



# the HEPPNER GAZETTE TIMES

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## Boardman Harvest Festival to feature local artisans, produce, and family fun

The ninth annual Morrow County Harvest Festival is coming Saturday, October 1st at the SAGE Center in Boardman. It will run from 10a.m. to 4p.m.

The Harvest Festival will be exclusively outdoors and will feature a large, variety of vendors with high-quality, regionally produced agricultural goods and handmade artisan crafts.

Some events this year include Threemile Canyon Farms opportunity for attendees to “fill-a-bag” full of locally grown produce at the 6th annual ‘Harvest Bounty for Youth in Agriculture’. In exchange for a small donation to a local youth program, you pack a grocery bag full of traditionally grown potatoes or organic onions.

The “Kid’s Corner” showcases numerous free youth activities to the public and involve partnerships with organizations like Future Farmers of America, Boardman Parks and Recreation District, FBLA, NHS and more. Also returning this year

are the mule-drawn wagon rides, face painting, and pumpkin painting. The Harvest Festival will have live music by Leah Justine and Dallin Puzey on the patio. Leah is a native who is a 419 Record’s Flagship Artist who writes and performs country music and we are excited to see her during her performance from 10:00am to 1:00pm. Dallin Puzey, a Hermiston native, who writes and performs his own music, in addition to playing a variety of familiar folk, country, rock, and pop songs will be performing from 1:00pm to 4:00pm.

For more information about the event, please visit the Morrow County Harvest Festival event page on Facebook, go to [www.visitsage.com](http://www.visitsage.com) or call the SAGE Center at (541) 481-7243.

The SAGE Center (Sustainable Agriculture and Energy Center) is an interactive visitor center operated by the Port of Morrow and showcases the industries at the Port, sustainable agriculture, and energy production in Morrow County.



Mule-drawn wagon rides back again this year



## County prepared to hire mediator in ambulance dispute

Morrow County appears ready to hire a professional mediator to help solve a long-simmering dispute between the Morrow County Health District and the Boardman Rural Fire on how emergency medical and ambulance services should be handled in the Boardman and north county areas. The county has a contract ready with Elizabeth Heckathorn to serve in that position and was expected to sign the agreement at its September 14 meeting.

According to her resume, Heckathorn, who lives in Portland, has a long history in the emergency medical services (EMS) business, including as Chief of EMS for Jefferson County where she managed a staff of 40 professional and volunteer employees. In addition to other duties she was solely responsible for the management of the district budget including grant writing and administration, accounting, business tax preparation, and budget publication.

All parties in the dispute hope to see an end to the on-going argument which has seen the two districts battle over who shall provide ambulance service in the area. The conflict has produced accusations, caustic statements and both sides hiring attorneys. The county government is involved since commissioners will be the ones approving any license for Boardman Fire’s ambulances to transport patients. Officials on both sides say hiring a professional mediator may be a way out of the conflict, and Heckathorn believes she can help.

“I believe my qualities as a mediator and my knowledge of the EMS & Trauma system are the right fit at the right time for this opportunity with Morrow County’s EMS system. My recent and reputable experience



Elizabeth Heckathorn includes a long history of leadership in EMS & Fire Service and other closely related health and emergency service professions,” she said in her resume to county commissioners.

Last week the county had a contract ready to sign with Heckathorn, but commissioners voted to wait until the September 21 meeting to review and sign off on the final details of the agreement. In the contract the county will pay Heckathorn \$135 per hour plus a \$552 retainer and travel and lodging expenses.

According to the contract the goal of mediation is for Heckathorn to “lead a review of Morrow County’s current ASA (Ambulance Service Area) Plan and moderate a discussion to include potential options for modernization” of the current plan. The contract says Heckathorn is “prepared to mediate disputes between providers of EMS in Morrow County.” The ASA plan covers how emergency medical services are conducted and deployed in the Morrow County.

The Morrow County Board of Commissioners is ultimately responsible for any updating on the plan, however Heckathorn will, if requested, assist in updating and modernization of the plan as a result of the meeting between the health district and the fire district.

## Ione Community School celebrates Back to School BBQ



Ione Community School celebrated its Back to School BBQ on September 7th hosted by our Booster Club.

“It was great to see so many community members, staff, and students come out to share a meal to start the year off on the right track,” a school spokesperson said.

Ione has not been able to host this event for the last two years, and he said they are grateful to start the school year off “by breaking bread with their neighbors.”

The Booster Club was thanked for putting on “such a great event.”

The school looks forward to many continued gatherings this fall and invites the public to “join us for home events this week.” There is a home Volleyball on Thursday beginning at 4 pm, Football on Friday at 7 pm, and Volleyball on Saturday starting at 10 am.

“We look forward to seeing you there and thanks for your continued support of the Ione Community School, The Ione Booster Club, and Cardinal Athletics,” the spokesperson concluded.

## City in good financial shape, says manager

Heppner is in good financial condition, City Manager Kraig Cutsforth told the council Monday night. “We are in the best financial shape since I have been here (as city manager)”, Cutsforth said of the amount of funds on hand in the city’s bank accounts. As of August 31, the city had over \$2.5 million cash on hand in the bank and things were looking good into the future.

Main reasons for the city’s favorable financial position are a \$500,000 grant from the state made possible by the efforts of State Representative Greg Smith, \$143,000 in COVID grant money and \$200,000 from the Columbia River Enterprise Zone for infrastructure improvements.

Cutsforth told the council it will need to decide

how the unbudgeted portion of the money will be spent, as it is “discretionary” or unrestricted funds and can be spent where the council decides the money is most needed. He also said the city should look good into the future also as some debt has been paid down and other grants funds will also be coming in.

In other business at Monday’s council meeting it was voted on to move forward with the ordering and purchase of a new command pickup truck for the fire department.

The council also heard a report from Barb Orwick of the Neighborhood Center who said the center distributed 204 food boxes in August and that they had several new families sign up who had never gotten a

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Ione residents enjoy a back to school barbeque last week at the community school put on by the booster club

### ATTENTION HUNTERS!!

The Heppner Gazette-Times wants pictures of your trophy animals! Stop by 188 W Willow Street in Heppner, email - [editor@rapidserve.net](mailto:editor@rapidserve.net) upload at [heppner.net](http://heppner.net) or text photos to 541-980-6674.



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