

~ Letters to the Editor ~

The Heppner Gazette Times will print all letters to the Editor with the following criteria met: letters submitted to the newspaper will need to have the name of the sender along with a legible signature. We are also requesting that you provide your address and a phone number where you can be reached. The address and phone number will only be used for verification and will not be printed in the newspaper. Letters may not be libelous. The GT reserves the right to edit. The GT is not responsible for accuracy of statements made in letters. Any letters expressing thanks will be placed in the classifieds under "Card of Thanks" at a cost of \$10.

**Local businesses and services continue to be a value to MWBH**

To the editor:  
This letter is written to respond to a few statements made in a previous letter to the editor regarding the residential treatment facility in Boardman named Columbia River Ranch.

In the previous letter to the editor written by Mr. Raymond Michaels (9/3/08), he infers that Columbia River Ranch is owned by Morrow Wheeler Behavioral Health (MWBH). Originally it was hoped that MWBH would be able to own the facility, and as such have local control and purchase locally. However, two Morrow County Commissioners voted against this and a new corporation took over. Columbia River Ranch is owned by Columbia Care Services, which has administrative offices in Grants Pass. As such MWBH has no say or influence over where such items as groceries or prescriptions are purchased, or where patients go for their medical care. Initially medications were purchased locally and Columbia River Community Health Services saw the clients, but Columbia Care Services decided to use different providers.

MWBH does provide the counseling services at CRR. The services are locally based and we have clinicians that reside in either Morrow or Umatilla County. The one contracted provider at Columbia River Ranch is a psychiatrist. Unfortunately there are no psychiatrists in Boardman and the few who reside in Umatilla County do not have time available. Therefore, telemedicine is utilized.

The facility that was proposed for Boardman, and will now be located in south Morrow County, will be locally owned and operated by MWBH, and the \$65,000 payroll would be for residential staff. The one contracted provider for the proposed the facility is the psychiatrist and this is not part of the quoted \$65,000. MWBH is committed to purchasing locally and using local services. My staff and I have enjoyed working with Ray at the Boardman pharmacy over the past 12 years. I have found Ray to be courteous and professional and am appreciative of that. Utilizing local businesses and services has something that has always been and will continue to be a value to MWBH.

Kimberly Lindsay  
Community Counseling Solutions  
(formerly Morrow Wheeler Behavioral Health)  
Lexington

**Read this book regardless of political affiliation**

To the editor:  
I just recently read a very interesting and thought provoking book and encourage everyone, regardless of political affiliation to do so, before you cast your vote for president this fall.

"The Case Against Barack Obama" which was written by a political reporter for National Review Online David Freddoso, can be purchased at either Bi-Mart or Wal Mart. It will really open your eyes as to the presidential candidate.

Luella Taylor  
Lexington

**Ione Football Schedule**

Sept. 12 - at McKenzie, 7 p.m.  
Sept. 19 - Touchet in Ione, 6 p.m.  
Sept. 26 - at Condon, 7 p.m.  
Oct. 3 - South Wasco in Maupin, 7 p.m.  
Oct. 10 - Arlington in Ione, 7 p.m.  
Oct. 17 - Dufur in Ione, 7 p.m.  
Oct. 24 - at Echo, 7 p.m.  
Oct. 31 - at Nixyaawii, 2 p.m.

**2008 Mustang Football Schedule**

Sept. 12 - at White Salmon, 7 p.m.  
Sept. 19 - Elgin at home, 7 p.m.  
Sept. 26 - at Stanfield, 7 p.m.  
Oct. 3 - Union at home, 7 p.m.  
Oct. 10 - at Pilot Rock, 7 p.m.  
Oct. 17 - Irrigon at Irrigon, 7 p.m.  
Oct. 24 - Weston McEwen at home, 7 p.m.  
Oct. 31 - at Enterprise, 7 p.m.

**2008 Mustang Volleyball Schedule**

Sept. 11 - Ione/Riverside at home at 5 p.m. (A/B teams).  
Sept. 12 - Yakima Tournery in Yakima at 9 a.m. (A team).  
Sept. 13 - Heppner JV Tournament in Heppner at 9 a.m. (JV team).  
Sept. 15 - Arlington in Arlington at 5 p.m. (JV team).  
Sept. 16 - Umatilla at home at 5 p.m. (A/B teams).  
Sept. 18 - Union at Union at 5 p.m. (A/B teams).  
Sept. 20 - 4-Way Tournament in Stanfield at noon (A team).  
Sept. 23 - Condon at Condon at 5 p.m. (A/B teams).  
Sept. 25 - Irrigon at Irrigon at 5 p.m. (A/B teams).  
Sept. 27 - Enterprise at home at noon (A/B teams).  
Oct. 2 - Stanfield at home at 5 p.m. (A/B teams).  
Oct. 4 - 4-Way Tournament in Enterprise at noon (A team).  
Oct. 4 - Heppner B/C Tournament at home at noon (JV team).  
Oct. 9 - Pilot Rock in Pilot Rock at 5 p.m. (A/B teams).  
Oct. 11 - Elgin at home at 11 a.m. (A/B teams).  
Oct. 16 - Weston Mc at home at 5 p.m. (A/B teams).  
Oct. 18 - 4-Way Tournament at home at noon, (A/B teams).  
Oct. 21 - Stanfield in Stanfield at 5 p.m. (A/B teams).

**West Nile Virus detected in rural Irrigon**

The West Nile Virus has been detected in mosquitoes collected on September 2, 2008 from traps in east and southwest rural Irrigon Morrow County officials reported. Oregon State University Animal Diagnostic Laboratory in Corvallis confirmed the positive mosquito pools, said Greg Barron, Manager of North Morrow Vector Control District.

Barron explained that North Morrow Vector Control District routinely sets up to 20 adult mosquito traps baited with dry ice twice a week in the Irrigon and Boardman areas. The mosquitoes caught are then counted, identified according to species, pooled into groups of 50 and sent onto the OSU Animal Diagnostic Laboratory in Corvallis for testing.

West Nile Virus was previously detected on September 5, 2007 in mosquito traps in south rural Irrigon. The September 2, mosquito traps are the first to be confirmed as West Nile Virus positive since last year.

To date in 2008, four

humans, one bird and 16 mosquito pools have tested positive to the virus throughout Oregon. Eight out of 36 counties in Oregon are now reporting infection either by human or animal with West Nile Virus in 2008.

Dead bird surveillance has been ongoing in the district. People that notice sick or dead birds such as crows, magpies, jays and robins should contact the vector control district so that they can be picked up for testing, Barron said.

Most people who become infected with West Nile Virus do not become sick. Some may develop mild flu-like symptoms such as fever, headache, body aches, and occasionally swollen lymph glands or a rash. In rare cases West Nile may cause encephalitis, or inflammation of the brain. Individuals with severe or unusual headaches should seek medical care as soon as possible.

There have been no human, avian or equine cases of West Nile Virus reported in Morrow County

this year. Last year the centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported 27 confirmed human cases in Oregon and 3,630 cases in the United States with 124 fatalities.

The staff here at North Morrow Vector Control District will increase surveillance and control measures in the area of the positive mosquito pools.

"The risk of West Nile Virus is low but we do encourage people to take appropriate precautions to protect themselves against mosquito bites," said Shelley Wight, of the Morrow County Health Department. Shelley offered the following suggestions to reduce the risk of exposure to West Nile Virus:

- Eliminate all sources of standing water that can be a breeding ground for biting mosquitoes such as watering troughs, bird-baths, clogged gutters and old tires.
- Avoid outdoor activities at dusk and dawn when mosquitoes are most active.

-Wear long-sleeved shirts and long pants when in mosquito infested areas.

-Use mosquito repellents containing DEET, Oil of Lemon Eucalyptus and Picardin making sure to follow the directions on the container.

-Make sure all screen doors and windows are in good repair and fit tightly.

Local officials and health care providers in Morrow County have been notified of the virus detection.

The State of Oregon has set up a West Nile Virus Hotline at 1(800) 702-INFO. Additional information on West Nile Virus is on the Web at: U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention <http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvbid/westnile/>; Oregon Department of Human Services <http://oregon.gov/DHS/ph/acd/diseases/w Nile/survey.shtml>; Morrow County Health Department [http://www.oregon.gov/DIIS/ph/lhd/county\\_directories/Morrow.pdf](http://www.oregon.gov/DIIS/ph/lhd/county_directories/Morrow.pdf); and Morrow County <http://morrowcountyoregon.com/>.

**Morrow County students lead pack of area schools reaching benchmarks**

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at the Morrow Education Center was up, and gave credit to its administrator for streamlining the enrollment process there. Burrows also reported on the positive start to the new school year. (According to figures released by the respective schools Monday, Heppner Elementary School has 183 students this year, down from 192 last year; Heppner High School has 238 students this year, including 23 exchange students, up from 228 at the end of last year; Ione Community Schools has 175 students this year, including nine exchange students, up from 150 students at the end of last year.)

-heard a report from technology students who attended a Technology Student Association field trip to Orlando and the Epcot Center. HHS technology teacher Dave Fowler took his son and two other students. They were the only three students from Oregon who attended the event out of around 5,000 total attendees.

-approved a state and federally mandated policy to provide a "Mother Friendly Workplace" to allow for breast feeding and expressing breast milk at the work place.

-approved a state and federally mandated policy to allow for military

family leave.

-approved the current board goals for another term.

-approved setting up a committee on accountability.

-accepted the following resignations/retirements: Robin Huxoll, Riverside High School secretary; Cindy Velasquez, RHS English language learner ed assistant; Teresa Mounts, retiring as of January 1, 2009, from her ed assistant position at Sam Boardman Elementary.

-approved employment for Cheryl Costello, from RHS department secretary to RHS head secretary,

replacing Robin Huxoll.

-approved the following extra duty contracts: Josh Coiner, Heppner Junior High head football coach; Kyle Carpenter, Riverside Junior High assistant football coach; William Pullen, RHS Talented and Gifted program coordinator; Jannie Allen and Pam Dowdy, Heppner Elementary TAG joint coordinators.

-heard the following announcements: Oregon School Board Association fall regional meeting, Blue Mountain Community College, Oct. 6, 6 p.m.; next board meeting, Sam Boardman Elementary, Oct. 13, 7 p.m.

**Local woman wants farmer's market in Heppner**

*-Continued from Page ONE*  
In other police business Bowles said he had been trying to solve the break-in at Bucknum's Tavern last week, which saw an undisclosed amount of money stolen after a dead bolt was jimmied between 1 a.m. and 4:40 a.m. the morning of Thursday, August 28, but wasn't having much luck. The Bucknum's one is "still out there," he said. "Someone knows something, but they haven't said anything yet." He urged anyone with information about the crime to please contact him.

He also reported that the department has been issuing tickets for not using seat belts, and also cracking down on people making "J" turns in Heppner.

**St. Pat's Apartments to be renovated**

The council was informed that the bids on the renovation of the Heppner St. Patrick's Senior Apartments had been opened and awarded to W.C. Construction, Inc. of Elgin.

Their low bid was for \$599,998 and work should start "soon" city manager Bogart said.

W.C. Construction is the same company that built the new Hamley's in Pendleton and the Boardman City Hall.

There are currently three empty apartments at the center and those will

be remodeled first. Then the other residents will be moved into those apartments while theirs are being remodeled.

There were a total of four bids with the others being \$645,338 from Michael A. Becker, GC of La Grande, Colamette Construction Co of Sherwood at \$635,773, and McCormack Construction of Pendleton at \$675,000. Bogart was pleased as the bids came in lower than expected. "They're hungry out there," he said at one point.

The construction is expected to take six to eight months at two weeks per apartment. It was also announced that Mayor Les Paustian will be the city's representative on the job site to keep an eye on the remodeling work. There could be up to 20 people at one time in Heppner to work on the project and that the sidewalk in front of the apartments will be blocked off and the parking lot in back fenced off as a construction staging area.

**Mental facility looking for site**

Bogart told the council he has met with Kyle Robinson and Lifeways, the developer of the eight-bed secure mental facility looking to locate in Heppner, about the citing of the facility.

Robinson owns

property within the city limits above Rock Street that the facility is interested in, however, Bogart said Lifeways has not settled on the area and is "still looking at other properties."

In other business Bogart said numerous trees have been trimmed and three Spruces removed at the city park. He said the stumps would most likely be ground down.

**ATV ordinance dumped**

The council voted to throw out an ordinance allowing All Terrance Vehicles (ATVs) to be driven on city streets. The vote in effect bans the popular ATVs from now being driven on the streets.

The issue came up when a local resident was ticketed by the state police for driving on city streets with an ATV. The resident thought it was legal and in fact the city had an ordinance allowing the ATVs, but only if there was signs posted around town. No signs had ever been posted so apparently the ATVs were not legal. Throwing out the ordinance effectively ends the controversy and keeps the vehicles off of city streets.

**Proposed Tippage projects**

The council reviewed the proposed city

projects for the Needs & Issues funding for 2008. Needs and Issues divides up the \$500,000 in "tip-page" money received by the county from the Finley Buttes landfill. The county makes the money available for grants to county governments and other organizations for projects and purchases. The following is a list of the proposed city issues being considered. They are not listed in order of priority, which will be done later before turning in the requests.

- Flow meter at sewer plant- \$15,000
- Water Street storm drainage - \$40,000
- Well #5 fencing - \$3,000
- Sidewalk match or trust fund - \$10,000
- TV city sewer line - \$12,000
- Reservoir fencing (four) - \$20,000
- Hager Park picnic shelter/restrooms - \$25,000
- Sperry St. bridge matching funds - \$82,000
- New Court St. sewer line - \$83,000
- Fence at tennis courts - \$5,000
- Willow Street foot bridge (lower bridge) repair or replacement - \$25,000
- Water master meter at reservoir #1 - \$15,000
- Fire department turnouts - \$3,000.