

# Morrow County Court weekly meeting held

The Morrow County Court met on January 6 in Heppner with Judge Tallman, Commissioner Grieb, and Commissioner Rea in attendance. Following is a summary of the meeting provided by Leann Rea.

The court reviewed and approved the minutes of December 30.

The court reviewed and approved accounts payable and payroll in the amount of \$74,939.35.

### Sheriff's Department

Morrow County Sheriff Ken Matlack highlighted some of the events for the month of December and they are as follows: The City of Heppner's request for a 4 X 4 vehicle was discussed. Heppner, Ione, and Lexington areas: Roll over of motor home pulling pick-up, black rabbit loose at the Heppner Elementary School, and an assault on Meadowbrook Road. Irrigon area: Recovered a stolen vehicle, theft of fuel from local farm, possession of methamphetamine and agency assistance regarding hunters on the refuge. Boardman area: Agency assist with a foot pursuit, an individual out of his vehicle and running into traffic on I 84, trespass on railroad tracks, car fire on I 84 and a sheriff's vehicle was damaged due to icy road conditions. Between December 28 and 30 responded to numerous rollovers due to the icy roadway.

### Road Department

Bombing Range Road: All banks that needed to be sloped back on the detour routes have been completed. All of the road signs were replaced and some new ones were added,

with chevron signs placed on all of the sharp corners. An ODOT crew of two and a flatbed truck with a reflector driver assisted with the installation of the reflectors along Juniper Road. There will also be reflectors installed along Grieb Lane and the part of Baseline Lane that will be used for the detour. On Tuesday the crew attempted to close the south end of Bombing Range Road, but due to a lot of rain and the frost coming out of the ground, the detour routes were too soft for all of the traffic. Once the roads dry out and firm up Bombing Range Road will be closed and the traffic diverted through the detours. Currently, the crew is installing one large culvert on the south side of Highway 207. Snow Plowing: On December 27, 28, and 29 snow was plowed with all trucks. Then on December 30, 31 and January 1, the county had five trucks plowing snow. There were three trucks in the Boardman and Irrigon areas, one truck on Bombing Range Road and another truck taking care of Willow Creek Road and the Blake Ranch Road. Miscellaneous: There was a thunder storm with hail and rain that went through the Heppner area on New Years day. This storm caused some washouts on Spur Loop, Baseline Lane and Cutsforth Road. The crew started working on the shoulders and ditches along the Lexington Grange Road. A permit for a fiber optic over hear line near the Willow Creek Terrace Assisted Living for Inland Development was reviewed

and approved.

### Planning Department

A public hearing for an amendment to the Morrow County Zoning Ordinance, Article 6 Conditional Uses, was held. The decision of the planning commission was upheld by the court. The changes were necessary to update the ordinance in regards to the approval of wind projects. On the recommendation of the planning director, Carla McLane, the following individuals were appointed to the planning commission: reappointment of Position one, Pamela Docken, Boardman; Position four, Miffin Devin, Ione; and a new appointment of Rod Taylor for Position nine. Each term will begin January 2010 and expire December of 2013.

The court conducted the following business: A request from the City of Irrigon regarding their interest in the property currently occupied by the Army Depot was heard and reviewed. No action taken at this time; agreed that Greg Sweek, county assessor, would be appointed to the two year term on the Columbia River Enterprise Zone and that Commissioner Rea would fill the one year term position; the weed control and paint report from the road department was reviewed; a gifting of \$40,000 to the Morrow County School District for the years 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013 and 2014 was discussed and approved. There were no other decisions made regarding long range planning.

## Oregon East Symphony Chorale invites singers to join for spring concert rehearsals

The Oregon East Symphony Chorale invites all local singer to join them for the April 17 Spring Finale Concert.

This spring the chorale will be presenting "Magnificat" by Ralph Vaughan Williams for women's chorus and "Frostiana" by Randall Thompson for

men and women's chorus.

The concert will be conducted by Justin Raffa of the Mid-Columbia Mastersingers and the Mastersingers have been invited to join in for the performance.

All singers are welcome to participate.

Rehearsals began Monday, January 11, at 7 p.m. at the Pendleton High School choir room (in the theatre building) and will continue each Monday until the concert.

For more information contact Lisa-Marie Paterson at (541) 276-0320.

## Sheriff's Report

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

**September 21:** MCSO cited John Andrew Mahon for Possession of Less Than One Ounce of Marijuana.

-MCSO received report of a "beefalo" out on Hwy. 74, Heppner. The reporter requested the owner be contacted.

-MCSO, Heppner

Fire Department, Heppner Ambulance received report of a motor vehicle accident on Hwy. 74, Heppner. One female was reported to be in the vehicle which was on its top. The subject complained of shoulder pain. She was still in the vehicle, which was non-blocking.

-MCSO received report of city property tagged with graffiti in Irrigon. A mail box was also reported to be tagged.

-MCSO received report of a vehicle that

had been parked at a location in Heppner for several months. A deputy responded and contacted a subject at an auto repair shop who said they had possession of the vehicle until payment for work is made. The shop will move the vehicle to their parking lot.

-MCSO received report that a female stole a case of Keystone beer from an Irrigon store. Kathryn Sarah Wegwerth, 19, was cited for Theft III and MIP-violation.

## Contact Information for Elected Officials:

U.S. Sen. Jeff Merkley: 310 SE Second Street, Suite 105 Pendleton, OR, 97801; (541) 278-1129; Washington D.C. Office -107 Russell Senate Office Building Washington, D.C., 20510; (202) 224-3753, Fax: (202) 228-3997. To contact Senator Merkley, go to <http://merkley.senate.gov/>, and click on "Contact Jeff"

U.S. Sen. Ron Wyden: Sac Annex Building, 105 Fir St., No. 201, La Grande, OR 97850; (541) 962-7691, e-mail, [kathleen\\_cathey@wyden.senate.gov](mailto:kathleen_cathey@wyden.senate.gov); (Kathleen Cathey, community representative); 717 Hart Building, Washington, D.C. 20510, (202) 224-5244; Fax: (202) 228-2717. To contact Senator Wyden, go to [www.wyden.senate.gov](http://www.wyden.senate.gov), and click on "e-mail Ron".

U.S. Rep. Greg Walden (2nd District): 843 E. Main St., Suite 400, Medford, OR 97504, (541) 776-4646, (800) 533-3303; 1404 Longworth Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515, (202) 225-6730; Fax: (202) 225-5774. To e-mail Representative Walden, log on to his website at [www.walden.house.gov](http://www.walden.house.gov) and click on the "contact me" link.

State:

Gov. Ted Kulongoski, 160 State Capitol, Salem OR 97310, (503) 378-3111; Fax: (503) 378-6827. E-mail: [http://www.oregon.gov/Gov/contact\\_us.shtml](http://www.oregon.gov/Gov/contact_us.shtml)

Sen. David Nelson, R-Umatilla Co., District 29, 900 Court St. N.E., S-206, Salem, OR 97301, (503) 986-1729; 1407 N.W. Horn, Pendleton, OR 97801, (541) 278-1396. E-mail: [sen.davidnelson@state.or.us](mailto:sen.davidnelson@state.or.us).

Rep. Bob Jenson, R-Pendleton; District 58, 900 Court St. N.E., H-480, Salem, OR 97301, (503) 986-1458; 2126 N.W. 21st St., Pendleton, OR 97801, (541) 276-2707. E-mail: [rep.bobjenson@state.or.us](mailto:rep.bobjenson@state.or.us).

Rep. Greg Smith, R-Morrow, District 57, 900 Court St. N.E., H-280, Salem, OR 97301, (503) 986-1457; Fax: (503) 986-1669; P.O. Box 215, Heppner, OR 97836, (541) 676-5154. E-mail: [smith.g.rep@state.or.us](mailto:smith.g.rep@state.or.us).

Sen. Ted Ferrioli, R-John Day; District 30, 900 Court St. N.E., S-223 Salem, OR 97301, (503) 986-1950; 750 W. Main, John Day, OR 97845, (541) 575-2321. E-mail: [ferrioli.sen@state.or.us](mailto:ferrioli.sen@state.or.us).

Rep. John E. Huffman, R-The Dalles, District 59, 900 Court St. N.E., H-476 Salem, OR 97301 (503) 986-1459; P.O. Box 104, The Dalles, OR 97058, (541) 298-5959; E-mail: [rep.johnhuffman@state.or.us](mailto:rep.johnhuffman@state.or.us).

## Ione horticulture class works on greenhouse



Erin Heideman's horticulture class at Ione Community School recently worked on their greenhouse. Pictured left to right are Jeremy Coleman, Robbi Johnston, Makenna Ramos, Shannon Metcalfe, Mason Haguewood, Zac Orem, Adam Collin, Steven Holland, Darla Vandever, Mary McElligott, Jordan Peterson and Micah Stillman. -Contributed Photo

## Ecumenical Ladies meeting planned

A meeting is being planned for the upcoming Ecumenical Ladies' Luncheon. The meeting is planned for Sunday, January 17, at 4 p.m. at the Catholic parish hall.

The United Methodist Church will be hosting the Ecumenical Ladies Luncheon on April 5. Jane Kirkpatrick will be the speaker.

For more information contact Janet Greenup at 541-676-5822 or Peggy Connor at 541-676-9408.

**ATTENTION**

WINTER RECREATION FACILITIES AVAILABLE,  
SLEDDING, CELEBRATE A HOLIDAY, SNOWMOBILING OR  
JUST TAKE A BREAK FROM YOUR WINTER BLUES AND  
SPEND IT IN THE BLUES AT ONE OF OUR HEATED  
CABINS. WE OFFER A VARIETY OF ACCOMMODATIONS  
PLEASE CALL 541-989-8214.

-MCSO deputy reported he was at the Heppner Preschool for a presentation.

-MCSO received report from an Irrigon woman that her sister's ex-boyfriend had been trespassed from property and was there. A deputy responded and determined that a subject had not been trespassed. The subject was advised that he was now trespassed off the property until further notice. MCSO cited Thomas William Baxter, 18, for Possession of Less Than One Ounce of Marijuana.

-MCSO received report of a blue trash can in the fast lane on I-84, Boardman. A deputy responded and removed it.

-MCSO received report of a disabled vehicle in Irrigon. The subject was trying to get it to the dealership to get it repaired.

-MCSO received report of someone staying behind the Heppner Library near the creek. A sleeping bag, blanket and trash were discovered.

-MCSO received report of a subject drilling in the middle of the road near the grain bins on Baseline Rd., Lexington, just over the hill. The reporter said she almost hit the subject due to the hills. MCSO was unable to locate the subject.

-MCSO received

report of a large gray dog with black spots that keeps crossing the road in front of the Irrigon Shell station. A deputy captured the dog and transported it to Pet Rescue.

-MCSO received report of a small silver SUV that pulled into the reporter's lane of traffic and then pulled onto the shoulder at Willow Creek Rd./Balm Fork Rd., Heppner. The reporter said she had to move into the westbound lane to avoid hitting him.

-MCSO received several hang-up/abandoned 911 calls in Boardman. It turned out to be kids playing with the phone.

-MCSO received report from an Irrigon subject that had had received around five calls in the past half hour and believed it was his ex-girlfriend's friend. His ex-girlfriend had a restraining order against him. A deputy responded and the reporter was going to put a block on his phone.

-MCSO, Irrigon Ambulance, Boardman received report of a subject in Irrigon who recently had hip-replacement surgery and slipped on a dog toy. The caller complained about hip pain. Irrigon Ambulance transport was cancelled. He was transported to Good Shepherd Hospital in Hermiston.

-MCSO received report from an Irrigon subject who said her granddaughter stayed late at her friend's house and was walking home. The caller wanted MCSO to pick her up and bring her home.

-MCSO, Irrigon Ambulance received report of a 56-year-old subject having difficulty breathing at an adult foster home in Irrigon. MCSO assisted. Transport was cancelled.

-Boardman Ambulance received report from a dairy at Boardman that a male subject had passed out with a possible asthma attack and was then stepped on by a cow and was bleeding from the head. He was transported to Good Shepherd Hospital.

**September 22:** Morrow County Sheriff's Office received report that Hermiston Police Department arrested Mike L. Walsh, 28, on an Irrigon Justice Court warrant for Failure to Appear/Driving While Suspended. He was cited and released.

-MCSO received report that Springfield Police Department arrested Joseph John Pelkey, 37, on a warrant for Failure to Appear/Driving While Suspended. He was lodged at Lane County Jail with \$6,000 bail.

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