

## County Court discusses road maintenance

By Doris Brosnan

From the previous week's business for the Morrow County Court meeting, a clarification was stressed: the county will join Benton County, Washington, in opposing the Water Watch vs. Corps of Engineers suit as an Amicus Curiae. Also, regarding the Forest Service roads in the Heppner district, the court maintained ownership of the three roads identified in the minutes but offered to turn ownership of two other roads over to that agency with the expectation that they will not be closed.

Public Works Director Guy Van Arsdale presented and the court approved a flexible maintenance contract with the Port of Morrow for exchange of certain work.

Van Arsdale reported work on Balm Fork, Sanford Canyon, Lunchford and Upper Rhea Creek. Financing of the Clarks Canyon quarry purchase was discussed, and the next road tour of the Road Committee was scheduled for November 13 or 20.

Van Arsdale reported the status of a cattle guard project and he informed the court that he will discuss with county counsel a question about the agreements with subdivision owners. The Public Works Department has begun inspections of subdivision roads and is developing forms to give the planning department to verify inspections and the meeting of county standards.

A grant has been received for fixing the sewer system at Anson Wright Park and the court approved an agreement with a property owner on whose property the county needs to work in order to fix some drainage issues.

Behavioral Health Director Gary Oberg reported on a meeting with the director of the State Mental Health Division about the remodeling of the Docken Building. He further informed the court of his concern about clinicians' on-call response ability in such a large territory of Morrow and Wheeler counties and his temporary plan of having volunteers for a second on-call schedule.

The court asked some questions about the department's policies and agreed to contact the union about the second on-call rotation. Oberg reported that Grant County is preparing the contract with his department.

The court approved computer manager Ed Struthers's request for a replacement server in the GIS office, which will also be accessible to the justice court and provide backup for the sheriff's and assessor's offices. The court approved purchase of a replacement PC for the juvenile director.

Assessor Greg Sweek noted the absence of a proper legal description, necessary for property tax statements, of two leased properties. An attempt will be made to determine the property line without a costly survey.

The court previewed a letter about a regional partnership, from Baker and Morrow county courts to Governor Kitzhaber.

Emergency Management Director Casey Beard addressed the court about a CSEPP budget-federally funded and passed to the counties through the state-problem that affects funding of salaries for county employees, travel and long-distance calls.

Beard detailed the situation and reported that Director of Finances Lianne Currin noted that the state did not give the county notice of the problem in funding.

Beard also reported other frustrations over the Oregon Emergency Management's handling of the county's budget and the federal funds and over meetings postponed by OEM personnel. The court approved to provide a loan, if it becomes necessary, out of the general fund to pay the CSEPP employees' salaries. They also planned calls to OEM, going up the chain of command, and to Representative Walden.

Planning Director Tamra Mabbott and County Counsel Bill Hanlon updated the court on the acquisition of the building permit program. Further discussion questioned the state's position on requiring the county to hire the state inspector displaced by the county's

contracting with Boardman; fulfillment of the needs of the south county and input from those mayors; the ability of the full-time contractor in Boardman to additionally service Morrow County and the city of Umatilla; the termination policy of the agreement. Mabbott restated her concerns about changing this service provider and her being instructed to prepare a letter initiating the process, which appears as a signal to Boardman that the change will occur. Answers to the many related questions will be sought.

The court approved an addendum to the real estate agreement with Lee Docken.

Hanlon provided the court copies of the annual litigation report prepared for auditors and offered the previously approved contract for installation of a heating and air conditioning system in the Coast to Coast section of the Gilliam and Bisbee Building. He presented

and the court approved the sales agreement on the purchase of the Clarks Canyon Quarry.

The court briefly discussed economic development services with GEODC.

With Debbie Watson of Umatilla Electric Cooperative, the court discussed the coming October 21 Regional Partnership meeting during which the five designated counties will be putting together a prioritized list of projects from all of the counties. The court voiced concern about an ultimatum offered by the other three counties to Baker and Morrow counties, showing that Morrow and Baker would not have full participation in the regional "partnership." Watson questioned whether the county would be left out of the list entirely.

Judge Terry Tallman reported his request that the state's December 3 deadline for the SCERT process be extended.

## Ione Site Council discusses academic letter

The Ione Site Council held its October meeting on Oct. 13 with Morrow County School Superintendent Bruce Anderson as a guest.

Chair Arlynda Gates reviewed several items that had been discussed last year to bring new members up to speed on some ongoing discussions.

This year will mark the first year that the academic letter will be awarded. Students earning the award for the first semester will receive it during the spring awards ceremony, while students earning it for the second semester will receive their letter next fall. Also, Anne Morter summarized the role of the site council in approving staff development money.

Ione Schools Principal Dick Allen presented some ideas for the reading portion of the action plan that is being formulated as part of the school improvement plan. Most of the activities are centered around the teaching staff being trained in methods of teaching reading and scoring tests.

Math improvement is the other side of the school improvement plan. Allen reported that he will get input from the staff and report back at the November meeting.

An idea from last year, a student-run cable access TV station, was discussed again. Jim Swanson had originally brought the idea to the Site Council after hearing about a similar program in Arlington. It was noted that with money being tight, it may be difficult to get it off the ground. However, grant funds may be available if enough interest is found. Debbie Radie expressed interest in volunteering to help with the program.

Anne Morter reported that she had done some legwork on tippage fee money for the operation of the lone swimming pool. If a suitable project could be found, it would be possible to either get on the SCERT list or circumvent the SCERT process altogether, she reported John Rietmann reported that he had been working with the Willow Creek Park District on the same problem.

The Positive School Action Committees were discussed. The general feeling from Allen is that the program did not work well at the Ione High School level and only marginally well at the middle school level.

Barb Peterson reported that some ideas do work at the middle school and she plans to continue. The Very Important Pupil (VIP) program has been restarted at the grade school level with good results.

John Rietmann presented the council with information on charter schools and reported that several issues, like funding and transportation, would make the idea less likely to work in Ione.

New business before the council included: Ione school has its own web page at [www.ione.morrow.k12.or.us](http://www.ione.morrow.k12.or.us); a discussion concerning the inclusion of a student representative on the Site Council; and the Lions Club has money available for area students with sight and hearing problems.

The next meeting of the Ione

Site Council will be Wednesday, Nov. 10, at 5 p.m. at Ione High School.

## Justice Court Report

The Justice Court office at the courthouse annex building in Heppner reports handling the following business:

Earl R. Woods, 56, Heppner-Burning without a Permit, \$69 fine;

Roland J. Dubois, 51, Pendleton-Illegal Possession of Buck Deer, \$152 fine;

Calvin Leroy Hartzell, 18, Redmond-Violation of the Basic Rule, 75 mph in a 55 mph zone, \$72 fine;

Kenneth Roy Johnston, 40, Spray-Driving while License Suspended, Driving Uninsured, \$464 fine, Possession of Less than One Oz. Marijuana, \$591 fine;

Ronald Bowman, Heppner-Maintaining a Dog as a Public Nuisance, \$43 fine;

Richard Ellis Pettyjohn, 44-DUII, \$1293 fine, 180 days in jail, \$300 and jail sentence suspended with two years probation with no further violation of law, complete alcohol education program, 80 hours community service;

Tami Ritchie, 34, Hermiston-Criminal Possession of Rented Property, \$726 fine plus restitution, 180 days in jail, \$450 and jail sentence suspended with three years probation with no further violation of law;

John Sargent, 22, Heppner-Contributing to the Sexual Delinquency of a Minor, Endangering the Welfare of a Minor, \$1126 fine, 180 days in jail, \$500 and jail sentence suspended with two years probation with no further violation of law and complete counseling with Morrow County Behavioral Health.

NEWS DEADLINE  
5 p.m. Monday

## Cleanup held on local ball fields



photo by Sandi Day

A cleanup day at the local ball fields was held recently. The Shad Hisler field was cleaned up by the Day family. Kilkenny field was picked up by the Kim Gutierrez family, and the majors field was spruced up by the Dennis Peck family.

## "Women in Investing" scheduled Nov. 3

A one-night seminar entitled Women In Investing is scheduled for Wednesday, Nov. 3, from 6-9 p.m. at the Morrow County School District Office in Lexington.

This class, taught by Anda Kay Zastro, will cover some of the basics of investing from a woman's point of view (although anyone is welcome). The cost of the class is \$10 and pre-registration is required.

For more information or to reserve your spot in the class, contact Anne Morter, BMCC coordinator for South Morrow County at 422-7040.

## Health district plans meeting

The Morrow County Health District will hold a regular board meeting on Monday, November 1, beginning at 7 p.m. at the school district office in Lexington.

The agenda will include clinic and ambulance reports, September/October hospital statistics, CEO goals and objectives, a CEO report and an executive session.

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*Sale Good Through Saturday, Nov. 13th*

**Tire studding is available. Studs are legal Monday, Nov. 1st**

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