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Voters to decide on county road fix-up

Voters will decide the fate of a $10 million road levy when ballots are mailed out by the county clerk this Friday. The county is asking for money to repair badly deteriorated roads located throughout the county.

According to Oregon law $1,635,9676 of the $10 million will go to the five cities in the county for use on city roads. Boardman will receive $237,247 per year for five years, Heppner $36,383, Ione $8,834, Irrigon $37,692 and Lexington $7,034. The remaining $8,364,033 will be used to make repairs to the following roads over a five year period: Ella Road 2.5 miles, Ione-Boardman 6 miles, Juniper Canyon Rd 3.8 miles, Kunze Rd. 1.3 miles, Miller Road .52 miles Depot Lane 4.9 miles and Sand Hollow Rd. 6.7 miles.

The ballots must be returned to the clerk by May 15, and would fall under the Oregon double majority law where a majority of registered voters (over 50 percent) would have to cast ballots, and a majority of those voters say yes, for the levy to be approved.

Drop off locations for ballots are available at the county clerks web site at http://www.morrowcountyoregon.com/clerk/ballot-dropoff.pdf, and will also be included in the mail out ballots.

To further explain the work to be done Public Works Director Burke O'Brien has said in the past: "Over the past several years we have managed to maintain and improve several roads throughout the County by following our Transportation System Plan for road work. We have done this working within our available budget revenues and with guidance from the Morrow Country Road Committee.

Voters will decide if county roads like this one get a fix up.

This committee is comprised of members from throughout the County. We have managed to do a good job of keeping the majority of our paved road system in good condition. We have accessed dollars through the State for projects such as chip seal work and overlays on several roads.

In the Irrigon area we will complete the last of the roads there with chip seal work this year, with the exception of Depot Lane. Depot Lane is beyond preservation work and is in need of major reconstruction. We see this road as significant to residents of the Irrigon area.

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Too many players on the field

This puppy caused quite a bit of entertainment at Saturday's Mustang softball game, circling all the girls on the field. It took around five minutes for the girls to corner the pup before the game could continue on. *-Photo by Sandy Matthews*

Bill would allow larger race facility at Boardman

Without passage of a bill now in the Oregon Senate, a proposed speedway for north Morrow County will not be able to attract NASCAR type races, an attorney for the tract developers told the Heppner Chamber of Commerce last week.

David Allen, former district attorney for Morrow County who is now working for Pacific NW Speedway, told the chamber that the developers want to expand the project since it was first proposed several years ago to include a marina on the river, a golf course, hotels and condos.

Allen said under the original plan the race track would sit vacant most of the time, and developers have realized this is not an economically feasible idea .Developers now want to put in more "destination" type facilities that will keep attract people year round.

He said the newly configured facility represents an investment possibility of $500 million and in addition to the marina and golf course would include a four mile road course that would be part private and part public. He said private individuals and companies could rent two miles of the track for private racing. There would also be a lake to accommodate water sports.

A bill currently before the Oregon Senate introduced by Greg Smith and David Nelson would amend the original bill passed for the raceway to allow the change to more of a destination type facility.

Allen said the state of Washington recently turned down a proposal to spend $250 million of tax money to build a NASCAR style track. No tax money is proposed for the Boardman facility, however, Allen said if the amended zoning bill

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A fun way for schools to earn extra money

Pictured are KUMA radio partners, HHS Principal Daye Stone, Troy Morgan, Autumn Morgan, and LeAnn Wright accepting their winnings check from the Oregon Lottery.

Heppner High School was recently chosen to participate in Scratch-it for Schools, an Oregon Lottery promotional program. Each year, randomly selected Oregon public schools gather for Oregon Lottery Scratch-it for Schools events. Teams of eight adults - four from the school, four from TV and radio - spend five fast and furious minutes scratching Oregon Lottery Scratch-its for their schools. When the time is up, the teams keep all the cash prizes they've uncovered. This year HHS was paired up with media partner KUMA radio. Together the team won $1,248 for the school. This amount was the second highest amount overall.

Scratch-it for Schools program began in 1996 with over $723,000 having been awarded to participating public schools. With their winnings, schools have purchased digital cameras, books, field trips, assembly programs, playground equipment, computer hardware and software, and many other things. HHS is planning to use the money they won to purchase a document camera and multimedia projector.

For more information about this event visit www.scratchitforschools.org.

MS Walk well attended

The supporters of the MS Walk beat the rain and enjoyed one more year of coming together with a vision to find a cure for MS. On Saturday, April 21, 75 people walked down Heppner's main street to finish a 3-mile or 6-mile trek. They brought with them not only their pledges but also their love for those who have MS.

Teams and individuals from Hermiston, Pendleton, Eugene, Heppner, Lexington and Ione turned in pledges equaling $8,000 with more donations coming in daily. "It was great to see good friends from past walks, make new friends and share in a common goal," said walk co-chair, Merilee McDowell. "Sharing the chairmanship with Joan Basile and having a wonderful committee was one of the reasons the walk was so successful. I am so proud of everyone who was involved in making this another successful year. It takes many people to put something like this together."

Danielle and Merilee McDowell present Tyler Robinson with a prize after Heppner's MS Walk on Saturday, April 21.

This year Peterson's Jewelers, Cornerstone Gallery & Gift Shop, Bank of EO, Hair I Am, Les Schwab, Heppner Family Foods, Murray Drugs donated gift certificates,

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