

Morrow County Court weekly meeting held

The Morrow County Court met on April 15 in Boardman 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 from the April 25, 2008 meeting held just prior to the beginning of the budget meeting. The minutes of the 2008 budget meetings were presented to the court for review. These will be approved or amended at the budget meeting.

The court approved monthly accounts payable, retirement taxes and payroll in the amount of \$358,906.77.

The road department provided the following report: Road Canyon Bridge - The crew is now in the process of hauling and placing the final lift of three inch rock for the approaches. The crew should get that to finished grade by the end of the day. On Thursday the crew started on the finish gravel for the approach. The guardrail pieces have arrived so the crew will also be working on the installation of the rails. The crew removed the gravel that was hauled in for the detour and replaced the dirt that had been removed. This will allow the land owner to return the area to pasture. Upper Rhea Creek - This project has been put on hold. Road Grading - The crew

continues with spring road grading. They are currently working in the Valby, Blake Ranch and Sunflower Flat areas. Road Sweeping - The road sweeping is continuing. The crew has completed the sweeping in the lone area and is currently in Rhea Creek Road area. From there they will be working their way to the Heppner area. Blowing Sand - The crew continues working towards the removal of sand drifts in the area of Homestead Road and Bombing Range Road. Judge Tallman has made arrangements to meet with the Boardman Bombing Range Chief to discuss the ongoing problems with the blowing sand.

The court conducted the following business: Approved a refund of property taxes in the amount of \$572.11 to Krupa Laxmi, Inc.; approved a purchasing pre-authorization for a HP LaserJet printer for the finance department; approved a request to place a two drawer file cabinet in the basement storage area for the AFSCME.; reviewed the activity report for the weed control and road painting department; the court heard a request from the Commission of Children and Families to relocate their office to office space in the Boardman area. After reviewing all information provided, it was decided to approve this request. The

court heard a report from the sheriff's office regarding the recently purchased emergency vehicle. The vehicle if ready and delivery arrangements are pending. Also heard a report that the county vehicles that were not sold through the bid process could be used to pay for "course training" at the Hanford Training Facility. The county will receive the equivalent of "Low Book" value in exchange for the training. The training fee is \$350 per day. This transaction will provide several days of training. The court reviewed and approved the contract for the paving on Upper Rhea Creek Road between mile post 2.2 and 4.5.

The West Extension Irrigation District requested that the county transfer the water rights that were appurtenant to the right of way the county acquired for the widening of Kunze Lane (4.1 acres) be returned to the district. The request was approved, with the condition that the district would be responsible for all fees associated with the transfer.

The court reviewed and signed the contract approving the new fee schedule from the Finley Buttes Landfill Company. The fee for Large Dead Animals (over 200#) will be \$50 per ton beginning May 1, 2009. The fee will go to \$65 per ton May 1, 2010 and \$75

per ton on May 1, 2011. While this fee increase may seem high, it is much better than the original proposal received from Finley Buttes Landfill Company.

The court met with DEQ representatives to obtain answers regarding the change over process taking place at the Army Depot. This change over is necessary for the disposition of the mustard.

The court held a public hearing on the "Code Enforcement Ordinance". There were a few county residents in attendance. The ordinance will again be read by title at the May 6 meeting in Heppner, time to be determined.

The Port of Morrow is seeking some federal stimulus funding for the proposed interchange onto Highway 730 and requested a letter of support from the county. This request was approved.

The court received a copy of the "Investment Management & Portfolio Review Ending March 31, 2009" from Judith McGee and Jennifer Currin Gutridge, agents for the McGee Financial Strategies, Inc. They also provided the court with information regarding the status of the county's retirement plan and actions the county needs to take to insure the viability of the plan for current and future retirees.

Retiring a lot easier said than done for Robinson

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"Teaching at Lone has been a privilege," said Robinson. "It's a small community that, like most communities, takes pride in their school. It's the heart of the community. Kids come first, as they should. The support we get is phenomenal. When you work with the staff that I work with it makes it so much easier because we are jacks of all trades here. Everyone has a number of duties and assignments and we all try to work together for two things, the kids and the community."

Robinson plans to stay busy during his retirement from teaching, although he does plan to do some substitute teaching. He is planning to take care of some timber acreage, as well as hunt and fish. He also plans to do some horseback riding since he has three horses, though "one is retired like I am." Robinson also has a love for photography.

"My wife and I are both fortunate that we have both sets of parents and will be spending time with them," said Robinson. The

couple also has two daughters, Jacklyn in Tri-Cities and Natalie in John Day, as well as two grandchildren, Josh and Corey, both also in John Day.

Although he has many fond memories of teaching, one of Robinson's most memorable times happened just recently at Lone School. "In trying to make up my mind about retiring, I walked into class one morning kind of in a daze," said Robinson. "The morning announcements, which are on TV, were going and I sat down in my chair and a whoopee cushion went off. A kid then raised his hand and asked if he could have his whoopee cushion back. What can you do but laugh? You've got to have fun with the kids."

"My wife keeps asking if I will now grow up," said Robinson. "I will miss the kids the most. I have had the privilege of seeing them at all ages and stages. I have never, in 22 years (at Lone) regretted being a teacher here. I didn't think it would be this hard to call it quits."

Strange to retire after 30 years in education

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go until all of her flags were gone. One day, a little fourth grader tried to block her but she was going so fast that she hit him with her feet extended and scooped him up and he went along for the ride.

Strange's mother was a one-room school house teacher and her father was in insurance and banking. Her two brothers are engineers and her sister is psychologist. She plans to stay in Heppner until the spring of 2010 or until her house sells, whichever comes first. She then plans

to move back to Minnesota as her siblings have made a request for her to move home after retirement.

"I have loved living here," said Strange. "Heppner is a wonderful town. I was happy to work in Irrigon and Boardman. Working with the staff was very pleasant and it was good to know more people while working in schools."

Strange says she will miss the people in Heppner and has many friends that she will come back to visit. "Heppner is an excellent town."

Ballots to go out Friday, due May 19

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Ione Lexington Cemetery District: Director at large, four-year term and two-year term-Cecilia "Maureen" McElligott, Ione; Edward Baker, Lexington.

Boardman Cemetery District: two Directors at large, four-year terms-Leland "Blair" Purcell, David Pedro, both Boardman.

Irrigon Cemetery Maintenance District: Director at large, four-year term-no candidates filed.

Irrigon Community Park & Recreation District: Position 1-Burrell Cooley; Position 5-Barbara Phillips; Position 4-Melodee A. Tovey, all Irrigon, all four-year terms.

Boardman Park & Recreation District: two Directors at large, both four-

year terms-Kathy Moore and Karen Pettigrew, both Boardman.

Heppner Community Education Committee: Positions 1, 2, 4, all four-year terms; Positions 3, 5, 6, all two-year terms-no candidates filed.

Irrigon Community Education Committee: Positions 1, 5, 6, all four-year terms; Positions 2, 3, 4, all two-year terms-no candidates filed.

Boardman Community Education Committee: Positions 1, 3, 6, all four-year terms; Positions 2, 4, 5, all two-year terms-no candidates filed

Heppner Water Control District: two Directors at large, both four-year terms-Robert "Butch Laughlin," Donald Bennett, both Heppner.

Heppner Garden Club hosts Blue Mountain district meeting

On April 18, the Heppner Garden Club hosted the Blue Mountain district meeting. Special guest was president of Oregon State Federation of Garden Clubs, Sherry Cossey.

Guest speakers were Terry and Cheryl Tallman. The district presented a state life membership to Jan Reed for job well done as director.

The Heppner Garden Club presented Joanne Burleson, president with a state life membership for her six years of service.

The new district officers installed to serve were: Cece Delfs as director; Marge Timmons as assistant director, and Eve Ironhawk as secretary treasurer.

Five Blue Mountain Garden Clubs attended.

Ione Topic Club hosts luncheon



The Topic Club of Ione recently hosted for the IHS seniors girls, exchange students and their mothers for a luncheon. Topic Club Members are (Back Row, L-R) Betty Rietmann, Nancy Anderson, Stacy Shelton, Anne Morter, Gene Crowell, Betty Gray, Kristi Crowell, Nancy Ostheller, Alice Diaz, Eunice McElligott, Willa Coe, Kathy Morther, Margo Shear, Virginia Martinez and Terry Felda. (Seated, L-R) Brenna Rietmann, Gip Garret, Toffey Bruno, Manon Crum, Oil Bittengers, Tori Heagy and Hailey Arbogast. -Contributed Photo

Sheriff's Report

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

Feb. 10 cont.
-Boardman Police Dept. cited Guadalupe Olivarez, Jr., 36, for driving 50 mph in a 35 mph zone.

-BPD arrested Darrell Wayne Dixon, 47, for Possession of Methamphetamine 1000 feet from a school. He was lodged at UCJ with \$12,500 bail and his vehicle was impounded.

-Heppner Ambulance responded to a report of a 91-year-old male who fell in the bathroom and hit his head. The man, who was bleeding from the head, was transported to Pioneer Memorial Hospital.

-Irrigon Ambulance received report from the daughter of a 40-year-old man that he was the floor in the bathroom. There was no transport.

Feb. 11: MCSO received report from an Irrigon woman that there were footprints leading up to her window in the alley. A dep-

uty responded and advised extra patrol in the area.

-MCSO received report from a subject that two horses were missing from her parents' place out of Ione.

-MCSO received report from on Ione subject on Hwy. 74 that he had heard a strong explosion that almost blew the windows out of his house.

-MCSO received report of a horse that cut its leg and is in distress.

-MCSO received report from an Irrigon woman that her husband is filing for divorce and he is threatening to kick her and her disabled mother out of the residence.

-MCSO received report from Jefferson County that they arrested a female subject on a Morrow County warrant for Failure to Pay Fine/Theft III and on a Jefferson County warrant and local probable cause charges.

-MCSO received report that Adam Jonah Waldrop, 30, was arrested by Multnomah County on an Irrigon Justice Court warrant for Failure to Pay Fine/Driving While Suspended.

Kinzua Lunch Group to meet May 15

A very talkative Kinzua Lunch Group met at Service Creek Lodge for lunch on April 24th. Those attending were Ada and Ernie Schell, Janet and Jr. Nelson, Peggy and Bob Nelson, Lavonne and Bob Slinkard, Midge and John Geer, Jean Ann and OL Adams, MaryLee and Bob Britt, Cenone and Yap Benson, Ellis McRoberts, Bill Potter, Bonnie Campbell, Rollene Allen, Annabelle Gubser and Marilyn Garcia.

Everything was so nice at Service Creek that the group decided to have lunch there on May 15 at 11:30 a.m.

Holly Rebekah Lodge to hold monthly card party

Holly Rebekah Lodge will be hosting the monthly card party at the Odd Fellow Hall in Lexington on Saturday, May 2. Play will start at 7 p.m. and is open to the public.

For \$5 participants can enjoy an evening of cards, fun, snacks and visiting with friends.

Due to Heppner High School's graduation on June 6, the May card party will be the last one held until September.

DA's Report

Morrow County District Attorney Elizabeth Ballard has released the following report:

-Michael Anthony Mullikkin, 25, was convicted of Assault in the First Degree, a Class A misdemeanor, was sentenced to 180 days incarceration with 150 days suspended, two years bench probation, complete 40 hours of community service, and other numerous conditions. Mullikkin was also convicted of Contempt of Court, an unclassified misdemeanor, and was sentenced to two years bench probation and other numerous conditions. Total fines, fees and assessments were \$1,225.