

## A-May-Zingers ready for Lexington May Day celebration

Pioneer Memorial Hospice is taking yard tributes to a whole new level, offering a unique way to celebrate the amazing individuals in our lives. With the simple gesture of sending A-May-Zinger to a friend or loved one in Lexington, people can now express their appreciation in a tangible and memorable way.

Pioneer Memorial Hospice is extending its mission beyond traditional boundaries by introducing this innovative program ahead of the Lexington May Day celebration. The idea is simple yet profound: transform ordinary yards into extraordinary displays of love and admiration.

Zingers are a 3' x 4' painted sign that, for a suggested donation, are placed in yards to bring attention to an individual or family that is simply 'A-May-Zing.'

The Zinger will be placed in the yard for three days and then moved by dedicated hospice volunteers to the next yard. Pioneer Memorial Hospice will be scheduling these beginning April 21 through May 3.

"Imagine the delight on your friend's face as they wake up to find their yard adorned with a colorful sign and uplifting message, celebrating their uniqueness and impact on those around them," says hospice volunteer coordinator Jackie Alleman. "It's a powerful reminder of the positive influence we have on each other's lives."

Scheduling a hospice Zinger yard sign is a meaningful way to honor someone special. Call the hospice office, 541-676-2946, to schedule a Zinger for your friend.

## Giefing shines at Cove with triple gold performance

The small but talented Ione High School track and field team delivered a strong showing at the Cove Charter School 1A-2A-3A Regional Invitational Saturday at Eastern Oregon University's Banner Bank Track. Junior Henry Giefing led the charge with a dominant performance, capturing three individual titles in a standout day on the track and field.

Giefing sprinted to victory in the 100 meters, clocking a time of 11.49 seconds. He followed that up with a win in the 200 meters, finishing in 23.75 seconds. In the long jump, Giefing soared to a season-record distance of 20 feet, 1.5 inches, earning his

third gold of the meet.

In the throwing events, junior Carter Eynetich represented Ione across three disciplines. He placed seventh in the shot put with a mark of 37 feet, 2 inches. Eynetich also took 11<sup>th</sup> in the discus with a throw of 103 feet, 6 inches, and matched that placement in the javelin with a toss of 112 feet, 2 inches.

On the track, sophomore Leo Lemus ran a personal-best time of 2:28.22 in the 800 meters, placing 15<sup>th</sup> overall.

In the girls' competition, sophomore Phegley Padberg competed in the javelin, throwing 77 feet, 7 inches to finish 25<sup>th</sup>.

## Cemetery district to meet

The Heppner Cemetery Maintenance District will hold its monthly meeting on Thursday, May 1, 2025. The regular meeting will be held at 5:15 p.m.

Agenda items include minutes of the previous meeting, financial report and cemetery operations.

The meeting will be held at 430 W Linden Way.

Meetings of the Heppner Cemetery Maintenance District are open to the public according to ORS 192.640(1). For questions or to attend by phone please contact Janet Greenup at 541-561-6768.

## NC closed May 1-2

The Neighborhood Center of South Morrow County will be closed for business May 1 and May 2 for scheduled maintenance.

Neither the food pantry nor the thrift store will be open. The center staff apologizes for any inconvenience

## Heppner Youth Baseball home game schedule

Heppner Youth Baseball players are well into their 2025 season. Coaches report that they had a wonderful turnout for their opening ceremonies.

Below is the upcoming schedule for home games. (Games are always subject to change depending on the weather.)

April 23: Juniors softball at Bob Kilkenny field, 6 p.m. Minor baseball (Heppner vs Heppner) at Hisler field, 6 p.m.

April 24: Majors softball at Bob Kilkenny field, 5:30 p.m.

April 25: Coach Pitch (John Britt Logging) at Hisler field, 11 a.m. Major softball at Bob Kilkenny field, 6 p.m.

April 28: Juniors soft-

ball at Bob Kilkenny field, 6 p.m. Tee ball (White vs Blue) at HES lower field, 5:30 p.m.

April 30: Minor softball at Bob Kilkenny field, 6 p.m., Major baseball (Gray) at Waterland field, 6 p.m., Coach Pitch (Miller & Son's vs John Britt Logging) at Hisler field, 6 p.m.

May 1: Minor baseball at Hisler field, 6 p.m. Tee ball (Yellow vs Gray) at HES lower field, 5:30 p.m.

May 2: Minor baseball (Heppner vs Heppner) at Hisler field, 6 p.m.

May 3: Major baseball (Gray) at Waterland field, 10 a.m., Heppner vs Heppner at 1 p.m. Major softball at Bob Kilkenny field, 11 a.m.

## NC clothing donations paused through June

The Neighborhood Center will be pausing clothing donations for a couple of months, Neighborhood Center Coordinator Nikki Clark has announced. The center will stop taking donations of clothing from May 1 to July 1.

Staff and volunteers are using this time to process the current donations and clean up the center.

"The Neighborhood Center of South Morrow County would like to thank the generous people of our community here in Morrow County for your continued support and giving to our center," says Clark, "Your clothing donations are always appreciated."

Clark said they are only closing clothing donations at this time; all other acceptable donations are still being accepted.

## Heppner FBLA students qualify for nationals at state convention



L-R: Heppner FBLA Advisor Jean Collins with FBLA members Lita Nelson, Lily Nichols, Claire Lindsay, Aden Lathrop, John Lindsay, Mason Orem, Jackson Coiner, Caleb George and chaperone Ken Grieb. -Contributed photo

A group of eight students from Heppner High School competed at the Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) State Convention held at the DoubleTree Hotel in Portland earlier this month. Led by FBLA Advisor Mrs. Jean Collins and chaperone Ken Grieb, the students spent three days immersed in competitions, leadership workshops, and networking events.

Heppner students Aden Lathrop, John Lindsay, Mason Orem, Caleb George, Jackson Coiner, Lily Nichols, Claire Lindsay and Lita Nelson participated in workshops and competitions on Thursday and Friday. The event wrapped up with an awards ceremony Saturday morning.

Several Heppner competitors placed in the top 10 in their respective events, earning the opportunity

to compete at the FBLA National Leadership Conference in Anaheim, CA, from June 29 to July 2.

In Agribusiness, Aden Lathrop placed seventh and John Lindsay took fourth. In Entrepreneurship, Lita Nelson and Claire Lindsay placed eighth, while John Lindsay placed third. In Hospitality and Management, Lily Nichols and Claire Lindsay secured fifth place.

## Willow Creek Reservoir fish habitat improvement underway



ODFW staff prepare to anchor a juniper tree to the bottom of Willow Creek Reservoir. -Contributed photo

ODFW staff are working to improve fishing opportunities at Willow Creek Reservoir by anchoring woody structures, such as juniper trees, to the reservoir bottom to create more

cover for fish.

The goal of the pilot project is to increase the survival of native redband trout, stocked trout, bass, crappie, and other warm water species by improving the otherwise sparse habitat and fish cover in the reservoir.

In partnership with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, which owns and operates the reservoir, ODFW fish biologists will install a map onsite showing where the structures have been anchored. Anglers and boaters should take measures to stay safe while recreating on the reservoir. The woody structures will be in areas where they will be submerged for much of the year.

"There is a lack of fish habitat in the reservoir due to the fluctuating water levels, and this will hopefully help increase survival by increasing cover for fish," said Taylor McCroskey, Umatilla District Fish Biologist. "This method is used in reservoirs in the southern U.S., and has shown to be an effective tool," McCroskey added.

ODFW will continue to

monitor fish populations in the reservoir to determine if the woody structures improve habitat over the long term.

Willow Creek Reservoir, located in Heppner, is a man-made reservoir impounded by Willow Creek Dam. It was built to control the risk of flooding, provide for irrigation, recreation and environmental stewardship use.

## Neighborhood Center the winner in donation contest



Pictured are (L-R) Blattner Energy representatives Jaden Court and Joel Ramirez with Neighborhood Center volunteers Gary Clark and Debbie Stanely and NC Coordinator Nikki Clark. -Photo by Cindi Doherty

Blattner Energy's Safety Manager Joel Ramirez and administrative team member Jaden Court presented the Neighborhood Center of South Morrow County with donations they collected during a company contest run between the office and field teams recently.

The Blattner field team won and, locally, their team came in third place. The Neighborhood Center was presented with \$854 as well as a box of nonperishable food items collected by Blattner Energy employees.

Ramirez said that their company does this contest every year and the whole company really enjoys raising the money to give to local nonprofits in the areas they are working in. Blattner Energy is based out of Avon, MN and is here installing turbines northeast of Lexington.

"The Neighborhood Center is grateful for this generous donation from Blattner Energy," said Neighborhood Center Coordinator Nikki Clark. "Thank you, Blattner."

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The City of Heppner will be offering vouchers for 1 free dump, per account, at the South Morrow County Transfer Station (\$15.00 maximum value.) Vouchers are redeemable for the period beginning April 19, 2025 and valid through May 18, 2025. Must be a current customer of the City of Heppner (water or water/sewer account,) and your account must be in good standing. Customers must request their voucher in advance at City Hall and present it to Transfer Station attendant at time of redemption. No rain checks.