

Annual Watershed Field Day to be held **UMESD Board agrees to move forward with Union-Baker merger exploration**

This year's Willow Creek Watershed Field Day will be held on April 28 from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at Duane Neiffer's property west of Lexington.

Approximately 150, fifth grade students from Morrow County Schools will attend the annual field day.

Water will be the focus of the presentations during the daylong education program. The day is divided into hands-on teaching sessions including: soils, weather, plants, compass and GPS/mapping, macro invertebrates, water quality and stream bank restoration. Also, the students will plant trees to stabilize stream banks.

The continued success of this field day is due to the support from many agencies, teachers, students, parents and schools. Tami Sasser, Umatilla Basin Watershed Council,



Heppner High School science teacher Dieter Waite talks to fifth grade students at previous Watershed Field Day. The event is coordinated annually by the Umatilla Basin Watershed Council, Umatilla County SWCD and Morrow SWCD. -Contributed Photo

Heidi Hartman, Umatilla County SWCD and Merilee McDowell, Morrow SWCD are coordinating the field day.

"The Corps of Engineers supports educational outreach for future scientists and engineers," said Laurie Rice, a hydraulic engineer who helps manage river flows in Portland

District. "To support this great learning opportunity, the Corps will reduce flows so students and scientists can learn about how a watershed works." Although unlikely, Rice noted that the Corps may not be able to reduce water flows if a heavy rainstorm or other water event happens just before April 28.

The Umatilla-Morrow Education Service District Board of Directors voted unanimously Wednesday night to move forward with the exploration of a voluntary merger between the UMESD and Union-Baker ESD.

The vote comes after a work session a week ago in which the board discussed six different options for moving forward after a voluntary merger between the UMESD, Union-Baker ESD and Malheur ESD fell through. Malheur ESD pulled out of the merger due to community unrest regarding an increase in taxes in that county had the merger gone through.

The UMESD Board, as well as Superintendent Dr. Mark Mulvihill, believes a merger exploration with both Union and Baker counties bodes well for the students of Eastern

Oregon. Mulvihill noted that the deterioration of the Union-Baker ESD's financial situation isn't going away, and neither is the legislature's push for forced ESD mergers. "Moving forward in this manner will allow us to maintain local control and local governance rather than have the legislature dictate merger configurations," he said.

In addition, Mulvihill said the school districts in Union County have expressed strong support of the new merger configuration. The UMESD is currently visiting with school boards in Umatilla and Morrow counties, in which support has generally been positive at this point.

Union-Baker ESD Superintendent Mike Sowder also attended Wednesday's meeting and

expressed a sense of urgency from Union County schools with moving forward with a merger exploration.

The next step is for Mulvihill to complete conversations about the merger with the local school districts, as well as with other stakeholders. The UMESD Board will hold a work session on May 5 to evaluate feedback from the exploration process. The Oregon Department of Education requires a joint petition from both the UMESD and Union-Baker ESD boards to approve the consolidation. Both boards plan to take action on the petition during their respective May 12 regular board meetings. The petition must be approved by May 13 for the merger to meet fall deadlines for new ESD board elections.

Jr Med Stars Health Careers Honors Experience applications being accepted

theast Oregon Area Health Education Center (NEOAHEC) is currently accepting applications for the Jr Med Stars Health Careers Honors Experience at Oregon Health and Science University (OHSU).

Jr Med Stars is open to 9th and 10th graders who are interested in pursuing careers in the health care field. There is no cost for the program, which includes two nights of lodging at OMSI, meals, transportation while in the

program, and program materials. A \$25 refundable deposit is required to hold a spot once a student has been accepted, and will be returned to the student at the beginning of the program. Acceptance into the Jr Med Stars program is competitive, and based on academic performance and letters of recommendation.

Jr Med Stars will be held October 7-9 at OMSI. To request an application, or for more information, contact Brenna Dunlap, Education Coordinator at (541) 962-3801 or bhines@eou.edu. More information can also be found online at: www.eou.edu/neoahc/hel.html.

Ione to host 10th annual TV Shoot

The 10th annual Ione TV Shoot will be held Saturday, May 1, at Frank and Joe Halvorsen's Farm located at 64686 Halvorsen Lane in Ione.

The fee is \$20 per person per shot. Registration is from 8:30-9:30 a.m. All you can eat lunch will be available for \$6 for adults and \$3.50 for children 10 and under. All proceeds will be used for children's games, prizes, and Ione 4th of July celebration.

Prizes include \$100 for hitting the target at 1,000 yards. There will be three classes this year, and prizes for all three classes. Class #1 for elk or deer rifle. Class #2 for heavy target or bench guns. Class #3 open

site 600 yards. Pat Schmidt and Jeff Thompson of Allison Carey Gunworks of Portland will be in charge of the clay pigeons. This part is free for children.

Bill Breshears of B & B Barbeque of Gresham will be serving tri-tip sandwiches, brats, hot dogs, baked beans and potato salad. Coffee, juice, and pastries will be offered earlier in the day.

For more information, or for anyone who would like to help sponsor this event and get your company's name on the reader board, can contact Tanna Padberg at 541-422-7276 or Brandi Orem at 541-989-9808.

AFSCME Local 2479 distribute funds



The AFSCME Local 2479 union employees of Morrow County and the Morrow County Health District recently contributed funds to local organizations for the 2010 year. Pictured above is Tony Clement, president of the AFSCME Local 2479, presenting Robonai Disque, director Home Health and Hospice, with a check for \$200. Each year the members of AFSCME Local 2479 designate funds to contribute into their communities at the annual meeting. The funds are provided by the membership. This year's recipients are: Hospice (\$200), Irrigation Boardman Emergency Assistance Center (\$200), South Morrow Neighborhood Center (\$200), Heppner American Legion (\$200), Ione American Legion (\$200), and two \$400 scholarships. -Photo by April Sykes

Morrow County Museum to celebrate 50th anniversary



Museum volunteers pose for a vintage photo shoot. -Contributed Photo

The Morrow County Museum will be celebrating its 50th anniversary throughout the month of May.

The museum will host vintage photo shoots on May 1 and 8 from 11 a.m. - 3 p.m. People can choose to have their photos taken in different venues at and around the museum. The photos will be \$5 for a 4x6.

On May 26 the museum, along with the library, will be having an open house from 12-5 p.m. Cake, punch, and coffee will be served. Different demonstrations will be set up including quilting, spinning, and weaving.

For more information contact Cherrie Clark at 541-676-5222.

American Legion and Auxiliary honors ladies at meeting

The American Legion and Auxiliary held their regular meeting with the highlight honoring two ladies for their continuous service to the auxiliary.

Mabel Heath for 62 years and Bebe Munkers for 57 years of service. Heath is eligible through her husband Bill who was in the Navy during WWII and Munkers through her husband Riley who served in the Coast Guard during WWII.

Both ladies worked on many projects during the years helping raise money for many veteran projects from local to state levels, to having booths in the fair, floats in the parade, and helping food sales to raise money for Girls State and scholarships. A certificate of appreciation was presented by president Evelyn Sweck to Heath, and Martha for Bebe.

In other business, plans are being made for Poppy Days during Memorial Day week, and finalizing plans for the Girls State attendee and scholarship recipient.

The next meeting will be held May 11 beginning with a potluck at 6:30 p.m. in the Methodist Church basement with special guest Jody Marsh. Marsh is the District 6 president pro tem and Dept. of Oregon first vice president. Marsh is seeking election for Dept. of Oregon. Unit 87 will be casting their vote for her at the state convention in June. The group feels she is highly qualified and it is nice to have representation for the eastern side of the state.



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