

Local student graduates from UW-Madison

MADISON, Wis. (December 1, 2023) - Just over 1,300 students received doctoral, bachelor's, master's, and professional degrees in August 2023 from the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

While there is no commencement ceremony in August, many of the graduates take part in the

ceremonies the previous spring or in December.

Here are the degree recipients from your area:

Alex Lindsay, School of Education, Master of Science, Curriculum, and Instruction.

For more information about UW-Madison, visit <http://www.wisc.edu>.

Heppner Lions Club

At a recent meeting, the Heppner Lions Club members recapped many of our club's accomplishments and activities we were involved in throughout the year. Along with routinely picking up litter on a section of Highway 207 south of Heppner, this year a couple of our members took on the project of repairing and adding seating to the viewing platform at the top of the switch-back trail from Cowins Street to the top of the hill near the dam.

Heppner Lions Club again participated in the annual vision screening sponsored by the Oregon Lions Sight and Hearing Foundation. At Heppner 163 students were screened using the Welsh Allyn Spot device. This device can detect eight different vision issues in seconds, of the 163 screened, 31 were referred for follow-up with an optometrist.

While most insurances cover the cost of optometry visits and glasses, the Lions Club collaborates with the KEX Kids Fund to provide students with free comprehensive eye exams, eyeglasses,

and/or hearing aids for individuals up to 21 years old who are without vision insurance.

The Oregon Lions Sight & Hearing Foundation has served as the nonprofit arm of the Lions Clubs of Oregon to provide sight and hearing assistance for people living in Oregon and Northern California. When it comes to helping people obtain and finance vision exams and glasses the Heppner Lions serves all of Morrow County. If you, or someone you know, needs help with paying for eyeglasses contact our Sight & Hearing Chairman, Molly Rhea, at 541-399-3420. She will provide you with an application, and upon approval of your application, instructions on how and where to make an appointment.

In 2023 Heppner Lions provided seven \$500 scholarships for Heppner High School seniors and then invited each recipient to attend our annual BBQ in June. To be able to provide these funds, the club sold fireworks and raffled off a fishing trip with a professional guide, Ralph Klock.

AARP Tax-Aid Volunteers needed

Looking for AARP Tax-Aide Volunteers! Needing help in Hermiston, Boardman, and Lexington. All training provided. The season runs from February to April.

As a Tax-Aide volunteer, you'll receive training and support with IRS certification, learn new skills, and connect with people in your community while giving back. There's a va-

riety of volunteer roles at over 4,000 sites nationwide and flexible virtual opportunities. Join our team of volunteers and find out why volunteering with a Tax-Aide is so rewarding.

Please contact Bobbi Gordon at bobbigordon53@gmail.com or call 541-788-4466

or go to the AARP website <https://www.aarp.org/volunteer/programs/tax-aid/>

Christmas Scavenger hunt back for a 3rd year

Everyone is invited to join the Heppner-area churches for a fun, interactive adventure during the 3rd annual Searching for Christ in Christmas Scavenger Hunt. On December 17th from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m., participating congregations invite groups of "travelers"-the public, to their locations to discover the religious meaning behind Christmas. The participating churches include Heppner Christian Church at 293 Gale St, Heppner United Methodist Church at

175 Church St, St Patrick's Catholic Church at 525 Gale St, Willow Creek Baptist Church at 560 Minor St, Heppner Seventh Day Adventist Church at 560 Minor St, Elohim Covenant Ministries on 140 W Baltimore, and the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints at the Sage Garden Preschool. The evening will wrap up at the Sage Garden Preschool at 7 p.m. with a fellowship message, songs, and cookies and cocoa from Tumbleweed Bakery.

Heppner Elks Lodge to host annual Hoop Shoot

The Heppner Elks Lodge will host the annual Hoop Shoot Free Throw Contest in the Heppner Elementary Gym on December 17. The gym will open for registration at 12:30 with the shoot beginning at 1:00. This is a free event for girls and boys from Ione, Lexington, and Heppner ages 8 - 13 as of April 1, 2024. There are

three different age groups where each participant will shoot 15 free throws, rest then complete an additional 10 free throws for a total of 25. The participants with the most made shots in the age groups will advance to the District Hoop Shoot that will be held in John Day on January 7. For more information, contact Corey Sweeney at 541-256-0355.

MCRC to meet Dec. 13

The Morrow County Road Committee will hold a meeting on December

13th at 2 p.m. at the Public Works Conference Room in Lexington, Oregon.

Solar projects and weed control

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This approach could have a positive impact on local water quality and mitigate the effects of the nitrate water crisis.

Tamra Mabbott requested guidance from the Board regarding which projects they would like to endorse.

Commissioner Drago stated that all the suggested projects seemed viable but expressed the need for financial information.

Chair Sykes agreed with Commissioner Drago, emphasizing the importance of knowing the budget allocated by Sunstone for mitigation. He suggested attaching a dollar amount to each proposal for better decision-making.

Matthew Jensen clarified that the breakout schedule for the Circuit Court building promised earlier, was not ready. He planned to meet with the design team on November 13th and would provide an update as soon as possible.

Commissioner Wenzholz declared a conflict of interest due to his position on the Board of Directors for Umatilla Electrical Cooperative (UEC). As a result, he has decided to recuse himself from any discussions and voting related to the Umatilla-Morrow County Connect Project, a proposed transmission line by UEC. This project falls under the jurisdiction of the EFSC (Electricity Regulatory Authority). Commissioner Wenzholz has acknowledged that although UEC's involvement in the project is currently limited to preliminary studies, there is a potential for UEC

DEADLINE:
MONDAYS
AT 5PM

ORA candlelight vigil

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Deputy Martin has been actively engaging with neighbors daily, hoping to gather more information or potential leads. Currently, there are no suspects, and no security cameras in the neighborhood captured any suspicious activity. Deputy Martin has personally spoken with neighbors to determine whether this is a crime or an accidental fire.

No injuries or fatalities were reported because of the incident. Deputy Martin acknowledged that vehicle fires pose unique challenges due to the size and the presence of various components, including volatile substances like fuel and magnesium, which can intensify the fire.

One notable person

in attendance was Jim Doherty, former Morrow County Commissioner who is currently running for State Senate. According to the East Oregonian, Doherty spoke to the crowd prior to the vigil. In a post-vigil interview, he conveyed his opposition to acts of violence and stressed his desire to actively contribute to the community. It should be noted that Doherty is not affiliated with Oregon Rural Action.

The Morrow County Sheriff awaits the findings of the investigations carried out by the Oregon State Police and Oregon State Fire Marshals.

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THE MORROW COUNTY HEALTH DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS HAS A VACANCY

Interested Morrow County residents may submit an application for consideration. Applications must be received by Monday, December 11, 2023 for consideration at the December 18, 2023 board meeting. Applications should be submitted to community@moco hd.org.

Applicants may reach out to the Chief Executive Officer, Emily Roberts, with any questions at 541-676-2915 or community@moco hd.org.



MORROW COUNTY
HEALTH DISTRICT
Excellence in Healthcare



TASTE OF THE SOUTH
SOUTHERN STYLE BBQ
LIP SMACKIN' GOOD!



ORDER
HERE





TASTE OF THE SOUTH
SOUTHERN STYLE BBQ
LIP SMACKIN' GOOD!



DECEMBER
Opening Hours

DEC 8	11:00 AM - 7:00 PM
DEC 9	11:00 AM - 7:00 PM
DEC 10	12:00 PM - 5:00 PM
DEC 15	11:00 AM - 7:00 PM
DEC 16	11:00 AM - 7:00 PM
DEC 17	12:00 PM - 5:00 PM
DEC 22	CLOSED
DEC 23	CLOSED
DEC 24	CLOSED
DEC 29	11:00 AM - 7:00 PM
DEC 30	11:00 AM - 7:00 PM
DEC 31	12:00 PM - 5:00 PM

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR!

LOCATED AT HEPNER FOOD POD (NEXT TO THE POST OFFICE)
147 N. MAIN ST. HEPNER, OREGON
EMAIL AT BBQ@TASTE OF THE SOUTH.ORG