

## County court approves emergency management computers

The Morrow County Court, at its May 26 meeting, approved the purchase of nine computers for the Emergency Management Department.

The court appointed Juvenile Department director Carolyn Holt, Judge Terry Tallman, a school counselor, and Ron Daniels to the Juvenile Scholarship Committee.

The public works director reported that county counsel is to complete a road exchange agreement with the Forest Service. The Valby Road subgrade is about 85 percent completed; the county will be widening two gates, and next week should see completion of the project. Chip sealing on Willow Creek should be finished on June 14. The director, assessor, GIS director, and planning office are working to bring the spelling of "Hale Ridge Road" into line with the history of the road's name, as requested by some residents. The director received a recommendation for the court's consideration that developers of partitions be required to properly develop roads. In response to a resident's request, the court discussed a speed limit sign, a "slow" or "children at play" caution sign on Parkside Drive and will also discuss the options with the sheriff. The director gave permission to a resident to work at the corner of Eastgaard Way and Wilson Road, as a deterrent to cattail growth in the ditch.

The Lone-Boardman Road is in the year's plan for chip sealing, but Gooseberry Road, which is not scheduled for work for about three years, is starting to come apart, so the director recommended changing the priority of the two and the court agreed. The laser level approved for purchase last week is no longer available, so the Court rescinded last week's authorization and approved the purchase of another model. The court requested the director to check a fence on a county right-of-way that was cut, agreed to speak to the port manager about a sign at the Port of Morrow, and continued a brief discussion of the airport situation at the port.

At a public hearing on the budget, finance director Lianne Currin pointed to some changes that may need to be made before adoption of the budget: elimination of \$65,000 in capitol outlay in the road fund because of a cat lease payoff this year; about \$63,000 in additional tax revenue set aside for the year 2000 programming and/or Clarks Canyon Pit; a \$3,500 adjustment in general maintenance for the backhoe bucket; the probable continuance of funding for the OYCC program, which had been scheduled for elimination from the county budget; the VOCA grant; a correction in the clerk's salary; STP money for Bombing Range and Willow Creek roads; Heritage Trail Fund; 911 coordinator position; and the road district allocations.

The finance director presented transfer resolutions for the 980 Cat, to exercise the purchase option under the lease; the 911 fund, the Commission on

Children and Families, the Victims Witness Fund, and the general fund for A&T adjustments; and for the VOCA grant. The court approved the three resolutions.

Lexington Mayor Bill Sheirbon reported to the court that the community has been awarded grant money to pay for 80 percent of costs to replace the 'B' Street bridge, which has been on a waiting list for some time. The state will provide another 10 percent. The city is to provide the remaining 10 percent and would be responsible for moving utilities and a percentage share of cost overruns but is experiencing serious shortfalls.

Sheirbon reported that Lexington is hiring a bookkeeper next month but recovery could take two years. He observed that the bridge serves a county road. After discussion of the importance of the project to the city and the county, the court approved committing \$5,160 of discretionary tippage fees in the 1999-2000 fiscal year for the project.

Mental Health Director Gary Oberg and prevention coordinator Tiah Sanderson

updated the court on the "Prevention Implementation Plan". In response to Commissioner Brosnan's questions, Sanderson reported that the plan does include input from every social service agency in the county and, although it would be the priority document for the various agencies, they would retain their authority. Brosnan stated concern that funding the coordinator positions not add another level of government but, rather, provide some true coordination of the programs among the agencies. Sanderson said that some structure issues will need to be ironed out, but she thinks the agencies will work together and accomplish their goals. She agreed that the community shares the commissioner's concerns, and the committee will need to prove that they are accomplishing something real.

Judge Tallman requested a complete list of funding sources targeted at prevention. Some discussion followed on a parenting series that will be useful; the video conferencing equipment in the Behavioral Health Department, which is also available for use by others; the positive feedback that Oberg and Sanderson have been receiving, in particular from the school, which was not previously happening; and the need for an emergency plan discussed at the LPSCC meeting.

The court heard an updated proposal for developing a radio station: a low-power, high-antenna set up. In response to questions, Monika Hunter said that a higher power set up would be needed for reaching lone; the organization would be public, non-profit; she would consider partnering with the schools; she has been in contact with the FCC; she sees it as a multi-generational project; and is looking for support. The Judge mentioned the SCERT process for possible funding assistance.

County Counsel Bill Hanlon reported to the court: He has

prepared the letters to the Umatilla County and city ending Morrow County's association with the Greater Umatilla Enterprise Zone. He reported that some questions need answers before the county signs a contract for the recently awarded work at the Wilkinson Arena. Counsel will compose the Clark Canyon Pit offer. The court signed the "findings of fact" for the Comprehensive Plan Goal 5 Amendment. Hanlon reported that he will be reviewing the Forest Service road exchange agreement. A brief discussion addressed the issue of plat maps and the storage of the maps.

The court, assessor and counsel discussed with adjacent land owners a piece of county property, which, if sold, would probably have to be through public auction.

The court approved the 1997-99 budget plan amendments of the Commission on Children and Families, presented by department staff Dar Merrill and Arletha Brannon, as well as the 1999-2000 recommendations. The court also approved up to \$600 in registration fees for attendance of the Youth Violence Prevention Summer Institute.

The court approved one termination of employment agreement and approved to waive the road-naming fee for the request submitted by the Halvorsens and Rietmanns, as it should have been included in the original road-naming ordinance.

County Assessor Greg Sweek reported on the request from the Port of Morrow to extend the boundary of the Columbia River Enterprise Zone, which would then include a presently located business. His research suggests that the equipment, purchased in-county, would not qualify under the administrative rules for tax exemption. Sweek will report his findings to the business owner, and the court will check with the port about its request before revisiting this issue.

## Troedson scholarships awarded

The selection committee for the Carl W. Troedson Educational Fund has awarded grants-in-aid in the amount of \$1000 to 21 Morrow County high school seniors for the 1999-2000 school year.

The following students have received awards:

Heppner High School: Jill Barber, Tim Dickenson, Kathleen Greenup, Jaelynn Hughes;

Ione High School: Jessica Krebs, Niki Sullivan, Victoria Odinet, Kathryn Tworek;

Riverside High School: Kevin Baker, Jason Calloway, Caitlin Daniels, Bret Files, Derek Gribble, Kory Killingbeck, Ryan Neal, Jenny Prag, Jenie Price, Jared Purcell, Kelly Redinger, Cheryl Rodgers, Kara Sandlin.

The grants are awarded from a fund provided by the will of Carl Troedson, a prominent wheat rancher of the lone area.

The students will be eligible to apply for renewal of their grants in the following years of their college or training programs provided that they maintain good academic standing during their first year of post high school study.

The selection committee consists of the Morrow County School District Assistant Superintendent, the pastor of the Valby Lutheran Church and the Morrow County Judge, as specified in Troedson's will.

Award of the Troedson grants was announced at the recipients' respective high school graduation ceremonies.

## Pioneer Memorial Foundation presents scholarships

Pioneer Memorial Hospital Foundation has chosen Christian Schultz as the recipient of the Wallace Wolff Medical scholarship. She was awarded \$600.

Christian is currently enrolled in the nursing program at Blue Mountain Community College.

The foundation also administers the Earl and Hazel Wilson Health Care Education scholarship fund. In order to qualify, students must be pursuing education in a discipline directly related to health care delivery. The recipients of this scholarship were second year nursing students, Crystal Tallman and Jessica Van Winkle. They received \$400 each.

Crystal will attend the OHSU School of Nursing in the fall. Jessica is enrolled at Eastern Oregon University, majoring in pre-nursing.

Brooke Boyer, a member of the Heppner High School graduating class of 1999, also received an award of \$250. Brooke plans to pursue a nursing degree.

The Pioneer Memorial Hospital Foundation contributes to the needs of the Morrow County Health District. Donations made

to the PMH Foundation are tax deductible, and can be restricted for a specific purpose if desired. Fund raising efforts are made on behalf of the Pioneer Memorial Hospital and Nursing Home. Some of the recent contributions went towards the purchase of a CAT Scan and replacing the windows in the nursing home.

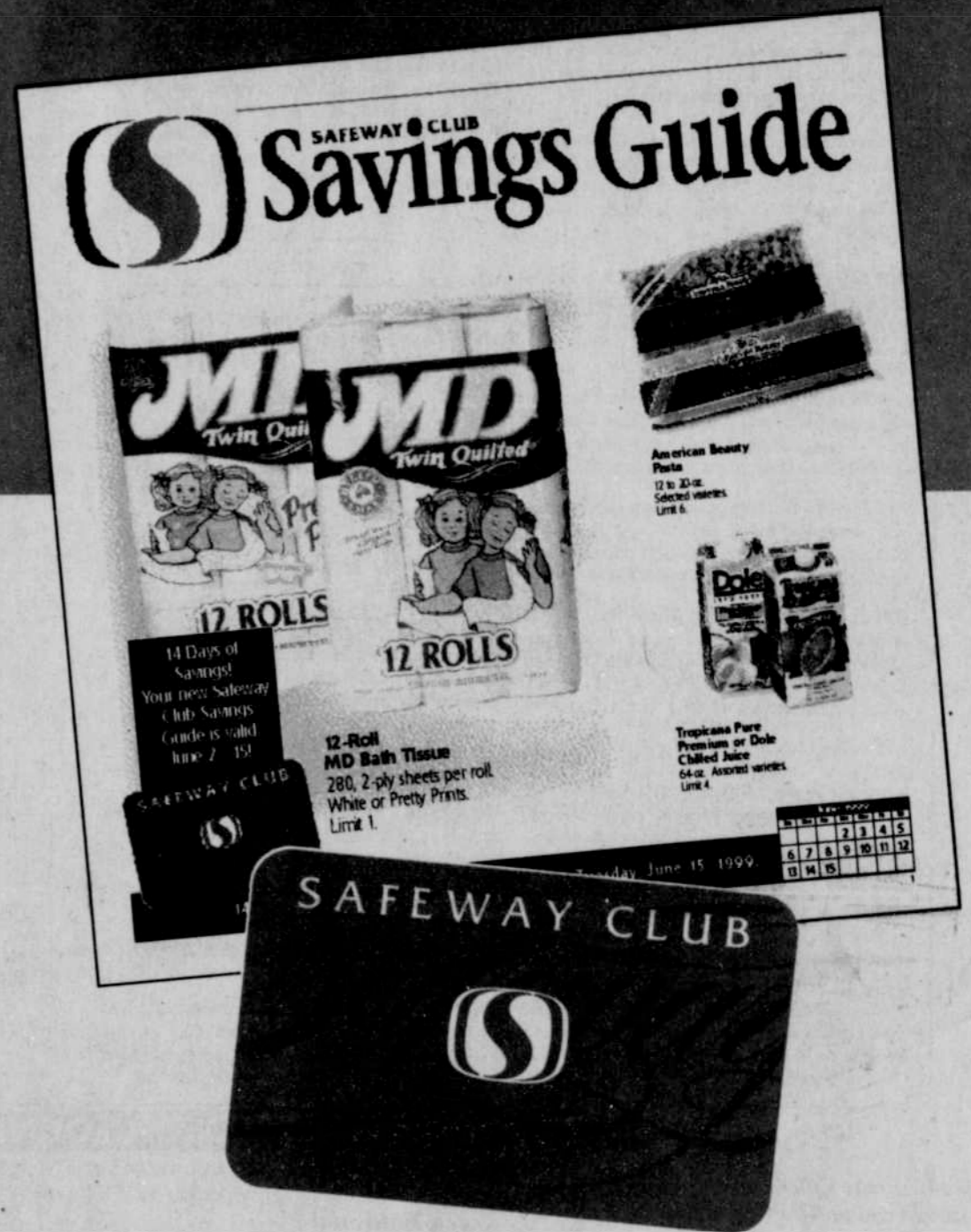
Community members may also help contribute to the foundation by placing their receipts from Central Red Apple into the box in their store. All funds received will be used for the hospital and nursing home.

For more information about the Pioneer Memorial Hospital Foundation, contact one of the following board members: Betty Brown, Linda LaRue, Sherree Mahoney, Larry Mills, Al Osmin, Don Peterson or Glen Ward.

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