

County court hears telecommunications plan

By Doris Brosnan

Lisa Breckenridge of the Greater Eastern Oregon Development Corporation presented the Morrow County Telecommunications Plan to the Morrow County Court on Jan. 10.

Breckenridge explained the history of the plan, work on which began in October. The completed report offers a description of what telecommunications capabilities the county has and includes a discussion of the "point of presence" issue. Breckenridge added that South Morrow County issues include the difficulty to recruit persons skilled in telecommunications. Judge Terry Tallman noted conversations with the Education Service District about consolidation and better use of the T-1 lines.

The report also covers needs by community, including residential service, barriers to DSL service, economic development, health care, education, government and emergency services, small business and industry.

Section three of the plan addresses telecommunications opportunities and section four covers goals and recommendations.

Breckenridge recommended continued work with the Eastern Oregon Telecommunications Consortium and GEODC. Goals of the plan include education and Breckenridge noted that Jill Miles of the Oregon Economic Community Development Department will schedule training on call centers in March.

Other goals include completion of intra-county high-speed networking, achievement of a regional route delivery through Qwest improvements and of DSL service in every city, development of a planning

structure for fiber permitting corridors.

Breckenridge covered some general recommendations, recommended a resource person on the subject and answered some questions about the report.

County Assessor Greg Sweek described his understanding of the enterprise zone agreement with the creamery operation, Columbia River Processing. He requested an inter-governmental agreement to specify that the money, as per the enterprise zone agreement, from Columbia River Processing be used to retire any school district bond debt acquired after January 1, 2001, not for the district's general operations. County Counsel Bill Hanlon worked out language for payments to be used by the school district to offset the next certification of the bonded indebtedness.

The court discussed with Hanlon a Columbia County ordinance establishing a tax on the export of rock. The court questioned the use of such a tax on a non-renewable natural resource as one effort to stabilize the county budget with alternative revenues. Noted was Port of Morrow concern that the tax would encourage aggregate businesses to ship from out-of-county. Hanlon will review the Columbia County ordinance and make a recommendation.

Finance Director Lianne Currin distributed copies of the audit management letter, an unqualified report, which is the best report possible. Noted were recommendations from the auditor for accountability for transactions in the justice court. Hanlon explained the authority of the county over the revenues and establishment of policies for the handling of revenues. Discussion focused on possible solutions and Hanlon recommended adoption of a policy for both judicial courts. Currin announced confirmation of the budget committee update on March 1, with the regular session set for the week of April 23. She also explained the present system for deferred compensation.

Currin informed the court of her revised thoughts for the finance department structure upon her leaving her position. The court agreed to her proposal of hiring a full-time accounting technician, leaving one position at three days weekly and moving another employee to an accountant position, with a contract with Currin for some particular work. This will create a savings for the county, provide adequate staffing and leave the accounting budget in a state that could allow for future flexibility.

The court discussed with Sweek the tax collection responsibilities. Sweek proposed combining those with the existing office manager and assessment clerk positions. The court agreed to the combination of tax collection with the assessor's office.

County Sheriff Verlin Denton reported that plans for a racetrack at the north end of the county seem to be continuing. He suggested the need for an impact statement from the developers, as his department needs time for planning. A brief discussion of the potential development followed.

Hanlon reported that 1000 Friends of Oregon filed a notice of intent to appeal the court's ordinance for a process in filing Measure 7 claims. Hanlon had discussed the language of the ordinance with the group beforehand and thought they agreed with it. He noted that Measure 7 is not law because the governor and secretary of state were prohibited from certifying the election.

Hanlon reported on agreements by Emergency Management for participation by fire protection and health districts in the CSEPP. He reviewed the extension to the contract with the Department of Energy that covers Emergency Management Director Casey Beard's non-CSEPP responsibilities.

Public Health Director Laura McElligott informed the court that she had received communication about a domestic emergency preparedness needs assessment and the court recommended that she contact the agency heads to be involved. They also recommended that she contact Beard with her questions about participation in an exercise scheduled for this month.

McElligott discussed an opportunity to expand the family planning services through the health district and explained how it would be set up. After inquiries, the court expressed some reservations about expansion of time needed for the part-time secretary, increasing costs

and added demands on McElligott's workload.

Public Works Director Burke O'Brien reported the following: the crew has extended culverts on the lower end of Baker Road; is replacing guardrails on the Bell Canyon Bridge; has removed the fuel oil tank from the courthouse basement; finished hauling the sanding rock; is working on the Clarks Canyon shoulders as time permits; and is planning to replace the narrow bridge on Blackhorse Canyon Road.

O'Brien continued discussion of his revised permit form. He also presented the County Line Road maintenance agreement contract. The court approved the contract, modified with the addition of termination language and a change in the date of effect.

O'Brien reported on an Oregon Department of Transportation meeting held on Jan. 9. He and the court discussed the "Area Commission on Transportation," which is intended to benefit the communities and to which the county is to appoint three representatives.

Other actions by the court included:

- Approval of a permit for an approach onto Oregon Avenue;
- Approval of the purchase of a replacement printer in the county court department;
- Review of a change in the fee schedule and agreement on refunds to individuals who have overpaid for road vacation requests;
- Acknowledgement of receipt of a resolution from the Boardman Rural Fire Protection District relating to annexation;
- Review of a proposed building-checkout policy and form, which will be circulated to departments before consideration for adoption;
- Reappointment of Laura McElligott, Pat Edmundson and Karen Cooley (subject to acceptance) to the Commission on Children and Families, and reappointment of Corine Lindsay as chair and Andrea Denton as vice chair of that commission;
- Approval of extending the deadline of the work on the Wilkenson Arena doors to Feb. 28;
- Approval of the agreement adopted annually before the first payroll in January to allow health insurance premiums to be paid pre-tax;
- Reappointment of Larry Mills to the budget committee.

PUBLIC NOTICE
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE STATE OF OREGON FOR MORROW COUNTY
In the Matter of the Estate of
KENNETH J. SMOUSE,
Deceased.
Probate No. 00 PR 026
NOTICE TO INTERESTED PERSONS
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the undersigned have been appointed and have qualified as the Co-Personal Representatives of this estate. All persons having claims against the estate are hereby required to present the same, with proper vouchers, within four months after the date of first publication of this notice as stated below, to the Co-Personal Representatives c/o Robert E. O'Rourke, Kottcamp & O'Rourke, LLP, 331 S. E. 2nd, P. O. Box 490, Pendleton, Oregon 97801, or they may be barred.

All persons whose rights may be affected by the proceedings in this estate may obtain additional information from the records of the court, the Co-Personal Representatives or the attorneys for the Co-Personal Representatives.
Dated and first published this 17th day of January, 2001.
Kenneth Lynn Smouse
Co-Personal Representative
P.O. Box 127
Ione, Oregon 97843
Cherilyn Ann Smouse
Co-Personal Representative
P.O. Box 127
Ione, Oregon 97843
Robert E. O'Rourke
Kottcamp & O'Rourke, LLP
Attorneys for Co-Personal Representatives
331 S. E. 2nd
P. O. Box 490
Pendleton, Oregon 97801
Published: January 17, 24 and 31, 2001
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PUBLIC NOTICE
MORROW COUNTY BOARD OF PROPERTY TAX APPEALS
Notice of Session

Notice of Property Tax Appeals of the County of Morrow, Oregon, will meet to:

-Hear petitions for reduction of the real market, maximum assessed, specially assessed, or assessed value of property as of January 1, 2000.

-Hear petitions for reduction of value corrected under ORS 311.208.

-Hear petitions of waiver of penalties for late filing of real or personal property returns.

Petitions must be filed with the clerk of the board not later than January 2, 2001.

The board will meet at Morrow County Courthouse in Heppner, Oregon.

A schedule of hearings for those who request to be present will be posted 48 hours prior to the meetings February 9, 2001, at 9:00 a.m.

Executive sessions may be held during the session as required by OR 308.290(7), OR 308.411, and OR 308.413.

All other hearings will be scheduled as time allows. If you have requested to be present at the hearings you will be notified of the time and place to appear. Contact the Board of Property Tax Appeals for further information.

It shall be the duty of the persons interested to appear at the time and place appointed.

Barbara Bloodsworth,
County Clerk
Morrow County, Oregon
Dated at Heppner, Oregon this 12th day of January, 2001
Published: January 17, 24 and 31, 2001

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Planning Commission for the City of Heppner, Oregon will conduct a public hearing at 7:00 PM on February 4, 2001 at Heppner City Hall regarding the following applications:

1. Variance: Requesting relief from setback requirements on the east (front side) of the property to install a carport on a concrete pad in a Commercial Zone at 135 North Gale Street, Map #2S 26 35BB, Tax Lot #7100. Applicant: Eleanor Gonty.

2. Variance: Requesting relief from setback requirements on the west (front side) of the property to construct a deck/porch on the front of proposed replacement residential building in a General Residential Zone at 460 South Main Street, Map #2S 26 35CB, Tax Lot #1300. Applicant: John & Shelly Wight.

A copy of the applications and copies of all documents and evidence submitted by or on behalf of the applicants and copies of any applicable zoning criteria are available for inspection at no cost and copies of the same will be provided at a reasonable cost. To obtain this information, contact the office at Heppner City Hall, 188 NW Willow Street, PO Box 756, Heppner, OR 97836, phone 676-9618.
Published: January 17, 2001
Affid

CLASSIFIED ADS

.40 per word
Card of Thanks:
up to 100 words - \$5
Deadline:
Tuesday at noon

NOTICES

The Heppner Post Office has notified residents that correct mailing addresses must be on all mail. Please check the address on your Gazette-Times to see if it is correct and current. Addresses with a "route and box" number or "star route and box" number, for example, need to be corrected. If you need to make a correction, please call the Gazette at 676-9228, fax 676-9211, mail to Box 337, Heppner, OR 97836, or e-mail gti@heppner.net with your correct mailing address, so you can continue to receive the paper with no delay.
David Sykes, Publisher
11-1-tfx

PLEASE check your ad on the first date of publication. While we are happy to make any necessary corrections, we cannot be responsible for errors appearing on multiple days. When canceling an ad, PLEASE check to be sure your ad was not inadvertently published.
THANK YOU!

CARD OF THANKS

Our apologies for being late. We would like to publicly thank the businesses that donated door prizes to our annual Christmas artifice: Peterson's Jewelers, Morrow County Grain Growers, Murray Drugs, Columbia Basin Electric Co-op, Judy Byers, Carolyn and Dick Paris.

Thanks again,
Willow Valley Service Club
1-17-1p

Kids for Kids in Kosovo
Earn and Learn
It worked!

Thanks to all who contributed to the success of our project. We have heard from several businesses, parents and children about their positive experiences.

Klamath First Federal; Christian Life Center; Heppner Chamber of Commerce; Kuhn, Spicer & Mills; VanMarter & Kahl; Gardner's Men's Wear; Pettyjohn's Building Supply; R & W Drive-In; Miller and Sons; Fremont Wood Products; Molly Rhea; Raymond and Norma French; Heppner Gazette; Murray Drugs, Columbia Basin Electric Co-op; Morrow County Grain Growers; Twice Upon A Time...; Heppner Hardware; Huddleston Paper; Les Schwab Tires; Bank of Eastern Oregon; Archie Padberg; Lindsay Ward; Barbara Hayes; and many parents and grandparents.

Thanks for contributing to the enrichment of our youth!

Sincerely,
The Kids for Kids Committee
1-17-1c

We would like to thank John Church for giving such a thorough class on snowmobile safety at the snowmobile certification class. We also learned parts of the snowmobile and their operation. He also taught us some important do's and don'ts of riding. We just wanted to let John know that we appreciated his time and patience with the nine kids and us three adults. If there are any other parents that have children under the age of 16 years and are currently riding snowmobiles, I highly recommend they take this course.

Deona Hodges,
Dawna Dougherty
and Missy Cutsforth
4-Corners Snowmobile Club
members
1-17-1c

We want to thank all the Heppner High School seniors and parents who helped with the soup supper January 6. We had close to 100 percent participation from the senior class. Special thanks goes to Judy Eckman and Sonja McCabe who helped co-chair and made soup and rolls. Also thanks to parents who brought soup-Adams, Dilleys, Elguezabals, Knowles, McDowells, Mattesons, Pattons, Pecks, Scotts, Smiths, Sneddons, Sweeneys, Sykes and VanWinkles; and those who brought cakes-Anthonys, Bates, Baker-Parrets, Flaizes, Mattesons, Papineaus, Pipers, Sykes, Youngs and Woods. The parents and students who helped out were terrific-Krista and Terra Adams, Nick Anthony, Judy and Sarah Eckman, Blake Knowles, Marissa and Sonja McCabe, Kyle McDaniel, Ryan and Sherry Matteson, Joe Papineau, Jenni Patton, Chris Peck, Craig and Alan Scott, Mindy Smith, Mandy Sneddon, Camille and April Sykes, Scott VanWinkle, Justin Wood, Brandon Young. Thanks to you we had a very successful soup feed and are almost \$500 closer to our goal for a senior class trip to Coeur d' Alene, Idaho.
Heppner High School Class of 2001
1-17-1x

Thank you Dr. Carpenter and nurses for their good care during and after my total knee replacement.

Special thank you to Helen Jeffery for driving me to and from Hermiston to the doctor and physical therapy in Heppner.

To Judy and Dixie for their help and Jan for the hot meal.

Thank you all for the flowers, cards and phone calls.

Having you all care makes my recovery a lot easier.

Thanks, too, Kate, for taking care of Harry.
Sharon Brace
1-17-1p

Thank you to the Heppner Chamber of Commerce for selecting the Gazette-Times as the business of the year for 2000. We are very touched and honored and more than pleased. Thank you again for considering us and thanks to our dear friend Molly for nominating us. We are also very grateful to our terrific staff-Stephanie, Tami and Bonnie, Danielle and Whitney; and in Pendleton-Chris and Alexa-and to our family-Chris, Andy, Allison and Camille. Thanks also to our skilled correspondents, photo contributors, faithful advertisers and to the wonderful Heppner, Lexington and Ione communities for their continued readership and support over the years. We hope we can continue to deserve this honor for years to come.

Sincerely,
David and April Sykes
The Heppner Gazette-Times
1-17-1x

I would like to thank the Heppner Chamber of Commerce for presenting me with the lifetime achievement award. I would also like to thank my wife Dorothy, Margaret Flaherty and especially Bill Kuhn for his nice write-up and award. Thanks so much Heppner.
Wilbur Jackson
1-17-1p

We wish to thank everyone for the kindness they've shown during the recent loss of both our dads. The prayers, cards, flowers and phone calls have helped us through this difficult time.
Hoby, Susan, Jayme
and Kim Hansen
1-17-1c

HELP WANTED

Office nurse needed at Willow Creek Clinic. Strong preference given to LPN or RN. Please pick up application at 274 N. Main Street. 676-5440.
11-29-tfc

Morrow County Sheriff's Office Communications Officer

For an opening and to build an eligibility list - job requires typing, general office experience and ability to function in stressful situations. Duties include taking 9-1-1 calls, radio dispatching, teletype operation, working with word processing and computer files. Must be willing to work any shift. Office operates 24-hours a day. Pay starts at \$1874/month.

Apply at Sheriff's Office, 325 Willow View Drive, Heppner, OR. Phone (541) 676-5317. Return by closing date, Friday, Jan. 19, 2001, at 5 p.m.

Morrow County does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, natural origin, sex, religion, age and handicapped status in employment or the provision of services.
1-10-2c

The Morrow County Extension office of Oregon State University is accepting applications for a Temporary Office Specialist I position. Required skills include experience with data entry, word processing, desktop publishing and databases. Hours will vary until April, when the position will be full-time (40 hrs. week) during April and May.

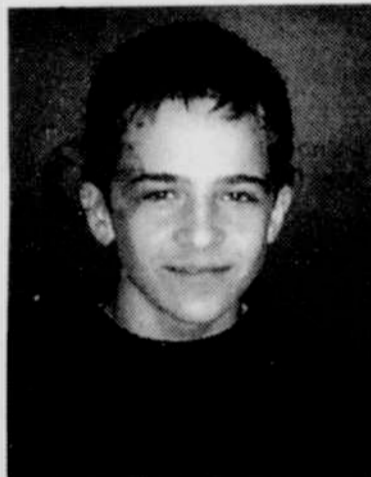
To obtain an application, contact the Morrow County Extension office, 120 S. Main, P.O. Box 397, Heppner, OR 97836 or (541) 676-9642 or 1-800-342-3664. Applications for this position need to be received at the above address no later than 4:30 p.m. on February 2, 2001. OSU is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer.
1-17-2c

Morrow County is now accepting applications for a full-time Accounting Clerk in the Finance Dept.

Associate degree in accounting preferred. Two years accounting experience required or any satisfactory equivalent combination of education, experience and training. Basic office experience, including computer proficiency, is required. Wages will be \$1,699 per month plus excellent benefits.

Contact Andrea Denton, Morrow County Courthouse, P.O. Box 788, Heppner, OR 97836, phone (541) 676-5620. Applications due same address by 5 p.m. January 31, 2001. Morrow County is an equal opportunity employer.
1-17-2c

Roy Proctor Geography Bee winner



Roy Proctor

Roy Proctor is the winner of the Heppner Junior High School Geography Bee held December 5. Roy will now advance to the next level of competition, a written exam.

All students in Linda Dutcher's and Greg Grant's seventh and eighth grade social studies classes at Heppner Junior High had the opportunity to take the test. Principal Dick Allen and former teacher Al Beck conducted the competition.

In-school winners were: eighth grade-first place, Ryan Campbell, second, Shanna Rietmann; third, Kyle Huddleston; seventh grade-first place, Dan Basile, second, Jackie Meyer, third, Roy Proctor; seventh through 12th place-Josh Lankford, Robert McElligott, Madison Bailey, Brandon Seitz, Cara Kennedy and Amanda Crosswhite.

The National Geographic Society held the National Geographic Bee for students in the fourth through eighth grades in thousands of schools across the U.S. and in the five U.S. territories, as well as in Department of Defense Dependents Schools around the world. The bee is in its 13th year.

All school winners are eligible to win the national championship and its first prize, a \$25,000 college scholarship at the national competition May 22-23 in Washington, D.C.

College releases dean's list

Albertson College in Caldwell, ID, has announced its dean's list for the 2000 fall semester.

To be on the dean's list, a student must earn a 3.75 or higher grade point average.

Local student, Trisha Adams of Heppner, qualified.