

Cardinal Booster club discusses projects

By Jeri McElligott

Ione Cardinal Booster Club, at their Feb. 4 meeting, approved the purchase of a 12 x 12' projection screen, primarily to be used at graduation. The student body and booster club will each pay half the total cost of \$540.

Kyle Palmateer, Tyler Brown and Kelly Thompson were present to represent the middle school boys' basketball team. They requested help funding their upcoming basketball tournament in LaGrande on Feb. 23-24. The club voted to give them \$250 to help with registration and other expenses.

Track coach Del LaRue brought a sample track warm-up suit. They are available to the public for \$32 for the hooded jacket and \$24 for the pants. Different Cardinal logos are available.

Shilo Svetich had samples of shirts available with an embroidered Cardinal logo. Members agreed to order one dozen sweatshirts, half in youth sizes, to sell. Adult sizes will be \$35, and

youth sizes \$30. The shirts will be available at the Bank of Eastern Oregon. Hats are also available for \$20 each.

The club will pay \$25 each for the football all-star ads in the all-star program. Adam McCabe, Brad Burright, and Adam Neiffer will play in the June game.

The Donkey Basketball game will be Thursday, March 14, at 7 p.m. The firemen will be asked to participate. The contest will feature the firemen/faculty versus the high school students. It was agreed to sell bottled water, popcorn and candy for concessions. Students will be asked to be vendors during the game.

The club will consider purchasing weights for the conditioning room. Dale Holland will be asked to report their needs at the next meeting.

Cardinal Booster Club will have a special meeting Tuesday, Feb. 19, if the boys' or girls' teams go to state. Otherwise, the regular meeting will be Monday, March 4, at 7 p.m. at the high school library.

Court hears CSEPP update

by Doris Brosnan

At the Feb. 6 meeting of the Morrow County Commissioners, Emergency Management director, Casey Beard, updated the Court on the CSEPP programs, including a web-based response plan, the possibility of another, limited, drill in April to help prepare for the full exercise in May, the need for a better county-wide paging system and computer-aided dispatching.

Morrow County Behavioral Health director, Kelly Sager, shared with the Court data from a community survey and noted that awareness of that department and services continues to be an issue to address. Commissioner Dan Brosnan suggested contacting a consultant to analyze the survey results. Sager also reported being in conversation with Grant County about services there. He said that the T-1 line has increased speed significantly and reported a consultant's recommendation for upgrading the department's computers and software. The Court approved the upgrades.

Sager also discussed the department's accounts receivable, which the audit showed have increased over the last few years. He explained some of the reasons for that and successful steps taken to bring those figures down.

The Court and Sager reviewed existing and draft policies for tuition reimbursement for higher education, discussed several issues and agreed to continue discussion at the next meeting.

Executive secretary, Andrea Denton, provided the Court the OSHA log for year 2001, and went over statistics for the last nine years. She also provided a copy of the estimate to add ports to the Gilliam and Bisbee Building, for connecting the Veterans and Special Transportation offices fax machine. The Court agreed that no money is now available but that the item should be budgeted in the next budget.

The Court noted that retirement meetings with McGee Financial will occur on Tuesday, Feb. 26. They announced that budget committee meetings have been scheduled for April 10, 11 and 12. Denton will set up preceding meetings with department heads for the last two weeks in March.

Judge Terry Tallman reported on a meeting in Boardman with Bill Scott of the Oregon Economic and Community Development Department. Discussed were Oregon non-agricultural employment compared to the national average, transportation equipment, high-tech manufacturing, the capital-goods recession and promotion and business retention.

The Court acknowledged the present county counsel's notice that he will be leaving in a year and they began discussion, to be continued, of how to contract for that service after his leaving.

Morrow County Public Health director, Laura McElligott, asked the Court for advocacy efforts for the "Babies First" and perinatal programs, cut by the State Emergency Board as of Monday, April 1. She explained the revenue results and the risks to other aspects of the health management program this would cause. She asked the commissioners to contact the legislators.

Morrow County Public Works director, Burke O'Brien, reported that at a Department of Aviation meeting of the previous week he learned that the county would be allowed to use grant money for an all-weather landing system at the airport. He noted that the Lexington airport is the only small airport in Oregon with a GPS approach. The county will be required to invest about 10 percent of the total cost of the system, O'Brien said.

Additionally, O'Brien reported that he is arranging for employment of three OYCC workers for two months at Cutsforth Park. He discussed briefly the status of the Boardman city bridge across the railroad track, which needs replacing. O'Brien and the Rodeo Committee have discussed the plans for additional parking at the grounds, with a meeting for more discussion planned for Feb. 12. Commissioner John Wenzholz presented a petition from property owners in West Glen requesting work in their subdivision.

The public works crew, O'Brien reported, finished ditch and culvert work on Bunker Hill Lane. They plowed and sanded Willow Creek, North Fork of Willow Creek and Sunflower Flat roads. They cleaned and extended a culvert on Upper Rhea Creek Road and built up shoulders on Liberty School Road. Weed mowing has occurred on Willow Creek, Upper Rhea Creek, Pleasant View, Rand, Wilson, Kunze and Olson roads, on Depot, Miller and Root lanes, and Usage, Second, Seventh, Third, Fourth and Eighth streets.

Other actions of the Court include the following:

- approval of permits for the installation of lines for the fiber optic T-1 project for the Morrow County School District, and of an overhead line on Pleasant View by Umatilla Electric;
- approval of purchasing a replacement computer for the public works department;
- approval of a personal property tax cancellation;
- approval of a resolution supporting the candidacy of Umatilla Commissioner Bill Hansell for the National Association of County Officers second vice president;
- appointment of Commissioner Wenzholz as the authorized signature for special transportation federal certifications and assurances;
- agreement to schedule Court on Feb. 20 to finish by noon in order to meet with Senator Ron Wyden in the afternoon with a plan to speak to him about the chemical depot, SB 1608, salvage timber usage for the co-gen plant, the Bombing Range Road easement and the racetrack roadway;
- approval of an amendment to the grant agreement with DEQ for funding for monitoring of environmental permitting of the chemical demilitarization facility.

Daniel Jepsen places second in state speech contest



Daniel Jepsen (left) is congratulated by the Voice of Democracy State Chairman Chris Christenson

Daniel Jepsen, a junior at Heppner High School, placed second and won a \$750 cash scholarship award at the Oregon state finals of the VFW Voice of Democracy State Speech Contest in Newport this past weekend.

Daniel, who represented District 8, which includes Umatilla and Morrow counties, was one of 16 district winners who competed for state awards. The top five finishers were asked to give their speeches at a banquet to those who were gathered in Newport for the VFW convention. The theme of this year's speeches was "Reaching Out To America's Future." This is the 55th year that the Veterans of Foreign Wars and its Ladies Auxiliary have sponsored the event.

Earlier this year, Daniel won the local VFW Post #4184 competition and a \$50 savings bond. He went on to win the District 8 competition and \$100 in cash. He then had his speech professionally recorded at KOHU Radio Station in Hermiston and the tape was sent in to compete in the statewide competition. The state winners were actually chosen in January based on their recorded speeches. However, since none of the students knew who had been picked, they all had to be prepared to give their speeches if they were announced as one of the five winners at the Feb. 2 banquet.

The Oregon first place winner was Aubry Seibert, a senior from Oregon City. She won \$1,000 in cash and a four-day trip to Washington, D.C. Her tape will advance to the national competition to compete for a share of over \$125,000 in scholarship funds. The third through fifth place winners were from Klamath Falls, Moser and Enterprise, respectively.

According to the Voice of Democracy State Contest Chairman, A.B. "Chris" Christenson, hundreds of students competed in Oregon's competition this year. A Brookings High School teacher was given special recognition for entering 98 students in the event.

The district winners were provided lodging with their parents at the Shilo Inn and the finalists were treated to a day of activities in the Newport area, including a visit to the Oregon Coast Aquarium and a neighboring lighthouse.

Daniel and other local and district contestants, including Shelly Rietmann and Paula Spicerkuhn of Heppner, will be honored at a dinner at the Hermiston VFW on Sunday, Feb. 17.

Following is Daniel's speech Reaching Out To America's Future

by Daniel Jepsen

Two hundred, twenty-five years ago, a small group of patriots, each with a vision of freedom, united under one revolutionary document, and within it this was proclaimed. "We hold these truths to be self evident, that all Men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness." Upon these words our founding fathers brought forth our great nation; and no nation has ever stood so strong, or true as ours.

Though none of the men who signed that declaration in 1776 could see the future, they knew that whatever happened, these truths were essential to the future of America. Anything but a government based upon the self-rule of the people and the word of God was destined to fail. Eleven years later, and with these ideals in mind, our forefathers came together again, this time to form our constitution and eventually, the statutes that our country has leaned on for over 200 years: The Bill of Rights.

These men were reaching out to America's future, ensuring that those truths and freedoms endowed to us by God would remain alive for many generations. Today, our duty to America's future is to see that these rights not only stay alive, but also thrive in the years to come.

The time we live in is unlike any other. Our nation has become increasingly diverse, and our ways of life are changing with each technological breakthrough and scientific discovery. Cloning and genetic medicine have become reality. Our leaders now grapple with how we should approach such promising, yet controversial issues. Minority populations are expanding rapidly, and people continue to move from rural areas to urban ones.

September 11 has also hurled us into a new page of history; one in which our security has been wounded, and leadership is challenged to meet this new enemy of freedom and democracy.

America, this great country we live in, has truly undergone sweeping changes since its founding. It reminds me of the house that I live in. If you were to look at our house today, you would see a large, country home, equipped with vinyl siding, a metal roof, new windows, oil heat and much more. This was not always so. Our house was not always insulated, and didn't even get electric service until 1948. For many years it had wooden siding, and it's now on its third roof. Despite these changes, the foundation and framework of this house are still the same as they were 87 years ago, when it was new.

The same is true with America. Its appearance has changed much, but its foundation remains the same. No terrorist can touch it, or any man deny it. Our circumstances will continue to change, and if we build on the foundation already set in place for us, we will remain a great nation for years to come.

To reach out to America's future, we can do what our forefathers did so long ago, by ensuring that our foundation and framework stays alive and strong. These principles of our foundation are justice, unity, representation, honesty, basic and equal rights, the family, religious liberty, and common sense; and tying these all together are a government ruled by the common citizen, and guided by the will of God.

My generation can do its part in reaching out to America's future by living and defending our heritage in our daily lives. In defending our freedom on every level by refusing corruption, exercising those rights endowed to us, and by striving to meet the standards that have been set down, my generation can preserve this nation for our children. To move away from this establishment of principles and not live by them, or to corrupt them in the name of the latest ideas, special interest, bureaucracy, or greater government power will be as detrimental to this nation. Just as this house I live in would collapse if its foundation were to be removed, so would our nation.

With a firm grip on the foundation of this nation, we are able to reach out to the future of this land. This land we call home. A land I am proud to call my own. A land called "America."

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ANY OCCASION



The Future of Our Community

Nothing really ever stays the same.

Things get better or they get worse. Things grow or they get smaller.

Communities are no exception. The life of a community is determined by the activities of the people who live there.

What we do today will decide the future.

When we shop and invest locally we are making it possible to have the continued service of local merchants in the future.

Shop locally whenever you can.



The Children Are Our Future



Bank of Eastern Oregon

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