

Director explains funding of road projects

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Butte license fee dollars that are specifically for that portion of Bombing Range road from the freeway to the landfill. These monies are earmarked for that road only. This is the only reason we are able to work on it and keep it in good repair. This money pays for all maintenance costs and rebuild costs. An issue with the Bombing Range road is the amount of traffic that uses this road on a daily basis. We have 1,060 vehicles per day on the nine miles from the freeway to Finley and of that 800 of these are trucks. With these traffic numbers that road cannot fall into disrepair for any period of time. The work being done to Bombing Range road is the addition of turn lanes. These are a safety improvement that can save serious accidents and lives. A second and what I believe to be a very important point is the fact that the Bombing Range road is in fact the only county road connecting

north and south Morrow County.

Any decisions that are made as to where we work and which roads are paved or chip sealed are made by a consensus of the Morrow County Road Committee. The County Court has very little input in this process. They do however have final approval as to the road plan submitted by the road committee. These projects and costs are in our five-year road plan. I would be happy to furnish one of these to anyone interested. I can assure you no decisions are made strictly from a political perspective by any of the commissioners on the Morrow County Court but rather from the best information and facts possible to work with by our staff and the road committee.

Once again I appreciate your input and we will continue to try to find the funding and get that project done.
(s) Burke O'Brien
Morrow County Public Works

Fire season is declared on private lands in northeast Oregon

Beginning June 29, forest and range lands protected by Oregon Department of Forestry, Northeast Oregon District, will go into fire season. This includes private, state, county, municipal and tribal lands in six counties: Union, Baker, Wallowa, Umatilla, Malheur and small portions of Morrow and Grant.

During this declared fire season:

- Burning permits are required on all private forest and range lands with the Forest Protection District for Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) within Union, Baker, Wallowa, Umatilla, Malheur, and portions of Morrow and Grant Counties. Contact your local ODF office in La Grande, Baker City, Wallowa, or Pendleton to acquire a burning permit.

- Landowners who conducted burning of slash piles this past spring are encouraged to check these piles and ensure that they are completely out. It is not uncommon for recently burned slash piles to have heat remaining in them for several months after the actual burning of the piles. This has resulted in disastrous fires later in the summer when the surrounding vegetation dries and weather becomes hot and dry.

- Logging and other industrial operations must meet requirements for fire prevention, such as fire tools, water supply, and watchman service when those operations are occurring on private lands protected by ODF. Contact

your local Stewardship Forester at any local ODF office for more information.

- Campfires must be dead out. Do not leave unattended. Get permission from the private landowner before starting a campfire.

Increased potential for fire starts raises concern for Oregon Department of Forestry due to the fire weather watch for thunderstorms after an extended dry period and the use of fireworks during the 4th of July holiday. Mark Jacques, Unit Forester for Oregon Department of Forestry in La Grande, states, "Recent record setting temperatures, the rapid drying trend, the increased level of forest use during the 4th of July holiday, and the prediction for lightning activity over the next few days dictates the need to enact closed fire season restrictions at this time. We can't ignore the need for extra caution. Fire prevention is in everyone's best interest during this time of the year."

For further information, contact Oregon Department of Forestry at these local offices: La Grande Unit, (541) 963-3168; Baker City Sub-Unit, (541) 523-5831; Wallowa Unit, (541) 886-2881; and Pendleton Unit, (541) 276-3491. To report a fire, dial 9-1-1.

For information on the weekends, call one of these interagency fire dispatch centers: Northeast Oregon Dispatch Center, La Grande, (541) 963-7171 or Pendleton Interagency Dispatch Center, Pendleton, (541) 278-3732.

School board approves resignation and budget

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credited with the district's "remarkable progress in curriculum management, staff development and assessment" and commented that Ashbeck and Lorenz' "knowledge and skill in student services, policy, finance and personnel are an asset to the district."

- postponed discussion concerning insurance caps for certain employees to a subsequent meeting.

- accepted resignations from: Brandi Lalonde, SBE kindergarten teacher; Nichole Fox, SBE English as a second language teacher; Ron Anthony, IHS principal; Hilda Martinez, SBE ESL ed assistant; Della McGinley, A.C. Houghton Elementary special ed one-on-one assistant; Greg Lyons, IHS business/technology teacher.

- approved termination of Noe Melendez, Morrow Education Center ESL ed assistant;

- approved employment for Paula Cavaness, IHS language arts teacher; Sarah Christy, SBE kindergarten teacher; Melissa Hocker, Irrigon Elementary sixth grade classroom teacher; Larry Anderson, half-time IES and quarter-time MEC assistant custodian; Juan Ayala, SBE assistant custodian, replacing Curtis Johnston; and Lloyd Bauman, Windy River Elementary assistant custodian.

- approved a promotion/increase in time for: LeAnn Wright, from half-time to full time HHS department secretary; and Curtis Johnston, from SBE assistant custodian to WRE head custodian.

- approved transfer for: Karen Brown IHS language arts teacher, to RHS language arts teacher; Marianne Smith, from SBE third-grade teacher to half-time HHS art teacher and half-time Heppner Elementary PE teacher.

- approved recall for: Brandi Sweeney, HES five-hour special ed one-on-one assistant (new position); Tamara Lien, HES five-hour special ed one-on-one assistant (new position); Ana Rosa Mendoza, SBE ESL special ed assistant; and Sharon Hendrickson, ACH one-on-one special ed

assistant.

- approved an increase in substitute pay rate to \$142.28 per day.

- approved four students' transfers to other districts.

- approved a cooperative sponsorship for Riverside High School and Heppner High School for girls' soccer for 2007-08.

- approved 2006-07 extra duty contracts, including:

- Heppner Elementary**-Molly Rill, Talented and Gifted program coordinator; Karen Smith-Griffith, DART coordinator; Joe Lindsay, half-time band and half-time music; Mary Ann Elguezabal, English Language Learner site coordinator;

- Heppner Junior High**-Rick Paullus, head football coach; Josh Coiner, assistant football; Adam Doherty, head boys' basketball; Kevin Payne, assistant boys' basketball; Melissa Coiner, head girls' basketball; Keith Price, assistant girls' basketball; Susan Hisler, head track; vacant- head volleyball, assistant volleyball;

- Heppner High School**-Darlene Marquardt, annual; Petra Payne, TAG, assistant volleyball, head softball; Joe Lindsay, half-time choir, half-time pep band; John Flaherty, DART; Virginia Grant, rally advisor; Jodi Chapa, drama; Greg Grant, athletic director, head football, head golf; Les Payne, assistant football; Shane Matheny, half-time assistant football; Kevin Payne, half-time assistant football; Pam Dowdy, head volleyball; Dieter Waite, assistant volleyball; Forrest McKinnis, head boys' basketball; Ken Grieb, assistant boys' basketball; Tim Van Cleave, assistant boys' basketball; Mark Dowdy, head girls' basketball; Chris Rauch, assistant girls' basketball; Rick Johnston, head baseball; Rick Paullus, assistant baseball; Marianne Smith, head track; Jason Palmer, assistant track.

- accepted the following 2006-07 school calendar: meetings-June 29, district office; Aug. 14-ACH; Sept. 11-HHS; Oct. 9-RHS; Nov. 13-Morrow Education Center; Dec. 11-Irrigon Elementary; Jan. 16 (Tuesday)-Heppner Elementary; Feb. 12-SBE; March 12-DO; April 9-IHS; May 14-WRE; June 11-DO.

- MCSO received a report from a caller in Irrigon that the neighbor's pit bull is chasing her son's girlfriend around.
- MCSO received a report from a caller in Irrigon that two bulls are loose; they came into the caller's yard and tore up her garden and several trees. They were last seen the previous night. Deputy contact was requested.
- MCSO received a report from a caller at Potlatch at Boardman of a suspicious vehicle that was upside down. No one was around the vehicle.
- MCSO received a report from a caller in Irrigon that a vehicle dropped off 10-12 Hispanic males at a residence and loud music

Watermelon Festival grand marshals are longtime community supporters



Samie and Billy Griffin

Billy and Samie Griffin, grand marshals for the 2006 Watermelon Festival, have many years of community service to their credit.

Billy was a Little League and All Star coach for several years and the present Little League field at the Marina Park was built at this time. Several people were involved in the effort (watch for an article regarding the history of the ball field in a future paper) and the first \$50 raised for development of the field was made by dunking Samie in the dunk tank at the Irrigon 4th of July Celebration. Billy managed the Little League baseball tournament for the 4th of July and did scheduling for the Columbia Little League until the league grew.

The Griffins were very active in the Irrigon Assembly of God Church. Their family helped in falling trees for the present Family Worship Center. They helped on the foundation up. Billy was on the church board for 20 years and treasurer for eight years. Samie taught Sunday school and children's church.

Samie assisted Marge Shade for many years in the gathering of plants for the annual 4-H plant sale and later for the Senior Center building fund.

Samie was president of A.C. Houghton Kindergarten in 1967-68, before the kindergarten was part of the school. She and a group of ladies sold Christmas cards to pay a teacher \$200 a month for three months to teach the children in the basement of the Irrigon Baptist Church, where the kindergarten was taught. She was also president of A.C. Houghton PTA for two years, while Billy was involved with Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts.

The International

was coming from the residence which woke the caller up. Deputies responded and contacted the parents at the residence. There were 6-8 juveniles camping in the yard. They are quiet and were advised to be quiet; the curfew is at midnight.

-MCSO received a report from a caller in Irrigon of a fight in progress at a residence between a male and female subject. The male subject had been drinking.

-Boardman Police Dept. received a hang-up 911 from Logan International in Boardman. There was no answer on callback. Officers responded.

-Boardman Police Dept. received a relayed 911 from Klickitat County dispatch; an eight-year-old juvenile called from

Food Dinner for the junior high originated at Riverside High School. Billy and Samie made the sweet and sour pork for many years, eventually serving 450 customers. They also introduced the Kraut dog and helped wherever needed. Samie drove bus for the Morrow County School District and when the junior high began in Irrigon, she assisted in moving the international props to the facility.

When Irrigon had community crime watch, the Griffins regularly took the 12:30-4:30 a.m. shift.

Samie served a short time on the Morrow County Juvenile Advisory Board. This board traveled to The Dalles to observe their learning center and from that visit, the Alternative Center originated in Boardman and is now the Alternative Center in Irrigon.

Billy and Samie cooked at outdoor school at Tupper Guard Station for the middle school and Samie received the crystal apple award for outstanding performance when she was head cook for the middle school. The couple took in foster children for several years and for a short time they were involved with the food-gleaning program.

Billy and Samie are active members of the Irrigon Booster Club. They were among many who were instrumental in the return of the Irrigon Junior-Senior High School. They work with the Irrigon Watermelon Festival with cooking, and one year they held a watermelon-milking contest. This year, they are in charge of t-shirt sales and Samie is secretary for the Watermelon Festival Committee. In addition to all their civic contributions, they are presently leading a home fellowship for their church.

Boardman stating that an older juvenile spit on him.

-Boardman Police Dept., Boardman ambulance received a report from a caller in Boardman that an 86-year-old female fell from a standing position and was bleeding from the elbow. The patient was transported to Good Shepherd Medical Center in Hermiston.

-Boardman Police Dept. officer advised he was out at two locations in Boardman regarding Criminal Mischief complaints - egging.

-Irrigon ambulance received a report from a caller in Irrigon of a 67-year-old male who was semi-conscious, weak, confused and incoherent. The patient was transported to Good Shepherd Medical Center in Hermiston.

Sheriff's Report

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

June 23: MCSO deputy cited Cheri Louise Hamor, 38, for Violation of the Basic Rule, 76 mph in a 55 mph zone.

-MCSO deputy cited a male juvenile for Violation of the Speed Limit, 90 mph in a 65 mph zone.

-MCSO deputy cited Diane Victoria Crockett, 53, for Violation of the Basic Rule, 78 mph in a 55 mph zone.

-MCSO deputy cited Kristen Mary Busch, 35, for Violation of the Basic Rule, 85 mph in a 55 mph zone.

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