

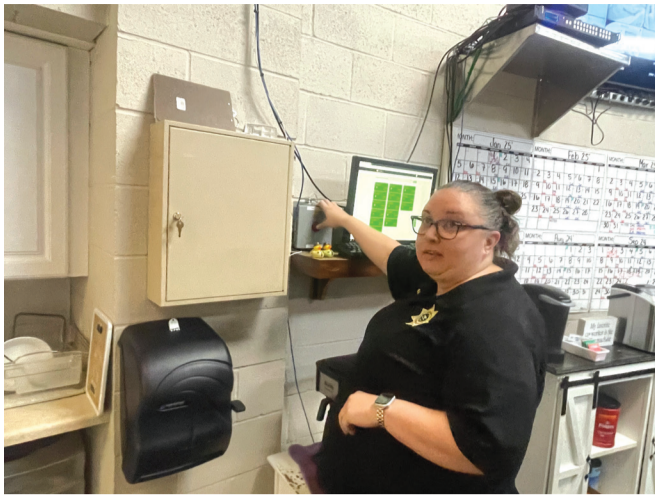
# Collaboration among local and state agencies leads to successful flood siren test in Heppner

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last time Heppner tested the warning system was several years ago.

Prior to the test, Steve took proactive measures to inform the community. He went door-to-door, made announcements on social media platforms like Facebook, and used the downtown Heppner speaker system to alert residents. On the day of the test, representatives from the participating agencies positioned themselves around Heppner, extending out to the mill and golf course, to evaluate the siren's reach and clarity.

Sarah Baker, a long-serving dispatcher at the Morrow County Sheriff's Office was chosen to press the red button to activate the siren during this test. Her expertise and dedication to the Sheriff's Office made her a fitting choice for this important



Sarah Baker, from the MCSO, pushing the siren button. -Photo contributed



Members of the MCSO and the Army Core of Engineers discussing the dam. -Photo contributed

reached level 4. It caused flooding at the football field and the elementary school.

During the follow-up discussion, Will Lemon, the Operations Project Manager for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, provided an update on the structural integrity of the Heppner Dam. He explained that the Corps of Engineers conducts annual inspections and multiple tests on the dam. According to their latest evaluations, the dam is in excellent structural condition, and there are no current concerns.

The successful test of the flood warning system reassured officials and residents of its reliability. The collaboration between local and state agencies highlights the community's commitment to flood preparedness and safety.

moment.

A key focus of the test was to determine whether the sound would travel far enough and be loud enough for everyone to hear. Research conducted by Iowa State University's Center for Nondestructive Evaluation on the effects of temperature on sound propagation revealed that sound travels faster in warm air due to the higher energy

of its molecules, which allows it to propagate more efficiently. Under certain conditions, sound may cover more distance in warm air, but it often bends upward as it moves away from the source, making it seem quieter. In contrast, sound moves more slowly in cold air because the molecules are less energetic. However, cold air causes sound waves to bend downward, creating

an amplification effect that makes the sound louder and allows it to travel farther near the ground.

When the siren was activated, it was heard clearly inside the Sheriff's Office. Some residents called the dispatch office with questions about the siren, confirming the system effectively reached the community. Following the test, the teams reconvened

to discuss their findings. Reports indicated that the siren's volume and range were satisfactory, with participants noting that the current weather conditions were ideal for sound travel.

Steve Freeland explained that the siren will be activated for evacuation purposes if flood danger reaches level 5. The last significant flood in Heppner occurred in 2019 and

## HHS Seniors honored each quarter

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Perseverance in their academic studies.

Integrity in their behavior.

Good character in making decisions.

Civility in collaborating and working with others; or

Leadership in taking on new challenges, to name just a few examples.

Angel Myers--HS Conditioning

Laia Puelles--Plant Science

Ashlee Knutz--Alg. I

Lakelie Thompson--JH Robotics

Brody Knutz--MS Biology/MS ELA

Lizzie Finch--Honors Biology

Catherine Lindsay--8th Math/MS PE/MS S.S.

Lizzie Ginn--Biology

Charlie Mullins--MS PE/MS Spanish/MS S.S.

Loren Trujillo--Physics

Darby Spivey--AG Mechanics/Intro to Eng.

Lucas King--Intro to Engineering

Ella Brannon--MS Biology/MS ELA

Maisyn Waller--World History/Plant Science

Emma Patterson--MS PE

Mason Seitz--Robotics

Hailey McDaniel--Food

Science/Spanish II  
Maya Payne--AG Leadership

Jackson Coiner--Pre-Calculus

McKenzie Maben--Geometry/Physical Science

Jasper Hanna--Alg. I/MS Computers/MS Biology

Melannie Castellanos--AG I

Jaxson Wight--MS Conditioning

Natalie Piper--Geometry

John Lindsay--Advanced AG/Personal Finance

Neely Foster--MS Exploring Tech/7th Advanced Mat

Journey Harris--Civics-Economics

Nick Wenberg--Tech Math

Jules Archer--Biology/Geometry

Owen Guerra--HS Conditioning

Kaden King--Metals Manufacturing/Tech Math

Paige Miller--MS Robotics

Kathryn (KC) Anderson--US History

Riley Palmer--US History/Adv. Tech

Keeley Nairns--Alg. 2

Tenley Rosenbalm--MS SS

Ketch Fennern--ELA Lab

Tyelor Moore--Geometry

Khloe Rodriguez--MS ELA

Tyler Rice--Health

Kooper Miller--HS Conditioning.

## Sheriff's Report

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**Water Park in Heppner.** Deputies investigated and resolved the issue.

**Suspicious Activity**  
A female acting erratically in a parked vehicle at Love's Travel Stop in Boardman was reported. Deputies were unable to locate her.

**Harassment**  
An altercation on Brace Road in Irrigon involved an individual reportedly being assaulted and an attempt to enter a vehicle. Deputies separated the parties and took a report.

**Parking Complaint**  
A Walmart truck was reported parked in a no-parking area near Rustic Truck Bar & Grill in Irrigon. Deputies addressed the issue.

**Suspicious Activity**  
Suspicious activity was reported at Tidewater on Ullman Boulevard in Boardman. Deputies investigated and resolved the situation.

**MCSO June 20-23, 2024**

**Disabled Vehicle**  
A pickup truck with a trailer was reported blocking the road at Highway 730 and Bombing Range Road in Boardman. The vehicle was moved and no longer

caused an obstruction.

**Dog Complaint**  
A resident on SW Third Street in Irrigon reported dogs coming onto their property and chasing their chickens. The situation was addressed by deputies.

**Dog Complaint**  
A white dog was reported charging at a resident near SE Utah Avenue and SE Tenth Street in Irrigon. The dog's owner was contacted and brought the dog inside.

**Driving Complaint**  
Multiple speeding vehicles were reported on SE Utah Avenue in Irrigon. A black Honda four-door was among the vehicles noted but could not be located by deputies.

**Property Found**  
A wallet was found at the Irrigon Shell Station on Highway 730. Deputies contacted the owner, who retrieved their property.

**Dog Complaint**  
A loose dog was reported near SE Alfalfa Street and SE Hager Street in Heppner. The dog was returned to its owner.

**Disabled Vehicle**  
A smaller Toyota vehicle lost a wheel on I-84 East near Boardman. The wheel was in the median, and the vehicle was on the shoulder. The matter was referred to the Oregon State Police.

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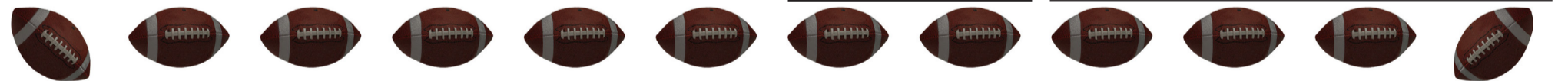
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