sitewide percentage, however, as only 36.70 percent of Oregonians bothered to vote. Neighboring Umatilla County registered the lowest turnout in the state at 26.5 percent, but Gilliam County showed a respectable 49.3 percent participation, and Grant County came in the highest in the state with 51.8 percent.

New Morrow County government building complete



The new Morrow County Government Center in Irrigon is now open. -File photo.

The new Morrow County Government Center in Irrigon has been recently completed and will hold a ribbon cutting ceremony Thursday, May 26 from 4 to 5 p.m. The building is located at 215 NE Main Avenue.

Attendees are invited to take a guided tour of the departments and new work spaces, share in conversations and refreshments and enjoy a slide show of the construction process.

Mahoney heads to state finals in steer wrestling



Blane Mahoney

Local Heppner High School senior, Blane Mahoney has been competing in steer wrestling and team roping at Oregon High School rodeos for the 2021-2022 school year and will soon head to the state finals.

Mahoney has placed in the top three in steer wrestling in 10 of 14 rodeos held across the state. He won the average award in four of the seven combined



Mike Mahoney (left), Blane's father, hazes for Blane (right). -Photo by Fast Shootin Photography.

competitions, at high school rodeos in Cottage Grove, Klamath Falls, Hermiston and Prineville, and is leading the state steer wrestling standings. He is now headed into the state finals competition to be held June 8-11 in Prineville, OR. The

top four contestants after state, are then qualified to compete at the National High School Rodeo Finals to be held in Gillette, WY in July.

Blane is a member of the Oregon Trail High School Rodeo Team.

Heppner brings back two 800m state champions



Mustangs travel to Hayward Field in Eugene. Athletes pictured left to right: Saige Jensen, Irelynn Kollman, Hallee Hisler, Arianna Worden, Hannah Finch, Hayden McMahon, Conor Brosnan, Saul Lopez, Roen Waite, Joseph Sherman, Trevor Nichols and Jacob Finch.

By Hannah Finch

The Mustangs traveled to Hayward Field in Eugene Oregon for the OSAA 2A State Track Championship last Thursday and Friday. Heppner competed with 43 other teams and stood on the podium eight times. Friday night, it was announced that the boys placed third as a team with only five boys.

Trevor Nichols placed second in the 1500m in a neck and neck finish with Knappa, winning in a quick 4:09. Irelynn Kollman and Arianna Worden also competed in the 1500m. Kollman ran 5:24 to place 10th and Worden a 5:45 to place 11th. Saige Jensen competed in the 3000m on Thursday and ran a 12:28 to place 11th as well.

For field events, Conor Brosnan threw discus and put himself on the podium at fifth, throwing 126'02. Hannah Finch placed second in triple jump, jumping 34'1.

The 800m proved to be an exciting race for both the boys and the girls. State Champions Trevor Nichols

and Hannah Finch both won their heats of the 800m by less than a second. Nichols ran a 2:02 and Finch ran a 2:24. Joseph Sherman also made the podium in the 800m, running 2:08 to place sixth overall.

Perhaps the most exciting races of the night, however, were the relays. The girls 4x400m competed head to head with Bandon, both teams having fought for first place in the rankings all season. Starting off the race was Arianna Worden, who passed the baton off to Irelynn Kollman, then Hallee Hisler and finally to Hannah Finch to run the last leg. The Heppner girls placed second, running a 4:25, one of their best times.

The top three places

in the boys 4x400m belonged to eastern Oregon, with Heppner fighting for first against Enterprise and Weston-McEwen. Jacob Finch began the race before Hayden McMahon took over. Joseph Sherman ran the third leg and passed the baton off to anchor Trevor Nichols. The boys placed third and ran a 3:38, five seconds faster than their usual time.

The Mustangs closed their season with five district champion titles, two state champion titles, a new school record and 14 individual state medals. This season paved the way for the next few years of high school track, as the current athletes continue to improve, and incoming freshmen join the team.

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WEEKLY SHOPPER

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