

Morrow County voters say yes to speedway

Editor's note: the following is a news release from Oregon International Speedway

Morrow County voters Tuesday approved a measure that creates a Speedway Activity District in the county and gives the go ahead to charge an excise tax on ticket sales and certain retail goods and services sold within the district when the speedway opens.

"We want to thank all the voters who came out in support of this proposal to help bring jobs and economic development to our county," said Morrow County Judge Terry Tallman. The Morrow County Court in a unanimous vote placed the measure on the May ballot.

Voters approved the measure by a 77 percent margin with 1,809 favoring the measure and 533 opposing.

Revenue from the tax will pay for the infrastructure - roads, sewers, waste treatment, utilities - required to support the construction of a major destination speedway complex. Morrow County will retain funds from the tax to pay for the cost of administering the tax.

Oregon International Speedway (OIS) has signed an agreement with the Port of Morrow to build the speedway complex. The Speedway Activity District is a 35-square mile area located west of Boardman, adjacent to the Tower Road Exit on I-84.

"Morrow County voters showed us they believe in our project by approving this measure," said Bill Gardner, OIS Managing Partner. "Now it's up to Oregon International Speedway to move this project forward."

Spray to host rodeo and Eastern Oregon half marathon

The 59th Annual Spray Rodeo will be held May 27 and 28 along with the 42nd Annual Eastern Oregon Half Marathon.

The popular Eastern Oregon Half Marathon, the longest running in the state, is a 13.2 mile run from Service Creek to Spray and will begin at 8 a.m. on May 27 near Service Creek. Water will be available at several locations along the way and the race will end in front of the Spray School grounds.

On Friday and Saturday evening, there will be a spaghetti feed at the Spray Grange Hall.

Saturday and Sunday morning there will be a "Buckaroo Breakfast" at the school cafeteria from early morning to 11 a.m. and will be prepared by the Spray High School Athletic programs and their parents. Proceeds will help to pay for their athletic activities.

The parade will begin at 11:30 a.m. at the Spray General Store and will be led by 2006 Queen Calla Walker from Redmond and Grand Marshall John Asher from Spray.

The rodeo will feature cowboy and cowgirls from all over the Northwest who are members of the Northwest Professional Rodeo Association, Idaho Cowboys Association and Pro West Professional

OIS will now work to secure investors and to confirm sanctioned race dates with a variety of organizations, to include NASCAR, Indy Racing League, National Hot Rod

Sheriff's Report

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

May 9: BPD arrested Douglas Duane Jones II, 28, for Theft II.

-MCSO arrested Andrew Daryl Hansen, 26, for a DUII.

-MCSO arrested Connie Jo Raphael-Macomber, 40, on an R/O Violation.

-MCSO issued a citation to Crystal Dawn Torres, 21, for going 79 mph in a 55 mph zone.

-MCSO arrested Leslie A. Bursell, 41, on an IJC warrant for failing to pay fine for driving while suspended.

May 10: MCSO issued a citation to Leobardo Jacquez III, 30, for failing to use a seatbelt.

-MCSO issued a citation to Ronald Edward Mittelstaedt, 65, for going 75 mph in a 55 mph zone.

-MCSO issued a citation to Patricia Lynn Rill, 38, for going 71 mph in a 45 mph zone.

-MCSO issued a citation to a male subject for not having any insurance and failure to register.

-MCSO received a report that a warrant arrest went out to James Curtis Drury, 24, for failing to pay fine for possession of less than an ounce of marijuana.

-BPD issued a citation to Scott Nicholas Smith, 26, for driving while suspended.

-BPD arrested Shannon Powell, 27, on an IJC warrant for failing to pay fine for driving while suspended.

Rodeo Association. The events will begin with the Grand Entry at 1 p.m. and will feature the America Thunder from Molalla an all girls team who will also perform a drill.

The rodeo will feature bareback riding, calf roping, breakaway roping, saddle bronc riding, steer wrestling, barrel racing, team roping, bull riding and back by popular demand the wild cow milking. There will also be mutton busting and a pig scramble for the kid's. There will be four races, a 1/4 mile kids', women's, and men's race and a 3/4 mile relay race.

The stock will be furnished by B-Bar-D Rodeo's from Culver. And back for his ninth year will be NPRA Rodeo Announcer of the Year Scott Allen from Klamath Falls. The sound by will be furnished by Jason Buchanan Pro Rodeo Music and Sound from Powell Butte.

A rodeo dance will be held at 8 p.m. at the Spray School Gym on Saturday evening, with music by Red Neck Unleashed with Todd Asher and friends.

A cowboy church service will be held Sunday at 9 a.m. in the Rodeo Arena Grandstands and the final performance of the rodeo will begin at 1 p.m.

For further information about the events, call (541) 468-2442.

Association, Grand American Series, American Motorcycle Association, Sports Car Club of America and others, Gardner said. OIS also will move forward

May 12: MCSO arrested Asencion Dias Paramo, 18, for a DUII. Subject was also cited for no operating license, failing to carry proof of insurance and failing to maintain lane.

-MCSO issued a citation to Miguel Morales, 18, for a MIP alcohol.

-MCSO issued a citation to Serge L N Ivanitsky, 57, for failing to drive in lane.

-MCSO issued a citation to Judith A. Hegewald, 69, for going 70 mph in a 55 mph zone.

-MCSO issued a citation to Marshall Wayne Batterton, 42, for going 65 mph in a 55 mph zone.

-BPD issued a citation to Rosalva Madrigal Rojas, 37, for failing to obey traffic control device.

May 14: MCSO arrested Edelfonso Delatorre Aguilar, 28, on an IJC warrant for a DUII.

-MCSO issued a citation to Jordan Ross Montgomery, 21, for going 82 mph in a 65 mph zone.

-MCSO issued a citation to Chance Lee Rush, 31, for going 86 mph in a 65 mph zone.

-MCSO issued a citation to Lars Mataous Johansson, 32, for going 95 mph in a 65 mph zone.

-MCSO issued a citation to Breaune C Hickel, 24, for going 87 mph in a 65 mph zone.

May 15: MCSO issued a citation to Mark Houk, 22.

-MCSO issued a citation to a male subject for going 75 mph in a 55 mph zone.

-MCSO issued a citation to Lamar Jay Linde, 43, for going 83 mph in a 55 mph zone.

-MCSO issued a citation to Jesus Soto Martinez, 31, for going 75 mph in a 55 mph zone.

-MCSO issued a citation to Laura Elana Garay Rojo, 27, for going 73 mph in a 55 mph zone.

-BPD issued a citation to Jacob Stachofsky, 29, for possession of an ounce.

-BPD arrested Kristina Lynn Hill, 35, on a Benton County warrant.

Skywarn weather spotter training

Volunteers are being sought to participate in the latest weather spotter training on May 22 in Irrigon. Weather spotters trained by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) National Weather Service (NWS) are key volunteers who assist the meteorologists by providing up-to-date information about storm activity.

The Skywarn Weather Spotter training is free and will be held in the North Morrow County Annex, located at 205 NE 3rd in Irrigon beginning at 7 p.m. and is co-sponsored by Morrow County Emergency Management.

More information about the training is available by contacting Morrow County Emergency Management at 541-676-5161 or the National Weather Service at 541-276-7832.

with contracting for master planning, design and general contracting services, according to Steve Brucker, OIS senior vice president. OIS is targeting late 2006 for ground breaking at the speedway site.

Phase I of the Speedway, which is scheduled for completion in late 2008 or early 2009, will accommodate a wide variety of sanctioned motor sport racing events. Phase I will include a 81,500-seat grandstand with 60 luxury suites; a 1.2 mile high-banked super speedway; 5/8 mile oval race track; 3/8 mile dirt oval track; 2 1/2 mile road course; 1/4 mile drag strip; Go Kart track; motor home village and campground; and space for retail stores and restaurants plus the needed utilities, infrastructure and road development. Plans are to have the speedway in use 200 days a year following completion of the first phase of the development.

OIS selected Morrow County for the speedway because the site is centrally located in the Pacific Northwest. It has a sunny dry climate with 300 days of sunshine and minimal rain fall and the site has easy access from I-84 and I-82.

"Our decision to locate in Morrow County was also influenced by the enthusiastic local, county, state and Oregon Congressional endorsements we received," Gardner said. "OIS is looking forward to a long and mutually beneficial relationship with our Morrow County neighbors and the State of Oregon."

G-T closed for Memorial Day

The Heppner Gazette will be closed on Monday, May 29 in observance of the Memorial Day Holiday. Due to the closure, the news and advertisement deadline will be Friday, May 26 at 5 p.m., for the May 31 edition. Office hours will resume as normal on Tuesday, May 30.

Blastoff Rocket Club to hold meeting

By Alex Carlson, reporter

The Blastoff Rocketeers will hold a meeting May 18 at 7 p.m. at Lone High School. The club will discuss new launch procedures and work on rockets and record books.

There were about 10 club members and a dozen spectators at the April 29 launch. The weather was nice and the club had many interesting flights. Club members launched their rockets a total of 47 times.

If you would like to join the club, come to the meeting on Thursday or contact club leader, Pat Struthers at 676-0989 and 676-5443.

Richland Baptist youth to come to Heppner

The community youth group will be gathering Thursday, May 18 at 7 p.m., at Willow Creek Baptist Church (Seventh-day Adventist gym). The Richland Baptist youth choir will present music with skits entitled Voice of Truth.

Everyone is invited to attend this free event.

Obituaries

Walter "Wally" Englander

Walter "Wally" Englander, 60, died May 7, 2006, at his home of brain cancer.

At his request, there will be no services. Disposition was by cremation.

Englander was born Feb. 24, 1946, in Walla Walla, to Walter and Edna Simmons Englander.

He served in the Army, worked at Simplot for 15 years and at Lamb Weston for eight years.

He married Vicki Kinzer on July 14, 2001, in Umatilla.

He enjoyed fishing, hunting and gardening.

He was preceded in death by his parents and a brother, Dave.

Survivors include his wife; son, Jimmie of Milton-Freewater; stepsons, Dustin Mathews of Kennewick, Gene Long of Cove, Willy Long of Hermiston and Jason Kinzer of Pasco; stepdaughter, Dawn Brockett of Hermiston; sister, Marilyn Gregory of Utah; half-brother, Mark Barg of Umatilla; half-sister, Amy Barg of Portland; one grandchild; and seven step-grandchildren.

Burns Mortuary of Hermiston is in charge of arrangements.

Opal Cook

Opal Cook, 97, died Jan. 3, 2006 at Ashley Manor in Hermiston.

Interment will be at the Hardman Cemetery on Sunday, May 28 at 10 a.m. A potluck luncheon will follow the service at Hardman Hall. Disposition was by cremation.

She was born Sept. 3, 1908 at Hardman. She lived at Kinzua, Hardman, Heppner and Hermiston.

Rose Lucille East

Rose Lucille East, 82, of Boardman, died May 10, 2006 at Good Shepherd Medical Center in Hermiston.

A graveside funeral service for Rose Lucille East was held May 13 at Riverview Cemetery in Boardman.

She was born Dec. 12, 1923, in Winona, MN, to Joseph and Mary Dublinski Przybylski. She was raised and attended schools in Minnesota.

East moved to California in the 1940s. She married Theodore W. Gerlach on Jan. 19, 1947, in Arcata, Calif. He died in 1963.

She married Adrian East on June 30, 1969, in Reno, NV. They lived in Dalbo, Minn., and then Prineville. They later lived in Umatilla and Sunnyside, WA, before settling in Boardman in 1978.

East enjoyed fishing, hunting, playing cards, flowers and riding her bike.

She was preceded in death by her husbands; parents; and 19 siblings.

She is survived by son, Ted Gerlach of Boardman; daughter, Rose Gardner of Hanford, CA; sister, Margaret Miller of Baraboo, WI; three grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

Memorial contributions may be made to the American Heart Association, 1425 N.E. Irving, Suite 100, Portland, OR 97232.

Burns Mortuary of Hermiston is in charge of arrangements.

Esther M. Kirk

Esther M. Kirk, 93, of Pendleton, died May 8, 2006, at Juniper House in Pendleton.

At her request, no service will be held. Inurnment will be at the Heppner Masonic Cemetery.

She was born May 13, 1912, in Hardman, to Joseph B. and Ida Mae Warren Adams.

On May 14, 1930, she married Ted Burnside in Hardman. He died in 1943. On Sept. 8, 1961, she married Charles Kirk at Stevenson, WA. He died in 1979.

Mrs. Kirk resided in Hermiston, Heppner and most recently, Pendleton. She enjoyed the mountains, hunting and watching wildlife.

She was preceded in death by her husbands; parents; daughter Sara Mae Rhodes; brothers Harlan Adams and Forest Adams; and sisters Beulah Adams and Charlotte Rogers.

She is survived by daughters, Beverly Sherman of Heppner and Loretta Nelson of Hermiston; stepdaughters, Patricia Wade of Hermiston and Crystal Rathbun of Sundance, WY; brother, Frank Adams of Pendleton; sister, Lois McKitrick of Bellevue, ID; and numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Memorial contributions may be made to Juniper House Assisted Living, 301 S.W. 28th Drive, Pendleton, 97801, or to Pioneer Memorial Home Health, P.O. Box 9, Heppner, OR 97836.

Sweeney Mortuary of Heppner is in charge of arrangements.

Hepatitis A vaccines available through Health Department

Morrow County Health Department has quite a few doses of adult Hepatitis A vaccine that will be expiring on May 20. Anyone interested in starting their Hep A series or needing to complete their series, please come to the health department for this vaccination before May 20. For those covered by insurance your provider will be billed. If not covered, a \$10 administration fee only will be charged. The doses will be given on a first come, first served basis.

Night star program offered

Join a John Day Fossil Beds National Monument ranger for a tour of the prehistoric lights of the night sky. The two-hour program begins on Friday evening, May 19, at 8:30 p.m. It takes place at the monument's Thomas Condon Visitor Center, two miles north of the intersection of State Highways 19 and 26, along Highway 19.

Participants should bring a pair of binoculars and dress warmly for outdoors. A telescope will be used during the program. Expect to see a few satellites, star clusters and a galaxy or two. No reservations are needed and the program is free. In case of severe cloud cover, the program will be postponed.

For further information, call (541) 987-2333.