

Commissioner Recall

-Continued from PAGE ONE



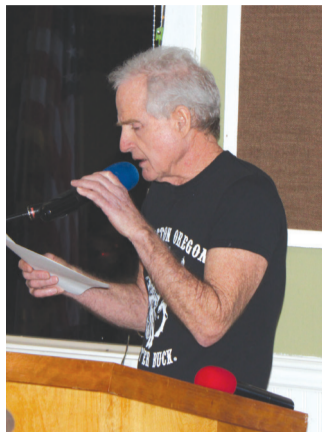
Jeff Wenholtz



David Sykes



Roy Drago



Stuart Dick

years of saving lives.

2) BOC has not cooperated with Heppner residents or been transparent regarding the site for the new Circuit Courthouse in Heppner.

3) The current BOC has lowered their official workload to two meetings a month and are in the process of hiring a second Administrator at a County cost, with benefits of \$365,000 for both. Unacceptable to Morrow County Citizens.

4) Morrow County has a very serious nitrate pollution problem regarding well drinking water primarily in the north end. BOC has not used their authority to address or take leadership to remediate this health hazard.

5) The BOC has made an unnecessary tax abatement deal with Amazon to the detriment of Morrow County taxpayers. In the future tax abatement deals with Amazon must be subject to citizen transparency and experienced/skilled negotiators.

Response from the Commissioners

Commissioner Sykes said "Commissioner Jeff Wenholtz and I came into office one year ago, and waiting for us was: no sit-

ting commissioners, no administrator, an ambulance dispute that should have already been resolved, no plans or site chosen for a needed courthouse, and a water nitrate problem years in the making. Commissioners, Wenholtz, Drago and I decided to tackle these problems head-on. Despite what the recall petition filers say, we have not done the people's business behind closed doors, and in fact, have held multiple public meetings to deliberate these important issues.

No, not all of the county's citizens are going to agree with the proposed solutions, however, we have worked diligently to derive ones we feel are in the best interests of the county as a whole.

Feel free to contact me to discuss any of these issues."

Commissioner Wenholtz said that former Commissioner Jim Doherty, who was recalled in 2022, had previously warned him about a similar situation before Wenholtz was elected.

The Heppner Gazette contacted Commissioner Drago on Tuesday, February 20th, but unfortunately, we did not receive a response from him before our printing deadline.

BMC Heppner Allstars



Cameron Proudfoot -Photo Contributed



Landon Mitchell -Photo Contributed



Caden George -Photo Contributed



Mason Orem -Photo Contributed

The Heppner Mustang boys' basketball team landed four players on the Blue Mountain Conference (BMC) all star teams. This recognition is for their outstanding play during the entire BMC season and is voted on by the coaches in the conference. They were honored at the end of the BMC District Tournament this past weekend.

Landon Mitchell received the most votes by the coaches in the

conference and was a unanimous selection to the first team. Caden George was also a first team selection for his outstanding play throughout the season. Cameron Proudfoot and Mason Orem were also recognized by the conference coaches as outstanding players and were honorable mention selections. The Mustang basketball team is proud of these fine young men and basketball players for receiving these awards.

Sheriff's Report

-Continued from PAGE SIX

top observed running a stop sign on tenth. Occurred on Se Utah Ave in Irrigon.

- Driving Complaint: Cream-colored Jeep Wrangler reported running a stop sign on tenth and heading to Division. Occurred on Se Utah Ave in Irrigon.

- Suspicious Activity: Darker colored truck pulled up to RP's house on Knapp St in Irrigon. Driver revved the engine and refused to leave. RP unable to identify the individuals due to heavily tinted windows. Vehicle left before contacting dispatch. Last seen heading eastbound on Knapp. RP requests a check of the area for any suspicious activity.

- Driving Complaint: RP reports a silver Pontiac G6 speeding down from tenth and through Utah before turning into Division. Occurred on Se Utah Ave in Irrigon.

- Theft Complaint: Occurred at Division Rd/Depot Ln in Irrigon. The subject was arrested by MCSO for Unauthorized Use of a Motor Vehicle, Theft in the First Degree, and Criminal Trespass in the Second Degree. Additionally, there was a warrant from MCPP for Possession of Stolen Property/Aggravated Theft in the First Degree. The subject was taken into custody and housed at the UCJ without bail. Another warrant from OSPB with case number 12817093 for Identity Theft and Theft in the First Degree was also served, and the subject was lodged at UCJ without bail.

- Burglary Occurred on Sunflower Flat Rd in Heppner. The RP reported that two males claiming their vehicle was broken down entered her residence without permission. It is believed that they stole firearms from the RP's house. The RP suspects that these individuals left towards the lake. The vehicle description is unknown, but both males were described as larger in size, white, and were wearing heavier, darker coats and jeans. The RP did not grant the individuals access to her residence and only discovered them inside when she woke up.

- Welfare Check: An employee at Morrow Cold Storage in Boardman has been behaving strangely. Concerned about his well-being and potential danger to himself and others. Last seen driving in circles in the area, left belongings at the facility. Referred to other agency.

- Driving Complaint: White Ford Focus reported driving in an erratic manner on Se Utah Ave in Irrigon.

- Dispute: Ex-partner trespassing and threatening to kick the RP out of his own house. Female exhibiting signs of a mental breakdown and denying her own identity. Occurred on Sw Utah Ave in Irrigon.

- Animal Complaint: RP reports 13 horses on her property, located on Kangaroo Court Ln in Irrigon. Horses are in the back field without proper fencing. Attempts to contact neighboring Helburgs, known for owning horses, were unsuccessful.

- Extra Patrol: RP requests increased police presence at Wagon Wheel Loop in Irrigon. Concerned about her brother forcibly entering her property against her wishes. RP would like to be notified of any suspicious activity.

- Driving Complaint: White Dodge Journey, grey Dodge Dart, and grey SUV with black compartment on

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Good News Only by Doris Brosnan

MANY thanks go out to the contributors to this column. It wouldn't, couldn't be without you!

Hunter Nichols, son of Russ and Toni Nichols, continues to run himself into the record books! On February 9, Hunter participated in the Husky Classic track meet in Seattle and not only improved his personal best time of 8.34.61 in the 3000-meter but also broke EOU's previous, 10-year best time of 8.23.70 by running an 8.05! The next day, after little rest and a long road trip, Hunter also participated in Whitworth University's meet, the one in which Diana Ball's granddaughter was running. EOU's team, ranked 9th nationally and the top-ranked NAIA university in the Western Region, is surely looking forward to the NAIA Indoor Nationals on February 29.

The Ione-Arlington girls' basketball team earned its way into Round 1 of the 1A championship competitions and will be playing Imbler on Wednesday. If they win, they will play in Round 2 on the 24th. Good luck! This weekend will also be the State Wrestling Championship competitions in Portland, and three HHS wrestlers will be competing on Thursday and Friday: Jaime Cavan, Landon McMahon, and Zachary Brown. Good luck!

Last Thursday 10 women gathered for lunch at the Heppner Elks Club to celebrate Sharon Lewis's 85th birthday, which was actually on January 3, but bad weather precluded the celebration. Everyone enjoyed the fine presentation and tastes of Heath's beef Wellington, roasted baby reds, and cheesecake and two+ hours of visiting.

Yes, many people in the Northwest go to the warmth of Arizona in the winter. Recently, Jerry and Carmen Healy were relieved to get back home from their trip to Tucson, AZ, because they wanted to warm up! Visiting Jerry's sister, Jean Marie, for five days, the Healy's were rained on for four of those days. And the temperatures remained mostly in the 30's! As they returned through the Gorge at 10 PM, the temperature was in the 50's, while in Tucson the thermometers read in the 40's, and Heppner the next day continued to be about ten degrees warmer than was Tucson! Feels good to be warm(er)!

Thoughtful surprise for those impressive, energetic band members who shook the rafters in the gym at Heppner High's last game: Some parents provided enough money at the concessions stand for every one of them to have a treat!

Kudos to the many local grandparents and great grandparents who are providing daycare for their little ones. Such a gift to employed parents.

Judy Harris Betts, who lived on a ranch near Ione for many years before moving to the Adams area, recently gave the Ione grade school a free-standing basketball hoop for the temporary playground being used during construction at the school. Judy is great grandma to Michaela, Justin and Ryder, whose parents, Keisha and Michael now live on the ranch. She appreciated being able to have the hoop delivered to Ed and Becky Reitmann, who put it together for her and delivered it.

Valentines' Day at Willow Creek Terrace featured added drops of love for the Residents: The Ione elementary school students sent via delivery person each Resident a stuffed animal and a homemade valentine. And Chirella Wallace and her little companion came with smiles and homemade gifts for all the residents, as she does each year. Great examples of thoughtfulness.

Carolyn Willey is glad to be back in Heppner. Following a stroke on February 12, Carolyn was transferred from the local ER to OHSU. Returning last Friday, Carolyn is temporarily staying at Sharon Lewis's home, and all necessary follow-up procedures are falling into place for her work on recovery. Although Carolyn is not available for phone calls presently, she welcomes correspondence, which could be sent to Sharon's PO Box 589.

Welcome to this world, Bo Alden Jack!! And congratulations to the new parents, Keenan, and Emily Jack. Bo Alden was born in Pendleton on February 17 at 9:06 PM, having decided to join his parents about ten days before his "due date." Eager to love on this 20" long and 7 lbs. 15 oz. little package are grandparents Brian and Susie Thompson and Herman and Bobbi Winter, all first-time grands.

Readers of the GT near and far away (several subscriptions do travel many miles) will find your positive tidbit a welcome respite if you are willing to take a few minutes to send it to dbrosnan123@gmail.com or call 541-223-1490. Some readers actually report that these tidbits do make a positive difference for them.

Here's hoping that good news comes to everyone reading this!

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Congratulations Heppner Girls Wrestling Team for a great Season!



Coach, Kasey Jones, Denisse Bracamontes, Loren Trujillo, Journey Cavan Harris, Keeley Nairns, Sarah Munkers, Coach, Tyler Robinson



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