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8 Pages Wednesday, August 3, 2022

Morrow County, Heppner, Oregon

## Hisler to play in East-West Shrine game



Brock Hisler had 12 touchdowns last season playing for the

Heppner's Brock Hisler August 6 in Baker City. college football at Eastern was selected to play for the The pre-game will start at Oregon University in La East team in the East-West 6 p.m. with the kickoff at Grande. Hisler will also be to 2021. It moved to Baker Shrine game to be held 7 at Baker High School. reporting to EOU coaches City in the mid-1970s.

Erik Davis, Pendleton High this week for his commit-School and Kenzie Hansell, ments to EOU. Weston-McEwen, were selected as coaches for the program that any of our East team.

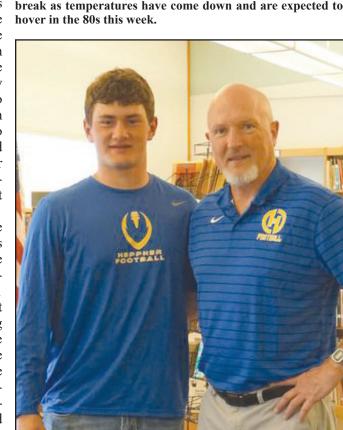
Hisler left Sunday and La Grande practicing for the game. His selection for the team came after he was named 2A Defensive Back of the Year, which includes linebackers and secondary players. He also received first team 2A All-State honors as running back and linebacker. Selected from Heppner as alternates were Jace Coe, Conor Brosnan and Kason Cimmiyotti along with Taylor Rollins,

Brock ran for 1,153 on 158 carries and 12 touchdowns for the Mustangs who finished the season 11-1, losing 6-8 to Coquille, the eventual state champion, in the semifinal game. On defense Brock has a team high of 97 tackles and three fumble recoveries.

In the spring he signed a letter of intent to play

"We are excited as a players are selected for the Shrine game. We feel that is spending this week in Brock will do a great job representing himself, his family, his school and his community. The Shrine game has always been one for our eastern Oregon kids to look forward to one more game. Fortunately for Brock, he intends to continue to play at EOU in the fall. I am sure he will do a great job for the East and will be a valuable member of the Mountaineer program," Coach Greg Grant told the Gazette.

The East-West Shrine game is back to normal this year, the first time since 2019. The game was cancelled in 2020 and in 2021 the Covid restrictions kept the players from visiting Baker City prior to the game. This annual Shrine game is a fundraiser for the Shriners Children's Hospital in Portland. Since its inception, the game has raised more than \$2.9 million up



Temperatures registered up to 107 degrees on the bank ther-

mometer in Heppner last week. However, we are getting a

It did get hot

Brock Hisler, with Coach Greg Grant, signs his letter of intent

Uncooperative suspect tased

Eric Edward Opheim, rate of speed. 48, of McMinnville, was trict to Lexington.

impaired at 1:12 a.m. The deployed. driver initially stopped but the oncoming lane of travel County Jail with no bail. toward Lexington at a high

Deputy Brill pursued tased and arrested on July the suspect and then con-23, 2022, after a pursuit ducted a high risk stop in from near the old mill dis- Lexington where the driver was held at gunpoint until Morrow County Sher- another deputy arrived. iff's Deputy Collin Brill The two deputies attemptmade a traffic stop near the ed to take the suspect into old mill in Heppner on a custody, but he resisted and vehicle whose driver was was uncooperative. After exhibiting signs of being being warned, a Taser was

Opheim was arrested when contacted by the dep- by MCSO for reckless enuty was uncooperative and dangering another, attempt irate, then left the scene. He to elude, DUII, reckless narrowly missed hitting the driving and resisting arrest. deputy and proceeded into He was lodged at Umatilla

## Gazette moves to new location

zette-Times and Sykes Real Email addresses and phone Estate recently moved from numbers remain the same. their previous location at Main in Heppner. The new everyone to stop by and office was formerly the say hi.

The Heppner Ga- Peterson Jewelers building.

David, April, Chris. 188 W Willow to 177 N Bobbi and Giselle invite

ALL NEWS AND ADVERTISEMENT DEADLINE: MONDAYS AT 5:00 P.M.



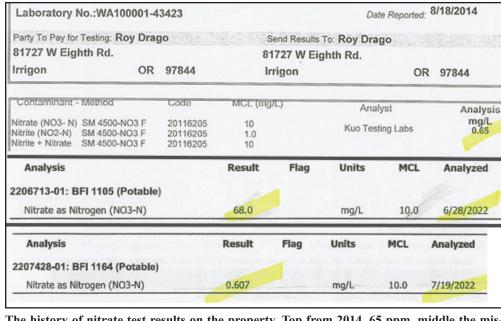
## Mislabeled water tests spur questions from Irrigon homeowner Was incorrectly announced he had 'highest nitrate levels in the county'



Irrigon homeowner Roy Drago, shown here when he was a Morrow County Sheriff for many years, is not happy with way water test results were handled on his property.

When Irrigon homeowner Roy Drago got word last month that nitrate test results on his well had come back extremely high, and that those results were being openly discussed among politicians and family members, he was not pleased. Later when he discovered those results were all a mistake when another sample with extremely high nitrate content had been mislabeled as his, he decided to ask some questions.

"We've always had very low nitrogen in our water here," Drago, who lives near the Irrigon Fish Hatchery, told the Heppner Gazette-Times last week. Providing the Gazette with lab test results dating back to 2012 and showing a ni-



The history of nitrate test results on the property. Top from 2014 .65 ppm, middle the mislabeled sample from June 22, 2022, 68 ppm, and the follow up test taken July 2022 .60 ppm

County Commissioner Jim Doherty called his son and told him water tests done by the county on June 28, 2022, had come back showing his well with 68 parts per million of nitrate, an extremely high level and very

dangerous to human health. "I immediately called the county emergency manager and asked for a re-test since this was so out of place," Drago said of the high results. He was told that the county would not pay for another test of his well even though he had years of test results show- having access to what he ing negligible amounts of feels should be private innitrate in his water supply. "They just said they wouldn't do it and I would have to pay for it myself if I wanted it redone," Dra- owner, and divulged private go said. However, several hours after that conversation a representative from nounced earlier this year Boardman Foods, who is that the Department of Enalso doing water testing vironmental Quality had

then in 2014 at .65, Drago sult came back at .62 parts said he was shocked when per million, a negligible amount more in line with the history of his property.

Although the lower lev-

el was of course good news for Roy and his wife, Gail, how the whole story unfolded was of concern to them both. Drago said he would like to know several things about the extensive water testing program now underway in the county. He has questions like: how many people see the test results once they are completed? Who are these people and why are politicians such as county commissioners formation about his property? And he wants to know why did Doherty contact his son, who is not the property

Ever since it was anin the area, called and said fined the Port of Morrow for they would pay for a re- excessive nitrate dumping

water test results to him?

trate level of .75 ppm, and test. And this time the re- on land in the north Morrow County area, Doherty has been leading the charge not only to provide bottled water to residents with private wells, but also having the county and others do extensive testing and placing of filters on the wells. Drinking high nitrate water is very dangerous to people's health, especially

> -See MISLABELED TESTS/ *PAGE THREE*