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HEPPNER



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County Court hears financial report

By Doris Brosnan

Morrow County Finance Director Lisanne Currin appeared at the Morrow County Court meeting on August 2 to apprise the commissioners of the county's financial status.

She explained impacts to next year's budget: the actual cash balances compared to what had been anticipated, the expected increases next year in personal services costs, and the declines in some revenues.

Currin alerted the court to the probable need for a levy. She shared her concern that a delay in presenting a levy proposal will result in the public's concluding that "there is plenty of money" when, in fact, there is a problem. She also pointed out the options of borrowing money or further cuts in expenditures. Currin also mentioned the possibility of a special service levy. Another topic mentioned was the ballot measures that will have an added detrimental effect on the county budget if they pass. The court agreed to meet next week to the accepted uses of money budgeted by the county. Wenzholz prepared the board for some further budgetary difficulties if two particular ballot measures pass. Commissioner Brosnan recommended that the board establish their recommended changes to the by-laws for the court and county counsel to review.

The court reviewed the proposed civil penalty agreement and final order from the Bureau of Labor and Industries and discussed the situation with representatives of the Morrow County Fair Board. The court agreed to a suggestion from the representatives and approved to equally share the fine with the fair board. Former fair board chair, Sam Bellamy, stressed the impact of this case on volunteerism and suggested that someone attend the state fair convention to address the problem. Discussion continued, with general agreement that both the board and the court thought concerns of BOLI had been satisfactorily addressed during the Wilkinson Arena project.

Other business of the court included the following:

-approval of a permit for Umatilla Electric to relocate a pole on West 8th Street in Irrigon;

-review of a resolution concerning the transport of milk from a dairy on Rhea Creek Road;

-approval of an agreement with the Department of Human Services to renew the State Incentive Cooperative;

-approval of Judge Tallman's preparing a letter to the Oregon

Economic Community Development Department committing \$1250 of discretionary tippage fee funds as a match in the relationship-based examine options.

Public Works Director Burke O'Brien made the following report: All work on Patterson Ferry Road is complete. The crew has completed some fire training and compiled a list of equipment and manpower available for future emergencies. He hopes for help from the emergency management agency with acquiring better radio equipment, and the Boardman fire district has provided them two hand-held radios. Work continues on the Anson Wright Park project.

In response to questions from Judge Terry Tallman, O'Brien reported a lack of coordination between the road department's computer system and the county's system. Noting a complaint about a particular cattle guard, O'Brien clarified that the county works on a cattle guard if maintenance on a road has resulted in a problem.

A landowner addressed the court about damage to a county road by a contractor's trucks associated with a state highway project, concerned that proper action by the county is not occurring. He also observed that the dust from the road is an ongoing problem. O'Brien reported that he has laid a good base on the road, which truck

traffic is helping to compact. He explained that the present hauling on that road should be completed next week, and Morrow County Commissioner Dan Brosnan offered to call the state office to verify the date. Commissioner John Wenzholz assured the individual that the road will be repaired.

Representatives of the Morrow County Museum Board discussed the status of the museum with the court. They suggested the need for by-law changes and clarified recruitment process for the Baker-Morrow Regional Partnership;

-Judge Tallman's decision to have one person pick up the mail for all departments in the courthouse;

-approval of the certificate of appropriation of funds in support of the OSU extension service and conditional approval of the placement of a shed behind the Boardman Annex for OSU storage;

-approval of a consent to participate agreement for improvements to West Third Road;

-approval of paying County Clerk Barbara Bloodworth's Clerk's Association registration fee;

- approval of the findings of fact and the mutual settlement agreement in the zoning permit 1152 case, dealing with temporary siting of a travel trailer while building a house.

High School rodeo action in Condon

The first Oregon High School Rodeo Association action for this school year will take place Saturday and Sunday, September 2-3, in Condon, with the Columbia Basin High School Rodeo hosting the gathering.

Any youth interested in becoming a member of the OHSRA is invited to contact state secretary, Rita Rattray, at (541) 384-2855 for membership applications. Entries open for the rodeo on Monday, August 13, and memberships are required to enter.

The Columbia Basin High

School Rodeo Club is one of several throughout the state that hosts a rodeo. Youth who join the OHSRA are encouraged to join a local club. Benefits include activities throughout the year and assistance with post-season travel expenses.

The Columbia Basin High School Rodeo Club has included youth from Wasco, Sherman, Gilliam, Wheeler and Morrow counties.

Anyone interested in joining the club may contact the advisor, Lynn Wilkins, at (541) 454-2516.

Library plans Harry Potter day

The Ione Public Library invite all "witches and wizards" to attend their "Harry Potter Day" on Wednesday, August 23, at 3 p.m. at the library.

The event will be the end of the summer party for the reading program. Prizes will be given to all children who participated in

the reading program. Refreshments will be served.

Children (and parents) are encouraged to dress as a character from the Harry Potter books. Muggles will be welcomed at the party too.

For more information call Kristy at 422-7564, or Anne at 422 7429.

Hams takes first in dead lift competition

Photos by Craig Hams

Theresa Hams of Ione attended the Twinlab WABDL World Cup Benchpress and Deadlift Competition in Wilsonville August 5. She took first place in the 123-pound Sub-Master class deadlift with a lift of 286-1/2 pounds, her personal best, and went on to win Outstanding Lifter out of all the Sub-Master women deadlifters.

Hams has been lifting for almost two years. She has qualified to go to the world championships in Reno in December.

Hams' coach is Ross Phillips, who not only helps her with her lifting, but also, she says, helps her with her self-esteem, and is also there for her in her competitions. Hams says that "Gus Rethwisch (president of the WABDL) makes this competition awesome."

Hams' sponsors include: Vandever Bros., Morrow County Abstract and Title, Red Apple, Lotts Electric, Twice Upon A Time, RJ's Restaurant, Lexington Auto Body, Ione Repair, Wheatland Insurance, Cal's Restaurant, and Clint and Sharon Camarillo.



Gus Wethwisch (left), Theresa Hams, Ross Phillips

Win OTRP tickets

The Oregon Trail Pro Rodeo is again offering two free OTRP tickets to people who are up on their local rodeo facts.

The first contestant to stop by the Heppner Gazette-Times with the correct answer to a question will win two free tickets to one performance of the OTRP August 18 at 7 p.m., August 19 at 1:15 p.m. or the Morrow County Rodeo on August 20 at 1:15 p.m.

Questions are as follows:

1. When was the first Morrow County Jackpot saddle given and what company sponsored the hand-crafted saddle?

2. Name the Morrow County Amateur Calf Roping saddle winners from 1950-55.

3. Why was the Morrow County Amateur saddle started in the 1950s?

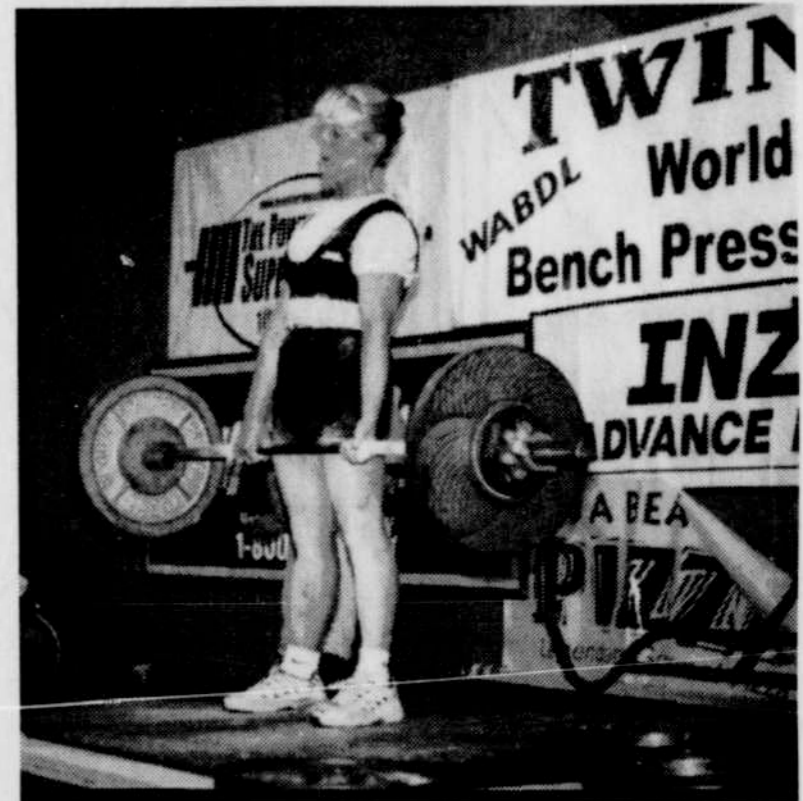
4. How many committee members does it take to put on the PRC A rodeos and the Morrow County Jackpot Rodeo. Name them.

Disque appointed Lexington mayor

Lexington city councilmember Duane Disque has accepted the position of mayor for the town at a special meeting of the council July 26.

Also at the same meeting Chirella Wallace and Luella Taylor were appointed to fill two vacant council positions. All the terms are until January 1.

Pat Baker and Glenn Anderson make up the rest of the town council.



Theresa Hams

Wildfire still burning

A wildfire has burned 200 acres on the Umatilla National Forest approximately eight miles northeast of Meacham. The Mile Post 245 fire, reported late Sunday night, is located in the Hellhole Roadless area on the Umatilla National Forest land and is threatening nearby private land.

"As of 2 p.m. today (Aug. 7), the fire was laying low and it didn't look like it had spread. Crews are still working on hot spots near the northeast corner of the fire in addition to helicopter bucket drops," said Jeff Blackwood, Umatilla National Forest supervisor.

Mile Post 245 fire is burning in steep, difficult terrain where dry forest fuels provide a high potential for fire activity. Local weather forecasts predict much of the same, high temperatures in the 90's, low humidity, and

southeasterly winds with possible dry lightning later in the week.

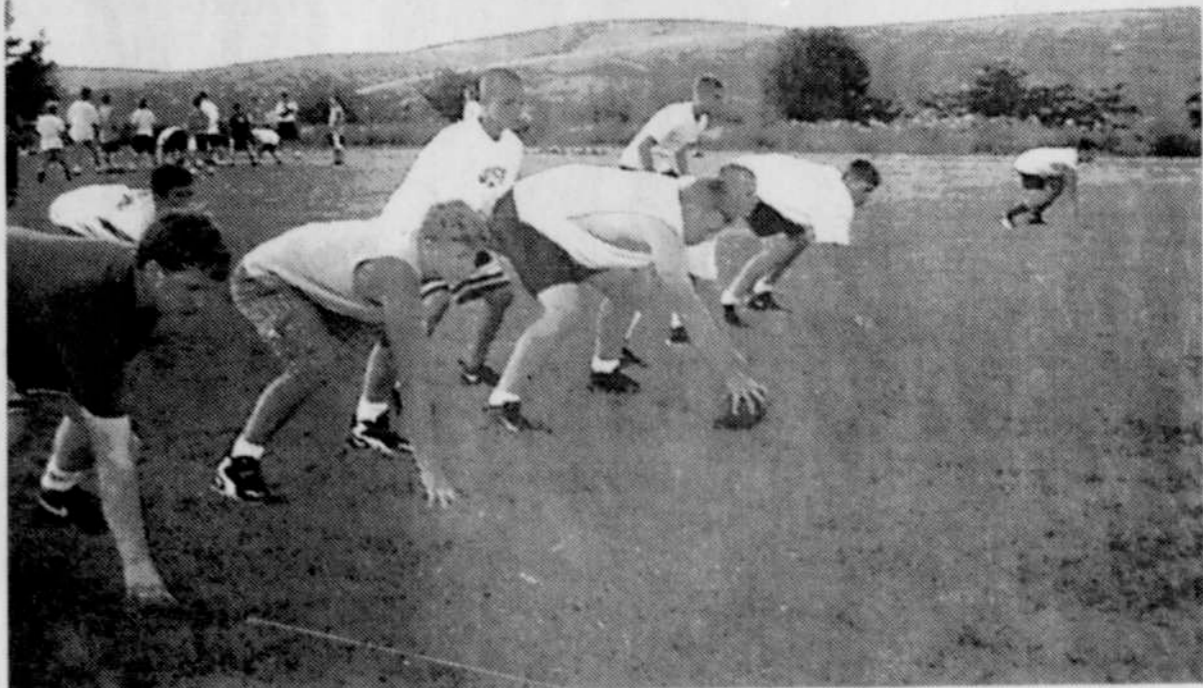
Resources currently located on the fire include three-20 person fire crews, one dozer, two engines and a helicopter with six rappellers. Five additional crews and two air tankers with a lead plane are on order.

The Blue Mountain Type 11 Team has been brought in to coordinate fire suppression activities. Fire camp is being set up at the Sunridge Middle School in Pendleton.

The Oregon Department of Forestry and the Umatilla National Forest are jointly managing the fire. Protection concerns include employee and public safety, private lands and structures, ceded tribal lands and endangered fish species.

The cause of the fire is under investigation.

Football camp held this week



Heppner High School students run some plays at the Morrow County football camp held this week at the high school. Daily doubles for Heppner and Ione schools begin Monday, August 21.

Starting Monday, August 14th
WE'RE BACK TO OUR REGULAR HOURS
Weekdays: 7 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Saturday: 7 a.m. to 12 noon

MORROW COUNTY GRAIN GROWERS

Lexington 989-8221 • 1-800-452-7396 For farm equipment, visit our web site at www.mcg.org

