

Weakness noted in county retirement fund

By Doris Brosnan

At Morrow County Court meeting on March 28, Judge Terry Tallman noted a retirement fund weakness during the past two months.

Budget Consultant Lisanne Currin recommended against withdrawing from the fund, explaining that the county has still averaged 10 percent gains and that the equity remains in the long term. In answer to several questions, she explained the interest rates, options for reinvesting in a guaranteed-rate plan, risk options, the three-year contract, and early withdrawal penalties. The Court agreed to leave the pension investments as is.

Currin also reported on the indirect cost study for which the Federal Emergency Management Agency has delegated authority to Oregon Emergency Management. Currin questioned the authority of FEMA to pass responsibility, as it is the "federal cognizant agency," so she said she is pursuing the issue to ensure that it does not become mislaid. Currin also reported having sent agendas for the budget committee meetings.

County Assessor Greg Sweek reported on the status of the fixed asset program, which he believes can be placed in an excel program and with the cost accounting program, which is moving forward positively. Discussion touched on other available programs and Currin suggested that the Court put aside money every year into a program reserve.

Sweek also reported expected availability of a T-1 line between Heppner and Lexington earlier than previously thought.

Personnel Director Andrea Denton addressed the policy that governs pay changes resulting from reclassification. She noted that currently employees could assume new duties for some months without a corresponding increase in pay. She explained, also, that a gradual evolution in a job description might not be tied to a dynamic change in job duties with a clear date for assumption of those duties. Denton recommended a policy change. The Court agreed that assuming new duties should be accompanied with a pay change and asked that Denton rewrite the policy to correct the matters. They also agreed to treat current reclassifications accordingly, making pay adjustments retroactive to the assumption of new duties.

Sweek explained to the Court a request from Umatilla Electric for information from his office. After discussion, the Court agreed that the usual fee for information should be assessed from that agency. Sweek also reported that the Oregon Department of Revenue will be able to maintain the county GIS data.

Judge Tallman reported on a Transportation Technical Advisory Committee meeting. Estimates for raceway attendance at a large event is 120,000, with a 10-15-year projection of 150,000 per large event. Issues to be addressed include identity of affected freeways, time necessary for parking cars, total time needed for getting into an

event, potential "bottleneck" spots. The committee wants to focus on getting more than 10 percent of attendees in days ahead of the event and coming via alternate transportation (boat, plane, train). The committee will continue to meet in May and June, after the second phase of the marketing study is complete.

Though the Court agreed on the importance of understanding the issues, best accomplished through participation, County Counsel Bill Hanlon stressed the importance of the Court's maintaining a position that allows all parties equal input into the process involved in the raceway proposal. He suggested that Public Works Director Burke O'Brien's participation on the committee would be appropriate, and the Court agreed to ask O'Brien to replace Tallman on the advisory committee.

Tallman also reported on a meeting regarding the problems at the Hanford facility. A "white paper" will be sent to Congress to explain the need for double-wall tanks, but not at the expense of glass vitrification of the radioactive waste.

Public Works Director Burke O'Brien, County Counsel Hanlon and the commissioners discussed recent road damage caused by the moving of farm equipment and watched a video of the scene. The Court also heard a property owner's concern over the ownership of the Ione Cemetery Road, the condition of the road, and changing use of the road. After discussion, Ione Mayor Betty Gray agreed to facilitate a meeting with the city, the adjacent property owners, the cemetery district, and the county, in search of a mutually acceptable solution to the questions of ownership, easements, and maintenance.

O'Brien informed the Court of expensive and difficult compliance requirements of the Mine Safety Health Administration, saying he plans to address the issue with the agency's Bend office. O'Brien said he expects most of the department members to attend segments of the free OSHA training in Hermiston this month. Bid publications, O'Brien reported, have been issued for the painting on the courthouse clock tower and the hot mix for the summer's asphalt. Also advertised are the Park Host positions. O'Brien said the crew has installed the sewer line at the Emergency Operations Center.

FLY new program set

A new teen program, FLY, has begun on Friday nights at Columbia Middle School in Irrigon.

The program will feature art, basketball, kick boxing, dance class, games and more.

Free transportation will be provided from Heppner and Boardman.

Call 541-481-2911 or 676-9161 to sign up or for more information.

Other action of the Court includes the following:

- approval of an agreement amendment with Anasazi Software to allow discarding of a replaced source code;
- approval of an agreement with CenturyTel for a T-1 line for Emergency Management for video conferencing;
- approval of the Association of Counties resolution to support district attorney funding;
- approval of fund transfers within the general fund, the Commission on Children and Families fund, and the Victim Witness fund;
- approval of a resolution to allow acceptance of grants into the

Planning Department, the Commission on Children and Families fund, and the Special Transportation Vehicle reserve fund;

- approval of a Federal Juvenile Crime Prevention Grant application in support of the after-school program;
- appointment of John Swanson, Rod Taylor, and Nancy Snider to the Special Transportation Fund Advisory Committee;
- appointment of Randy Rayburn to the Safety Committee;
- approval of a contract for maintenance of the ballot machine;
- agreement to code the balance of the copier for the surveyor's office from the computer budget.

Local girl earns 4.0

Casey Ingraham, a 2000 graduate of Heppner High School, received a 4.0 winter quarter at Yakima Valley College in Yakima, WA.

Casey is the daughter of Sally and Mark Brosnan, Heppner, and Mike and Wendy Ingraham, Berkenfeld, OR. Her grandparents are Pauline and Orval Matheny, Heppner

Planning underway for OTPR

Planning for the 79th Oregon Trail Pro Rodeo is already underway.

Two big PRCA shows will be held on Friday, August 17 at 7 p.m. and on Saturday, August 18, at 1:15 p.m. Slack will be Friday night following the performance.

Twelve mutton busters will put on a show 1/2 hour prior to the performances.

General admission is \$8 with children seven-12 years \$5 and children six and under free.

VIP seating for families or businesses is available. VIP seating offers three days of front-row backed seats. Call Tom or Karen Wolff, 676-5114 for VIP

seating information or reservations.

Announcer will be Steve Kenyon; clown is Joe Sanford; bullfighters will be Danny Newman and Tim Vredenburg; stock contract is the Big Bend Rodeo Company.

New this year is a dog calling contest, open to everyone Friday night with pre-registration and a \$10 entry fee.

Chamber Chatter

By Claudia Hughes
Chamber Executive Director

April seems to energize people. When things begin to turn green, it's kind of like a green light, everyone kicks into go.

Chamber members are encouraged to mark their calendars to visit one of Heppner's home-based businesses. Fran Oswald, chamber member, is hosting Business After Hours on Wednesday, April 18, at 6 p.m. at her home. All are encouraged to attend for "a taste of Shaklee products," an opportunity to learn more about home-based businesses, and a chance to visit on the hill.

Remember to call the Chamber, 676-5536, if you are interested in attending the workshop for small businesses on Friday, April 13, in Walla Walla, so carpooling or bus transportation can be arranged. Chamber member businesses attending will be eligible for a partial scholarship drawing.

BMCC, our community college, will host the annual Spring Arts and Culture Festival, "Science and the Arts" on April 16-21, at the college. A varied and exciting schedule of activities is available by calling 278-5935.

The public is encouraged to attend the public hearing on the Co-Gen plant on Tuesday, April 17, in Heppner at the Bank of Eastern conference room. Doug Dubuque, who is managing the long-term project, gave an informative presentation to the chamber. Sixteen-plus employees are being hired with the possibility of additional development at the Port of Morrow site (formerly Kinzua). This is exciting for Heppner and the future of our community.

Yet another activity for Heppner coming up in April is the Queen's Coronation and Dance at the Morrow County Fairgrounds on Saturday, April 21. This is an opportunity to congratulate the Morrow County Queen and Princess and join in kicking off their season of promoting our county. This year's theme is "Rolling On Into The Future".

Thought for the week: "Enjoy the little things, for one day you may look back and realize they were the big things."

Marriage Licenses

The Morrow County Clerk's office at the courthouse in Heppner reports issuing the following marriage licenses:

- March 23-
Guadalupe Telles Lopez, 31, Irrigon; and
Angelica Covarrubias Telles, 23, Irrigon.
- March 27-
Luis Alonso Zapata, 21, Boardman; and
Veronica Rodarte, 19, Boardman.
- Alvaro Flores Caldera, 27, Boardman; and
Davia Dianna Haines, 25, Irrigon.
- Armando Fuentes Lopez, 24, Hermiston; and
Maria Ricardo Mejia, 25, Hermiston.

Births

David Duenas-a son David was born to Olivia and Eliodoro of Boardman on March 12, 2001, at Good Shepherd Medical Center in Hermiston. The baby weighed 7 lbs. 1 oz.

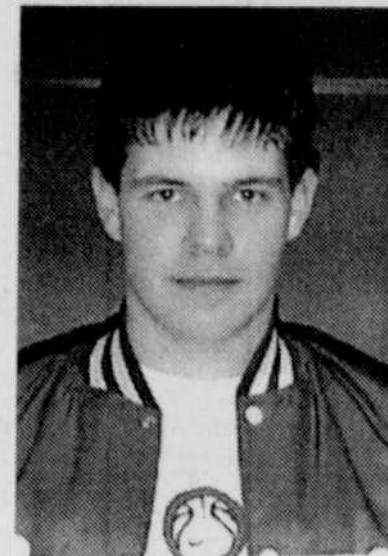
Larissa Lee Berger-a daughter Larissa Lee was born to Huibrecht and Clifford Berger of Irrigon on March 13, 2001, at Good Shepherd Medical Center in Hermiston. The baby weighed 8 lbs. 9 oz.

Logan Michael-a son Logan Michael was born to Kemery Burrig of Ione on March 23, 2001, at Good Shepherd Medical Center in Hermiston. The baby weighed 7 lbs. 15 oz.

Claire Elise Ann Grieb-a daughter Claire Elise Ann was born to Carri and Ken Grieb of Lexington on Saturday, March 31, 2001. The baby weighed 6 lbs. 8 oz. and was 19" long.

She joins sister, Paige, 4, and brother Logan, 2½, at home. Her grandparents are Gary and Sue Grieb of Hermiston, Virginia Grieb of Lexington, Steve and Luanne Brownfield of Heppner and Nancy and Dick Snider of Ione.

Michael McCabe earns 2A all-state honorable mention



Michael McCabe

Michael McCabe, Heppner High School junior, has been selected for honorable mention on the 2A boys all-state team.

McCabe, a 5'11" guard/forward, was the leading scorer on the Mustang team which posted a 20-7 record.

McCabe averaged 12.3 points, 5.5 rebounds and 2.9 steals per game.

He is the son of John and Sonja McCabe of Heppner.

We Make POSTERS
Heppner Gazette-Times

55 Alive driving program slated

An all-new program for 55 Alive mature driving classes, for those 50 and over, has been planned during April and May. The course will enable attendees to "learn updated laws, new safety techniques, have fun and save money," said a news release.

The program will be held:

April 17-18 from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. each day at the Columbia Basin Electric Co-Op building in Heppner;

April 24-25 from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. each day at Good Shepherd Medical Center conference room in Hermiston;

May 2-3 from 6-10 p.m. each day at Stokes Landing Center in Irrigon.

There is a \$10 per person charge, with the money going to the AARP for the workbook and materials for the eight-hour course. By state law, the competition certificate will entitle participants to a reduction on auto insurance.

To register or for additional information, contact John or Judi Swanson at 922-9568 (leave message) or Betty Crampton at 567-6535.

Wedding Tables

Marie Tworek and Robert Rose

Wedding April 21, 2001 - Shower: April 7, 2001



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April 5th ~ Thursday

Ladies Night - Pat Dougherty and crew will be serving Pork Roast Dinner starting at 6 p.m.

April 14th ~ Saturday

WATCH FOR THE EASTER EGG HUNT!



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PREVIEW: Wed. Apr. 11th, 10 to 4 PM & Auction morning.
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1980 JD 8640, 50 Series JD Eng approx 6000 Hrs., PTO - 10,360 TT
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1976 IHC 4300 Conv., 350 Cummins, 13 Speed, Wet Kit

1973 IHC Service Truck, V-8 Cummins, 5 & 4 Speed

w/ 900 Gal Diesel Storage, 3 Air/Oil Pumps & Reels, Gas Air Compressor

1955 CHEV 6500, 6 Cylinder w/ 16' Bed & Hoist

1952 DODGE 1 1/2 Ton Truck, 6 Cyl. - 31,000 Mi.

1975 TIMPTE Grain Trailer

1960 FORD Bronco XLT, 4X4, V-8, AT

1983 LANDOLL 42' 30-Ton Haul-All Trailer, extends to 10'

HAYDETTE 16' 3-Axle Equipment Trailer

1976 ACE 16' Stock Trailer

COMBINES & CARTS

1982 IHC 1470, Hilco Leveler, Straw Spreader, 4800 Hrs/1800 SMOH

w/ 24' IHC 810 Header, Chromed

1983 JD 6620 Side Hill w/ 20' JD 220 Header, 2400 Hrs.

IHC 453, Diesel, Cab, A/C w/ 18' Header

(2) JD 95H, Cab, Gas (1) parts

SINER 18' Header Cart, Spring Susp.

24' Header Cart

TILLAGE

SUNFLOWER 42' Cultivator w/ Harrow

CALKINS 36' Cultivator w/ Harrow

IHC 31' #5500 Chisel Plow

IHC #800 10-Btm Plow, 18' w/ Hilco Attach.

(2) JD 8100 5-Btm Plows

(2) JD 670 5-Btm Plows

(5) 1997 CALKINS 10' Rodweeder, Hydr w/ STOESS F/U Trans. Hitch

(3) JD 12' #500 Rodweeder

(4) CALKINS 8' Skew Treaders

(3) JD Skew Treaders

CALKINS 42' Hitch

BESTLAND Rock Picker

(2) Track Mulchers

MACHINERY

(5) JD 10' #8300 Hoe Drills, 10" w/ STOESS Hitch

(3) JD 12' LZB Hoe Drills, 14"

J&A Grain Drills

BARBER C200 Grain Cleaner/Treater

WESTERFIELD 12' Tailgate Seed Auger

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or

2) 10 a.m.-3 p.m. (4 hours with 1 hour lunch) for \$20 (normally \$26)

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