

Public open house meeting scheduled July 16 for Heppner Transportation Improvement Project

The Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) will host a public open house meeting July 16 regarding the Court Street and Willow Creek Bridge Project to be constructed in Heppner in 2009. The meeting will be held at 6:30 p.m. at the Columbia Basin Electric Co-op facility in Heppner, 171 W Linden Way, Heppner. Local community members and other interested parties are encouraged to attend.

This is the third public open house for this project. During the meeting local residents, community members and other interested parties will have an opportunity to hear information and ask questions regarding these construction activities.

Lexington Baptist Church invites community to special service

Lexington Baptist Church invites the community to an evening service of "singspiration" on Sunday, July 20, at 6 p.m. Instrumental and vocal specials are welcome.

Marriages

Morrow County Clerk Bobbi Childers has released the following report of marriage licenses issued:

-July 10: Perry Lee Alleman, 55, Pasco, WA, and Anne Marie Bedortha, 54, Ione.

-July 14: Andy John Thomas, 28, Irrigon, and Carrie Jean Holmes, 23, Irrigon.

Sheriff's Report

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

May 8 continued: MCSO received a report from the Stanfield Police Dept. that Heather Martucelli, 36, was arrested on an Irrigon Justice Court warrant for Failure to Pay Fine/Driving while License Suspended. She was lodged at the Umatilla County Jail.

MCSO received a report from a caller in Lexington who was out for dinner and when she returned, a Mother's Day card was in her residence. No one was supposed to be there. A deputy made contact and determined nothing was missing.

MCSO deputy arrested Frank Andrew Mackey, 22, on a Morrow County Circuit warrant for Failure to Appear/Register as a Sex Offender. He was lodged at the Umatilla County Jail.

MCSO deputy advised a vehicle on Highway 730 eastbound was not maintaining its lane. Umatilla Police Dept. was advised.

Boardman Police Dept. officer cited Lomeli Salvador Casillas, 41, for Permitting the Unlawful Use of a Motor Vehicle, and cited Arnolfo Lujan, 20, for No Operator's License.

Boardman Police Dept. received a request from the Hermiston Police Dept. to locate a vehicle that was involved in a hit and run earlier in the day.

Boardman Police Dept. officer arrested Keith Allen Axtell, 39, on a Morrow County Circuit Court warrant for Unlawful Pos-

The estimated \$2 million project, currently in the design phase, will improve traffic safety for school children, pedestrians and all motorists. The project will include bridge repair work, highway widening, new sidewalks and school crossing improvements. Additional work will include flattening the curve at the Stansbury intersection, constructing drainage facilities for the roadway and other safety improvements.

More information about this project is available by contacting ODOT Public Information Officer Tom Strandberg at 541-963-1330, or ODOT Project Leader Tim Rynearson at 541-963-1364.

Junior golf lessons announced

Willow Creek Country Club will hold junior golf lessons July 21 -25. Registration will be held Monday, July 21 at 7 p.m. The schedule for the lessons is as follows: Monday, July 21, 7-8:30 p.m.; Tuesday through Friday, ages 6-8 from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m.; ages 9-14 from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m.

Registration will be taken at the first day of lessons. For more information call 676-5257.

report from a caller in Lexington that kids were riding 4-wheelers in the city limits. A deputy responded and the kids were warned not to ride on city streets anymore.

MCSO received a report from a caller in Lexington that a juvenile was bicycling from Heppner to Ione. The juvenile said his house in Heppner was burglarized and he was scared so he was going to a relative's house. The juvenile was given a ride home and it was determined the home was okay (there was no sign of entry and nothing was missing).

MCSO received a report from a caller in Lexington that his wife got off work in Heppner but hadn't arrived home yet.

Boardman Police Dept. received a report from a caller in Boardman of a suspicious subject asleep in his backyard in the weeds.

May 11: MCSO deputy cited a male juvenile for No Operator's License (Driving Outside of Provisions).

MCSO received a request for an extra patrol at a business in Boardman; a suspicious vehicle had been seen in the area.

MCSO received a report from a caller in Irrigon who advised a subject had been calling 3-4 times a day for about a week and threatening to kick in doors and beat up the caller's nephew. The caller advised the nephew bought a computer but never paid the person.

MCSO received a report from a caller in Irrigon that her sister-in-law will not let her take her kids.

MCSO, Boardman ambulance received a report from a caller on I-84 westbound that a driver missed a curve while turning north off I-84 and lost control of his vehicle. James G. Kenfield, 32, was cited for Careless Driving and lodged at the Umatilla County Jail for

DUII (BAC .26).

MCSO received a report from a caller in Irrigon of telephone harassment; a male subject called and they don't want him calling their house.

MCSO received a report from a caller in Irrigon of shots heard. The caller advised hearing gunshots for the last three nights.

Boardman Police Dept. officer cited a male juvenile for Open Container.

Boardman Police Dept. received a 911 request from a caller in Boardman for medical assistance. An officer responded and advised a male subject had severe chest pain and was ill.

Boardman Police Dept. received a report of a \$72.00 drive-off from a station in Boardman.

Boardman Police Dept. officer arrested Ryan Patrick Pedro, 19, on an Irrigon Justice Court warrant for Failure to Appear/Furnishing Alcohol to Person under 21. He was lodged at the Umatilla County Jail.

Boardman Police Dept. received a hang-up 911 call from a residence in Boardman. On call-back, a juvenile advised the baby was playing with the phone and their mother was sleeping. The baby could be heard screaming in the background wanting the phone. The mother was also heard, she was now awake and all was okay.

Boardman ambulance received a request for assistance from the Arlington ambulance for an 84 year old with an unknown medical situation.

Boardman, Irrigon and Heppner Fire depts. received a report from a caller in Boardman that there was a 30-bale haystack fire threatening a haystack of 300 bales.

Irrigon Fire Dept. received a report that a fire at the wildlife refuge flared up again.

Council gives tentative "okay" to locating mental health facility here

continued from page one

sexual offenders, Estes said. If located here, the facility would be administered by Morrow/Wheeler Behavioral Health which is headed up by Kimberly Lindsay. "I want you to understand," Estes said, "that here is some risk. It is minimal, but there is risk."

Estes said he would like a clear indication on whether or not to move forward on the Heppner project, "within three months."

In other business at the council meeting, the council heard that the city and the golf course are working to straighten out problems with the course irrigation. In an agreement with the Willow Creek Country Club, the city provides effluent water and irrigating equipment to water the course and the golf course provides the manpower to maintain and operate the system. Apparently there have been some problems and portions of the golf course are not getting watered and the grass is turning brown.

"We are trying to work out the kinks, and as long as people have patience, the golf course will get back to where it needs to be," Public Works Director Brian Harmon told the council.

In other water business, the council heard that the city was on restricted water usage for Sunday until Monday. Harmon said a lightning strike at the city water storage tank had damaged the system that keeps water automatically filling tanks from the city's wells. The system shut down and water level at the storage tank was low. The system had been fixed but Harmon said there were still problems requiring manual monitoring and operation, which caused the low water. He said everything is ok now.

The city manager reported that the city is beginning to collect on part of the over \$20,000 in delinquent water bills owned the city. He said the city staff had used deposits to bring down the overdue bills owed to around \$19,000. He said the city is continuing to work on the back payments, including finding ways to hold property owners responsible for renters' unpaid water bills.

The council also approved a cost for the city providing "bulk" water sales. The charge will be a \$25 flat charge and them \$.0125 per gallon. The city does not sell bulk water regularly, but sometimes firefighters or construction crews need to buy drinkable (potable) water.

The council also approved an increase in dumping fees at the sewer plant. The fee will be raised from 7 cents to 9 cents with a minimum charge of \$50. Roger Britt Septic Service is the main user of this service.

The council also approved a request from the Heppner Elks Lodge to allow a beer garden in the Elks back parking lot during fair and rodeo weekend. The permits would allow beer and hard cider to be served to the public, and for a band to play from 7p.m. to 12 midnight Friday and 6p.m. to 2 a.m. Saturday, August 16 and 17.

In other action the council gave its ok for George Koffler to "spearhead" an improvement project for Hager Park adding restrooms and picnic facilities. Koffler will be approaching the Ford Family foundation and Wildhorse for grants to pay for the project with the city contributing some in-kind services. The grants would require sponsorship by a government agency, and the council agreed to be the sponsor. The plan is to start construction next spring. Total cost of the project is expected to be around \$100,000.

The council heard a report from Harmon about investigating the possible purchase of a vacuum truck that could suck large amounts of water through a large hose. He said an example of the use would be that the city sewer plant storage tank recently had a large "hair ball" plugging a line. An outside contractor had to be called in at \$350 a day to unplug the line. There are other uses for the vac truck also. Harmon said, however, a used vac truck runs between \$25,000 and \$30,000. The council took no action.

Harmon also reported that he thought repairs and improvements to Morgan Street will probably be done in August. The city received a \$25,000 ODOT grant to do asphalt work on the street that runs up to the high school.

The council also discussed the ATV law that would allow residents to ride ATVs on city streets, if the streets were signed for usage. The law probably will be rescinded because it costs too much to put signs on each street the ATVs would be allowed. The issue came to a head when a local person received a \$212 ticket from the State Police after riding an ATV on the streets, an action he believed was allowed by city ordinance.

Scotch Ball Tournament to be held at WCCC

The Willow Creek Country Club will hold a Scotch Ball Tournament and Family Barbecue on Sunday, July 20.

Each family is asked to bring their choice of meat to barbecue plus a salad or dessert. Last names starting with A through K, bring a salad, and names starting with L through K, bring a dessert.

Play will begin at 4 p.m.

VINYL LETTERING



Ready-to-apply graphics and lettering can be applied to a variety of surfaces and offer flexibility while serving a wide range of uses. Vinyl is ready for application. Great for windows, registration numbers, company's logo, etc.

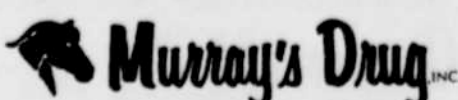
**Heppner Gazette-Times
188 West Willow • 676-9228**



Wedding Tables

Joe and Kathleen (Greenup) Albitre
Wedding and Reception - Aug. 2, 2008

Jill Sorey and Corey Miller
Wedding - Oct. 18, 2008



Murray's Drug
217 North Main • Heppner
Phone 676-9158 • Floral 676-9426
Serving Heppner, Lexington & Ione

WE PRINT Business Cards

**Heppner Gazette-Times
676-9228**