

## County court approves reserve officers' reimbursement

By Doris Brosnan

Morrow County Finance Director Lisanne Currin and Morrow County Sheriff Verlin Denton, at the August 30 Morrow County Court meeting, discussed with the court the complex question of paying the reserve officers a stipend or reimbursement for expenses. Sheriff Denton, after clarification by Currin of several issues involved, decided on reimbursement. Presently, nine reserves serve the county, and Denton would like to increase to at least 15, the number the county can support with equipment.

Denton explained that the department will not rent out to private functions but will continue to work public functions.

The court approved an award to the reserves from the tippage fees discretionary fund. Cumin presented to the court an agreement to provide professional consulting services to the county with DMG-MAXIMUS, Incorporated, for an indirect-cost-allocation study. The court approved the agreement, which will result in information on which to base the county's charges for administrative fees of programs funded by outside sources.

Currin also presented a draft of the proposed ballot for the road fund levy and explained the requirements. Assessor Greg Sweek and Currin responded to questions from the commissioners and heard the calendar of meetings set with various area groups for explaining the levy.

On September 6, Public Works Director Burke O'Brien presented two sealed bids for heating oil, which the court opened and gave to O'Brien for a comparison and recommendation. The court approved a contract with Russell Oil for antifreeze.

O'Brien made the following report: The crew has completed approaches and overlay on the Pine City Bridge and the chip seal on Wilson Road and Balm Fork. The Jordan Bridge project is on or ahead of schedule. One more inspection must occur on the Anson Wright Park project. The crew swept Wilson Road and is doing some shoulder work on it and on Columbia, 730, and Washington. They have used the last of the oil for sealing. They started blading gravel roads after the rains, to include Sunflower Flat Road, Clarks Canyon, Hail Ridge, Redding Road, Baker Road, Dee Cox Road, and the North Fork at Blake Ranch. O'Brien noted that fog sealing and striping are on the agenda, and all the roads are on a painting schedule. He shared his concern that the water-based paint now used by the state for environmental reasons will not have the life span of previous paint.

O'Brien reported that DEQ has requested the department provide to employees at the transfer station education in recognizing hazardous waste. Some cleanup

at the transfer station must be completed.

Judge Terry Tallman reported to the court an appeal of one of his juvenile court decisions, stemming from criteria used for assigning a court-appointed attorney.

Questions about the juvenile proceedings, the circuit court, and a legal advisor to the juvenile judge were discussed.

Sweek reported that work on a tape drive used for backup needs repair, reported having satisfactorily tested software for restoring files, and reported that work with ESD goes "pretty well" though less convenient than having someone present full time. Judge Tallman noted that problems with delayed e-mails could be solved with software. The court, after discussion, approved the repair and the purchase of the e-mail software.

Lyn Craig of the Libraries of Eastern Oregon talked to the court about the 11-county nonprofit organization designed to promote and improve library services to the residents of Eastern Oregon. Funded for three years by an Oregon State Library grant, they are looking at possibilities for helping the 36 libraries in the region. Craig presented a resolution in support of the efforts and described the disparity between library services in eastern and western parts of the state. The court approved signing the resolution, which does not imply financial support.

Public Health Director Laura McElligott reported that the "Reduced Adolescent Pregnancy Project" grant has been accepted.

Through it, the health department will provide a nurse and a lay health promoter one day a week in Irrigon. McElligott will hire a one-day-per-week nurse and another lay health promoter, and the Children and Families Department will be the fiscal agent for the grant that will fund the positions. The family planning program - growing through word of mouth. McElligott reported on the law governing that program were discussed. Commissioner Dan Brosnan expressed concern that some of the ballot measures could affect this and other programs.

McElligott explained to the court that the Council of Local Health Officials has been working for more tax-funded support from the state for public health infrastructure, which would help them determine how best to address public health concerns. She noted the possibility of working with Morrow County Behavioral Health to approach the legislature for block grant funding.

The integration of the public health department into the CSEPP program was also discussed, with observations about the some environmental issues that still need addressing. Sharing concerns about the nitrate levels in areas of the county, McElligott noted that she would like to use some of the

block-grant funds that the department might get for contracting with a sanitarian.

Other actions taken by the court include the following:

- approval of the 2000-2001 budget and annual work plan with the USDA for wildlife services;

- approval of the agreement between Baker County, Morrow County and GEODC for fiscal and administrative services to the regional investment board;

- heard of a bequest to the museum trust fund in 1986 that has no conditions for use attached;

- approved a consulting contract with Linda Olson for developing the biennial comprehensive plan for the Commission on Children and Families;

- approved the computer license agreement with Ahlers & Associates for the county health department;

- reappointed Chris Rauch and Jerry Rietmann as inspectors for the Lexington Blow Control District;

- noted that the position of victim assistance coordinator Karen Morgan has been funded through the Department of

Justice and that the Crisis Response Team has received a donation from the family of a victim of an accident to which the team responded;

- opened bids for painting the exterior trim of the courthouse and roofing the Pioneer annex, noting insufficient funds for the one bid on the painting but requesting the general maintenance supervisor to compare and recommend one of the bids on the roofing;

- approved a computer with software for the special transportation program and a laptop computer for the Commission on Children and Families;

- approved the grant agreements with the Oregon Department of Transportation for the purchase of three special transportation buses;

- heard from the previous Veterans Service Officer Barbara Hayes that her predecessor, Rita Hedman, is willing to handle those duties until a replacement is hired;

- approved the final draft of the proposed ballot measure and the resolution calling for an election on the local option levy.

## Local Angus breeders recognized

Sam Bellamy, Lexington, and Kathryn Healy, Heppner, each own one bull listed in the 2000 Fall Sire Evaluation Report published by the American Angus Association headquartered in St. Joseph, Missouri.

Issued in both the spring and fall, the new report features the latest performance information available on more than 5,903 sires.

"The American Angus Association has the most complete and comprehensive beef cattle database in the world," says John Crouch, American Angus Association director of performance programs. "Of the sires listed in the main report, 74 percent have expected progeny differences (EPDs) for carcass traits, which should assist cattlemen in choosing genetics that will produce a more consistent,

higher quality beef product."

EPDs are generated from performance data submitted by breeders through the Angus Herd Improvement Records (AHIR) program.

Traits in which EPDs are available include birth weight, weaning weight, milk, yearling weight and height, mature daughter weight and height, and scrotal circumference, as well as carcass traits including carcass weight, marbling, rib eye area, external fat thickness and percent retail product. The analysis for the sire evaluation report is conducted at Iowa State University, by Dr. Doyle E. Wilson and Dr. Abebe Hassen.

## COPY PAPER

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## Chamber Chatter

By Claudia Hughes, Chamber Manager

With fall just around the corner, the Heppner Chamber Merchants Committee is about to launch a Scarecrow Happening. Envision this for October--scarecrows of all shapes, sizes, and personalities sitting outside of stores, under trees, in businesses, at tables, in the park, on front porches, welcoming hunters, fall visitors and Halloween.

Scarecrows will start appearing the end of September and the People's Choice award will be selected on October 31. All businesses, organizations, classes, and individuals are invited to start creating their "all around Heppner" Scarecrows. SOLV, the organization providing bags for the Chamber's Adopt a Highway project, wants the word spread about Small Grants For a Clean and Livable Oregon to any organization or individual in Heppner who might be interested. These grants provide up to \$250 for a wide range of community efforts involving volunteers. Examples are town beautification projects, recycling programs, restoration projects and cleanups. It is said to be the easiest and fastest grant application in Oregon with grants being processed within two days. This is yet another opportunity to continue making Heppner shine. Share your ideas and call for application information.

The Heppner St. Patrick's Committee is asking for the public's thoughts on our annual celebration which brings visitors from far and wide. A task force has been created to discuss the future of the event. Please share your likes and dislikes, your commitment to its continuity, ideas for Irish authenticity, music, changes you would like to see, things you hope to remain the same and how you might be able to assist. Send these thoughts to Wee Bit O' Suggestions, P.O. Box 1232, Heppner, OR 97836. Now is the time before Halloween, Thanksgiving, the Christmas Light Parade and Town and Country. Planning for the 19th

celebration has to take place in the fall 2001 rather than February.

The Chamber program for Tuesday, Sept. 19 will be Morrow County Commissioner Dan Brosnan, explaining the Four Year Local Option Tax, which will be on the November ballot. The following week Greg Smith will discuss the trapping ban. Meetings are at noon at Kate's.

Thought for the week: "Those who contemplate the beauty of the earth, find reserve of strength that will endure as long as life lasts." Rachel Carson

## Golfers to hold Jack and Jill

Willow Creek Country Club golfers will hold a Jack and Jill Chapman-Tournament on Saturday, Sept. 16. Activities will begin with a champagne breakfast at 8 a.m. The golf tournament starts at 9 a.m. and will involve couples playing an 18 hole tournament using the Chapman format.

There will be prizes for low scores and special events.

Cost is \$10 per couple for members and \$20 per couple for non-members.

Hosts are Earl and Peggy Fishburn, Les and Jan Paustian and Jay and Lori Straley.

## PUBLIC NOTICE

Morrow County Commission on Children & Families To Award Community Development grants.

The Morrow County Commission on Children & Families is seeking Community Development proposals for the January-March 2001 quarter. The Community Development Fund was established for anticipated yet unidentified community needs and to leverage other funds and resources into services, advocacy and unique application projects for the children, youth and families of Morrow County. The commission is seeking new proposals for the upcoming quarter. There is approximately \$3,000 available this quarter. The maximum per grant is \$500. Examples of reasonable Community Development Fund requests include, but are not limited to: seasonal program needs; small capital expenditures (except for private property); service program staff training; one time events and pilot projects. The deadline for next quarter's proposals is Thursday, November 2, 2000. Proposals must be in the Commission office by 5:00 p.m. November 2. The requests will be reviewed during the monthly commission meeting November 14, 2000. Applications are available at the commission office at 120 South Main in Heppner or by calling 676-9675. Published: September 13 and 27, 2000

## PUBLIC NOTICE

USDA Forest Service Umatilla National Forest Heppner Ranger District Gopher Damage Control in District Seed Orchard and Evaluation Plantations Wheeler and Morrow Counties, Oregon

On September 7, 2000, Heppner District Ranger, Andrei Rykoff, made a decision to implement the Gopher Damage Control Project on the Heppner Ranger District. Heavy pocket gopher infestations in the Mallory Seed orchard, the Elkhorn Evaluation Plantation, the Porter E.P., and the Coal E.P. have commonly resulted in seedling losses of 20 to 30 percent and, occasionally, up to 70 percent in 1 year. The purpose of this project is to reduce gopher-caused mortality in young seedlings, in these sites. The project is to control gopher populations in planted units by applying poisoned milo or oats coated with 0.5% strychnine on a total of 104 acres. The baiting will occur only within the fenced orchard and evaluation plantations.

The Decision Memo and associated project file are available upon request at the Heppner District Office, P.O. Box 7, Heppner, OR. 97836. For further information contact, John Shepherd, (541) 676-9187.

This decision is not subject to appeal.

Published: September 13, 2000

The Morrow County Livestock Growers would like to thank the 2000 Morrow County 4-H & FFA Livestock Auction Supporters:



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You are cordially invited to a

## HIGH TEA BENEFIT

on Sunday, September 17 from 2-4 p.m.  
at St. Patrick's Senior Center.

Enjoy an afternoon of  
English & American teas,  
chamber music ensembles,  
music from local talent & guest artists  
and much more!

Tickets may be purchased at  
Gardner's Men's Wear and BEO, Ione  
Seating is limited to 100 settings...  
buy your tickets today!

The benefit is sponsored by Valby Lutheran Church  
and Aid Association for Lutherans  
for the Willow Creek Symphony.

For more information, call  
Shirley Palmer at 676-9730

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