Sheriff's Report

The Morrow County Sheriff's Office (MCSO) reports handling the following business:

Dec. 17: MCSO was advised from a caller she accidentally dialed 911 while cleaning her phone. The caller was fine and there was no emergency.

 MCSO received a report of a missing 12-week-old chocolate lab puppy in Irrigon.

-MCSO received a report of loud music in Irrigon.

-MCSO received a request for deputy contact concerning a dog complaint from an earlier date.

-Boardman Police Depardment advised of a religious parade starting at Sam Boardman Elementary and ending at the Roman Catholic Church.

-Boardman Police Dept. received a report of a stereo being taken sometime during the previous night. It might have been taken by the caller's two roommates who left during the night.

-Boardman Police Department received request for an officer concerning an earlier incident.

-Oregon State Police received a report of a wallet left at the Boardman rest area in a phone booth the previous night.

-Heppner Police Dept. received a request for a Heppner officer regarding information the caller thought the police should know about.

-MCSO received a report from a subject at Anson Wright Park that he hit a rock in the road and the vehicle rolled off the road.

-MCSO received a report from Sentry Market in Irrigon that a 30-year-old male was denied alcohol due to his level of intoxication and when he left his van almost hit another vehicle.

-MCSO received a report of an 18-year-old male who took a gun and threatened suicide.

Dec. 18: MCSO, Oregon State Police received a report that a Greyhound bus driver at Biggs was requesting assistance as he thought one of the female passengers had a gun.

-MCSO received a report that a door at the Western Empire was open. The building was checked and the door was supposed to be

-MCSO received a report of a large box in the middle of Highway 74. The box was removed and the contents determined to be junk destined for the transfer station.

-MCSO received a report of a carcass causing a traffic problem in Boardman that needed to be removed.

-MCSO received a request for an officer from a female subject in Ione who said a male subject grabbed her breast a while ago.

-MCSO received a report of several cows out on Highway 207 just south of Lexington. The owner was located.

Dec. 19: MCSO, Boardman Police Dept. received a report that the caller's daughter in Boardman thought someone was trying to break into a truck parked in the drive. The area was checked over.

-MCSO received several 911 calls on various lines that couldn't be traced. CenturyTel was advised of the problem.

-MCSO received a report of a audible burglar alarm at Riverside High School shop building in Boardman. All was secure.

-Boardman Police Dept. received a report of a female subject refusing to leave a home in Boardman. Kristen Skinner was cited for Domestic Harassment.

-MCSO received a report of a found dog on Slaughterhouse

Road in Heppner.

-MCSO, Oregon State Police received a report of a fight in progress between a father and son in Irrigon. Alcohol was involved. The parties were

separated.
-MCSO received a report that three subjects were overhead talking about pulling up a fence to take a horse and take it to California. The horse's owner

was contacted. All was secure.

Dec. 20: MCSO received a report that two security officers were following two trespassers. The subjects were identified and all was okay.

-MCSO received a report of a dispute in Irrigon involving several people including four juvenile males arguing over a juvenile disciplinary problem.

-MCSO received a report from a computer company that the company delivered a computer to an address in Irrigon and was paid for by a credit card from England.

-Oregon State Police, Morrow County Road Department received a report of a motor vehicle accident where a vehicle rear-ended a semi on Bombing Range/Highway 207 at Grieb Farm. It was a non-injury, non-blocking accident.

-MCSO received a report of a vehicle towing another vehicle broke down on I-84.

-MCSO received a request for a background check on a former Irrigon resident for pre-

enlistment purposes.
 MCSO received a report of a vehicle that had rolled off the road on Highway 74.

-Boardman Fire Department received a report of a pickup on fire on I-84 on the eastbound off ramp at Boardman.

-MCSO received a request for a deputy to go to Morrow County Road Dept. in Lexington and pick up a non-sufficient funds check.

-MCSO, Heppner ambulance received a request for an ambulance for a motor vehicle accident on Highway 207. The caller took the driver to meet the ambulance at the Cenex store. The patient was transported to Pioneer Memorial Hospital in Heppner.

-MCSO, Heppner Police Dept. received a report of a hit and run driver at the bowling alley in Heppner.

-Oregon State Police received a report of a possible drunk driver on I-84. The driver was witnessed drinking a beer.

-MCSO, Heppner Fire Dept., Lexington QRT, Heppner ambulance received a report of a motor vehicle accident at Cutsforth Corner on Highway 207. Two patients were transported to Pioneer Memorial Hospital in Heppner.

 MCSO, Oregon State Police received several reports of motor vehicle accidents.

-Corvallis Police. Department arrested Clinton Liddicote, 20, on an Irrigon Justice Court warrant for Failure to Pay Fire/MIP Alcohol. He was lodged at Benton County Corrections with \$127 bail and released due to overcrowding.

-MCSO, Oregon State Police received a report of a audible burglar alarm in Irrigon. It was a false alarm, the parents of the owners accidently set it off.

Dec. 25: MCSO deputy arrested Jose Medina, Jr., 32, for DUII, No Operator's License, Driving Uninsured, and No License Plate Light. He was also arrested on a Morrow County Justice Court warrant for Failure to Pay Fine/Driving While Suspended and several other warrants from other agencies. The vehicle was impounded.

-MCSO, Boardman Police Dept., Boardman ambulance received a report of a one-vehicle accident in Irrigon. The vehicle hit a power pole and the lines were down. Kenneth Parrish, 42, was cited for DUII. His vehicle was impounded.

-MCSO received a report of a box of computer chips found at Bake's Restaurant in Irrigon.

-MCSO, Boardman Police Dept. received a request for a welfare check for the caller's daughter who was supposed to be at the caller's home but hadn't shown up yet.

-MCSO, Boardman Police Dept. received a report of an \$8 drive-off from the Boardman 76 station.

Boardman 76 station.

Dec. 26: MCSO,
Boardman Police Dept.,
Boardman ambulance received a
report from a woman in
Boardman who said she had pain
in her abdomen, possibly from a
"diabetic buildup". The patient
was taken to Good Shepherd
Community Hospital in

Hermiston.

-MCSO, Oregon State
Police, Hermiston HAZMAT,
Irrigon Fire Dept., DEQ,
ODF&W received a report of a
with a male subject who was
dropping off the caller's
girlfriend's children. The caller
said the male subject tried to run
him over.

-Boardman Police Dept. received more information on a runaway from Boardman. MCSO received a report of a civil matter involving custody rights in Irrigon. The mother decided to let the children go with the father and the father wanted to let the children decide where to go.

MCSO, Oregon State Police, Heppner Police Dept. received a report of a possible DUII swerving all over the road and going 40 mph.

Dec. 27: MCSO received a report of possible prowlers out Blackhorse. A deputy was unable to locate anyone.

-MCSO received a report from a woman in Irrigon that her husband assaulted her and refused to let her have their fouryear-old son for the night...

-MCSO received a report of suspicious persons in a yellow Bronco going through houses and possibly taking items. The vehicle drove off on Highway 74

-MCSO received report of a dead deer lying on the side of the road on 8th street in

-MCSO received report of a burglar alarm activated in Ione. MCSO was advised that resident accidently activated the alarm.

 -MCSO received report that caller's motorcycle had been stolen.

-MCSO received report of a subject around the Irrigon area was driving carelessly. possible HAZMAT incident in Irrigon 1/4 mile from the fish hatchery off Patterson Ferry Road. Three 55-gallon unlabeled barrels with an unknown bluish-colored substance were leaking.

-MCSO received a request for a deputy to pick up several insufficient funds checks from Irrigon Sentry Market.

-MCSO received a report of a suspicious vehicle out by the Heppner dam access road with its lights flashing on and off. A deputy was unable to locate the vehicle.

-MCSO received a request for a deputy to pick up insufficient funds checks from Sentry Market in Irrigon.

-MCSO received a report of abuse of the caller's grandmother and six year old niece in Irrigon.

MCSO received a report from Irrigon of suspicious juveniles at a new modular home who appeared to be trying the doors and windows. A deputy was unable to locate the juveniles.

-MCSO, Oregon State Police received a report of an erratic driver on I-84 that was cutting people off and speeding.

-MCSO received a report from the Bank of Eastern Oregon that they repossessed a vehicle in Heppner.

-MCSO received a report of a loud music playing late at

County Court holds hearing on rock quarry

By Doris Brosnan

At the Morrow County Court session of Feb. 14, the court convened a public hearing on a comprehensive plan amendment to add the Miller/Padberg rock quarry to the Goal 5 aggregate inventory.

Planning director Tamra Mabbott and associate planner Wendy Kirkpatrick offered the background information on the request that came before the planning commission and identified the five-acre piece of property. Mabbott explained that the court's function is only to hear the plan amendment to add the aggregate site to the inventory, not to act on the conditional-use permit.

In favor of the amendment, Ryan Miller reported that the original plan to use the site for the proposed dairy was altered by requests for rock from other landowners. He explained the time limits for rock crushing and noted that he will have a dust abatement plan for the haul road.

One landowner appeared to request that a speed limit be imposed on the road and that watering the road for dust control be required. The court noted that the speed issue will be addressed with the director of public works.

of public works.

Miller agreed to the watering of 1,000 feet of the road. The court approved the plan amendment with that stipulation. Commissioner John Wenholz stated his view that the developers needs to be responsible for the cost of road repairs required by their additional traffic.

by their additional traffic.

Justice of the Peace Charlotte
Gray and court clerk Lucy Veliz
discussed the justice court fiscal
programs with the court. Gray
explained the justice court's
difficulties last year to address the
requests of the auditors and she
detailed her present plan for
accommodating this year's
recommendations.

Kimberly Lindsay, alcohol and drug supervisor, and Jesus Rome, alcohol and drug counselor, described to the court the Friday, five-hour, after-school program that includes kick-boxing, aerobics, art, dance, refreshments and open gym. The program is to start on March 9. Transporting students from Boardman to Irrigon is part of the plan and busing from Heppner might also be possible. A grant from the Commission on Children and Families will help fund the program, which has one funded position among the staff of eight.

Lindsay also shared with the court the "2001-2003 Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention Implementation Plan." In answer to a question, Lindsay said that the state is trying to identify outcomes of the plan. Rome suggested that a survey might determine how their program is impacting participants. The court approved the plan and Lindsay said they would do an outcome study.

Representatives of the region's Workforce Investment Board appeared to update the court on the "Work-Links Program," a "partnership effort between various work entities who provide employment, education and training services to Morrow County citizens." As explained, Adult and Family Services, BMCC and CAPECO provide information and direct services in a one-stop-shop fashion. Presently at the BMCC building in Boardman, they are also developing a Heppner site. They will be issuing press releases, brochures and flyers about the system.

Ron McKinnis discussed with the court the need to access and duplicate records for surveyors and the public. McKinnis reported having records ready to be moved to Heppner and assessor Greg Sweek's effort to find a location in the courthouse for the records. McKinnis further explained the need for a large copier for copying large-format materials and said that he is working to find a way to share the cost with other departments that will also use the machine.

McKinnis further informed the court that all fee collection is now handled by the clerk's office.

Mabbott suggested at the court session that one of the commissioners and the roadmaster be included in the technical advisory group for the transportation analysis for the racetrack. Sheriff Verlin Denton passed out the department's 2000 statistical report. Mabbott also showed the court a packet of information she has put together for a meeting on Feb.15 about Ostvest Vej, the bridge and a public easement.

The court discussed a proposed agreement with the museum commission and the county's maintenance of the property and liability insurance, the utilities and the upkeep of the facility. They continued a brief discussion of the corrected contract with Lisanne Currin and will ask county counsel to determine that it meets the independent-contractor requirements. They also agreed that counsel should review a proposed contract between the Commission on Children and Families and a speaker for the Riverside High School.

Public works director Burke
O'Brien reported the following: The
crew was pouring footings for
Blackhorse Canyon Bridge, has
mowed ditches and shoulders on
north-end roads, has cut trees on
Montana Avenue and has plowed
and sanded county-wide. O'Brien
reported having taken care of the
disposal of some paint from the
fairgrounds.

Other action by the court included the following:

-approval of a computer program and a receptionist work station for the Morrow County Behavioral Health Boardman office;

- approval of the two-year extension of the Sheriff's Association contract;

- approval of an amendment to the Pacific Life retirement policy to comply with a Department of Labor regulation. night in Irrigon.

-MCSO, Oregon State Police received a report of a pickup pulling a horse trailer whose lights were flickering on and off.

-MCSO received report of a male subject in Irrigon hanging around the inside of caller's store.

-Heppner Ambulance received request for ambulance for caller's 51 year old husband is having chest pains.

-MCSO received report from an Irrigon woman whose father-in-law had passed away and had "Do Not Resuscitate" orders.

-MCSO received three 911 hangup calls from Irrigon. Upon arrival deputy advised that it was a child playing with the phone.

-MCSO, OSP received report that a male on foot wearing a black pullover sweatshirt was weaving in and out of traffic on Hwy. 730 westbound.

-MCSO received request for a deputy in Irrigon concerning possible sex abuse.

Off The Wall By Merlyn Robinson

Dating back to ancient history, people have put together "seven wonders" lists including natural phenomena or manmade architectural or sculptural accomplishments. The lists vary; some of the best known include the Pyramids of Egypt, the Hanging Gardens of Babylon, the Parthenon of Greece, the Temple of Artemis and other world-famous structures such as the Roman Colosseum. Of all these wonders miraculously built in ancient times by raw manpower, the pyramids alone survive intact.

I've forgotten much of ancient history where many of the magnificent structures were built by slave-type labor to honor some goddess or entomb some ruler. In the case of the Roman Colosseum, some misfits were fed to the lions. Today we merely pay taxes to support the lifestyle of dignitaries or fund past

presidents' libraries and office spaces.

Since those earlier times, other architectural marvels of different styles created palaces, cathedrals and even the Leaning Tower of Pisa. In the United States, we praise mankind for erecting the Rockefeller Center and the World Trade Center in New York as well as the Statue of Liberty. Listed with those accomplishments are San Francisco's Golden Gate Bridge and the stone faces of famous presidents' heads chiseled on Mount Rushmore in South Dakota.

Americans have a fetish for material things. Yet we so often take for granted the wonders that surround our everyday life, such as the air we breathe, abundant water and the quality of life provided by modern technology. However it seems our Western culture is about to be redefined by Eastern environmental players. Still we are blessed with the freedom to choose whether it's worship or work. We can also choose to be self-serving or extend our efforts to helping others. Examples of people who choose to make a different are those that were recognized as year 2000 first citizens for south Morrow County. Well-deserved recognition.

Now let's regress to 1915, those good old days, when America opened Yellowstone as its first national park. One could then crank up a Model T Ford and drive over 80 miles of rutted road from Ashton, Idaho, to get to the edge of Yellowstone Park. However, strict park rules were enforced. That vehicle, particularly the brakes and tires, had to pass inspection before making the trip down to Old Faithful. Speed was limited to 12 miles per hour ascending and 10 miles per hour descending steep grades plus eight miles per hour when approaching curves. Horns were to be sounded when approaching curves and mufflers were to be closed when approaching or passing horses or horse-drawn vehicles. Many other rules were imposed on this modern form of transportation. Any violations of those rules automatically caused revocation of park admittance and the individual was fined for any damages (such as spooked horses).

Fast-forward to the current situation, when too many automobiles are said to be causing a traffic jam and environmental problems in Yellowstone and other national parks. Shuttle-buses are to be used for public transportation, eliminating congestion. Our more mobile, more affluent society wants to seek out places ranging from the Everglades to Alaska, so that creates more pressure on public parks. Part of the problem is that people are discouraged from visiting places locked up in wilderness areas and only accessible on foot.

As of this year, there are 22 areas locked up as national monuments where natural resource industries such as coal mining or oil drilling are excluded and tourism and recreation is limited due to road-less policies and restrictions on recreation development. Go figure. Is this progress?

If we are forced to import more of our food and commodities due to restrictions perhaps it be expedient to develop more recreational sites to accommodate and disperse a growing population of "back-to-nature" pleasure seekers. That includes those people who envision the West as a wilderness frontier where the wolves and other creatures should dominate? There's opposition to predator control of even wildlife-killing coyotes or cougars, although they are even thriving and eating small domestic animals in urban areas. Wonders, natural or otherwise, never cease.

