

Sheriff's Report

The Morrow County Sheriff's Office in Heppner reports handling or dispatching the following business over the past several weeks:

MCSO received a request to relay a message to a person concerning a relative who was ill; MCSO received a report of a soon-to-be ex-husband taking his two children without telling the wife where he was going;

MCSO received a report of a motion alarm at Les Schwab; MCSO received a report of a stolen vehicle located in Boardman.

April 13: MCSO received a report of kids stealing a neighbor's wood.

MCSO received a report that a woman was assaulted in Irrigon. Carl J. Scott Gittings, 32, was arrested on Assault IV charges and lodged at Umatilla County Sheriff's office jail;

MCSO received a report that someone entered a house and left a box of items with the complainant's wife's name on it. No one had permission to be in the house;

MCSO deputy and Boardman Fire Dept. and ambulance responded to a report of a vehicle fire on the Bombing Range Road, 8-10 miles south of I-84. The vehicle was fully engulfed and the driver needed medical attention;

MCSO received a report of a man possibly intoxicated, refusing to leave Country Garden Estates in Irrigon. Two other males subjects were with him. The man was arrested on Failure to Appear/Driving While Under the Influence of Intoxicants.

April 14: MCSO dispatched to the Boardman Police Dept. a report of kids smoking on the roof at the Learning Center in Boardman;

MCSO received a report from a man's lawyer that people were trespassing on the man's property and taking down his "no trespassing" signs;

MCSO dispatched to the Oregon State Police a report of a person in a light blue Volvo driving 100 plus miles an hour;

MCSO received a report of a vehicle going through red lights on a school bus.

April 15: MCSO received a report of a man who got up on the running board of a truck and asked for a ride and then prowled around other cars at the BP station in Boardman;

MCSO and the Boardman ambulance received a request for an ambulance for a man who had crushed his hand at the Logan International at Boardman. The patient was transported to Good Shepherd Community Hospital in Hermiston;

MCSO received a request for an officer from Columbia Middle School in Irrigon to cite a student for having tobacco;

MCSO dispatched to Boardman Police Dept. a request from Sentry Market in Boardman for an officer. They had a shoplifter in custody;

MCSO received a report of dogs killing chickens and ducks near the county line;

MCSO received a report of a fender-bender in front of a driveway in Boardman;

MCSO received a report of parents fighting in Irrigon; MCSO dispatched to the Ione Fire Dept. a report of an out-of-control fire on Baseline by the substation. It turned out to be a controlled burn;

MCSO dispatched to the Oregon State Police a report of two vehicles on the game reserve and driving on closed roads;

MCSO received two requests for an officer to put down a dog near the county line. The dog was shot after chasing ducks;

MCSO deputy, Boardman Police Dept. and Boardman ambulance responded to a report of two men fighting in Boardman with one man bleeding from the neck, unknown weapons were involved. Jose Najera-Tang, 35, was cited for Unlawful Use of a Weapon. Jose Varquez-Guerrero, 23, was charged with Sex Abuse I;

MCSO dispatched to the

Boardman Police Dept. a report of two large dogs in a yard;

MCSO received a report of a missing Great Dane in Irrigon;

MCSO received a report of a woman throwing something out of her car window which hit the windshield of another vehicle in Boardman;

MCSO received a report of a male subject, who appeared intoxicated, walking along Highway 730 near Irrigon;

MCSO deputy assisted a person by taking him back to his vehicle on I-84 eastbound.

April 16: MCSO arrested Jeremy Michael Loffler, 18, for Disorderly Conduct and Minor in Possession;

MCSO dispatched to the Oregon State Police a report of a white pickup that almost hit two semi-trucks on Highway 730 westbound. The vehicle was located sitting off Patterson Ferry Road;

MCSO dispatched to the Oregon State Police a report of a possible Driving While Under the Influence of Intoxicants, with a maroon Chevy driving all over the road;

MCSO received a report of a person loading wood into a pickup at the Port of Morrow;

MCSO received a report of a car on the side of the road with a man laying on the ground. The vehicle was disabled and the man was given a ride into Boardman;

MCSO deputy arrested Robert Gene Morley, 29, for Possession of a Controlled Substance;

MCSO dispatched to the Heppner Police Dept. a report of a man in a blue and white Blazer pulling a trailer who left town towards Condon who was very drunk and rude;

MCSO received a report of a neighbor's dog coming after a boy in Lexington;

MCSO received a report of neighbor's dogs chasing cows;

MCSO dispatched to the Boardman Police Dept. a report of a female assaulting a girl in Boardman;

MCSO dispatched to the Oregon State Police a report that a red Camaro had run over a dog in Irrigon but kept going towards Boardman on Highway 730;

MCSO received a report of a suspicious vehicle sitting behind the Les Schwab in Heppner;

MCSO received a report of several vehicles behind a house in Lexington and blocking the alley;

MCSO assisted the Gilliam County Sheriff's in a search in the Cayuse Canyon area for Kelly Dale Gibbons, 34, who had eluded officers on foot after a traffic stop on Highway 206, milepost 54. The subject was not located. His vehicle was towed;

MCSO dispatched to the Heppner ambulance a report of a man injured at the de-barker at Kinzua Resources in Heppner. The patient was transported to Pioneer Memorial Hospital in Heppner;

MCSO received a report of a house burglarized in Irrigon, with a rifle, TV, stereo and rack system stolen;

Kelly Dale Gibbons was arrested by Gilliam County Sheriff's office at the Condon Motel for Driving While Under the Influence of Intoxicants, Eluding a Police Officer, Resist-

ing Arrest, Trespassing and Reckless Driving. Gibbons was lodged at the Klickitat County Jail;

MCSO received an open 911 call in Boardman. It turned out to be kids playing.

April 17: MCSO received a report from Heppner City Hall concerning someone who received 10 hang-up calls a day for two weeks;

MCSO received a report of a woman who had not returned home from her job in Pendleton. The woman had gotten off work between 7-8;

MCSO received a report that dogs were always on a neighbor's property. The man asked what would happen if a domestic dog were trapped;

MCSO and Oregon State Police received a report of a possible Driving While Under the Influence of Intoxicants north of Cutsforth Corner on Highway 207. Apparently something was loose on the vehicle, causing motion;

MCSO received a report of possible horse abuse;

MCSO received a request for an officer regarding signing a driving complaint against a woman in Heppner;

MCSO received a report of a possible assault. A man reportedly assaulted another man after the first man hit the second man's dog with his car;

MCSO deputy and Oregon State Police responded to a report of someone throwing a rock off the Tower Road overpass and breaking the window of a vehicle driving on the freeway;

MCSO dispatched to the Boardman Police Dept. a report of a fender-bender in Boardman;

MCSO dispatched to the Boardman Police Dept. a report of loud music at the south end of the marina in Boardman;

MCSO received a report of a runaway in Irrigon.

April 18: MCSO dispatched to the Heppner Police Dept. a report that someone had broken into the R & W Drive-in in Heppner and taken \$100 from the till;

MCSO dispatched to the Oregon State Police a report of three males in a fight in Irrigon. One man was getting married. The other was supposed to be his best man and didn't want to;

MCSO dispatched to the Boardman Police Dept. a report of neighbor kids shooting BB guns at another kid and hitting the kid. The kid did not want medical attention;

MCSO received a report of a bullet hole and bullet found in a house in Irrigon;

MCSO received a report of a missing juvenile returning;

MCSO dispatched to the Boardman Police Dept. a report from Sentry Market that someone was buying alcohol for minors;

MCSO received a report of a lost cowdog in the Lexington area;

MCSO received a report of loud music at a wedding party in Irrigon;

MCSO received a report of a suspicious vehicle near the mill on Highway 74. An officer was unable to locate anyone;

MCSO received a report of loud music and yelling on Nevada Street in Irrigon.

Sharing good economic times

Rural Oregon is sharing the good economic times that has boosted urban Oregon and agriculture is one of the big reasons. A look at county level agricultural sales figures over the past three years shows a lot more winners than losers in Oregon with a mixed bag of urban and rural counties.

"You can't look at the economy of Oregon without realizing the importance of agriculture in each of the state's 36 counties," says Bruce Andrews, director of the Oregon Department of Agriculture.

Based on the latest available gross farm and ranch sales, Oregon's top 10 agricultural producing counties are:

(1) Marion County-\$441 million; (2) Umatilla County-\$274 million; (3) Clackamas County-\$243 million; (4) Linn County-\$211 million; (5) Malheur County-\$190 million; (6) Washington County-\$187 million; (7) Yamhill County-\$168 million; (8) Lane County-\$128 million; (9) Morrow County-\$117 million; (10) Klamath County-\$103 million.

A look at some trends shows that some counties not even in the top 10 have ridden a wave produced by the agricultural economy that has carried them to relatively better times. Jackson, Gilliam and Sherman Counties all have enjoyed a 19 percent increase in agricultural sales over the past three years. Gilliam and Sherman are small counties, however, agriculture has been a significant player in providing gains to the local economy.

"Jackson County is a good example of where the fortunes of the pear industry have turned around after several down years in the past," says Homer Rowley, state statistician with the Oregon Agricultural Statistics Service. "Counties like Gilliam and Sherman rely largely on wheat, which has shown pretty good increases in the last three years. That will slow down in the next year or so because wheat prices have gone south. But wheat has boosted those counties in recent years."

Other counties that have seen double digit increases in agricultural sales the past three years include Umatilla (13 percent), Josephine (11 percent), Morrow (10 percent), and Benton (10 percent). Additional counties that have done well over a three year period-- with significant increases in county ag sales this past year-- include Linn (9 percent), Harney (9 percent), Curry (9 percent), Yamhill (8 percent), Marion (8 percent), Coos (7 percent), Lincoln (7 percent), Douglas (6 percent) Clackamas (5 percent), Malheur (5 percent), Polk (5 percent), and Washington (5 percent). The statewide average over three years is about four percent growth.

Even adjusted for total farm expenses-- more than \$3.2 billion statewide this past year-- agriculture in most counties was a money making proposition.

The general increase can be attributed to Oregon's diverse agriculture.

"The diversity really masks a lot of drastic changes that occur in counties from year to year," says Rowley. "While one commodity group may change drastically from one year to the next, another commodity might go an opposite direction and counteract it. A three-year average should

smooth things out, although that doesn't always happen. Still, it is a significant snapshot of where counties are right now."

The counterbalance effect of Oregon's diverse agriculture industry is evident while looking at all counties. There have been some three-year losers as well. Wheeler County has seen a drop in agricultural sales. Its small farmgate ensures wild percentage swings at the slightest change in dollar amount. Deschutes (-8 percent), Baker (-6 percent), Klamath (-6 percent), and Wallowa (-4 percent) counties have also dropped on average over the past three years. But those counties may turn around soon since all three rely heavily on the cattle industry.

"An upturn in cattle prices can really help these counties," says Rowley. "In the next couple of years, I suspect we'll be seeing that as the national inventories have bottomed out-- as the glut of cattle move throughout the marketing system-- the prices will start to increase and it will show some real changes in those counties."

The argument can be made that Oregon's overall job growth has been aided by a boost in county agricultural sales. There is some correlation between the numbers. The counties that have shown the greatest percentage of job growth this decade are many

of the same that have shown the greatest percentage of ag sales: Gilliam (52 percent job growth), Yamhill (28.7 percent), Morrow (27.8 percent), Benton (25.4 percent), Jackson (24.3 percent) and Malheur (22.5 percent) are among the top eight fastest growing counties in terms of jobs, according to the Oregon Employment Department.

While high technology and manufacturing are responsible for some of the increase, agriculture cannot be discounted. Much of the \$3.2 billion in farm expenses went somewhere into the local economy, and that certainly translated into some jobs. Also, labor costs are the single biggest expense for agricultural producers. Again, that means more jobs.

"Without the presence of agriculture in many of these counties, there would not be some of the goods and services that create jobs in the first place," says Andrews.

Low prices and expected drops in agricultural exports due to the Asian economic crisis may bring down many of the agricultural sales figures in Oregon's counties this next year. But the overall trend this decade has been steady growth. There is no reason to believe that trend won't continue for most of the state.

For more information, contact Bruce Pokamey at (503) 986-4559.

Tone alert radio issues resolved

Chris Brown, the state of Oregon Chemical Stockpile Emergency Preparedness Program (CSEPP) manager, has announced that the state of Oregon and Umatilla and Morrow counties are going forward in a cooperative effort to procure and distribute Tone Alert Radios (TARS) to residents living in the Immediate Response Zone (IRZ) surrounding the Umatilla Chemical Depot.

In making the announcement, Brown said, "In the interest of public safety, we need to get those radios out into the communities at risk as soon as possible. Since we announced an agreement with both counties over 30 days ago, a process has been developed to acquire and distribute TARS. Both counties would like to see the TARS plan implemented quickly in order to provide this critical warning capability to IRZ residents."

After two days of discussions between Umatilla and Morrow counties and the state of Oregon, Myra Lee, director of Oregon Emergency Management (OEM) concluded the agreement with both counties to push ahead with the project in a joint partnership.

The process includes issuing the request for proposal acquisition and all related distribution, training and implementation requirements.

An estimated 25,000 residents live in close proximity to the chemical depot and the TARS system is the last critical part of the overall CSEPP Alert and Notification System, said an OEM news release. Nearly 17,000 TARS are to be purchased for both counties.

The specifications for the project are being reviewed and it is anticipated they will be finalized by Friday, May 1. Plans for the distribution of the radios will be coordinated between the state and both counties. A bi-county TARS coordinator will soon be hired to develop logistical plans for distribution and maintenance.

"It is clear that the communities surrounding the depot want action," said Lee. "The counties and the state want action and the public wants action. We are now going to move forward together."

OEM will provide technical support and assistance in a cooperative effort to expedite the implementation of the TARS system.

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Vote For **ROLLIE MARSHALL**

ROLLIE MARSHALL
for Morrow County Judge

Work Experience:

- 20 years as a professional banker
- Analyzed & prepared hundreds of financial statements & budgets
- Worked with all levels of county, state & federal governments, such as SBA, Port of Morrow, Oregon Dept. of Economic Development

Education:

- Associate Degree in Accounting

Youth Involvement:

- Little League Coach
- High School Basketball Coach
- Junior & Senior High Youth Group Leader
- Past President Heppner Little League

Community Service: (Current or Past Chairman of)

- Heppner Coordinating Council
- Heppner Christian Church
- Morrow County Home Rule Committee
- Heppner Chamber of Commerce
- Heppner Advisory Board, Morrow Co. School Board
- City of Heppner Budget Committee

Since Morrow County has a \$14 million budget, we need to run the county as if it were a \$14 million business. We need to make sound business decisions & be good stewards of not only our county tax dollars, but also the state & federal money we also receive.
I have the background in youth work to understand what our young people are facing in today's world. It is important that we elect someone who has that kind of active youth background in order to handle the duties of county judge.

Paid for by Rollie Marshall, P.O. Box 726, Heppner, OR 97836