

Highlights from Historical Society meeting

Morrow County Historical Society held its annual meeting Oct. 12 at the Willow's Grange Hall, in Ione. A turkey dinner was served followed by the programs for the day.

Young fiddlers of the area presented musical numbers led by teacher Peg Willis, of Pendleton. Members of the group included: Kara Clay, Alex and Julianne Carlson, Levi Carlson, Kate and Sarah Kendrick, Luke Young, Brian Holland and Kellee Jones. These young musicians are known as "Shenanigans and Friends." Louis Carlson, Paul Clay, and Matt Holland furnished the rhythm section with a bass fiddle and two guitars.

Laura Pryor, Gilliam County Judge, spoke to the group about the wind towers being erected in Gilliam and Morrow counties. The towers will affect the landowners in all the counties on the Columbia Plateau. One tower can furnish enough energy for the town of Condon. Pryor warned that any one considering having a tower on their land should consider all the options before signing any contract. She said that landowners should be sure to map out in writing everything that they want done or not done to their land.

To use the energy from the wind towers there must be access to other electrical facilities. Groups working with the towers often request a three to five year tax break in their "enterprise zone."

Pryor informed that 500 more towers might soon be erected in Morrow and Gilliam counties.

Pryor also spoke about changes that may be coming in the growing of wheat. These changes will make a difference in the way wheat producers grow wheat. Different types and varieties of wheat may start to be the emphasis. These different types will be planted on "good land" and will be segregated at the time of harvest and will be used for specific areas and uses.

Pryor explained that new equipment would be needed to test for specific qualities. She also said that the farmers would need to have local testing areas and be able to react more quickly to special situations. It is hoped that new and different products will be developed with the help of millers, grain companies, research agencies, wheat farm co-ops, and grain warehouses. Gilliam County wheat producers are starting to follow this new idea in wheat production by encouraging the use of "white soft wheat" in breads.

At the meeting, the members of the Historical Society also discussed their plan to put up signs for the old school houses. This project is scheduled to start in November. Louis Carlson is in charge of the project, and looking for volunteers.

The Historical Society will also be giving \$500 to each cemetery, in Heppner, Lexington, Irrigon, Boardman, and Ione, to help straighten the headstones.

Cardinal Booster Club meets

Ione Cardinal Booster Club met Oct. 7 at the Ione High School library. Under old business, club members discussed building the trophy case for the cafeteria hallway. The drinking fountain still needs to be moved. The student body will donate \$1,000 for the project. Del LaRue will meet with Harold Rietmann to design the case and get an estimate on costs.

The club agreed to send thank you notes to all businesses that donated to the track project. There will be a sign made and displayed at the school to recognize all individuals and businesses that made donations. LaRue has received grant applications from several businesses. Debbie Radie will look into applying for grants to continue to raise money for the track practice area improvements. The pole vault pit does not meet new national safety standards and cannot be used. The club is still waiting for a bid to put the topcoat on the track area.

Lea Schwab is making a sign to place in the gym. They will donate \$1 for every varsity basketball point scored this season.

Officers for the 2002-03 year were elected as follows: Debbie Radie-president; Barb Collin-vice president; Jeri McElligott-secretary/treasurer; and Debbie Morgan-concessions/dinners coordinator.

Some of the signs in the

gym need repair work. Dean Robinson will coordinate getting the outside gym door painted.

The container the club hoped to buy to store sports gear was overpriced. Dennis Stefani will continue to look into purchasing or binding a storage unit.

The bike race organizers paid the club for the potatoes used in the dinner. The spring 2003 race is scheduled for May 2. Club members expressed concerns about being available to help serve the dinner with sporting events taking place at that time. It was agreed the moneymaker could be turned over to elementary parents, with the proceeds going toward purchasing new playground equipment.

Club members agreed to have game days during basketball season to honor businesses that have supported Ione schools. Businesses would be notified by letter ahead of time, and then introduced and thanked at the games.

The club has sweatshirts, sport wraps and hats available for sale at Sunflower Junction and the Bank of Eastern Oregon. Sweatshirts can also be ordered in any child or adult sizes.

There will be barbecued hamburgers for sale at the homecoming game against Arlington on Friday, Oct. 18. Hamburgers with all the toppings and a bag of chips will sell for \$3 each.

The next meeting of Cardinal Booster Club will be Monday, Nov. 4 at 7 p.m. at the high school library.

Proposed ethanol plant discussed

At the County Court meeting of Oct. 9, Jim Dawley of Oregon Ethanol spoke to the commissioners about the enterprise zone. He reported the proposed salaries and work shifts of the employees of the proposed ethanol plant in the Boardman area. Enterprise Zone Manager Greg Sweek reminded Dawley of the need to retain a minimum of 35 employees to avoid a back-taxes situation. Boardman Fire Chief Marc Rogelstad handed the commissioners a letter that expresses concerns about the enterprise zone, citing 2 1/2 years of the fire department's being called for several incidents involving the three operating plants now in the enterprise zone, none of which yet pay taxes. He said he would like to see, for future enterprise-zone plants, payment of tax support to the fire department. Sweek described the differences among the zone programs, and Dawley said he would consider the fire support tax idea, which could be added to the agreement. Dawley said that his company, if it does commit to a plant at the Port, plans to break ground before next summer and hopes to be operational in the summer of 2004, by 2005 at the latest. He said negotiations over some details with the Port continue. He clarified that his company is requesting a seven-year tax abatement and a two or three year phase-in, but Sweek explained that no provision exists for a partial abatement. The Court agreed to discuss the matter and contact Dawley in a few days.

Sheriff's Deputy Jeff Lambier described to the Court a program the department will be offering at Stokes Landing on Nov. 2, to get property owners and managers educated on how to take care of their property to avoid crime problems. He explained that the program stems from landlords' complaints over the past few months. The program will cover maintenance of property, screening of applicants, drafting of rental agreements, ongoing management, neighborhood watch programs, warning signs of drug activity, crisis resolution, and the role of the police. Lambier, who is volunteering his time for the course, requested some funding from the Court to help with lunch expenses at the eight-hour course, saying that he wanted to keep a registration fee for attendees as low as possible, at \$25. The Court voiced appreciation for his work on the project, but commissioners John Wenholz and Dan Brosnan suggested raising the fee by \$5 to cover the lunch.

Emergency Management Director Casey Beard reported to the Court that the school district had billed CSEPP for a parking lot at the new school in Irrigon. He further explained that CSEPP had paid for the previous one, torn out during the project, and that CSEPP has no funds for another one. He also reported that he had not yet found a vehicle to purchase for the Irrigon volunteer fire department to use for monitoring, but CSEPP now has a paging system that works throughout most of the Northwest and he has

acquired 100 paging units for key personnel. Beard also requested help from County Counsel in developing a description of the GPS system database that Emergency Management needs, now that the department has received funding for such a system.

Beard told the Court that advertising of positions at the chemical depot has begun. Staff will be contracted through the Umatilla-Morrow ESD, and salaries will range from \$28,000 to \$36,000. Beard said he thought personnel would be on duty early in 2003. He handed the commissioners a draft of an addendum to automation of the agreement between the County and ESD for hazard analyst-community liaison support.

Beard also discussed a per-diem issue with the Court, noting that the federal government will no longer require receipts from employees who travel on federally sponsored programs. Those employees will, instead receive direct deposits to their accounts. Executive Secretary Andrea Denton reviewed the previous system in which the employee provided the County receipts and the County paid the employee with funds received from the federal government. Discussion led to the decision to have Denton and Accounting Supervisor Tawny Miles develop a per-diem policy.

The Court discussed some procedural issues with County Counsel Appointee David Allen

Public Works Director Burke O'Brien reported blading in the Sandhollow, Road 21, and Penland Lake areas. Completed work included fog seal on Coal Mine Hill Road, crushing for ODOT at Ukiah, painting for Baker County, and installation of one of two culverts in the Juniper Canyon project.

O'Brien also reported on the tour of Nature Conservancy property the previous day, during which he discussed with NC representatives the need for the agreement that would guarantee Ione PGE employees ingress and egress to the plant from Emigrant Lane. He said he urged them to speed their attorneys' work on the agreement.

Actions of the Court:
- approval of a permit for Umatilla Electric to push a line under and along Kunze Lane near Miller Lane;

- approval of the three-year airport lease and airport management agreements with John Boyer;

- extension, until the end of the fiscal year, to the Town of Lexington's use of its tippage fee award;

- approval of the annexation of territory into the Heppner Fire Protection District, with a modification of boundaries;

- approval of a contract for chemical dependency services between the Behavioral Health Department and Central Oregon Independent Health Services, Inc.;

- approval of a respite-care agreement with Sheila Piper for the Behavioral Health Department.

Manicurist joins Sunflower Junction crew



Manicurist Betsy Arballo (right) with client Verna Mudie

Betsy Arballo of Cecil has joined the staff at Sunflower Junction in Suite 300 of the new building on Main Street in Ione. Arballo began offering manicures there in August. The Sunflower Junction crew also includes Shilo Svetich, who operates the hair salon, and Lynn Dee Ramos, who operates the ice cream/espresso shop. The store also includes tanning and a gift shop.

Arballo offers acrylic nails, silk and linen wraps, pedicures, manicures and nail art, both hand painted and decals. Arballo, 38, has had her manicurist license for 13 years. She is available at Sunflower

Junction Thursday through Saturday from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Call 422-7SUN (7786) for an appointment.

Arballo, originally from Orange County, California, where she attended high school, moved to Paisley for a while before returning to California. She returned to Paisley in 1992 and then moved to Cecil three years ago. Her family includes her son, Austin, 16, a sophomore and football player at Ione High School, her daughter Shadee, 13, an eighth grader in Paisley, and her friend, James Vormie, who works for Krebs Ranches as a mechanic.

Harvest Carnival at HES

For an evening of family fun, the HES Parent-Teacher Club invites you to attend the Harvest Carnival at Heppner Elementary School. HES will be decorated with an Autumn theme and transformed from classrooms to pumpkin patches. This annual event is set for Thursday, Oct. 24 from 6 to 8 p.m.

There will be food and games for all ages. The concessionaire will be "good old carnival-type food" according to a PTC spokesperson, and is to be served in the cafeteria.

Games include the Pop Toss, Basketball Hoop Shoot, Plinko, Junk Food Walks (primary

and intermediate) and the ever-popular Bingo, among others. Ticket prices are very reasonable to insure an "inexpensive and fun" evening for the whole family.

The Heppner Elementary Parent-Teacher Club has been very busy this year with the carnival on the heels of the successful Scholastic Book Fair in September. "Our students benefit in so many ways from the support of the Parent-Teacher Club," commented HES teacher Karen Smith-Griffith. The meetings for PTC are held on the first Monday of the month at 7:30 p.m. in the school library.

Spa/Therapy pool available at Willow Creek Water Park

Willow Creek Water Park has the Spa/Therapy pool in working order and ready for the surrounding communities to enjoy.

Hours are upon request by calling Merry Brannon at 676-5429 or 676-5752. Rates are \$2.50 per half hour or \$12.50 an hour, including up to 19 people maximum capacity.

The spa is currently being used by an aerobic class on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 5-6 p.m. and the first non-school Friday of the month by children in homecare. At this time these scheduled events will be the hours you may not reserve. Come in and enjoy a birthday party, Girl's Night Out, or relieve those aching muscles, and make use of the facility made just for you.

Marriage Licenses

Oct. 8: Caleb Wayne McDaniel, 22, Heppner and Lela Jean Gribkov, 22, Heppner; Ty Allen Arbogast, 33, Heppner and Kimberley Michelle George, 33, Heppner.

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