

llllllllllllllllllllllllll  
Bessie Wetzell Newspaper Library  
University of Oregon  
Eugene, OR 97403

## M.C. Road Committee unveils plans for upcoming road projects

The Morrow County Road Committee met on Monday, September 29, at the Columbia Basin Co-op conference room. Discussion was held on the past year's road department projects with some discussion on upcoming projects as well. These roads have been listed on the Transportation System Plan (TSP) and they have been approved by the

Road Committee and the County Court.

The projects listed for this coming year are:

-Road Canyon Road - which will consist of replacing the bridge

-Rietmann Lane - a .9 mile portion to reclaim the old beaten up asphalt

-Willow Creek Road - a 20.5 mile stretch of crack seal from Hwy 207 to Cutsforth Park

-Depot Lane - will finish up the 4.1 mile por-

tion of ditch work and pave with hot mix from Patterson Ferry Rd. to the Wagon Wheel subdivision

-Juniper Lane - will have shoulder and ditch work and pave with hot mix from the end of the good pavement to the Ione-Boardman Road

-Ione-Boardman Road shoulder and ditch work on the 6.0 mile portion of the Ella Road to the end of the pavement

-Rhea Creek Road

shoulder and ditches work

-Bombing Range Road - project to realign the south end at the intersection of Hwy 207, from just north of Strawberry Lane to Hwy 207; including building new roadway and pave with hot mix

-Road Canyon Road - add a lift of gravel from Upper Rhea Creek road to the top of the grade

-Porcupine Lane - add a lift of gravel over the two inch rock

-Sumner Road - add a lift of gravel over the two inch rock

-South Transfer Station to add two new spots for garbage bins

-Hardman Ridge Road - about a 2.5 mile section adding base rock and gravel from Porcupine Lane to Wyland Grade Road Junction

-Bunker Hill Road - the Road Committee voted to not reclaim Bunker Hill Road at this time; a two year extension was approved by the committee.

Others attending voiced opinions on their particular roads and the county will take into consideration these particular areas. Any questions or concerns please contact the Public Works office 541-989-9500.

HEPPNER

50¢



VOL. 127 NO. 41 10 Pages Wednesday, October 8, 2008 Morrow County, Heppner, Oregon

### Boardman Rural Fire Protection District proposes to build new fire station

Ten years ago, by a vote of the people, the Boardman Rural Fire Protection District annexed the City of Boardman creating a more efficient fire department. In the years since the community and fire district have grown. The current building was built in 1973 and remodeled in 1998.

Since the station was originally built, Sam Boardman Elementary and Windy River Elementary have been constructed across the street. This has created a major safety concern during emergency responses when there are numerous children walking to and from school as well as increased vehicle traffic with parents dropping off or picking up their children.

The Fire District proposes to build a new fire station and training facility funded by a General Obligation Bond not to exceed \$11,000,000. The proposal that the Fire District put together for the new fire station incorporates several improvements. This will increase the level of service provided by the fire district.

The estimated tax rate for an \$11 million bond would be \$.45 per \$1,000 of assessed property value, or \$45 for each \$100,000 of assessed property value. The bonds are expected to mature in approximately 30 years. The rate could vary depending on interest rates, growth in the district's total assessed value from new homes and businesses, and from other new development. For example if assessed value increases more than assumed, the tax rate would go down.

The new fire station would be built on the southeast corner of Columbia Avenue and Olson Lane on land donated by the Port of Morrow. The new station would include housing for up to 15 students enrolled in our new firefighter sleeper program. These students, in exchange for housing and education, would do shift work at the station while completing their degrees in fire science and paramedics. They would respond to emergency fire and EMS calls when not attending classes.

Increased ambulance

service through a cooperative agreement is an additional benefit with the student program. This will allow the district to provide 24 hour staffing for emergency calls 365 days a year. The district could not otherwise afford this coverage.

The new station includes up to date training facilities that will be utilized by the fire district and other local emergency services. Having training within the district not only reduces traveling costs but also keeps all our firefighters close at hand.

Currently, the Boardman Rural Fire Protection District has three full time paid firefighters that work Monday through Friday, also responding during non-work hours.

The majority of firefighters are dedicated volunteers who live and work throughout the community. The demand on these volunteers with family and work obligations, to include firefighter training and emergency calls, is very heavy.

Also, in the past, when there was a fire volunteers dropped what they were doing and left work to help out with the fire call. This is no longer the case.

Most employers no longer allow their employees to leave work to respond to fire or ambulance calls. This leaves the district at times during the day when there are not enough ready people to staff a fire engine. While this is rare, it has happened and the effects can be disastrous.

For further information contact the Boardman Rural Fire Protection District Board of Directors. They are: Don Russell, 481-4277; Clint Finley, 481-2852; Randy Yates, 481-2057; Rick Sandlin, 481-2377; and Jerry Johnson, 481-6117.

### Hiding in plain sight



This four point mule deer knows he will stay safe this hunting season as long as he stays within the city limits of Heppner. This picture was taken on the opening day of deer season on Willow street in Heppner-Photo by David Sykes

### Economic Group gets tour of Lexington airport

By David Sykes

The Willow Creek Valley Economic Development Group (WCVEDG) was given a tour of the Lexington airport last week, and was shown all the improvements that have been made there.

Sandi Putman of the Morrow County Public Works Department, which maintains the airport and did much of the upgrades, gave the tour and explained what has been done.

Putman pointed out the new Secure Automated Weather System which allows pilots to phone in to get the local weather conditions. A total of \$732,000 was spent on improvements to the airport including the weather system, an extended runway, new gas card lock system, new ag site refueling station, and a new hangar. Money for the improvements came from grants, with the county putting up in-kind services.

The runway is now



Sandi Putman (center) gives a tour of the Lexington airport and shows the improvements to WCVEDG. -Photo by David Sykes

4,800 feet long and is as long as the Pendleton airport runway, Public Works Director Burke O'Brien pointed out. He said hunters coming in to use local fee hunting ranches use the airport quite a bit, and that it has potential for more commercial uses. He said a commuter type 8 passenger plane could land here now.

Putnam said the card lock system was a big improvement. Previously the airport fueling was on an honor system with pilots fueling up and then writing

their billing information on a clip board. "We would then bill them and wait for payment. Now they slip a credit card in there and get their fuel. And we get paid." And with aviation fuel now going for \$5.38, "that's a good thing," Putnam said. She added that the airport probably sells 1200 to 1500 gallons of fuel per month.

"We wanted to view the airport and see the improvements you have made," WCVEDG president Nancy Snider said. "And we can see there is potential here."

### NOAA issues monthly climate summary for Heppner

According to preliminary data received by NOAA's National Weather Service in Pendleton, temperatures at Heppner averaged slightly warmer than normal during the month of September.

The average temperature was 61.6 degrees which was 0.5 degrees above normal. High temperatures averaged 76.5 degrees, which was 0.5 degrees above normal. The highest was 91 degrees on the 17<sup>th</sup>.

Low temperatures averaged 46.8 degrees, which was 0.6 degrees above normal. The lowest was 33 degrees, on the 29<sup>th</sup>.

On one day, the temperature exceeded 90 degrees.

Precipitation totaled 0.03 inches during September, which was 0.66 inches below normal. Measurable precipitation -at least .01 inch- was received on one day.

The outlook for Oc-

tober from NOAA's Climate Prediction Center calls for near normal temperatures and above normal precipitation. Normal highs for Heppner during October are 64.3 degrees and normal lows are 38.5 degrees. The 30 year normal precipitation is 1.07 inches.

The National Weather Service is an office of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, an agency of the U.S. Commerce Department.

### Lemmon shoots first buck



Samantha Lemmon, 12, shot her first buck on opening day of deer season. She was hunting with her father, Will Lemmon. This was Samantha's first hunt. -Contributed Photo  
The Heppner Gazette-Times wants to see pictures of your trophy animals from this hunting season. Stop by to have your picture taken, drop off photos, or email them to editor@rapidserve.net.

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

AT MCGG GREEN FEED & SEED IN HEPPNER:



ALL MUCK FOOTWEAR

NOW 10% OFF

Morrow County Grain Growers Green Feed & Seed  
242 W. Linden Way, Heppner • 676-9422 • 989-8221 (MCGG main office)