

# Ione Senior Spotlight



Madison Orem showing at the fair



Madison Orem driving a forklift.

Madison Orem is a senior at Ione Community School. Madison's resume and involvement in our school, community, and region are impressive. Madison is our ASB President, a National Honor Society Member, a two sport athlete, and an active FFA member. In the fall, you will find Madison spending any of her extra time on the volleyball court as a captain of our varsity team. In the spring, you will find her on the softball field. The description of "an active FFA member" may not have done justice to her involvement. Madison is the Ione FFA Chapter President and the Blue Mt. District Vice President.



Madison Orem senior pictures

The Port of Morrow's Work-force Development Program. As pictured, you will see Madison operating a forklift to load a trailer for a customer at MGCC in Ione.

Madison is currently exploring college options for life after high school graduation, but she will be looking to major in an agriculture related field. We know she will be a great ambassador for us anywhere she goes.

"We are looking forward to running more Senior Spotlights from the Ione Community School. We are proud of our students, and we look forward to celebrating their accomplishments with you."

## Over the Tee Cup

It was windy and cool for the Willow Creek Country Club Ladies Play Day September 20.  
 Low Gross of the Field-Virginia Grant  
 Low Net of the Field-Pat Edmundson  
 Least Putts of the Field-Kris Lindner  
 Low Gross: Pat Dougherty and Betty Carter  
 Low Net-Jackie Allstott  
 Long Drive: Virginia Grant, Pat Dougherty, Kris Lindner  
 Longest Putt-Pat Edmundson  
 Long Drive-Virginia Grant, Pat Dougherty and Kris Lindner  
 The fall meeting will get underway Tuesday, September 27, at 8 a.m., with play at 9 a.m. and lunch at 11:30 a.m.

# Public nitrate water meeting

-Continued from PAGE ONE

Other speakers gave similar testimony with all English statements being translated real time into Spanish and vice versa. All the printed material likewise were offered in both languages.

According to the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) high levels of nitrate in drinking water can cause health problems. This includes respiratory and reproductive diseases, as well as kidney, spleen and thyroid problems. Nitrate is most harmful to infants and people who are pregnant. High levels of nitrate can increase the risk of methemoglobinemia, or blue baby syndrome, especially for infants who drink baby formula mixed with water containing nitrate above the safe level.

Also speaking at the meeting was a representative of business, Debbie Radie vice president of operations at Boardman Foods. She gave a detailed overview of the help her and other businesses in Morrow County have given in the effort to address the high nitrate contaminated water supply. "We want action we don't want another 30 years with no money available for this," she said in referencing how long local and state officials of know about the nitrate problem.

Also in attendance at

the meeting were representatives of the Port of Morrow, State Rep Greg Smith and Senator Ron Wyden. Senator Jeff Merkley gave a video presentation which was played to the crowd. Boardman Mayor Paul Keefer was also in attendance, and it was emphasized that the city treats its water so there was not contamination for those on the city water system of either Boardman or Irrigon.

Blamed for the well contamination is excessive fertilizer applications on farms, manure from large livestock operations and wastewater from food processors being applied on fields causing high levels of the compound nitrate being leaked into an aquifer that supplies water to people in both Morrow and Umatilla Counties in an area called the Lower Umatilla Basin Groundwater Management Area (LUBGWMA).

The DEQ designated it a groundwater management area in 1990 because of high levels of nitrate in the groundwater. Its one of three groundwater management areas in Oregon. Doherty took a shot at the LUBGWMA committee saying there has been no action from the group to cure the problem "because none of them drink the water."

In answering a question from the audience if any of the companies that created the water contamination would be held legally responsible for damages, Doherty said there were people both federal and DEQ who were supposed to be protecting the people but did not. "For a lot of years, they didn't or did not do it to a level that protected us. They were protecting some of these things that went on," he said.

Doherty pointed to the Yakima Valley in Washington that also had a severe nitrate problem. He said their water group looked more like the community and "they told the dairy and farm industry that if you are going to do these things, then you have to take care of people that are drinking that water," Doherty told the crowd. "I don't know if we want the heavy hand of the federal government here," Doherty said.

"But I don't disagree that the state is tasked with coming out and if there are bad actors then those bad actors are going to pay," he said of companies being liable for damages.

Although he recognizes the work of the LUBGWMA group, none of them represent the affected community," Doherty says of that group's efforts. "I appreciate what they are doing. Their hearts are in

the right place," but added that "now that there is attention on the problem, they want to get something done because you all are watching them." Doherty said his wife was at a recent LUBGWMA meeting and said, although the group is working hard, "there is not one of them that drink the water. We have to help them. We can never let the community be outside the equation again," he said in pointing to the crowd. Doherty has said in the past there is a lack of Latino representation on the LUBGWMA committee as another reason the group doesn't accomplish as much as it should.

How much funding will become available in the future, and what it will be spent on, is at this point unclear, however Doherty said the state emergency board will meet soon and there should be an opportunity then and in the later regular session of the legislature to receive funds. In his video address Merkley also said federal money will probably be coming. Outside of testing, bottled water, messaging and well filters, however, a specific long-range plan and the cost to alleviate the nitrate contamination problem has not yet been put forward either at the local, state or federal level.

## ~ G-T Trophy Corner ~

The Heppner Gazette Times would like to see pictures of your trophy animals from this hunting season. Please send a photo along with your name, age, town you live in, location of the hunt and a description of the animal to editor@rapidsolve.net, upload to Heppner.net or text to 541-980-6674.



Devon Brittner 5-6 bull Heppner unit

## Sheriff's Report

The Morrow County Sheriff's Office has released

- MCSO August 27
- MCSO officer responded to a report of a disabled truck on the ramp at Hwy. 730 and I-84 Boardman. The vehicle was towed away.
- MCSO responded to a request for extra patrols at the Country Garden in Irrigon because of drivers tearing up the roads.
- MCSO responded to a subject in Heppner who said she had a restraining order against a male who had someone make third party contract with her on Facebook. She requested to speak to a deputy. The incident is under investigation.
- MCSO received report from a subject on Utah Ave. in Irrigon who said a white Chevy Suburban "went flying past his house and went down 10th". MCSO was unable to locate the vehicle.
- MCSO received report from a Spanish speaking subject at Farmland Reserves, Inc., on Pole Line Rd. in Boardman who said he noticed some of his paperwork, including the title, missing from his truck at work. Some of the paperwork was recovered, but the title was still missing. The caller thought he knew who was responsible. MCSO responded.
- MCSO received report of a 40-year-old female who crashed her dirt bike at the Morrow County OHV park. The family said they were driving her to the hospital and no emergency services were necessary.
- MCSO received report from a man in Irrigon who said his son was dog sitting and while his son was at the house, a late model dark gray SUV stopped at the house looking for a deputy. The caller said he thought it was suspicious. MCSO advised that he would patrol the area through the night.
- MCSO received a hangup/abandoned call and attempted call back, but the line was completely silent.
- MCSO received request for a welfare check and water provided to a disabled motorist on I-84 Boardman. MCSO responded.
- MCSO received report of a subject with a possible stroke at Lamb Weston in Paterson. The caller was connected to Benton County 911.
- MCSO received request for deputy contact from a woman in Irrigon regarding prank phone calls she had received. She reported that she believes she knows who it is and wanted to discuss her options.

## Obituaries

### Morris M. McCarl

Morris Melvin McCarl of Lexington, Oregon passed away Tuesday, August 30, 2022 at the age of 87. Morris was born at Geddes, South Dakota, December 29, 1934, the son of Henry and Audrey (Field) McCarl. He moved to Crawfordsville, Oregon, at the age of five with his family. He helped his dad on their farm. Shortly after, the family moved to Harrisburg, Oregon.

At the age of 16 he helped with the "hop" harvest. Morris moved to California with a friend and worked in a cannery for a short period of time. He soon moved to Lexington, Oregon, and worked as a flagger at the airport. He worked on building the Ruggs Elevator. Morris began working at Kinzua Corporation in Heppner and worked at the mill for 31 years.

Morris married Shirley Hunt in Albany, Oregon, on August 22, 1952. They started their married life in Lexington, Oregon. They raised three children. The entire family enjoyed the hobby of racing horses in past years. They raised a few animals on the McCars' mini farm also.

Morris enjoyed fishing, gardening, hummingbirds, raising goats and spending time with his family.

Survivors include his wife, Shirley McCarl, daughters, Barbara Coiner and Sharon Morris (Bill), and son, Lee McCarl. Grandchildren include Austin Coiner (Lindsey), Josh Coiner (Melissa), and Dan Coiner, Kimberly Morris Woolfolk (Mike), Ben McCarl (Maddie) and Zach McCarl (Savannah). Great-grandchildren include Delainey and Griffin Coiner, Jackson, Keaton and Harper Coiner, Mirri and Sigsby McCarl and Clara McCarl

He was preceded in death by his parents, brothers and sister.

A graveside service will be held on Saturday, September 24, 2022, at Penland Cemetery in Lexington.

## Gazette Times hires new advertising graphic designer



Kirsten Espinola

There is a new face at the Heppner Gazette-Times. Kirsten Espinola has joined the team as the new Advertising/ Graphics Designer. Kirsten and her family moved

to Ione 3 years ago. She has a 13 year old daughter and a 3 year old daughter who both attend school in Heppner. Her oldest is in High School band and Volleyball, so you will see her at games. She was also the Juniors Softball Coach last year. Her husband works for AWS. She was born and raised in Foresthill, a small town in the mountains of Northern California. Kirsten has experience in Advertising Sales/Graphics and has worked for her local paper in Auburn, California. Any advertising or graphics needs come in and say hi or you can email her at graphics@rapidsolve.net

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