



A family's local legacy is preserved in county heritage museum



Randall Peterson sits in a moment of silence during the grand opening of his exhibit at the Morrow County Heritage Museum. -Photo by Andrea Di Salvo

By Andrea Di Salvo

It's not often you see true living history, but anyone who stopped by the Morrow County Heritage Museum in Heppner last Friday morning would have seen it in the form of Heppner icon Randall Peterson. Peterson was at the museum for the grand opening of an exhibit honoring his family's business, which

was a Heppner mainstay for nearly 100 years. Peterson's Jewelers was founded by Peterson's father in 1928. Randall Peterson, who was born in 1929, was raised in the business. He said it was always a family operation, with his father and mother working together on the enterprise. "There were no babysitters back then, you know,"

said Peterson. "There were always a few hours in the evening at the store." Peterson took over the family business in 1959, eventually operating it alongside his own wife, Marlene. The couple had no children to take over the business when Randall Peterson retired. In 2022, the store beloved to generations of Heppner residents closed its doors for good.

The jewelry store is gone but not forgotten. Peterson

donated many of his tools and other items to the Morrow County Heritage Museum. The members of the F.A.R.M. Foundation, which operates the Heritage Museum and nearby Ag Museum, felt it was a piece of history that needed to be preserved.

Preserving local history has always been the goal of the Heritage Museum, which began in 1961 with only one room.

"There were nay-sayers who said, 'Oh, you'll never have enough to fill it up,'" said Cherrie Clark. "It wasn't long before we had to add another room."

The museum expanded to its current size in the early 1970s, and now includes a media room dedicated to the Heppner flood. These days, having enough to fill the museum isn't the problem. Rather, with nowhere



Some of Randall Peterson's tools on display. -Photo by Andrea Di Salvo



Gary Clark (left) and Eric Imes (right) ask Randall Peterson about the tools on display in the exhibit. -Photo by Andrea Di Salvo

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Wee Bit O' Ireland games a whole lot of fun



O' Planky Race winners the Lucky Bastards, made up of Lane Bailey, Wacy Coil, Shane Lazinka and Brandon Seitz. -Contributed photo

The Heppner Chamber of Commerce reports that the 2023 Wee Bit O' Ireland games were a big success, with the most participation to date.

The three-on-three basketball tournament saw a large turnout. The elementary girls division was won by "The Dirty Blondes," made up of Harper Coiner, Ella Mullins, Hagen

Smith and Hadlie Duncan. In the elementary boys division, the prize was taken by "Blazers" Casyn Adams, Sonny Matheny, Lucas Matheny and Preston Milligan. Team "Nothin' but Net," made up of Kord Dickenson, Matt Wilson, Ketch Fennern and Max Lindsay, took the middle school boys division. The junior high boys division was won by team "Ninja Turtles": Caylan Proudfoot, Keaton Coiner, Tripp Stewart and Logan Turner. Taking the win in the high school/adult division was team "Shenanigans" with players Patrick Collins, Logan Grieb, Weston Putman and CJ Kindle.

Starting off the Saturday festivities was the Leprechaun Run, which started at the Heppner Library and ended at the Main Street



The participants of Saturday's bed races. The winners, the Heppner Les Schwab team of Caden Hedman, Austin Carter, Janelle Wagoner and Greyson Morelli, are pictured front and center. -Contributed photo



Road Bowling 2023 champions, team Let 'er Bucknums, with participants Donald Matthews, Jared Huddleston, Eli Braun and Andrew Snyder. -Contributed photo

shamrock. Fifty children participated and received a Gold Coin.

The bed races were won by the Heppner Les Schwab team of Caden Hedman, Austin Carter, Janelle Wagoner and Greyson Morelli.

The O' Planky Race was won by the Lucky Bastards team, made up of Lane Bailey, Wacy Coil, Shane Lazinka and Brandon Seitz.

Sunday's Road Bowling event was won by Team Let 'er Bucknums, with participants Donald Matthews, Jared Huddleston, Eli Braun and Andrew Snyder.

Boardman Fire requests county support for ambulance licensing

County decides to seek outside counsel

By Andrea Di Salvo

The debate over ambulance licensing for the Boardman fire department has ramped up again, with both parties in the conflict appearing before the Morrow County Board of Commissioners to argue their cases last week.

At a board of commissioners meeting Feb. 22, Boardman Fire Rescue (BFRD) Chief Mike Hughes had requested a repeal of county ordinance MC-C-4-98, which regulates ambulance service

providers in the county.

The board decided more thought was needed before repealing the ordinance, which dates back to 1998, and asked Morrow County Council Justin Nelson to look into whether the ordinance was currently valid, the possible legal consequences of repealing the ordinance and the process involved to repeal the ordinance. They rescheduled the topic for March 15.

"I want the county commissioners to have an

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Port positions contested in May election

Port of Morrow Commissioners Marvin Padberg of Ione and John Murray of Heppner are both up for reelection this spring, and they're not running unopposed.

March 16 was the last day for candidates to file for the May 16 Special Election. The special election includes positions for county entities such as cemetery, fire and recreation districts, and most candidates will be running unopposed. The Port of Morrow is one notable exception, with

both Padberg and Murray filing for reelection against at least one opponent each.

Padberg holds Commissioner Position 4. Also filing for that position is Kelly Doherty of Boardman.

Murray holds Commissioner Position 5. He faces not one but three opponents—Wes Killion, David Boor and Jonathan Tallman, all of Boardman. Russell Nichols of Heppner had also previously filed for Murray's position but chose to withdraw.

Heppner council considers new security cameras

John Doherty sworn in as new council member

By Andrea Di Salvo

Heppner City Council heard a report on possible security cameras for Heppner and swore in a new council member at its regular meeting March 13.

At the beginning of the meeting, Mayor Corey Sweeney swore in new council member John Doherty. In a possible first for the city, Doherty, who could not be present in person, was sworn in via Zoom. Doherty replaces former councilor John

Bowles, who resigned in January.

The Heppner City Council has been discussing the need for more security cameras in three or four locations around the city, and Jackson Malec of Verkada was present at last week's meeting to outline the benefits of Verkada's system.

Verkada is a physical security manufacturer founded about seven years ago by Stanford and MIT

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Lexington council discusses town growth and natural disaster plans

By Andrea Di Salvo

The Lexington Town Council reviewed a draft grant proposal for a Transportation and Growth Management (TGM) project and heard an update on the town's Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan (NHMP) at its regular meeting March 14 at Lexington Town Hall.

Town recorder Veronica Ferguson and Lexington Town Councilor Katie Imes told the council they have been working with state agencies to create a TGM project draft. The project involves education and outreach on downtown safety and multimodal transportation. Its purpose is to help along discussion about needed safety improvements in downtown Lex-

ington, which includes the stretch of Hwy. 74 roughly from A Street to H Street.

"There is some tweaking here, just with some basic language," said Imes. "I know there's a lot there, because the state, their statement of work has to include so many things."

Concerns about the downtown area include walkability, parking management and safety. Lexington has few sidewalks, and those that do exist are often crumbling and in need of replacement.

Also, the project recognizes current and planned development downtown, such as the newly-opened Broken Spoke restaurant and a planned Morrow

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