

Tri County 4-H Camp counselors chosen



The 2009 Tri-County 4-H Camp counselors were recently announced. Tri-County 4-H Camp is held at Cutsforth Park June 28 - July 1 and brings campers and counselors from Gilliam, Morrow, and Wheeler Counties. Pictured are: back row (L-R) Kellie Nelson, Heppner; Morgan McPherson, Irrigon; Loran McPherson, Irrigon; Devin Robinson, Heppner; Michael Brennan, Mitchell; Jace Hendren, Irrigon; Tim Nelson, Heppner; Torri Lovgren, Heppner; and Joe Armato, Heppner. Middle row (L-R) Garrett Robinson, Heppner; Kyle Harrison, Lexington; Maggie Collins, Heppner; Shain Osborn, Mitchell; and Hannah Fatland, Condon. Front row (L-R) Emma Osmin, Heppner; Hannah Lovgren, Heppner; Jordan Hoehne, Arlington; Cassie Lyda, Arlington; Mary Rietmann, Ione; and Stacey Halvorsen, Ione. -Contributed Photo

USDA extending sign-up date for DCP and ACRE programs

Darcy Vial, executive director of USDA's Farm Service Agency in Morrow County announced that USDA has extended the sign-up deadline from June 1, to Aug. 14, 2009, for both the Direct and Counter-cyclical Program (DCP) and the forthcoming Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) Program. This action extends the sign-up deadline by 10 weeks to give producers ample time to decide whether to participate in ACRE or remain in DCP.

"Extending the sign-up deadline for both these programs ensures that America's farmers have enough information and time needed to determine if ACRE is the right program for their operational needs," said Vial. "The DCP and ACRE programs play a critical role in the farm safety net and it is vital that we act to

support the hard work of the farmers we depend on."

Sign-up for ACRE is expected to start in late April, with an official sign-up announcement to be made in the coming weeks. Producers can elect ACRE at their FSA county office after the sign-up period commences. The original June 1 deadline may have forced producers to rush their decision, which is why this extension gives producers more time to make an informed decision about staying with DCP for 2009 or participating in ACRE for crop year 2009 and beyond through 2012.

The ACRE program, authorized by the 2008 Farm Bill, provides eligible producers with a safety net if both farm and state revenue drops. The program targets planted and considered-planted covered commodity crops and peanuts. For

ACRE, the revenue calculation utilizes national price figures as well as state and farm yields.

By participating in ACRE, producers elect to forgo counter-cyclical payments, receive a 20-percent reduction in direct payments and a 30-percent reduction in loan rates. The decision to elect ACRE binds the farm to the program through the 2012 crop year, the last crop year covered by the 2008 Act.

For more information about ACRE, DCP, calculation methods and other price support programs, please visit your local USDA Service Center or your local FSA county office. You can also obtain an ACRE Fact Sheet and further DCP information on-line at www.fsa.usda.gov under the Browse by Subject header.

Morrow County Court weekly meeting held

The Morrow County Court met on April 1 at the county courthouse with Judge Tallman, Commissioner Grieb and Commissioner Rea in attendance. Following is a summary of those meeting provided by Leann Rea.

The court approved the minutes of February 4, 2009.

The court approved monthly accounts payable and payroll in the amount of \$55,972.83.

The court conducted the following business: Reviewed and signed a letter of support for Senate Bill 629. SB 629 pertains to the control and eradication of noxious weeds. Discussed possible terms for an Inter Governmental Agreement (IGA) between Morrow County and Umatilla County for the provision of community corrections services. Reviewed a sample letter from Finley Buttes Landfill

Company to users regarding the potential changes to rates for the disposal of large dead animals. Since the change proposed is of a significant amount, the court requested additional information before approving the requested rate change.

Reviewed a request from the Irrigon Marina Park and Recreation District for a donation towards the construction of a 30' X 40' metal building. The court decided not to provide any additional funds at this time. Approved and signed the following resolution: "A Resolution by Governing Board of Port of Morrow to Jointly Sponsor with the City of Boardman and Morrow County an Application for Designation of an Enterprise Zone." The court approved a preauthorization request to purchase a computer for the Public Health Department.

The court heard a report from a representative of

the Museum Board regarding repairs to the roof. The court will look into possible solutions to the problem.

The Road Department provided the following report: Road Canyon Bridge - The crew has formed and poured the wing walls for both sides of the bridge. They have taken the concrete forms off and have them ready to be taken back to the mill site. They have begun hauling and placing rip rap next to the bridge embankments and hauling 3" minus gravel to build the bridge approaches so the decking can be set. The court viewed pictures of the Road Canyon Bridge work. Upper Rhea Creek - Continuing to bench out the narrow areas and sloping the banks the improve visibility and safety.

County wide grading - Following is the list of roads that have been graded over the last week:

Stock Drive, Slaughter House Road., Nolan Road, Cemetery Hill Road, Bengo Road, Ridge Road, Gabert Eight Mile Road, McElligott Road, Dry Fork Road, Dalzell Road, Valby Road, Ransom Road and the Alpine area Roads.

Wind storm - On March 31 the wind was up to 60 miles an hour. The crew put up the advisory warnings on the reader boards on Bombing Range Road because of the limited visibility between Homestead Road and Finley Buttes Landfill Road. The sand that was blowing started to pile up along the road and we had to have a grader and sweeper remove the sand.

The court opened all of the bids for the vehicles that are parked at the county road department. The bids will be reviewed for completeness and the awards will be made next week.

Ways and Means public hearings planned across Oregon

Senator Margaret Carter and Representative Peter Buckley, co-chairs of the legislature's Joint Ways and Means Committee, announced today they will hold eight public budget hearings around the state over the last two weeks of April.

The hearings will begin in Lincoln City on April 20 and will include stops in Pendleton, Ontario, Portland, Bend, Eugene and Ashland, as well as a hearing at the state capitol where participants from Hood River will be able to participate via video conferencing.

"We wanted to try something a bit different. So in Klamath Falls, rather than a formal public hearing, we'll walk around town, visiting restaurants, City Hall and local businesses and ask people their opinion on the challenges facing us as we work our way out of this economic recession," said Buckley (D-Ashland). "We want to hear what services are critical to folks in rural Oregon, as well as what matters most to the people in our larger population centers. So please take this chance to come tell us how you feel."

At each one of the public hearing, attendees will also receive a survey instrument, allowing them to make choices about proposed service cuts, potential revenue increases and other critical budget issues.

Public hearings will be held 5:30 to 8 p.m. in Lincoln City on April 20, Portland from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. on April 21 and 5:30 p.m. Salem on April 23. The Salem hearing will include testimony from individuals in Hood River and McMinnville, who will go before the committee via video link.

On Saturday, April 25, members of the Joint Ways and Means Committee will be in Pendleton and Ontario to hear from local residents. The following week, the committee will

hold official public hearings from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. in Bend on April 29 and Ashland on April 30 and a 1 to 4 p.m. hearing in Eugene May 1.

Also this week, Buckley and Carter unveiled oregonbudget.gov, a new simplified internet address where Oregonians can find information on the state budget. The budget information, including proposals for potential service cuts provided by each state agency, was first released last week on the internet website of the Legislative Fiscal Office.

The schedule is as follows:

Monday, April 20 - Lincoln City Cultural Center, 540 NE Hwy 101, Lincoln City (5:30 to 8 p.m.)

Tuesday, April 21 - Portland Community College - Cascade Campus, Auditorium, Moriory Building, 705 N. Killingsworth Street, (6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.)

Thursday, April 23 - Oregon State Capitol, Hearing Room F, 900 Court Street NE, Salem, (5:30 to 8 p.m.) Including Hood River via video link

Saturday, April 25 - Pendleton Oregon National Guard Armory, 2100 N.W. 56th Drive, (10 a.m. to noon)

Saturday, April 25 - Ontario Treasure Valley Community College, 650 College Boulevard, (3 to 5 p.m.) (Mountain View or Ontario time)

Wednesday, April 29 - Central Oregon Community College, Bend, Cascades Hall Room 117, (5:30 to 8 p.m.)

Thursday, April 30 - Southern Oregon University, Ashland, Rogue River Room, Stevenson Union, 1250 Siskiyou Boulevard, (5:30 p.m. to 8 p.m.)

Friday, May 1 - University of Oregon, Eugene, Prince Lucien Campbell Hall (PLC 180), 1415 Kincaid Street, (1 to 4 p.m.)

Heppner, Ione schools to hold proms

Heppner High School and Ione Community School will be holding their proms in the next two weekends.

Ione's prom will be held on Saturday, April 18, beginning at 9 p.m. at the Willows Grange Hall.

Heppner's prom will be held on Friday, April 24, beginning at 10 p.m. at the Morrow County Fair Annex.

GET READY FOR PROM NIGHT!

Ione Saturday, April 18 9:00 p.m.

Heppner Friday, April 24 10:00 p.m.

WE HAVE ALL PROM ACCESSORIES!

- * Corsages
- * Boutonnieres
- * Jewelry
- * Make-up

Wedding Tables

Riley Brett Wight & Amanda Dawn Miles
Saturday, May 2nd

Jared Dean Eckman & Trisha Kay Adams
Saturday, May 9th

Megan Kae Bailey & Kyle Richard Snow
Saturday, May 30th

Shelley Kathryn Rietmann & Adam Ashley McCabe
Saturday, June 27th

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Real Estate

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ON CHECKING ATTICS

If you are inspecting a house with an attic, you should inspect it. You can learn a lot with just a few simple checks. For instance, you can check to see if the beams are really solid? If the point of a penknife sinks in easily, the wood may be either rotten or termite-infested. Timbers with ends embedded in masonry without proper air spaces are especially vulnerable to rot. Sight along the beams to see whether any have sagged or warped. Also, check the rafters or roofing boards for water stains.

Is there sufficient ventilation in the attic? At a minimum, it should have louvers in both gable ends, vents under the eaves or ridge vents in the roof. If the ventilation is inadequate, you can bet on wood rot — and there will be heat loss in the winter, heat retention in the summer and bigger utility bills in both seasons.

How about insulation? An attic floor should have at least six inches of insulation plus a vapor barrier under the insulation.

SYKES REAL ESTATE Property listings are available at www.sykesrealestate.net

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