

The Heppner

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Morrow Co. Strategic Plan developed

For the past eight months, community leaders from throughout Morrow County have been meeting to discuss economic development. The result has been the Morrow County Strategic Plan.

The Morrow County Strategic Plan is an economic development plan for the county that encompasses a vision of the future and a method of getting there. "Without a plan, there is no roadmap for progress," explained Gary Neal, manager of the Port of Morrow and the moving force behind the plan. "Most businesses these days have a strategic plan. It only makes sense for a county to have one as well."

The plan was developed by representatives from city and county governments, planning boards, the school district, basic industries within the county, and chambers of commerce and businesses within Morrow County. The Port of Morrow was the sponsoring organization, and OSU Extension Service provided training and guidance.

The Morrow County Strategic Plan is divided into three chapters. The chapters begin with an assessment of the current economic situation and continue with a vision of what the characteristics of the county's economic situation would be in twenty years' time. The strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats of each economic sector are

examined in each chapter. Finally, there is an action plan to accomplish the "vision" stated at the start of the chapter.

Chapter one focuses on the resource related industries and potential new industries in the county. It recognizes both the existing agricultural industry as well as the timber industry. Value added food products is fully supported in the strategy, recognizing the benefits of the Regional Strategy Program.

Actions suggested for continued natural resource development are an updated county "input/output" model to identify tax dollar, service dollar, and contract dollar leakage; and continued expansion of the value-added agriculture industry. It also encourages the promotion of local processing of timber resources, such as value-added lumber products. All in all, there are sixteen suggested actions for resource related industries.

Chapter Two focuses on human services, such as health, education, and social services. While it is difficult to service a small, rural population over a large area, whether it is with schools or health care, Morrow County has certain advantages of more urban areas. It has adequate to excellent schools, social services, and a hospital. Some of the actions suggested for human services are designed to en-

courage professionals—doctors, teachers, etc. to locate in a rural area. "If we can train local youth in the professional jobs we need, and if we can make it economic for them to return, we won't have trouble attracting or retaining them," says Neal. Further suggested actions are a stable funding source for schools and government, and local offices for some of the state services now provided out of county.

Chapter Three deals with tourism and recreation. One of the strengths of the county is its natural resources, which already serve as a draw for many hunters and fishermen annually. The Columbia River and the Blue Mountains are natural advantages the county enjoys, and future development of facilities will tend to attract more and varied visitors.

The actions suggested include development of facilities at Willow Creek Dam, further development of the Blue Mountain Recreational Byway, an information center at Boardman, and promotion of activities, such as St. Patrick's Day or the Watermelon Festival.

Copies of the Morrow County Strategic Plan are available at the Port of Morrow office in Boardman, 481-7678, or at the OSU Extension office in Heppner, 676-9642. "The plan was designed to be used by county groups," says Neal. "It won't do any good gathering dust on the shelves."

Decorations to get overhaul



Bob Kahl and chamber of commerce pres. Cliff Green show worn decorations.

Bob Kahl of the Heppner Chamber of Commerce says that Christmas lights for the downtown area have been ordered and are expected to arrive any time. Kahl said that enough garland was ordered to redo all of the decorations and nine or 10 candles have been ordered so that old ones may be replaced.

Kahl said that the old Christmas lights had been purchased from The Dalles around 1970 and they were believed to be around 15 to 20 years

old then.

The new candles are made out of red garland with white garland for a "drip" effect and gold garland for flame and interlaced with lights. The old candles were made of red plastic with white plastic drip effect.

Once the lights arrive Kahl said that people will be needed to strip off the old garland and to clean and repair the frames and the light strings so that they can be put up on Main Street.

License information restricted

The Sheriff's office has received numerous requests for both driver's license and vehicle registration information from citizens of Morrow County. Most of this information is requested for trespassing hunters and personal use. The sheriff's office, by law, cannot give this information to any person or agency other than law enforcement or for criminal justice purposes only. This type of request can be made through the department of motor vehicles for a minimal fee. The Sheriff's office regrets any inconvenience this may cause.

Market Report

Compliments of the Morrow County Grain Growers

Tuesday, November 20	
Soft	White
Nov.	\$2.83
Dec.	\$2.84/\$2.86
Jan.	\$2.87/\$2.89
Barley	
Nov.	\$1.09
Dec.	\$1.08
Jan.	\$1.08
Pik	97 1/2 %

Pre-school children donated canned goods



Photo by Joyce Hughes

The Four-year old pre-school children Joyce Breeding says that around 2,250 pounds of food, about the same as last year, was donated to the center for holiday food baskets. Breeding says that 57 families

order for them to use the canned goods as part of the holiday baskets to be distributed. Parents of the three and four-year old classes donated the canned goods to the center.

Over 2,000 pounds of food donated to center

Neighborhood Center director Joyce Breeding says that around 2,250 pounds of food, about the same as last year, was donated to the center for holiday food baskets. Breeding says that 57 families

have been signed up to receive the baskets for Thanksgiving but it's too early to tell how many will be distributed at Christmas time. Cub Scouts and Christian Youth organized the canned food drive.

Contests, Santa Clause to mark Christmas opening

The Heppner merchants' annual Christmas opening will be this Friday and Saturday, Nov. 23 and 24. Participating businesses will be holding a guessing contest Friday and Saturday in which shoppers may guess the number of items in a jar. The person guessing closest to the

number will win a prize.

Santa will also be making his yearly visit to Heppner on Saturday. He will arrive by firetruck downtown at 1 p.m. and will then go to the St. Patrick's Senior Center where he will be available to visit with area children.

Monies available for transportation

Over two million three hundred thousand dollars are available in Oregon for senior and handicapped transportation. This message was conveyed to Judge Carlson last week by Joni Reid, field representative of the Public Transit Division, state of Oregon.

This amount of money is derived from the special transportation fund which is the recipient of a tax put on the sale of cigarettes in the state of Oregon. These are discretionary funds that can be applied for by the governing body of Morrow County.

Part of the criteria for application of the grant fund is to solicit input from the public that will be served both in the Willow Creek valley and in North Morrow. Possible projects

that may be funded are garage space for the senior buses that were recently purchased, additional small economical cars that could serve as pickup service for seniors or handicapped who live in the outlying areas or perhaps an economy vehicle to serve as a modified taxi service for those who live in any of Morrow County's towns.

"Before the grant application can be completed, public input must be solicited," said a county spokesperson. "We encourage those in our communities that see a need that is not now being cared for to contact Judge Carlson at the Morrow County Courthouse so that those needs can be incorporated into the application."

Central Market returns to regular hours

Central Market in Heppner will return to its regular hours beginning Monday, Nov. 26, said owner Gail Burkenbine.

Hours will be 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Friday and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday.

Artifactory offers handmade crafts



Shirley Connor (l) and Debbie Harper display a few of their hand crafted items to be sold at the annual Artifactory Dec. 1. Shirley will be selling dogs made of yarn, decorated fans and canned goods. One of the items Debbie will be selling is dough art cinnamon bears.

The annual Christmas Artifactory is again scheduled for Saturday, Dec. 1 at the Morrow County fairgrounds from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Artifactory is a craft fair sponsored by Heppner Soroptimist International. Tables are rented to individuals who wish to sell their handmade crafts or homebaked goods. A variety of items are available this year by many local people and people from as far away as the Tri-Cities and Meacham. There are still a few table spaces left to reserve.

Mr. and Mrs. Santa will be on hand from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. with photographs taken by an elf. Lunch will be available and will include cinnamon rolls, hot dogs, chili, baked potatoes and some homemade pies.

"Artifactory is a good time to buy special Christmas gifts and eat and visit with friends," said a Soroptimist spokesperson.

Fair and Rodeo Court to raffle Blackhills gold ring



Jodee Ashbeck

The Morrow County Fair and Rodeo Court has begun their fifth annual raffle of a Blackhills Gold ring. The winner will be drawn at the Town and Country Banquet January 18, 1991.

Tickets are on sale for \$1 each from the court members or from Wayne and Judy Davis or Alvin and Julie Ashbeck. The ring is on display at Peterson's Jewelers.

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