

## Hearings set on rural partnership

By Doris Brosnan

At the Oct. 4 meeting of the Morrow County Court, Judge Terry Tallman opened a public hearing on the Baker-Morrow Regional/Rural Partnership Investment and Action Plan.

The hearing was attended by representatives of the Morrow County Health District, Greater Eastern Oregon Development Corporation (GEODC), City of Heppner and the East Oregonian. Suggested changes were noted. Briefly discussed were the community solutions team and the county's request, with support by the governor, of adding more state agencies to that team. Judge Tallman announced a November 6 meeting at the Port of Morrow for discussion of leveraging money. He also informed those gathered that the Oregon Economic and Community Development Department is very interested in the direction of this partnership, placing related business recruitment as a high priority.

With a contingent of other agency representatives, the Court discussed telecommunications issues. Judge Tallman noted that the school district had been in contact with the county because of having received an e-rate grant from the Federal Communications Act, which could provide a 45-megabyte connection to each of the schools, acting as an "anchor-tenant for the community." Commissioner Wenholtz explained that the school district has said that it cannot own the system. Effective use of the grant is contingent upon a provider of a fiber optics system to all the schools, and June 30, 2001, is the expiration date of the grant. Breazeale added that he sees telecommunications as vital to the success of Heppner, and Tallman said that the county and the Port of Morrow see telecommunications as an economic development issue, for the fiber optic cable would provide bandwidth for related uses.

Discussion focused on

funding, ownership, coordination, demand for usage, the speed at which the telecommunications industry is moving, the amount of work that would have to be completed before the grant deadline.

Wenholtz voiced his opinion that the county should not be "in the business of owning the system" but that private enterprise would be appropriate. Tallman acknowledged that financing is an issue, and he suggested that some members of the assembled group meet with a school district representative to examine some details and look closely at possible options.

County Counsel Bill Hanlon reported that the correction to the museum ramp has been explained to the contractor, so that project should be satisfactorily completed. Hanlon explained the details of the proposed multi-state coalition agreement for impact aid and the costs of that endeavor. Before proceeding, the Court awaits some answers from Umatilla County about some particulars.

Hanlon reviewed a letter relating to the contract with the Army for payment of expenses related to permits at the chemical depot, such as an environmental specialist. The Army asserts uncertainty about the county's having the authority necessary to enter into such an agreement. Hanlon noted that the county has been working with the Army over this issue for three years. He will prepare a memo to the court on this issue.

Based on a memo from the Morrow County Planning Director, determining that none of the Act of Congress Land that the county acquired from the abandoned rail line is buildable, Hanlon said the court can proceed to sell those properties to neighboring landowners. Commissioner Dan Brosnan suggested, to better handle the inherent difficulties in an orderly fashion, that one property at a time be sold. The situation will be accessed at the next meeting. Morrow County Behavioral Health Director Kelly Sager

reported to the court that the department has been working to put together transitional housing in Boardman for alcohol and drug clients of La Casa Vida.

A grant writer is confident of getting funds for the effort, and Sager proposed securing a loan for purchase of a home and renovations, while in the ensuing months seeking grant opportunities to pay the loan. The proposed project depends on tax exemption, and it would be federally and state funded. The home for up to five people would provide adjustment between treatment and home environments. In answer to questions from Brosnan, Sager explained that staff would be employees of Behavioral Health, the house might belong to La Casa Vida, a non-profit agency, purchase of the identified house could occur in thirty days, with an additional six months for renovation.

The court advised Sager, in answer to his question, that the Behavioral Health Department can begin occupying space in the Docken Building as of November 3. Also in answer to a question, Judge Tallman said he will discuss with the Public Works Department the charges for service of the department's vehicles, noting the competitive price for that service. Sager updated the Court on his investigation of how to replace the vehicle he now uses with something that can carry more passengers and is more weather and road-worthy. The Court offered further suggestions for him to explore.

Public Works Director Burke O'Brien reported that some road signs have been taken, one an especially critical stop sign. He reported that pothole patching has begun, and graders are working on gravel-road maintenance, starting at higher elevations and working down. Fog sealing of Poleline and Homestead Roads is planned for the gallons recently purchased for the cost of freight. Painting for Gilliam County is complete. Umatilla County's painting is almost finished, and Morrow County painting is about half finished.

O'Brien notified the court of hiring Karen Wolff as office support specialist. The court agreed that trees to shade the Public Works office building in Lexington, recently painted by Maintenance Supervisor Les Paustian, will help protect it. They also agreed to O'Brien's plan to purchase with bridge decking funds some pre-cast cement decking material. O'Brien expressed pleasure with the Anson Wright project, which will offer a total of nine spaces.

Other actions taken by the court included the following:

- approval of the purchase of a laptop computer for the Behavioral Health Department;
- approval of an agreement with Umatilla-Morrow Community Corrections to provide supervision for persons convicted in Irigon and Heppner Justice Court and sentenced to community service;
- approval of a second credit card and replacement of a car radio for the Behavioral Health Department;
- scheduling of interviews for the Veterans/Special Transportation Coordinator on October 12;
- endorsement of the zero-money marketing plan for Heppner's industrial site developed by David Sykes and explained by City of Heppner Manager Jerry;
- administration by Judge Tallman of the oath of office to members of the Community Accountability Board: Samarra Van Doorn, Betty Gray, Elaine Miller, Duane Jones and Andrea Denton.
- appointment of George Koffler, Duane Disque, Betty Gray, Kathy McGowan (Williams), Joe Thiessen, and Tom Sly to the Economic Development Committee.

## HHS senior class trip meeting set

A Heppner High School Class of 2001 senior trip meeting will be held Monday, October 16, at 7:30 p.m. at the school.

Parents and students are invited to attend to give their input on possible trip destinations and fund raising activities.

## Local bicyclists Cycle Oregon



Gaylin Fickel and Sheryl Delveaux

A local couple are veterans of Cycle Oregon 2000.

Gaylin Fickel and Sheryl Delveaux, both Heppner, braved the celebrated 190-mile bike trek from Paisley to Hood River.

"It was a beautiful trip," said Fickel, who extended his trip to around 600 miles with excursions over back roads and scenic highways. "It's something that once you do one, you want to come back. We already want to do it next year."

Fickel said that he had trained for the event by riding over 2000 miles in the local area. He cycles everyday from sunrise until he goes to work every morning. A ride up Heppner Hill that took him an hour when he first started biking now takes him only 20 minutes.

Fickel said that the first couple days on the trip were difficult because of a head wind and some people took a layover over to rest up. Those who didn't, including Fickel, rode to Sisters and back. After that the weather greatly improved and many of those who stayed behind were revitalized enough to continue the journey.

The hottest portion of the trip, he says, was the 100 miles from Bend to Antelope, with one bicyclist recording a temperature of 110 on his bike thermometer.

The group traveled from Paisley, through Silverton, LaPine, Bend, Antelope, Dufur and finally to Hood River.

While a test of endurance, the trip is also well planned and organizers provide plenty of support. "If you get tired," said Fickel, "People pick you up. We had mechanics, water and an ambulance for any medical problems. You have to drink a lot of water. They had water stops and Gatorade. They took really good care of you and the food was really good, excellent."

Fickel said there was a "great response" in communities along the route, with smaller communities often more

welcoming that larger ones. Cycle Oregon makes a donation to the communities where the group stays, he said.

Fickel said that there were some injuries on the route, but none too serious, just broken bones and heat exhaustion.

When the pair returned to Heppner, you would think that they would be a little sick of bike riding. Fickel, however, took a bike ride to Hermiston that Sunday.

Jim and Eileen McElligott and their son, Colin, of Lone, also participated in Cycle Oregon 2000.

## Obituary

### Guy Calvin Kennedy

Guy Calvin Kennedy, 87, of Oregon City, formerly of Heppner, died Thursday, October 5, 2000, at Oregon City.

A public memorial gathering will be held Sunday, October 15, 2000, from 3-7 p.m. at St. John's YWCA. A private service was held at Skyline Memorial Gardens.

Mr. Kennedy was born July 2, 1913, at Portland.

He married Virginia G. Mossman on July 26, 1935.

He was the superintendent for Pacific Marine Services, retiring in 1975.

He enjoyed salmon fishing, hunting and woodworking.

Survivors include wife Virginia of Oregon City; son Robert Kennedy of Scappoose; daughters Penny Geis of Pasadena, California, and Vickie Baker of Molalla; sisters Lorraine Fretwell of California, Barbara Shackleton of Concord, California, Marian McKenna of Clackamas and Lois Kael of Portland; seven grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Memorial contributions may be made to Willamette Falls Hospice.

Skyline Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

## Heppner Booster Club Steak Feed and Auction

October 14<sup>th</sup>, Heppner Elks Club

Dinner at 6:00 - Tickets are \$8.00

Auction begins at 8:00

**Raffle Items include; Remington Model 700 "30-06", 25" Samsung Color TV, 50 Gallons of Gas, stadium blankets, sports wear, lube and oil, \$50.00 gift certificate, fleece blankets and much more**

**Over 50 items. You do not have to be present to win.**

Tickets can be purchased at Heppner Hardware or The Shoe Box.

Visit [www.heppner.net](http://www.heppner.net) for a full list of Silent Auction Items and Raffle Items

### Main Auction Items

- Autographed Blazer's Pennant & Tickets
- 5 lbs of Ground Beef per Week for a Year
- Two Round Trip Airline Tickets
- Buck Tag -2001- Wright Ranch
- Joe Montana Autographed Memorabilia
- Buck Tag - 2001- Wright Ranch
- Reggie Jackson Autographed Memorabilia
- Eagle Crest - 2 Nights & 4 Rounds of Golf
- Two Blazer Tickets
- Tim Cox Print - "Between Heaven & Earth"
- Horn Rapids Golf
- Holiday Flowers and Treats
- Green Trail Waterproof Hunting Boots
- Blazer Tickets
- Family Membership to Willow Creek Co. Club
- Quillow by Gwen Healy
- Seattle Seahawks Tickets
- Wild Horse Golf
- Mustang Embroidered Golf Bag
- One Hour Flight
- Two Blazer Tickets
- Necklace by Marsha Sweek
- Guided Goose Hunt for Two
- Two Nights on the Oregon Coast
- Italian Dinner for Six & Wine
- Bird Hunt for Four at the Munker's Ranch
- Black Hills Gold Ring
- One Night Stay at the Columbia Gorge Hotel
- Bass Fishing for Two
- Portland Rose Garden Tour Package
- Day Bird Hunt for Four - Charlie Anderson Ranch
- Jet Boat Trip for Two
- Dinner for Ten by John Gochnauer
- Diamond Plate Pick-up Rails and Gate Cap
- Day Bird Hunt for Four - Rill Ranch
- Danner Boots - Your Choice

### Donor

- Blazers
- Central Market
- Jeff Huggins
- Dean Wright Ranch
- Toys for Kids, Gary Stover, Wright Family
- Dean Wright Ranch
- Toys for Kids, Gary Stover, Wright Family
- Eagle Crest
- Larry & Betty Mills
- Dave & Patty Matheny
- Columbia Basin Electric
- Jannie Allen
- The Shoe Box
- George & Debbie Koffler
- Willow Creek Country Club
- Jack and Gwen Healy
- Al & Debbie Scott
- Wild Horse Gaming Resort
- Heppner Booster Club
- Doug Drake
- Gar Aviation
- Marsha Sweek
- Fredirkson Farms
- Jim & Donna Roy
- Mike & Kim Armato
- Munker's Ranch
- Peterson's Jeweler's
- Bank of Eastern Oregon
- Steve Rhea
- Portland Rose Garden
- Charlie and Marcia Anderson
- Tom Baumgartner
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- Les Schwab Tire Center
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