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Judge and mayor to debate tippage vote at chamber

By Dave Sykes

The Heppner Chamber of Commerce will host a debate between Morrow County Judge Terry Tallman and Boardman Mayor Ed Glenn on the upcoming vote on distribution of tippage money in the county.

The five cities in the county and the county government have been wrangling over who should control close to $1 million in tippage money, or money received from dumping fees at the large Finley Buttes Landfill in Morrow County.

The cities in the county had banded together and placed a measure on the March ballot that would eventually redistribute 75 percent of the money from the county general fund to the cities.

Several meetings and negotiating sessions had been held but no compromise was reached. The cities had said they would take the issue to the voters if they were unable to reach an agreement with the county. Recently they followed through on that threat, and, according to the county clerk, the ballots should be mailed out around February 22. Voters will have until March 11 to vote.

The judge and the mayor will discuss the issue at the Thursday, January 31, chamber meeting to be held at John's other place starting at noon.

HEPPNER 50¢
Gazette Times

Wight digs out Heppner once again

Gary Wight spends hours volunteering to help the citizens be safe during the snow fall. *–Photo by Sandy Matthews*

VOL. 127 NO. 5 8 Pages Wednesday, January 30, 2008 Morrow County, Heppner, Oregon

Dickenson Chiropractic Clinic to open next week

By Autumn Morgan

Early next month a new medical office will open for the Heppner community and surrounding areas. Dickenson Chiropractic Clinic will open its doors on Monday, February 4.

Owner Dr. Tim Dickenson is no stranger to the Heppner community. Raised in Heppner and a 1999 graduate of Heppner High School, he has returned after obtaining his degree, to provide alternative health care to rural areas such as Heppner.

Dickenson received his bachelor's degree in science from Oregon State University in 2003. He then went on to pursue and receive his doctorate degree of chiropractic (D.C.) from Western States Chiropractic College in 2007. He is currently a member of the American Chiropractic Association.

Tim Dickenson

"I am excited about opening my business in Heppner," said Dickenson. "I believe this is something the community needs and can benefit from." He eventually plans on serving surrounding communities such as the Condon, Fossil and Boardman areas. Dickenson says he can also provide in-home care if the need arises.

Dickenson plans to primarily utilize diversified techniques as well as other specialty adjustments. He also plans on focusing on athletes in the community and helping out the sports teams as needed in their training. He will also be providing injury prevention seminars to coaches and is available to speak to groups about health care needs.

The clinic will currently be accepting insurances and is anticipating being able to accept Medicare in the future.

The clinic, located at 133 May St., will be open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Appointments can be made by calling 676-8990 beginning February 1. Dickenson's emergency number is 541-980-8201.

Ione School Board still to determine construction and weight room plans

By April Sykes

Lindy Ramos of the Ione Booster Club addressed the Ione School Board concerning the proposed building of a weight room at the board's regular meeting January 22. Ramos asked the board the status of the district's construction plans and told them that the Booster Club is still on board to aid with costs. "We need to get moving," said Ramos. "The Booster Club needs to know what the board wants to do."

Ramos said that she had spoken with contractor Jerry Gentry who told her that, as far as he could discern, proposed construction would require elevation. She said that Gentry suggested they consult an engineer. She said that if the district needs to pay for engineering costs, the club has agreed to spend funds for that purpose. She said the club had earlier received a donation of $2,500 from the Morrow County Grain Growers which is earmarked for the weight room.

The board told Ramos that a weight room is still under consideration, but they have not yet learned what construction plans could be included in a proposed bond issue. "Our problem is that it will be a while," said board Chair Joel Peterson. "At best, we're looking at the November ballot." "We're needing to know what fits into the bond issue," added board member John Rietmann.

The board also discussed possible heating solutions for the former Rietmann Hardware building on Main Street in Ione which could be used as a temporary weight room/workout facility. Board member Anne Morter suggested that a large portable propane heater, which could be pulled out and installed at another location at a later date, could make the building usable. Purchase and installation was estimated at around $1,000.

In other business, the board:

-approved funds for a cooking stove and a hot water heater for the teacherage. Neither appliance had been working properly.

-learned that enrollment as of January 14 was 162 students: 67 in kindergarten through fifth grade; 40 in grades six through eight; and 55 in grades nine through 12. Three students had withdrawn and three had enrolled since the last board meeting. Superintendent Bryn Browning said that she anticipates that four exchange students will enroll soon.

-learned that the school will open a position for music, technology and/or foreign language and will

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Corps to host information meeting for Willow Creek Lake irrigation proposal

The Corps of Engineers will hold a public information meeting for the Willow Creek irrigation proposal from 6 to 9 p.m., Tuesday, February 19, at the Morrow County fairgrounds in Heppner.

The public is invited to drop by any time between 6 p.m. and 9 p.m. to meet with project staff and ask questions. A short presentation related to the proposed project will begin at 6:30 p.m. Representatives from the local irrigators, the Bureau of Reclamation, the Oregon Water Resources Department, Morrow County Parks, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture will also be on hand.

The meeting is in the Dance Hall Pavilion at the Morrow County Fairgrounds, located at 74473 Highway 74 in Heppner.

In addition, the public comment period on the draft Environmental Assessment for the long-term withdrawal of irrigation water from the Willow Creek Project has been extended through March 6.

The draft Environmental Assessment addressing the impacts associated with this activity and the complete public notice can be viewed online at https://www.nwp.usace.army.mil/pm/e/en_plan_assess.asp.

The Corps will ac-

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Time to build a snowman

Snowmen like this one decorated yards after Heppner's first good snow of the 2007-2008 winter season. *-Photo by Autumn Morgan*

Health district board may put up additional tax levy; current levy is set to expire

By April Sykes

After deliberating over an hour at their regular meeting in Ione Monday night, the Morrow County Health District Board came to the preliminary conclusion that the district may have to go out for a tax levy if it is going to continue offering quality health services to district patrons.

The district hopes to expand the Irrigon Clinic, which has seen dramatic growth; continue making its $70,000 yearly donation to the Boardman clinic, which is not operated by the district; remodel Pioneer Memorial Hospital in Heppner to once again allow long-term care; fund emergency services for all of Morrow County, including the Boardman, Irrigon, Heppner, Ione and Lexington areas; and provide Home Health and Hospice care for all communities in the district.

Although the district ended the year with a $219,571 gain, board Chair Larry Mills and Chief Financial Officer Nicole Mahoney reminded board members that the optimistic bottom line included monies from the previous tax levy, which expires soon, and a one-time $500,000 reimbursement that will not be repeated.

Mahoney's projected statement of cash flows indicates that by June of 2011 without a new levy, the district would have only $56,000 cash on hand. Mahoney said that ideally the district should have 90 days cash for operations, especially in the event of unplanned expenses. And, once the district gets to that point, the threat of cutting services is possible. "Once you have to cut services, it's a hard road to get them back," commented board member Leann Rea.

Mahoney's cash flow projections through 2011 include $250,000 for the Irrigon Medical Clinic expansion, paid over a number of years, and the annual Boardman clinic $70,000 pledge.

She also provided information on a .39 cent levy and a .29 cent levy. A .39-cent levy, if approved by voters, would cost the owner of a $100,000 home $39 in taxes per year and, according to Mahoney's projec-

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

MCGG OPEN HOUSE
Friday, February 8th from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Barbecue Lunch • Door Prizes
Factory Representatives will be present
Morrow County Grain Growers
Lexington 989-8221 • 1-800-452-7396 For farm equipment, visit our web site at www.mcgg.net