

# Boy missing in the Heppner hills found

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-Contributed Photo



-Contributed Photo



-Contributed Photo



-Contributed Photo

experience, expressed his desire to ride Lankford's four-wheeler. Lankford himself reflected on the events leading up to this fateful discovery. Initially dismissing the buzzing sounds of the search operation as someone looking for a lost dog, Lankford and his wife Deborah quickly grasped the gravity of the situation after contacting the sheriff's office and Trevor Rhea. It was then that they discovered the missing child was Sebastian Berntsen. Lankford had spent his early morning hours hiking through the area, only to return home for a brief rest. His intention was to offer his assistance at the hospital, but, feeling restless, he ultimately decided to resume the search on his four-wheeler, delivering water to the searchers. It was during this endeavor that Lankford's intuition guided him to see Sebastian at 8:30 am. Overjoyed, the young boy immediately embraced Lankford and expressed his wish to drive the four-wheeler. Lankford expressed his sympathy to their situation saying, "I about lost a grandkid his age, so I knew what they

were going through." Lankford also mentioned that he estimated Sebastian to be approximately 1 mile away from the initial point in a straight line when he began walking in the dark. Reflecting on the incredible display of community spirit, Sheriff Bowels of the Morrow County Sheriff's Office shared his admiration, stating, "It was amazing how the community came together and the impressive turnout." The sentiment was echoed by the Berntsen family, Swedish visitors staying with the Murrays family. David Berntsen, who had been a foreign exchange student in the Murrays' home in 2009, had returned every year since to maintain his connection to the Murray family. The family expressed their gratitude towards everyone who participated in the search efforts saying, "We couldn't really appreciate it at the time, but it was amazing." In the face of a potential tragedy, the community of Heppner demonstrated an incredible unity and resilience. The swift response and unwavering dedication

of the search and rescue teams, volunteers, and various agencies brought about a happy ending to what could have been a devastating tale. The story of Sebastian's safe return will forever serve as a testament to the power of community and the strength that lies within a united effort to protect and support one another.

Our most grateful sincere THANK YOU to all of the amazing community we live in for helping us find Sebastian, Sunday morning He is the 2 yr old son of David and Kitija Berntsen from Sweden. David was our exchange student in 2009 and went to HHS and played football here. They are visiting and while playing with our grandkids outside our house went missing right before dark Saturday night. He was found this Sunday by Jim Lankford near where Jim and Debbie live outside of Heppner. There were about 100 people searching for him as well and life flight and out of state rescue teams. Thank you so much to Morrow County Sheriiffs Office for coordinating and to Pioneer Memorial Hospital for his care after he was found. For The prayer chains that went out across the country we will be forever grateful.

## Thank You!

Praise God for his mercy to us!

Sincerely,  
Ann and John Murray



DEADLINE:  
MONDAYS  
AT 5PM

# WCCC Ladies play day results

There were 8 players in the ladies' gameplay at the Willow Creek Country Club on June 11<sup>th</sup>. The weather was sunny. The results are as follows; Low Gross of the field was Karen Thompson. The low Net field was Virginia Grant. The least putts of the field were Kris Linder and Jackie Allstott. Flights- Low gross was (A) Tiffany Clement, (B) Karen Smith-Griffith.. Low net- (B) was Sharon Harrison. Least Putts (B) was Betty Carter. In other events Virginia Grant and Kris Linder got KP on hole 14. The ladies Invitational is on June 18<sup>th</sup>.

# 2024 Mustang Mop Up crew



The Heppner Jr/Sr High School Mustang Mop up crew for the 2024 school year in their pink Mustang Mop Up shirts. - Picture from the HJSHS Facebook page.

ALL NEWS AND ADVERTISEMENT DEADLINE:  
**MONDAY AT 5:00 P.M.**



## KIDS SWIM FREE!

ALL SUMMER LONG @  
WILLOW CREEK WATER PARK

FUNDED BY:  
Morrow County School District, Oregon Dept. of Education & Morrow County Health District

### POOL HOURS

June 17 - AUGUST 16  
MONDAY - SATURDAY  
1:00 pm - 7:00 PM  
SUNDAY  
1:00 pm - 5:00 pm

WILLOW CREEK PARK DISTRICT    MORROW COUNTY HEALTH DISTRICT    OREGON DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

All kids will receive a string backpack with a pool towel, goggles and sunscreen!

Credit and Debit cards are now accepted at the Willow Creek Water Park. Family passes are still available for parents/adults at a prorated amount.



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**\$239,000**

**Reduced price**

A beautifully remodeled 2-story home in Heppner. This spacious residence boasts approx 2,400 square feet of space, featuring 3 bedrooms and 2.5 bathrooms. This house has undergone extensive renovations, with almost everything being brand new. New dry wall, paint, flooring, bathrooms, kitchen, water heater, windows. 510 S Main St. Heppner MLS#: 23687525