

PGE at meeting

MCEDA membership drive on

A citizen's involvement group that intends to watchdog and promote social and economic growth in Morrow County is kicking off its membership drive Wednesday, Sept. 28 at Ione High School.

The Morrow County Economic Development Association has scheduled the meeting for 8 p.m. and invites all Morrow County residents to the open forum.

Featured speaker for the evening will be Bus Clough, with Portland General Electric's public affairs division. Clough will show slides and give a talk on the construction of PGE's coal-fired generating plant located about equal distance between Ione and Boardman.

MCEDA was formed a couple months ago when some residents of Morrow County began a petition drive to promote a road leading from Ione to the coal-fired plant site and on through to Boardman.

The land on which the road would go is leased to the Boeing Company for their agri-industrial park and when the petition drive surfaced, Boeing officials expressed no desire for a road across their property. Boeing leases the land from the State of Oregon, Dept. of Veterans Affairs.

An association was formed with non-profit status and temporary officers were elected.

Tim Tullis of Ione, president of MCEDA, said the group is now ready to begin soliciting members.

"We plan to be a broad based organization that looks out for Morrow County and her people," said Tullis. "Our county is just beginning to come into its own and it is time the people living here now had a say in the direction in which it goes."

Tullis continued, "We feel the road to the PGE construction site and on through to Boardman is the first step."

From there the association plans to become involved in land use planning, promote release of the Navy bombing range to individual farmers and more.

"The people of Morrow County need a voice with which they can go after social and industrial growth that is beneficial and compatible with our present agricultural

base," noted Michael J. Sweeney, Heppner attorney assisting the association.

"This group can be extremely helpful in controlling and promoting proper growth," he continued.

The association said memberships are needed for both the "thought" input and money. With funds collected the association plans to keep members informed of developments within the county through area newspapers, regular meetings and mailings. MCEDA also plans to hire an economic analyst to determine the need and feasibility of projects.

Memberships in the association are open to any individual living within the boundaries of Morrow County. The price of membership varies as

to what the individual wishes to contribute, but regardless of the amount donated, each

member has one vote in matters before the group.

For \$1 a person can become a member, with full voting rights. Persons that cannot attend the meeting, but who wish to join, can mail their membership contribution to

MCEDA, Ione, Oregon, 97843.

Refreshments will be served at the meeting and those attending will be under no pressure to join the association, according to Tullis.

"All we want is for people to become informed of what's happening in their county and if they feel like it, become part of a group working for everyone," said Tullis.



Jodi Padberg, known for her tole painting abilities not only in Morrow County but throughout the state, knows what 4-H means to her.



Erin Evans turned on the charm in her peasant outfit as she swirled through a crowd of chamberites Monday. She was one of many 4-H'ers that attended the noon luncheon promoting the organization.

Talking with the animals...Ann Evans, a young 4-H member, showed Chamber of Commerce members what fun that can be.

Chamber of Commerce views 4-H roles

Chamber of Commerce diners Monday were introduced to a wide variety of human elements that blend into the unique organization 4-H.

Under the general direction of Birdine Tullis, the 40 Chamber members and their guests were entertained by a hand-crafted puppet show, informed of 4-H counselor activities and given a quick art lesson. And more.

The presenters ranged from junior member Ann Evans, the puppeteer, to OSU specialist Jan Weber, a time management instructor.

Weber has spent the past week in district schools holding time management classes dealing with such areas as setting priorities and properly channeling energies.

Four-H counselors Pam Cantin and Todd Harrison both participated at this summer's 4-H camp at Cutsforth Park. They told the group about 4-H activities for teenagers such as outdoor survival classes, leadership programs and travel exchanges.

A view of 4-H from a leader's angle was given by Francine Evans, Irrigon. A current member of the State 4-H Council, she has been a 4-H leader for eight years and has several children in various stages of the program.

Fresh from the State Fair, tole painting champ Jodi Padberg was on hand to display her blue ribbon work. Morrow County's 4-H tole painting club has proven hard to beat in Fair competition each year.

Jan Peterson, Ione, told the group that 4-H activities had given her the confidence to speak in front of groups and spread the word about 4-H.

Leaders needed for group fun

4-H is fun! Millions of youngsters throughout the country are learning and doing through the fun of 4-H every week in a variety of activities that range far from traditional livestock and sewing clubs.

If you are in grades four through 12 or are an adult with any skill, plus time to share, there is a niche in 4-H for you to fill.

Suppose you enjoy fishing. You can become a 4-H fisherman and learn not only how to catch fish, but how they live and grow, what insects they eat and about conditions

She is a youth member of the State 4-H Advisory Committee and last winter attended a "Know Your Government" seminar.

The program ended with a style revue featuring 4-Hers and the clothing they had made. Many of the outfits modeled had won awards at County and State Fair this summer.

necessary for reproduction and growth.

Join the 4-H Survival Club already in existence in Morrow County and learn tactics to ensure survival in the wilderness.

The sky is the limit as far as the kinds of activities 4-H youngsters are involved in. To find out what clubs already exist in Morrow County or to express an interest in leading or forming a new club, contact Birdine Tullis at the Extension Office, 676-9642.

All it takes is one leader and some interested youngsters to start a club that can do almost anything.

School audit forecasts tax hike

A district audit presented to the Morrow County School Board Monday showed a healthy financial status for the current year but forecast an increased load on county taxpayers for next year.

According to the annual audit prepared by a Pendleton accounting firm, the district ended the past fiscal year with an unbudgeted cash balance in excess of \$329,000. Supt. Matt Doherty said the amount had accumulated over past years and allowed the district to set aside \$248,000 this year as a tax offset. The remainder was retained for use as operating capital next year until tax receipts are collected by the district.

Since projections indicate a much smaller cash balance for the end of this year, Doherty said the money will have to be kept for operating capital against the succeeding year—leaving little or nothing available as an offset for taxpayers.

"The chickens come home to roost," Doherty said, referring to the district budget defeat of last spring. "A lot more will have to come out of the taxpayer's pocket."

Doherty said it is common for districts to allow unbudgeted cash balances to build up over a period of time but added it is necessary to reduce the amount periodically.

"The district used the funds to reduce the tax load for this year, but the offset funds will not be available next time," Doherty said.

A large part of the unbudgeted balance—\$196,000—came from a combination of underspending the budget and over-realizing the receipts. Doherty cited \$24,000 in basic school support funds and \$67,000 in prior years' tax collections that were not fully anticipated.

In a related matter, Doherty told the Board that a bill passed by the recent Oregon legislature requires that all

school districts operating outside their tax base hold a tax base election next year. Doherty said only six or seven districts in the state operate within their base and Morrow County is not one of them.

"We haven't tried a tax base election for years but we will be required to hold one," Doherty said. Currently, the district tax base is \$494,126 compared to a total budget in excess of \$3 million.

"The figure is obviously not realistic," Doherty said. A May 23 election date has been set.

In other action, Board members engaged in a 90 minute discussion touched off by a Teacherage Committee recommendation to raise rent fees for the district teacherages. Recommendations included an 87 per cent rent raise for the Ione house and a 117 per cent rent raise for two Boardman apartments owned by the district.

Ione principal Chuck Starr,

who occupies the teacherage at Ione said he would be forced to move if the rent increase was approved. Starr said that since housing in Ione is so difficult to locate, he would move back to the home he owns in Lexington.

"The increase is totally unfair," Starr said. "I want to stay in Ione but I won't if the rent goes to the proposed figure. You can rent the house to the public if you want to make money on it."

Starr offered to purchase the house from the district if necessary but his offer was unofficially declined by the board.

Ione teachers Gordon Meyers and Del LaRue also opposed the increase saying

that if Starr was forced to leave the community, the entire program at the school would suffer.

"I want the principal of my school to live in my community," Meyers told the Board.

Speaking for the Boardman teacherages, Riverside principal Dan Daltoso said, "beginning teachers can't pay that much—the increase is extremely unfair."

Following further discussion, the issue was referred back to committee for further consideration.

The Board approved the year's budget calendar which schedules the first meeting for Jan. 9 and the budget election for April 4.

Bray wins grid contest

In a five-way tie for first place in last week's Football Contest, Artie Bray of Heppner came out on top in the tie-breaker predicting a score of Stanford 21-Tulane 7.

Coming in second was Rick Johnston with six correct predictions out of the ten games and was only one point off Bray in the tie-breaker.

Bray—winner of \$10—and Johnston—a \$5 winner—can pick up their checks at the Gazette-Times.

About a dozen entries came in for last week's contest and behind the winners were Tom

Hughes, Robb Rush and Kevin Rountree with six correct and four incorrect picks.

A couple guys who were ready to pick up their checks

last Friday when they brought their entry forms in, actually floundered. They're great bankers, but don't bank on their football predictions.

Lyle Lowe scored four correct picks and Gene Pierce rallied for three.

A new contest appears in this week's paper and readers are urged to read the rules and make their predictions.

Board approves High School lights

A delegation of Ione citizens told the School Board Monday that, with the Board's approval, the high school would have a new set of lights in the next couple of weeks.

The Ione Lions are sponsoring the project and members of the community are forming a booster club to assist.

Columbia Basin Electric Co-op has supplied the lights at cost and is donating the poles and labor and equipment

at no charge.

Members of the delegation expressed their appreciation to Dave Harrison and CBEC for the co-op's help. They said CBEC will begin placement of the lights without prior payment.

The total cost has been set at \$3,716 and as of Monday fund raisers had \$1,500 in commitments. Operation of the lights will only cost the school \$2.60 for five hours of electric usage.

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