



# the HEPPNER GAZETTE TIMES

VOL. 141 NO. 34 8 Pages Wednesday, August 24, 2022 Morrow County, Heppner, Oregon



A panoramic view of the Morrow County Fair Grounds in Heppner during this year's Fair and Rodeo week. See pages 6 & 7 for more photos of Fair and Rodeo

## Ione School District Elementary School Roof Project completed



The Ione School District Elementary roof project was completed by Gillespie Roofing at the end of July

The Ione School District Elementary roof project was completed by Gillespie Roofing at the end of July, the district reported. According to the district, there will still need to be some modifications to gutters and downspouts, and that work will happen in the near future. Gillespie roofing identified areas of moisture through testing, and they were able to replace damaged areas while completing the installation of the new membrane and metal flashing. Anderson Poolworks has provided an evaluation of the existing pool structure and equipment as of July, and they reported that the existing pool structure is in good shape. They proposed small repairs to the pool structure as well as a complete piping and equipment replacement to move all mechanical parts above ground and in one location.

Gillespie Roofing was the low bidder for the roofing project and work began the week of July 4. Testing was performed to identify moist insulation areas for replacement. Most of the moisture damaged areas were around the existing HVAC units, said the district. The

roofing membrane installation as well as flashing metal installation was substantially completed the week of July 25. Modifications to the gutters and downspouts will happen in the near future.

Architects West is well underway with their design process. They have completed preliminary programming evaluations for the new secondary school building and options for the necessity of moving the football field. Surveying and geotechnical work for both locations has been ongoing throughout late spring and summer. Soil tests were completed in early August, and they are waiting for the results to come back. The design team has been working with a flood plain consultant to ensure compliance. The design team will be preparing a community presentation where feedback and input on the preliminary design ideas will be requested.

Ione School District said they will "continue to provide more frequent updates as we move the school year."

## Neighborhood Center receives donation of hygiene



Neighborhood Center staff display donations recently received

On August 18th the Neighborhood Center received a donation of hygiene kits from Pioneer Memorial Therapy Services to help locals in need. "We are very appreciative of the donation," said Center Coordinator Lisa Patton

## August 17 Declared Terry Tallman Day



County Commissioners Jim Doherty, left, Don Russell and Melissa Lindsay present Cheryl Tallman with a certificate declaring last Wednesday Terry Tallman Day.

Whereas, Morrow County recognizes that Terry Tallman gave many years of voluntary service to Morrow County, including serving on the City of Boardman Planning Commission, City of Boardman Mayor for five years, and County Judge of Morrow County for 18 years; and

Whereas, Morrow County further recognizes that Terry Tallman was the longest serving Morrow County Judge in Morrow County history; and

Whereas, Morrow County further recognizes the giving nature of Terry Tallman, through his tireless efforts to help those in need in Morrow County; and

Whereas, Morrow County further recognizes that Morrow County has become the community it is today because of the voluntary work and dedication of Terry Tallman; and

Be it resolved that August 17, 2022 shall be known by all Morrow County Citizens as Terry Tallman Day. Dated this 17<sup>th</sup> day of August 2022.

MORROW COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

## Ethics Commission to investigate Wenholz

The Oregon Government Ethics Commission voted unanimously last week to begin an investigation of Jeff Wenholz, Irrigon, for possible conflict of interest violations between his positions as Vice President of the Board of Directors for the Umatilla Electric Co-operative (UEC) and Chairman of the Morrow County Planning Commission.

The investigation was initiated following a complaint by Boardman resident Jonathan Tallman alleging Wenholz improperly participated in planning commission decision making about land use issues affecting UEC at several meetings in 2020.

At the planning meetings Wenholz did declare he sits on the UEC board, but added he and would not personally benefit financially from any of the planning commission decisions.

Wenholz did not vote on any of the applications or issues. However, the complaint says he nevertheless improperly participated in the discussions about the UEC land use issues and should have completely recused himself from all discussions concerning the UEC's businesses before

the planning commission.

In addition, the complainant also says Wenholz incorrectly filled out his state-required financial disclosure forms for several years leaving off the income he makes from being a UEC board member. That income is reportedly in the \$19,000 to \$25,000 per year range. Wenholz appeared remotely before the ethics commission last Thursday, and during the meeting said he should be exempt from certain conflict of interest rules because UEC is a not-for-profit business, which are not covered differently under state conflict of interest rules. An ethics commission staff member, however, disagreed saying just because the Internal Revenue Service classifies UEC as not for profit doesn't mean Oregon law also does.

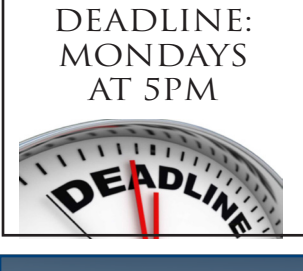
The ethics meeting lasted about one-half hour and following the discussions the commission voted unanimously to investigate Wenholz's actions for possible violations. In a subsequent letter to Tallman Executive Director Ronald Bersini said the commission should make its decision by February 3, 2023.

## BMCC Named in Top 20 Community Colleges in USA

Blue Mountain Community College (BMCC) was tabbed as the 19th best community college in the country according to a recently released analysis conducted by WalletHub.com. The annual ranking looks at 19 various factors in determining the value provided by each institution including cost of attendance to the student,

educational outcomes and career/employment outcomes. WalletHub evaluated some 67 community colleges in all 50 states. "This is a testament to the commitment we see here every day at BMCC," said Blue Mountain President Dr. J. Mark Browning. "Our faculty, staff and

continued page 3



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