

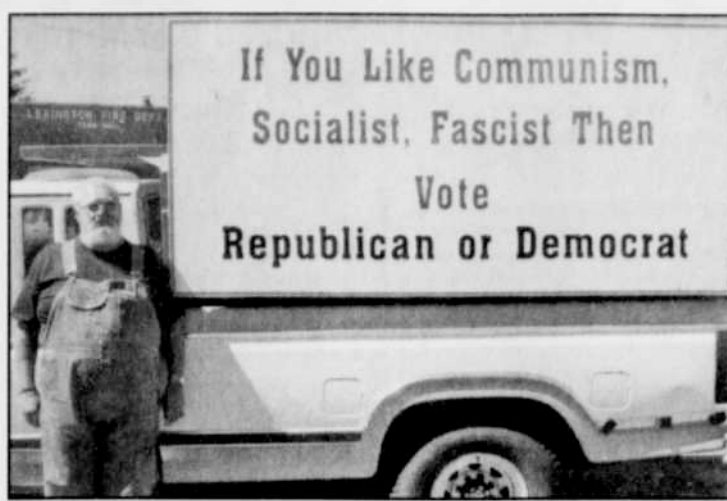
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## Lexington man not silent about political beliefs

By David Sykes

After a few minutes with Jim Nelson one knows he is not a man who subscribes to the theory "never talk about politics or religion." Nelson likes to talk about both, and is not afraid to say what he thinks. He's the guy with the big sign on the side of the road in Lexington: "If you like communism, Socialist, Fascist Then Vote Republican or Democrat".

A retired truck driv-



Jim Nelson of Lexington lets his political beliefs be known with a large sign on his pickup. -Photo by David Sykes

re-assigned to the county road crew over the incident. In throwing out the case "the judge said the whole thing should never have happened," Nelson said. "These kinds of things have happened to many, many people," Nelson adds, "and most of them just lie down and take it."

Another instance which added to Nelson's experience of abusive government power, was when OSHA (Occupational Safety and Health Administration) shut down the trucking and distribution company he had purchased. OSHA ordered him to put in a new warehouse freight elevator, and he could not afford to. "A company that was founded in 1918 just went out of business," he says.

Although he did not graduate, Nelson attended college for two years and is also a voracious reader. "Lots on history and economics," he says pointing to the stacks of books on his dining room table.

He is also a member of the Heritage foundation and supports Ron Paul in the current presidential race. "As far as I know he has never taken a raise in congress and did not vote to raise taxes on Americans. He wants to get rid of our rip-off income tax, and

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HEPPNER

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### Vial takes on CED job at Farm Service Agency

By Autumn Morgan

At the end of May Darcy Vial stepped into the job of county executive director for the USDA Morrow County Farm Service Agency in Heppner.

Vial, who graduated in 2006 from Oregon State University, holds degrees in animal science and general agriculture. Her parents, who have a background in production agriculture, moved the family to the Willamette Valley from Iowa in 1985. Being raised around agriculture, Vial has a spe-

cific background of dairy and beef cattle.

The FSA handles programs including conservation, farm program payments and handles some crop insurance, as well as administers USDA farm programs out of the office.

Vial wants to remind the community that the Farm Bill just came out on May 22. County meeting

schedules will soon be announced so that discussions can be held about the Farm Bill and its programs.

Vial is enjoying settling into Heppner. "I am excited to live and work in Morrow County," said Vial. "My door is always open. I look forward to meeting

people."

Vial can be reached at the USDA Farm Service Agency office in Heppner at 676-9011.



Darcy Vial

### Boardman speedway moving forward

By David Sykes

The Boardman Speedway (officially the Pacific Northwest Motorsports Park) is moving along at break neck speed, Director of Marketing Billie Jean Morris told the Heppner Chamber of Commerce last week.

Morris said the speedway's big project right now is getting the waste treatment plant constructed and operating so that other construction workers can begin moving in, which is when construction will really take off. She expected

500 to 1,000 construction workers to be on the job when the project gets going later this year. There is expected to be about 250 full time service type jobs when the speedway is up and running.

The park is scheduled to open in the summer of 2009. The six-plus mile road course made up of three individual courses approximating two miles each, will handle all types of racing, including formula cars, sports racers, production racers, vintage cars, stock cars, street cars and motor-

cycles. Morris said she has even been contacted by a lawnmower racing group that is interested in holding races there.

Two of the courses and the facilities will be available to rent for corporate team-building activities, and to car clubs or individuals.

Although the speedway does not as yet have a NASCAR event, developers say the current construction is the first phase of the master planned motorsports destination complex to be built over the next 10 years. When complete it will also include a one-plus mile kart track, quarter mile drag strip, plus off road course and ultimately a 1.2 mile high-banked oval super speedway designed to accommodate NASCAR events. "NASCAR is not out of the picture," Morris said. "But we have not presented (a proposal) yet. We will be approaching NASCAR and our track will be NASCAR ready," she said.

Morris said since they will have bleacher at the speedway there was a requirement for seismic test, "which we passed with flying colors."

Morris said the speedway has already been

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### "Best" man wins hot-dog eating contest



Matt Best from California was crowned the hot dog eating champion during the contest that was held on Friday, June 13. The contest was part of the Celebrate Heppner events that were scheduled for the weekend. -Photo by Sandy Matthews

er, ex-Army Ranger and real estate investor, Nelson went to the property "and with pick axes tore up the blacktop, stacked it off our land, and fenced our property." He said threats were exchanged with the sheriff deputies and "at one time or another me, my brother and my father were all handcuffed and taken to jail." He says his brother was even beaten in an elevator by deputies. "The incident was on three TV channels in Portland and even got as far back as Chicago," Nelson says of the incident.

Born and raised in Vancouver, WA, Nelson tells of several instances in the 1970s that showed him the over reaching power of government, and how it can adversely effect people's lives.

In 1972 a political problem between his father and Clark County resulted in threats, jail and, he says, lessons learned. Nelson says Clark County paved over a portion of his father's land

illegally. He and his brother went to the property "and with pick axes tore up the blacktop, stacked it off our land, and fenced our property." He said threats were exchanged with the sheriff deputies and "at one time or another me, my brother and my father were all handcuffed and taken to jail." He says his brother was even beaten in an elevator by deputies. "The incident was on three TV channels in Portland and even got as far back as Chicago," Nelson says of the incident.

It all ended up in court and the county lost, Nelson says. "The courtroom was packed with people, all on our side." He adds that as a consequence a county commissioner was not reelected and a deputy that had threatened to "pistol whip my brother" was

### Eight juveniles suspected of being involved in multiple crimes

The break-in at the Heppner swimming pool last week was just another occurrence in the string of crimes alleged to have been committed by multiple juveniles in the Heppner area over the past year and a half.

Detective Karen Carter and Sgt. Randy Rayburn spent several days performing multiple interviews

in and around Heppner. In a press release, the Morrow County Sheriff's Office announced that eight separate juveniles ranging in age from 13-17 years old are believed to have been involved in the crimes. The press release further went on to state that some of these juveniles are believed to have broken into several snack shacks at various ball fields as well as

the Red Apple Market and the Heppner Shell Station.

Four of the juveniles have been lodged at NORCOR in The Dalles. According to the sheriff's office, these juveniles may face charges of burglary, criminal mischief, theft, possession of stolen property, as well as other charges.

The investigation is still ongoing.

### School district adopts \$29 million budget

By April Sykes

Morrow County School District Deputy Clerk Rhonda Lorenz reported at the June 9 meeting at the district office in Lexington that the district will require \$100,000 less in resources for the next fiscal year. Lorenz said that the reduction was a result of a change in debt service. The board adopted the 2008-09 amended budget at \$29,193,569 and passed

resolutions to appropriate the budget and impose taxes at the rate of \$4.0342 per \$1,000 assessed value for operations and in the amount of \$1,493,721 for bonds.

Also at the meeting Superintendent Mark Burrows reported that the 2007 legislature mandated that all school employees be given the option to join the statewide insurance pool. He said that plans were somewhat

cheaper than the district's current plans.

Burrows announced that Craig Benson has been named new principal at Irrigon High School, replacing Chris Davis, and the new IHS assistant principal is Matthew Matz.

Also in his report Burrows:

-recognized Sam Boardman Elementary Principal Jacque Johnson, one year after the Sam Boardman Elementary School fire, for her work in the wake of the fire. She was new to her positions at the time of the fire.

-said that he joined other superintendents in petitioning OSAA to reduce the number of athletic competitions from 24-22 for basketball and from nine to eight for football. He said the reasoning is to allow students a break between sports and allow them less time away from the classroom. He said the change would also save time and money for the district.

-said that district-wide graduations went very well with over 180 students

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### New principal/superintendent named at Ione School

Ione School Board has announced that they have appointed Karl Ostheller, as the new principal/superintendent of the Ione School District. He will replace Bryn Browning who has accepted a position with the Hermiston school district as assistant superintendent for educational services.

Ostheller, who finished his coursework at Washington State University to be a superin-

tendent, has spent the past two years as principal and superintendent-intern in the Oaxdale School District in Washington. He holds a B.A. in business administration from Western Washington University, a teacher's certificate from St. Martin's college in Lacey, WA, and a masters in education leadership at WSU.



Karl Ostheller



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