



the HEPPNER GAZETTE TIMES

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Gentry wins MoCo Rodeo All-Around

Pictures and results page 7



Tate Gentry (left) won the buckle for Morrow County Rodeo All-Around Winner Sunday, July 20. Morrow County Rodeo Board President Tanner Britt is presenting the buckle, which was sponsored by Heppner Les Schwab. See more Morrow County Rodeo photos and results on PAGE SEVEN. -Photo credit: Alexis Cady, Wild Red Rodeo

Heppner student wins state art contest



Heppner Student Hadlie Duncan displays her artwork at the calendar art contest reception at the Oregon State Fair, where she and 12 other winners were honored last Friday. -Contributed photo

Heppner Elementary fourth-grade student Hadlie Duncan was selected as one of 13 winners in a statewide annual calendar art contest sponsored by Oregon Agriculture in the Classroom (AITC).

Hadlie's artwork was selected from among 1,722 entries submitted to the contest showcasing Oregon's diverse agricultural and natural resource commodities. The winners were honored at a reception on Friday, Aug. 25, at the Oregon State Fair in Salem.

This year, artwork was submitted by students kindergarten through sixth grade across the state in public, private, charter and homeschool education systems. The entries received celebrated Oregon's diverse agriculture with artwork depicting a wide variety of the state's 220 agricultural commodities.

Hadlie's artwork, which can be viewed on the May page of the calendar, featured a field of canola flowers with wind turbines in the landscape.

"When driving back home from Hermiston, I saw fields of beautiful yellow flowers blooming, which was the inspiration for the artwork," Hadlie said in describing the artwork.

"The calendar contest is a great project for teachers and students to cultivate creativity while celebrating agriculture's beauty and bountiful lessons," said Brittany Capell, AITC Education Programs Coordinator.

Each month in the calendar features one of the winning students' pieces of art, and each day of the year has a fact about agriculture.

The 13 students selected to be featured in the 2023-2024 calendar received a \$50 award and certificate to commemorate this honor. The winning artwork is displayed on our website and at the Oregon State Fair, which runs through Labor Day in Salem. Calendars are free to Oregon teachers, and can be ordered for just \$4 on oregonaitc.org/shop.

Oregon Agriculture in the Classroom Foundation is a nonprofit organization dedicated to helping students grow through their educational lessons, activities and resource materials to Oregon educators to support the integration of agricultural themes into academic subjects such as math, science, history and language arts. For more information, visit the AITC website at www.oregonaitc.org.



Hadlie Duncan's artwork, which features a field of canola with wind turbines, can be seen on the May page of the Oregon Agriculture in the Classroom 2023-24 calendar. -Contributed photo

Boardman brewery closes its doors for good

Ordnance Brewing in Boardman closed its doors for good this past weekend, Aug. 26. The brewery and Boardman Tap House, located at 405 N. Olson Road, had reopened in February after a pandemic-related closure.

The company announced the closure on its Facebook page, but did not indicate a reason for the sudden closure.

"The Ordnance family can't thank everyone enough who came out to support your local brewery," the Facebook post stated. "Whether it was a Bingo, Trivia, Loteria, Karaoke, paint class or game day; we appreciate each and every one of you for coming to enjoy our cold beer and our 'Cheers' atmosphere!"

Several comments on the post expressed sadness on the closure—several commenters called Bloops "awesome" or "the best beer in Oregon." "So sorry to hear this. We have been going to

Ordnance for several years while camping at Boardman," Joyce Harrison Stiff wrote. "We'll miss all your great beers (that we liked lol) and your wonderful & friendly staff!"

Ordnance will also be closing its Wilsonville brewery, though that location will remain open as a taphouse.

G-T closed Labor Day

News, ad deadline Friday

The Heppner Gazette-Times will be closed Monday, Sept. 4, for the Labor Day holiday.

The deadline for all news and ads for the Sept. 6 edition will be Friday,

Sept. 1, at 5 p.m. Normal business hours will resume Tuesday, Sept. 5.

The G-T wishes everyone a safe and happy Labor Day.

Irrigon Council says no to truck route exceptions

By Andrea Di Salvo
The Irrigon City Council voted this month to maintain the current city truck ordinance and not allow exceptions.

Irrigon City Manager Aaron Palmquist told the council at the Aug. 15 meeting that the issue came up because a new resident had asked the city council to review and consider amending the existing truck route ordinance so he could drive his semi-truck home to SE Kristen Dr.

Because of the amount of community discussion around the topic, the Irrigon Planning Commission was asked to weigh in on the issue. The planning com-

mission's recommendation was to maintain the truck route designations and restrict trucks to those routes.

The existing ordinance has been in place since 2015. Palmquist said the ordinance had gone through a lengthy process when it was developed, and he was concerned with the consequences of making exceptions.

"When you make exceptions, then you're going to have some disparities that concern me," said Palmquist. As an example, he said, if the city charged for permits, one trucker might be able to afford a special permit while another-

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Boardman councilor faces misdemeanor sex charges

The Morrow County District Attorney's office is bringing misdemeanor sex crime charges against Boardman City Councilor Isaac Williams.

Morrow County District Attorney Justin Nelson said the allegations pertain to a relationship Williams reportedly had with a 17-year-old prior to his time on the city council.

Nelson said the Boardman Police Department had referred the case to Oregon State Police for investigation on June 13 of this year. Morrow County Chief Deputy DA Zach Williams—no relation to

the defendant—reviewed the case.

The district attorney's office filed the preliminary charge of third-degree sexual abuse against Williams on Wednesday, Aug. 23. Arraignment is scheduled for Oct. 5.

Williams, 36, has been a member of the Boardman City Council since 2021, when he was appointed to fill a vacancy. He was elected to an at-large position in 2022 for a term that expires in December of 2026.

Third-degree sexual abuse is a Class A misdemeanor in Oregon.

Lexington council discusses water concerns

By Andrea Di Salvo
Town water—or the lack of it—were concerns at a Lexington Town Council meeting earlier this month.

The town council learned that the town's engineering firm, Anderson Perry & Associates, had submitted Lexington's water system master plan to the Oregon Health Authority's Drinking Water Services (DWS). DWS sent a letter to Anderson Perry confirming the master plan met all the Oregon Administrative Rule criteria.

One of the main concerns of the water master plan is securing a second water source for the town. The town currently has only one water supply well, which is limited during the late summer months due to a lowering of the water lev-

el in the aquifer. The town also cites insufficient water storage volume.

The town's current water system has 127 water connections—107 residential, 15 commercial and five other. Its annual usage is 31,500,000 gallons of water.

According to the town, the existing well must run nearly 22 hours a day to meet peak demand. With demand expected to increase in coming years, that makes a second water source a high priority.

Through its work with Anderson Perry, Lexington is laying the groundwork to seek funding for a new well and pump station for the town, as well as a new 300,000-gallon storage reservoir.

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