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Eastern Oregon benefits from Connect Oregon funding

More than \$10 million was granted to two important transportation projects in Eastern Oregon today. Meeting in Enterprise, the Oregon Transportation Commission awarded \$100 million from the Connect Oregon II program for 30 projects across the state. State Representative Greg Smith (R-Heppner) said, "These projects are critical infrastructure investments in our communities which help get goods to market and

transport people."

The second largest grant on the list went to the Port of Morrow to create a multimodal rail logistics center. Connect Oregon II will cover nearly \$8 million dollars of the cost, a local match nearly \$2 million. The Port, in conjunction with Northwest Container Services is building the logistics facility near an 18,000 foot rail loop in the East Beach area. The new facility will offer alternative transportation modes for agricultural shippers and support economic development on nearby industrial property.

\$3.4 million was approved for the Alicel Intermodal Transportation Project being developed by the Union County Economic Development Corporation. This project will also receive almost \$700,000 in

local matching dollars. The county hopes to construct a quarter mile railroad extension and build a large grain storage facility. Organizers believe this will not only provide a much needed boost to the local economy but also reduce the amount of truck traffic on a dangerous stretch of I-84 from La Grande to Pendleton.

Representative Smith noted, "It is great to see the state recognizing the tough economic times in rural Oregon and becoming a partner to help us seek solutions. These multimodal projects are a significant step in the right direction." Last year the Legislature passed House Bill 2278 which requires at least 10-percent of the Connect Oregon money to go to each of the five ODOT regions. Smith was instrumental in getting the Connect Oregon program

off the ground in 2005 as Chairman of the Ways and Means Subcommittee for Transportation and Economic Development.

Other Eastern Oregon projects that received grant money are the terminal building at the Grant County Airport and the Miller Memorial Airport run by the City of Vale. Several projects did not make the final list for Connect Oregon funds. They include the Port of Umatilla's Upland Distribution Center, the Boardman Barge Terminal, Union Pacific Railroad's Hinkle Yard in Hermiston, and the Sumpter Valley Railroad Restoration project near McEwen. Over 70 applications were sent to the commission with an emphasis on multimodal transportation including air, rail, marine, and transit.

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Stillman recognized with Grant Rigby Memorial Award

During an awards presentation on May 21 at Lone High School Kip Krebs, student body president, presented the Grant Rigby Memorial Award to Susie Stillman, a teacher at Lone School.

This award was created in memory of Grant Rigby, a former Lone teacher, who took the extra time to make sure a student had the required credits to be accepted into an engineering program. The teacher who receives the award each year is presented with a check to help enhance classroom programs. Mrs. Stillman is



Pictured are Kip Krebs, student body president, Susie Stillman, 2008 Award Recipient, Mason Haguewood, and Jim Swanson, Award Committee chairman. —Contributed photo

an instructional aide at Lone School.

"Mrs. Still works hard to look at what skills a student needs to live independently and adjusts her in-

teractions with that student to help them learn to be successfully independent," said Krebs in his presentation speech.

Heppner rodeo team competes at Oregon High School rodeo finals

Three Heppner Rodeo Team members qualified for the Oregon High School Rodeo finals located in Klamath Falls this year. The Oregon High School Rodeo Association takes the top 20 contestants in each event for the finals.

Competing in this year's finals for the Heppner Rodeo Team were Taighler Dougherty, Lane Bailey and Jessica Hughes. Also competing from Heppner, was Devin Robinson from the Intermountain High School rodeo team. Senior Lane Bailey finished 11th in team roping and 12th in tie-down roping for the state of Oregon. Sophomore Jessica Hughes finished 5th in pole bending and 18th in barrel racing for the state of Oregon. Freshman Taighler Dougherty finished 9th in pole bending and 17th in barrel racing and was runner-up for the Girls Rookie of the Year for the State of Oregon. Freshman Devin



Lane Bailey, Jessica Hughes, Taighler Dougherty, and Devin Robinson. —Contributed Photo

Robinson finished 8th in tie-down roping and 15th in steer wrestling.

These four will now be traveling to Fallon, NV to compete in the Silver State International Rodeo Finals. Eligible contestants are those who finished 5th through 10th in their events at their state finals from all the states, provinces and countries that are members of the National High School Rodeo Association. In addition, every contestant who qualifies in an event may select one additional event

to compete in. Each state may send six contestants in each event. States may drop as low as 15th place to fill a team.

Taighler and Jessica will be competing in barrel racing and pole bending, with Lane and Devin competing in tie-down roping and team-roping. The Silver State International Rodeo Finals will start with the first performance on June 30th, with a total of eight performances followed by the exciting Top 15 Finals on the evening of July 5th.

Ione 4th of July celebration schedule

Ione will be holding their annual 4th of July of celebration. The schedule is as follows:

-June 28 - third annual Red, White & Blues Texas Hold 'Em Poker Tournament at Lone Legion Hall. The buy-in is \$40. For more information contact Marvin Padberg at 422-7276.

-July 3 - Golf at China Creek Golf Course in Arlington. The cost is \$50 per person. The start time is 8 a.m. Prizes will be awarded in both men's and women's play. For more information contact Craig Holland at 422-7455.

-July 3 - Ione City Park

evening events will include music, food and drink, and golf awards.

-July 3-5 - Paintball Palace will be open from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. The cost is \$15 per person and includes rental of paintball marker, goggles, 100 paintballs and playtime. All players must be 10 years of age or older. Personal equipment will be allowed provided that the goggles meet ASTM specifications and the paintball marker is able to be adjusted to 280 feet second or below. There will be a pro shop and concessions.

-July 4 - Cruisin to the Blues with music presented by John Lee Hooker, Jr., Ione All Stars with special guest, JR Sims & Texas Special, and Baseline.

-July 4 - 12th annual Blues Cruise and Classic Car Show directly following Ione's Red, White, & Blues Parade. For more information or to register contact Chuck Nelson at 989-8148.

-July 4 - 5K run/walk, pancake breakfast, fish pond, Topic Club book sale, free swimming, parade at 1 p.m., bingo, talent show, music begins at 4 p.m., boat trip auction and fireworks at dusk will be held.

Scientists explore the management of chronic kidney disease by primary care practitioners in rural Oregon

Columbia River Community Health Services and 12 additional practices in rural Oregon are collaborating on a study with the Oregon Rural Practice-based Research Network (OR-PRN) at Oregon Health and Science University (OHSU) to explore the management of chronic kidney disease in rural primary care practice.

Chronic kidney disease (CKD) is estimated to affect between 11 and 19 million adults in the United States. Practice guidelines published by The National Kidney Foundation serve as the standard of care for diagnosing and treating CKD and though nephrologists play an important role in treating CKD, the disease is usually diagnosed and often treated in the primary care setting, especially in rural populations. Primary care providers (PCPs) play a key role in preventing progression of CKD and treating the modifiable consequences of CKD, as well as initiating a timely nephrology referral.



Melinda Davis with OHSU/ORPRN (Oregon Health & Science University/Oregon Rural Practice-Based Research Network). —Contributed Photo

This study evaluates the diagnoses of CKD in rural primary care practice, identifies patient and practice characteristics are associated with compliance for CKD treatment guidelines, and determines which factors are associated with timely nephrology referrals. The goal of this project is to work with rural primary care practices to identify areas in which CKD management

can be improved.

Columbia River Community Health Services has been an active member in ORPRN since 2005. OR-PRN is a network of over 45 primary care practices with a mission to improve the health of rural populations in Oregon through conducting and promoting health research in partnership with communities and practitioners.

Boardman approves garbage rate increase

During Tuesday's meeting, the Boardman City Council approved a resolution for an increase in the city's garbage rate. Sanitary Disposal, the City's garbage collection provider, approached the council at their June 3 meeting explaining the need to increase their rates citing factors including the high cost of fuel. This will be the first increase in the garbage rate since 1994. The residential garbage rate will increase by \$.95 per can, and commercial customers will increase by

\$1.35 per can. The cost of hauling construction dumpsters has also increased. The new rates will take effect July 1, 2008.

In other city business, the council approved extending the franchise agreement with Rapid Cable until October 31, 2008. The city received a plaque of recognition from City County Insurance Services for its wellness program.

The next meeting will be Tuesday, July 8, 2008 at 7 p.m. at Boardman City Hall.

July 4th

All MCGG stores and facilities will be **CLOSED** July 4th, 5th and 6th. Have a happy and safe 4th of July!

Harvest hours start July 7th:
Mon-Fri 7 a.m. - 6 p.m. and Sat 7 a.m.-5 p.m.

Morrow County Grain Growers
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