

HEPPNER

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VOL. 122 NO. 1 8 Pages Wednesday, January 1, 2003 Morrow County, Heppner, Oregon

County Court discusses proposed ATV park

At the Morrow County Court meeting of December 18, Public Works Director Burke O'Brien and Office Specialist Karen Wolff presented the ATV Park grant application and reported having received eight letters of support for the project from surrounding counties and Morrow County businesses. Wolff explained the grant funding and the appraisal of the property. O'Brien explained that no county funds will go into the project, though some employee time will be used. The Court approved the all-terrain-vehicle program grant application for the Kinzua reload ATV park. Wolff announced a public meeting conference call with the State Allocation Committee for Friday, December 20, for review of the application. The Court offered Wolff high praise for her work on the project and thanked both her and O'Brien for what "has the potential to be the best thing" the county has done in the recent past.

Representing the OSU Extension Service, Bill Broderick and Mario Magana spoke to the Court about the 4H Outreach position in Boardman, funding for which will be reduced to half-time in the coming fiscal year. Broderick asked the Court to consider funding the other half of the position.

Andrei Rykov, of the US Forest Service, presented a new Title II project for Matlock Aspen restoration in the Ukiah District. The project - using lodge-pole fences to provide protection from browse damage - would restore historic distribution of aspen, promote recovery of decaying aspen stands, improve habitat for a variety of species, stabilize stream banks, and provide shade to water courses. The Court approved the project at a medium priority.

Public Works Director O'Brien offered the commissioners the report and recommendations from PBS environmental consultants on the mold issue in

the basement of the courthouse. PBS recommended the hiring of a contractor with experience in mold remediation. The commissioners agreed.

O'Brien reported the opening of Juniper Canyon Road to traffic on December 13, though finishing work will continue. He also reported the downing of trees and road signs, as well as the blocking of roads by tumble weeds, resulting from the recent high winds. The crew is cleaning up and piling the trees for the time being. Commissioner Brosnan suggested a tree-planting project at Cutsforth Park because of the losses there.

O'Brien said that the crew was grading Turner, Nichols, and Carlson Lanes and Lovgren, Miller-Cutsforth, Piper, Dale Brown, and Liberty School Roads. He discussed with the Court a single bid received for a used paver and will review it before the next court meeting.

Other actions of the Court:

- approval of the diesel, gas, and antifreeze contracts;

- approval of no-spray zone permits to Michael Wetherall and to the Burroughs Ranch;

- approval of a permit - after further discussion and clarification - with Turner Ranches to install a water line along Sandhollow Road;

- approval of purchasing a replacement computer for the undersheriff and two computers in the 911 center;

- approval of the plat for the Donovan Meadows Subdivision in Boardman;

- approval of extending the Baker-Morrow Partnership/GEODC contract to June 30, 2003, with additional funding;

- approval of a grant from the Department of Aviation for hangar reconstruction at the Lexington airport.

MCSO sponsors a Heppner City Clean-up

City of Heppner residence are being offered the opportunity to get rid of their abandoned vehicles, Jan. 18-19, between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m.

City Ordinance 472 4-5-88 defines abandoned vehicles as "abandoned, wrecked, dismantled, partially dismantled, inoperative or junked vehicles." This is an opportunity to clean up your property of vehicles that fit

Fiddlers plan beverage can drive

The local Shenanigans fiddle group is having a can drive to help earn money to fund a music trip to Ireland. They will be covering as much of the town of Heppner as possible on Friday, Jan. 3 from 1-3 p.m. to pick up empty beverage cans.

The group will start with Gale, Court, Chase and Rock Streets, and the area by the high

this description before code-enforcement action is taken.

Vehicles should be brought to the Heppner City Yard, located next to Jay Coil Fabrication. You will need to bring the title or bill of sale for the vehicle. Morrow County Sheriff's will take the vehicle at no cost to the owner.

Any questions should be directed to Senior Deputy Randy Rayburn, at the Morrow County Sheriff's Office, Monday through Thursday, at 676-5317.

school. You can leave bags or boxes of cans out for them to pick-up, or drop them off at group member Matt Holland's house at 240 S. Case St., Heppner. In lone, they are collecting cans at Kara Clay's home at 330 E. Main.

If you want your cans picked up from any location you may call Matt Holland at 676-5067.

USFS announces Blue Mountain Land Exchange proposal

The Forest Service is beginning to consider an exchange of lands whereby non-federal in holdings, private lands located within National Forest boundaries, would become National Forest System lands and move the Malheur, Umatilla, and Wallowa-Whitman National Forests toward land ownership patterns identified in their Forest Plans.

The project, called the Blue Mountain Land Exchange involves lands within Baker, Grant, Morrow, Umatilla, Union, Wallowa, and Wheeler Counties. The proposal will consider the exchange of approximately 20,600 acres of federal lands in the three National Forests for approximately 37,000 acres of non-federal lands, according to Linda Vore, Lands Specialist on the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest. The exchange will be completed on the basis of equal values, not equal acres, as determined by real estate appraisals.

The proposed exchange responds to a Forest Service objective of consolidating federal land ownership patterns in the three National Forests. This consolidation would enhance land managers' ability to protect habitat for several threatened, endangered, and sensitive species; and preserve segments of the Imnaha, Lostine, Eagle Creek, and North Fork John Day Wild and Scenic Rivers. It would also convert the ownership of current private parcels of land within the Eagle Cap, Hells Canyon, and Wenaha-Tucannon Wildernesses and the Hells Canyon National Recreation Area to federal ownership. Additionally, consolidation would facilitate public access to federal lands, decrease the complexity of maintaining property boundaries, reduce the number of access permits to private in-holdings, and improve the efficiency of resource management by focusing the Forests' funding and staff on consolidated ownerships.

The exchange proposal also addresses goals and objectives of numerous landowners of the private lands to be considered for acquisition by the Forest Service. Clearwater Land Exchange Oregon, a third party facilitator, has been working for several years to draft a proposal that meets both the Forest Service and private land management objectives. All private landowners are willing partners in the transaction.

All the parcels for the exchange are within the geographic area of ceded lands and/or area of interest of local tribes. Government to government consultation has been initiated with each of these tribal entities and will continue concurrent with the development of the land exchange project.

The Forest Service will be preparing an environmental impact statement on the land exchange proposal to disclose effects on natural, cultural, and social resources. A legal description of the lands to be considered has been published in Eastern Oregon newspapers and can be accessed at this time at <http://www.fs.fed.us/r6/w-w/planning.htm> or by calling John Denne at (541) 523-1246.

Local boy wins Devin Oil's Christmas Stocking



Jaden Orr, 6, with father Jeff Orr, is a happy guy as he receives Devin Oil's Christmas Stocking holding approximately \$100 worth of toys. Jaden won the stocking in a drawing at Devin's.

Former Heppner grad joins LaGrande accounting firm

Brent Gunderson, a 1997 Heppner High graduate, is currently working with a LaGrande accounting firm to expand services into Heppner and the surrounding area.

Gunderson graduated from Eastern Oregon University, LaGrande, in 2001 with a bachelor's of science degree in accounting. He has been working with Snyder, Seydel, Lewis, Poe and Moeller, LLC, Certified Public Accountants, for one and a half years. Gunderson is currently waiting for test results, so that he can receive his CPA license. Aside from work and tests, Gunderson is also preparing for an August wedding to his fiancée, Kimmie Baker.

According to Gunderson, the firm would like to expand its service region and begin offering services to Heppner on an appointment

basis. Tax preparation, estate planning, and computer-accounting software setup, are only a few of the many services the company offers. Currently, the firm has a staff of 12 individuals and has been in business for over 50 years.

For those interested in the services offered by the firm you can contact them in LaGrande, Monday through Friday, from 8 a.m.-5 p.m., by phone at (541) 963-4191, by email at sslplcpa@eoni.com, or visit them on the web at www.accountant-city.com/sslpm.



Brent Gunderson

OWGL to hold workshop

The Oregon Wheat Growers League will sponsor a workshop entitled "Effective Lobbying for the Grassroots", to be held on Jan. 7, at the Port of Morrow Building in Boardman from 9 a.m. to 12 noon.

Speakers and topics will include: "Realities of the 2003 Legislative Session", Oregon Representative Greg Smith; "Strategies and Tactics—Who Courts and Who Cares", Mike Dewey, Legislative Advocates; "Testimony—Forming and Delivering the Message", Don Schellenburg, Associate Director

Holly Rebekah Lodge announces card/bingo party dates

Following a holiday dinner for members and guest, Holly Rebekah Lodge held a short business meeting. Year-end projects were discussed and plans made for the coming year. A short session was held with the members of IOOF to plan for the upcoming lodge hall wiring update. Nominations for 2003 officers were made, followed by a gift exchange.

of Governmental Affairs, Oregon Farm Bureau; "The Importance of the Grassroots Voice", Paulette Pyle, Oregonians for Food and Shelter; "How Does Agriculture Gamer Support from the Urban Legislator?", Representative Jeff Kropf (invited); and "Identifying Issues the Agricultural Community Can Carry to Salem as One Voice."

There is a \$10 per person fee, with lunch provided. Please RSVP to the Oregon Wheat Growers League office on or before Jan. 4 to assure a seat, at 541-276-7330, or fax: 541-27617.

The first Saturday night card party of the new year will be held on Jan. 4, at 7:30 p.m. at the Hall. Bingo will be held on Sunday, Jan. 12 at 3 p.m. Proceeds from both events will go toward the wiring update project. An interest has been shown in having the Bingo parties twice a month, and this is to be discussed at the party on Jan. 12.

Both events are open to the public.

ALL NEWS AND ADVERTISEMENT DEADLINE:
MONDAYS AT 5:00 P.M.



HAPPY NEW YEAR

from all of us at MCGG

We will be closed New Year's Day - Jan. 1st

Morrow County Grain Growers

Lexington 989-8221 • 1-800-452-7396 For farm equipment, visit our web site at www.mcggr.com