

## FFA starts off year with competitions and donations



Top Left Photo: Brett Harrison makes his way through the obstacle course at the State FFA Tractor Driving Contest in Salem. To compete in this contest, contestants had to have won first or second at the district contest. Justin Yocom was first at the Blue Mountain District CDE and Brett placed second. While at the state contest, the competitors had to compete in a variety of areas from an obstacle course to attachment of an implement, a written test and a pallet maneuvering activity. Brett placed seventh overall at the state contest.  
Bottom Left Photo: Justin Yocom competes at the State FFA Tractor Driving Contest at State Fair in Salem on Sunday, August 29.  
Right Photo: Drew Johnson and Dennis Newman delivered a 1984 Honda 4-wheeler to the HHS Ag Department this past week. Janet Greenup of the Morrow Soil and Water Conservation District arranged to have it donated to the program.  
-Contributed Photos

## Boardman rest areas under new management Oregon Travel Information Council takes over

On January 1 of this year, Don Hubert of Hermiston started a new job. He became the supervisor for the Boardman rest areas. And he had a new boss: the Oregon Travel Information Council, which took over seven Oregon rest stops this year that had previously been managed by the Oregon Department of Transportation.

"I knew it would be a big opportunity to help visitors, and a big challenge," Hubert said. In the last six months, he has discovered just how big that challenge will be. In a whirlwind of the last eight months, he has overseen not only new management with a new direction, but also a terrifying roll-over traffic accident at the east-bound rest area off of Interstate 84.

Hubert said. "Sometimes, we're giving them traffic directions. Sometimes we're pulling them out of wrecked cars."

The new management of the rest stops is a result of a 2009 change made by the Oregon legislature. It transferred authority over seven of the state's 32 freeway rest areas from ODOT to the Oregon Travel Information Council (TIC) and two of these included the two Rest Areas just west of Boardman.

Hubert took immediate action after seeing the accident, notifying emergency services and rescue crews, and helping the injured passengers. An 11-year-old boy suffered a broken leg and was easily removed from the vehicle. His injured father needed to be extracted by emergency personnel and both were transported to emergency care. The accident occurred at 8:40 a.m. By 10:30 the accident was cleared and operations were back to normal.

TIC is developing a plan that, in addition to management, encourages local regions to promote area tourist attractions and focus on economic development. "We're hoping to establish a national model," says Cheryl Gribkov, Executive Director of TIC. "We want these areas to be vibrant and able to tap into what our local communities and economies have to offer."

The prime concern, however, is the safety of the motoring public. That commitment was made clear through quick response to that rollover accident, and it has reinforced the importance of the now daily presence of on-site staff.

The quasi-public Travel Information Council has 30 employees and works closely with the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) and the state's tourism industry.

"Helping motorists comes in many forms,"

## Oregon Scenic Bikeways program forwards eight applications for commission approval

*Editor's Note: The following article was written by Terry Richard of The Oregonian. It was published at www.oregonlive.com on Tuesday, September 14.*

Eight locally proposed scenic bikeways have been approved in concept by the Oregon Scenic Bikeway Committee, which forwards the recommendation to the Oregon Parks and Recreation Commission for approval.

This is the first such proposals for designation as state scenic bikeways. The existing Willamette Valley Scenic Bikeway did not use the local proposal method; instead, it used bike professionals to design it in order to establish a template for future applications.

The committee's action was the first major step for eight recreation routes to join the previously established Willamette Valley route as the nation's first state-designated scenic bikeways.

Proponents now must submit management plans that include maps, sign locations and marketing proposals to the Oregon Parks and Recreation Commission for approval of formal designation.

One of the recommended routes crosses the Cascade Mountains; another forms a second Willamette Valley bikeway.

Others are east of the Cascades.

The bikeways are:  
-McKenzie Pass, a 40-mile linear route following Oregon 242 over McKenzie Pass between Sisters and McKenzie Bridge.  
-Dorena Lake

Loop, a 23-mile loop partially following an off-road path and back roads between Cottage Grove and Dorena Reservoir at the southern end of the Willamette Valley.  
-Camp Sherman, a network of 5, 17 and 21-mile loops passing through Camp Sherman near Sisters.  
-Sisters-Smith Rock, a 44-mile linear route between Sisters and Smith Rock State Park.  
-Twin Bridges Loop, a 32-mile loop ride on back roads between Bend and Tumalo.  
-Old West, a 199-mile loop connecting John Day, Prairie City, Dayville and Kimberly.  
-Grand Tour, a 130-mile, figure-eight route linking La Grande, Union and Baker City.  
-Blue Mountain Century, a 108-mile loop connecting Heppner and Ukiah.

The existing Willamette Valley Scenic Bikeway is a 132-mile route between Champoeg State Heritage Area and Armitage County Park north of Eugene. Maps and descriptions of the bikeway, which serves as a model for Oregon scenic bikeway program, are online at www.oregonscenicbikeways.org.

The proposed designations for the Oregon Scenic Bikeway Committee's consideration came from local nominators.

"The committee is looking for the best of the best bicycle rides in all of Oregon," said Alexandra Phillips, OPRD's state bicycle recreation coordinator.

Established in 2008, the program is a partnership between Cycle Oregon, Travel Oregon, the Oregon Department of Transportation and OPRD.

The program's step-by-step designation process is explained in an Oregon Scenic Bikeway handbook now online at www.oregonscenicbikeways.org.

The Morrow County Court met on September 8 in Heppner with Judge Tallman and Commissioners Grieb and Rea in attendance. Following is a summary of the meeting provided by Leann Rea.

The court reviewed and approved the minutes from the August 25th meeting.

The court reviewed and approved the account payables, payroll, a final payroll check and fair open class premium in the net total amount of \$316,091.82.

**Road Report**  
**Willow Creek Road** - The crew completed crack sealing all 20.5 miles of Willow Creek road from Hwy 207 to Cutsforth Park on August 26. **Blake Ranch Road** - The crew continues with tree and brush removal along the Blake Ranch road. They have also extended two four foot culverts and placed

some gabion baskets near the junction with Willow Creek Road this will allow the straightening of the road through that section. **Rock crusher** - The crusher crew has continued with crushing rock at the OHV pit. **Miscellaneous** - This week the crew has been hauling gravel to some of the gravel roads that have developed alkali blowouts during the wheat harvest. The roads that have been worked on so far are as follows: Alpine Lane, Doherty Road, Kemp Lane, Beach Lane, Immigrant Lane, Baker Lane, Dave Rietmann Road, Cecil Road, Zinter Road, and the Smith Road. On the evening of August 26th there was a report of blowing dust on Baseline Lane near lone with poor visibility. After arriving on the scene, it was decided to close the road from the Lexington Grange Road to the Jordan Grade Road from approximately 7 to 11 p.m. **Permits**

- Permit #160 between the County and Adam McCabe for an approach to McCabe Lane was reviewed and approved. Permit #161 between the County and Michael Aippersbach & Associates to improve the approach on Gooseberry Road was reviewed and approved. Permit #OHA between the county and Columbia Basin Electric to relocate an overhead line on Dee Cox Road was reviewed and approved. **Award Request for Qualification** - The court reviewed and on the recommendation of Mr. O'Brien awarded the RFQ for Logging Services to Pine Creek Logging Inc. They will be doing some logging in the County's Parks when safety issues need to be addressed. **Sheriff's Report**

The Sheriff reported that there has been an increase in harassment cases involving internet

event and are inviting all women in the community to join at Heppner Elementary School. Doors will open at 8 a.m. for coffee and rolls and the event will begin at 9 a.m. and conclude at 4 p.m. Lunch will be provided for all who attend.

**Living Proof live simulcast with Beth Moore to be held at HES**

Beth Moore, whose books and studies, including Breaking Free and Esther: It's Tough Being a Woman, have been read by millions around the world, and is known for her ability to apply biblical scripture to everyday life. Acclaimed

worship leader Travis Cottrell and his Praise Team will join Moore for the event.

This simulcast event to be held at Heppner Elementary School is free. For more information call 541-676-5656.

**Morrow County Court weekly meetings held**

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department of Fish and Wildlife Commission before the comment period closes in December.

The court conducted the following business: The court reviewed a request from District Attorney Justin Nelson regarding the purchase of a cell phone for the deputy district attorney. After some discussion it was decided that the county would pay \$50 towards the purchase of a cell phone and would pay up to \$75 per month for a

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**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 25th**

**TIME: 2:00PM to 7:30PM**  
**PLACE: BOARDMAN MARINA PARK**

**TICKETS: \$20.00**  
21 and older

**Tickets Include: 2 FREE TASTES, MUSIC, & DUTCH OVEN SAMPLE PLATTER**

Hosted By: Boardman Chamber of Commerce and Kiwanis Club of Boardman  
Tickets: 541-481-3014  
Please Bring Your Lawn Chairs!