

HEPPNER



50¢

ODOT Region 5 director stops in Heppner



Tom Schuft

Oregon Department of Transportation Region 5 director Tom Schuft traveled to Heppner Tuesday to speak with members of the Heppner Chamber of Commerce and observe the Main Street Renovation Project, funded by ODOT.

Schuft, whose region covers Morrow, Umatilla, Union, Grant, Wallowa, Baker, Harney and Malheur counties, told the group that passage of a state transportation package is crucial to the state's transportation system. Two packages have been passed in the house, but defeated in the senate. Schuft says that the governor, however, has indicated that he will call a special session of the legislature if "leadership gives him a signal" that a package will pass.

Morrow County Judge Louis Carlson suggested "writing a letter to each naysayer in the senate, saying that if you change your vote, it would virtually save the economy in eastern Oregon."

The first package called for an increase of three cents a year for three years with an access fee and increased DMV fees. The second asked for an increase of two cents a year for three years. Both were passed in the house and defeated in the senate.

Schuft said that contrary to popular opinion, tax monies flow from west to east. The population of Eastern Oregon does not pay for projects in western Oregon; on the contrary, it is the other way around, said Schuft.

Schuft said that if a transportation package is not passed, there is concern that the larger areas in the valley will pass their own transportation bills, funding projects such as light rail, and then eastern Oregon, with a smaller population and thus, less money to spend on projects, will be left to fend for itself.

Schuft said that less money means a smaller likelihood that transportation projects will be able to be undertaken. This he

says, means more potholes, more safety concerns and more delays, as goods are shipped to port and equipment and other goods are shipped to rural areas.

"We're doing the best job we can," said Schuft. But, he adds, there simply is not enough money to undertake projects such as Franklin Grade near Heppner. "In the current funding scenario, nothing is going to happen. We'll just be able to barely take care of the freeways," he said.

Schuft said that need is a critical issue in whether a project is approved by ODOT. But, he added, communities

also must bring projects to the attention of the ODOT commission--standing their turn in line, so to speak. He says that the commission looks more favorably on a project if the community contributes toward the cost of the project. The amount of traffic is also figured in the quotient.

Schuft said that his region has earmarked \$1 million every two years for small town road transportation projects such as Heppner's, which is now underway. He said that a project is scheduled for Burns next year and projects have already been completed in Union and Cove.

Museum to sponsor folk tales program



"Oregon Trails, Oregon Tales," a lively presentation of storytelling and song, will be presented by Tom Nash on Friday, August 1, at 7 p.m. at the Morrow County Museum. The public is invited and admission is free.

The program is sponsored by the Morrow County Museum and is made possible by the Oregon Council for the Humanities, an

affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities. From Astoria to Vale, regional folklore reveals much about Oregon history, offering a chronicle of cooperation, strife, tradition and ethnic pride. "Oregon Trails, Oregon Tales" provides a kaleidoscopic view of Oregon's diverse cultural legacy, says museum director Marsha Sweek. Included are compelling and often humorous anecdotes from many traditions, including Nez Perce, Basque, Hispanic, Chinese, English, African American and more.

Nash, a professor of linguistics and folklore at Southern Oregon State College in Ashland, has collected legends and lyrics from people from every corner of our state.

For further information about the program, call the museum at 676-5524, from 1-5 p.m., Tuesday through Saturday.

Fair tab deadline Friday, July 25

The deadline for advertisements and articles to appear in the Morrow County Fair and Oregon Trail Pro rodeo special edition published by the Gazette-Times will be Friday, July 25. The special edition will appear in the August 6 edition of the newspaper.

Water park opening delayed

The opening date for the Willow Creek Water Park in Heppner has been pushed back to next week, according to Willow Creek Park District Board member Skip Matthews.

Matthews said that the water park is awaiting state inspectors. The swimming pool could open as early as July 28 if everything goes as planned.

Paving could start next week

If all goes well paving on the west side of Main Street in Heppner could be done next week, the contractor said Monday.

Installation of curbing for the downtown renovation project could begin this week, a spokesman for Weaver Construction said.

The cement portion of the sidewalk project has already been completed on one side of main street, with just the brick area left to be done.

An area between the cement sidewalk and the street will have bricks in which tree planters and street lights will be placed.

Blue Mountain Asphalt from Hermiston is doing the paving work on Main Street. The parking area behind Yaw's, Bucknum's and Kate's Pizza is to be paved this weekend or next.

Klamath First Federal completes purchase of banks



Klamath First Federal sign goes up in Heppner

Gerald V. Brown, president and chief executive officer of Klamath First Bancorp Inc. (KFBI) and its subsidiary, Klamath First Federal Savings and Loan Association has announced that the association has completed its purchase of 25 former First Interstate Bank-Oregon branches from Wells Fargo Bank, including the Heppner branch.

The transaction was previously disclosed on March 7.

"We are very pleased to be able to bring our brand of traditional hometown banking to these communities located throughout Oregon," Brown stated. "We believe these new customers will be very pleased with our staff and our commitment to become their family financial center," he added.

The acquired branches are located in the following Oregon towns: Heppner, Brookings, Burns, Carlton, Condon, Coquille, Enterprise, Fossil, Garibaldi, Gold Beach, Hermiston, John Day, Lakeview, Merrill, Monroe, Moro, Nyssa, Oakridge, Pilot Rock, Port Orford, Prairie City, Riddle, Scio, Union and Yamhill.

The acquisition of these offices will have a significant impact on the business of the association. Founded in 1934, the association previously operated seven full-service offices and one loan production office in southern and central Oregon. As a result of this transaction, the association now operates 33 offices in 22 counties throughout the state of Oregon.

Deposits as a result of the acquisition increased from \$418.2 million to \$659.0 million. Customer accounts grew from 40,000 to 82,100.

Product lines in lending have been expanded to include a full range of consumer and small business loans. Deposit product offerings have also increased and now include four new consumer checking accounts, four new business checking accounts, a business sweep account and an

indexed money market account.

ATM locations owned by the association will increase from seven to a statewide network of 22 machines. A 24-hour, automated account information system has been installed, enabling customers to obtain basic information and conduct routine transactions around the clock.

"With these changes, the association expects to continue

its emphasis on customer service through its hands-on banking style which Klamath First Federal Savings and Loan Association has exhibited throughout its 62-year history of service to southern and central Oregon," said a Klamath 1st Bancorp news release. "This is one area that will not change with our new statewide presence."

Sports physicals set July 29, 30

All Ione and Heppner sophomores and seventh graders interested in participating in athletics during the 1997-98 school year must have a physical examination. Pioneer Memorial Clinic will administer free examinations July 29 and 30. Boys will have their exam Tuesday and girls on Wednesday. Times are from 6-8 p.m. both days.

In addition to sophomores and seventh graders, new students to the schools and anyone else who may participate in a sport for the first time also need to have physicals.

Those involved in the South Morrow Football Camp scheduled for August 4-8 should have a completed physical examination and students need a physical before being allowed to begin practice for a sport season.

Community booth reservations needed

Reservations for community booth space must be registered with the Morrow County Fair secretary by August 1. Because of the limited number of community booth display spaces available, participants are urged to enter as soon as possible.

Additional booth space may be provided, if needed.

"Volunteers are the heart of our Morrow County communities," said Jane Rawlins, fair booth superintendent. "This is an opportunity to tell others about various organizations largely run by volunteers. The displays should tell the story of the work of an organization or a community."

Booth categories have been

updated. Premiums of \$15 for first place; \$10 for second place and \$5 for third will be awarded in the following divisions: church organizations, community service and civic organizations, agriculture organizations, hobby and cultural organizations and youth organizations.

Scoring is based on the effectiveness of the booth in giving people a better understanding of an organization and its contribution to society. Judging is also based on a center of interest, balance, unity, simplicity and the effective use of color.

All booths must be in place within the fair building by 8 p.m. on August 11.

Campus Life start up meeting slated

Anyone interested in starting a Campus Life group in Heppner this fall is invited to attend an informational meeting on Sunday, July 27, at 4:30 p.m. at the Morrow County Fairgrounds, Heppner. Rod Bragato from Hermiston will be there to lead the discussion and answer questions.

Campus Life is a non-denominational Christian organization whose focus is with children junior high to high school age.

For more information, or anyone interested but who will not be able to attend the meeting may call Shannon Rust, 376-8202.

Pool plaques still available

Plaques with donors names on them are still available for those who wish to donate to the swimming pool, Kay Proctor of People for The Pool has

announced. The pool fund is still about \$18,000 short and anyone wishing to make a donation may contact her at Green Feed and Seed in Heppner.

WCC to hold barbecue

Willow Creek Country Club will have a family barbecue on Sunday, July 27, at 4 p.m.

Each family will bring their own meat to the barbecue. Those whose last name begins with an

"A" through "K" are asked to bring dessert, and "L" through "Z", salad.

Hosts will be Gary and Barbara Watkins, Greg and Erika Grant, Dave and Patti Allstott, and Earl and Peggy Fishburn.



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