



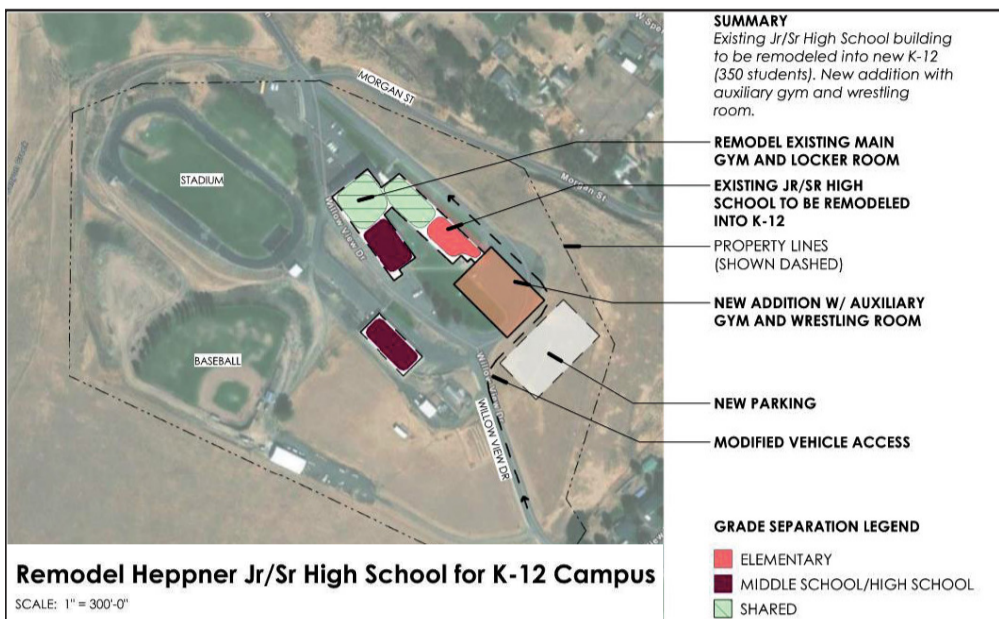
the HEPPNER GAZETTE TIMES

50¢



VOL. 145 NO.19 10 Pages Wednesday, May 7, 2025 Morrow County, Heppner, Oregon

Proposed district bond measure includes plan for Heppner schools



Proposed plans for Heppner schools include the remodel of the current Heppner Jr./Sr. High School into a K-12 campus.

Morrow County voters will vote on a proposed General Obligation Bond (Measure 25-104) for Morrow County School District in the May 20 election.

For the past few months, the district and its school board have been engaged in an information effort to inform stakeholders about the district's proposed bond.

Through community town halls and presentations to community organizations, a question that

some voters in Heppner asked was about the plan for Heppner schools. The district is providing more information about the plan for Heppner schools:

-The proposed bond measure includes remodeling the existing Heppner Junior/Senior High School into a K-12 campus.

-Currently, Heppner Elementary and Heppner Jr./Sr. High School operate in Heppner. Like other schools in the Morrow County School District,

these two schools are older structures with end-of-life operating systems.

-By consolidating into one school building, the district would realize significant operational savings, both with facility expenses and staffing.

-Other neighboring communities like Ione, Echo and Sherman County have successful K-12 campuses.

-If the proposed bond measure passes, the community will have the opportunity to be involved in the design process for the Heppner K-12 campus.

portunity to be involved in the design process for the Heppner K-12 campus.

-The district would retain the Heppner Elementary gym building for district and community use.

If the proposed bond passes, other projects would be funded at Irrigon Jr./Sr. High, Riverside Jr./Sr. High, Sam Boardman Elementary and other schools in the district.

The proposed MCS D General Obligation Bond would raise \$204.4 million. The district would receive a \$6 million matching grant from the Oregon School Capital Improvement Matching Program if the bond passes. The proposed bond would mature in 20 years or less and the bond rate would be an estimated \$2.99 per \$1,000 of assessed property value, although the actual levy rate may differ.

More information about Bond Measure 25-104 is available at mcsdbond.org, bondinfo@morrowd.org or by calling the Morrow County School District Office, 541-676-5705.

Good Shepherd acquires 61 acres of land in Boardman

HERMISTON, OR—Good Shepherd Health Care System (GSHCS) has announced the acquisition of 61 acres of land located on Main Street in downtown Boardman. GSHCS says the property will be the future location of a health care facility providing outpatient services for the residents of Boardman and surrounding communities in Morrow County.

According to a Good Shepherd statement, the new facility will allow Good Shepherd to deliver state-of-the-art care in Morrow County.

"This development is a testament to our ongoing mission to provide compassionate and exceptional care, close to home, meeting the needs of our growing community," said Art Mathisen, Good Shepherd's CEO. "Purchasing this land in Boardman positions us well to expand services for our Morrow County patients, ensuring they have

access to the most essential health care services, right in their own community."

Good Shepherd plans to actively engage with Morrow County stakeholders throughout the planning and development process.

"We believe that collaboration and input from the City of Boardman, residents, leaders, businesses and community groups will be essential as we move forward," said Mathisen.

"Together, we can foster a healthier future for Boardman and Morrow County. We thank our Good Shepherd Health Care System Board of Trustees for their continued leadership and support as we embark on this important endeavor to expand health care services in Boardman and Morrow County," said Mathisen.

For further information or to stay up to date on the progress of this new health care facility, visit www.gshealth.org.

Ione School District recognized in #OregonStrong campaign



Students celebrate their award, taking a photo in front of a student-made project. The project showcases the many things that students love about being Ione Cardinals. Back (L-R): Leo Cabrera, Michael McElligott, Carter Eynetich. Middle (L-R): Will McElligott, Miley Strzelewicz, Novalee Campbell, Phegley Padberg, Brionna Serrano, Khira Kreitzer, Mrs. Chelsea Geer, Hunter Scoggin. Front (L-R): Victoria De La Torre, Keltie Rietmann, Rosa Aguilar, Caydena Kreitzer. -Contributed photo

In April, the Ione School District was notified that its Associated Student Body (ASB) had received an award from the Coalition of Oregon School Administrators (COA) for its outstanding participation in the #OregonStrong Campaign.

The campaign aims to highlight the positivity and resilience within Oregon's schools. COA provided Ione's student leaders with a digital survey, which they shared with students across the school.

Ione was recognized for having the highest percentage of student responses relative to its enrollment. More than 60 students completed the survey, earning the Ione ASB a \$500 award for effectively mobilizing

their peers.

"Teachers have Google Classroom, so it was easy for them to post the survey in their classes. That really helped," one student leader shared.

COSA representative Cate Study presented the award during a visit to the high school and hosted a brief listening session with all high school students. The event took place in the student lounge, located on the cafeteria stage. At the front stood a student-made poster celebrating what students love most about their community.

During the session, students and staff shared heartfelt reflections: "I like how the school prepares me

-Continued to PAGE TWO

Legacy of longtime Oregon farmer and Oregon Baseball supporter lives on with Bob Kilkenny Field



Heppner's Bob Kilkenny (front) was a lifelong supporter of University of Oregon sports. -Contributed photo

Reprinted from goducks.com

On August 15, 2008, Bob Kilkenny climbed aboard a John Deere excavator, something he'd done countless times as a lifelong farmer in the

tight-knit Eastern Oregon community of Heppner. But this time it was different. Instead of breaking ground on his wheat farm, Bob was breaking ground on PK Park, helping to usher in the long-awaited return of Ore-

gon Baseball after a 27-year hiatus from Division I play.

Bob Kilkenny spent his entire life in Heppner, Oregon. The town shaped his values, his work ethic, and his identity. A proud Irishman and a man of

deep faith, Bob carried his heritage and values into everything he did.

He first arrived at the University of Oregon in the fall of 1948, following in the footsteps of his older sister, Ilene. Though financial limitations cut his time in Eugene short, Bob's love for the U of O never wavered. He returned to the family farm, but his passion for the Ducks was passed on to the next generation. All five of his children—Russell, Patrick, Kelly, John, and Kevin—would go on to become proud Ducks!

"Dad always placed a tremendous emphasis on education," said his daughter Kelly Kilkenny Hale. "Dad used to say education

-Continued to PAGE SIX

Forum highlights candidates' vision for economic growth, sustainability

Nitrates, ethics and unity top of mind for Port candidates

By Chris Sykes

Heppner, OR—The recent Port of Morrow candidates forum brought together six candidates vying for three positions on the Port commission, a pivotal body in Morrow County's economic and agricultural landscape.

Hosted by the Heppner Chamber of Commerce, with Madison Rosenbalm facilitating, the event aimed to give voters insight into the candidates' visions for the Port of Morrow, an entity central to the region's industry, infrastructure and job creation.

The forum, held in a structured format, allowed candidates to present their backgrounds, address pressing issues like water safety and economic development, and outline their

commitment to uniting a county often divided by geographic and economic differences.

The evening began with opening remarks, each candidate allotted two minutes to introduce themselves and their motivations.

Abe McNamee from Irrigon, running for position 3, is a landowner in Irrigon and Heppner and father of nine. He emphasized his deep ties to agriculture and his 12 years of experience with the water district. He expressed a desire to ensure the Port supports the next generation's ability to thrive in Morrow County, stating, "I don't think you can sit back and complain about things without getting involved."

Joel Peterson, also running for position 3, high-

lighted his lifelong connection to the county, his engineering background, and his extensive community involvement, including his role on the Bank of Eastern Oregon board. Appointed to the Port Commission 18 months prior, he sought to continue fostering the Port's positive impact.

Danny Kearns, running for position 2, is a seventh-generation Oregonian and business owner. He brought a personal touch, sharing a light-hearted anecdote about making his daughter laugh with a dad joke. Kearns spoke of his passion for entrepreneurship and his desire to inspire youth, drawing from his experience hosting a scholastic event.

Raymond Seastone running for position 2 was

not in attendance.

J. Fletcher Hobbs, running for position 1, a Boardman resident and ag-

-Continued to PAGE FIVE



START THE YEAR OFF ROAD SALES EVENT

\$2,000 OFF UP TO SELECT POLARIS XPEDITION MODELS OR FINANCING AS LOW AS 0.99% APR FOR 36 MOS

POLARIS OFF ROAD

Morrow County Grain Growers Inc.



CALL 541-989-8221 ext 204 for more information

WARNING: Polaris' off-road vehicles can be hazardous to operate and are not intended for on-road use. Driver must be at least 16 years old with a valid driver's license to operate. Passengers, if permitted, must be at least 12 years old. All riders should always wear helmets, eye protection, and protective clothing. Always use seat belts and car seats or doors (as equipped). Never engage in stunt driving, and avoid excessive speeds and sharp turns. Riding and accessories don't mix. All riders should take a safety training course. Call 800-342-5764 for additional information. Check local laws before riding on trails. ©2022 Polaris Inc.

POLARIS | OFF ROAD