

Sheriff's department sets up own parole and probation department

By David Sykes

The Morrow County Sheriff's Department has taken over parole and probation duties from Umatilla County and two local officers will now be handling the duties, Sheriff Ken Matlack recently announced.

Dan Robbins has been hired as community corrections supervisor and Deputy John Bowles has been moved from patrol officer to also staff the position.

Morrow County currently has 58 to 60 people on parole or post prison supervision, and Matlack says the new department will allow for better monitoring of these people's behavior and activities.

"We want to control behavior so people do not engage in bad behavior," Matlack said of people who come out of prison or are on probation in the county. He said previously these duties were handled through an agreement with the Umatilla County Sheriff's Department. "A couple of years ago we began to



Dan Robbins (left) has been hired as the new Community Corrections Supervisor in Morrow County. Former patrol deputy John Bowles will be assisting him. —Photo by David Sykes

think about setting up our own department, because we want to do what is best for the people of Morrow County," Matlack said. He said much of the money to fund the new department will come from the state, money that was flowing to Umatilla County, however there will be some expense

to the county as the state money does not cover the entire budget.

"We want to create a program just for Morrow County," he said. "One that is just for Morrow County offenders."

Matlack said one —See PAROLE & PROBATION/Page SIX

HEPPNER

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Decision on Boardman coal plant future near 'We are up to bat', PGE official tells Chamber of Commerce

By David Sykes

"We have been working with the DEQ (Department of Environmental Quality) for four and a half years to get resolution on the Boardman plant. We are now in the final phase and up to bat," Wendy Buck, Government Affairs officer with Portland General Electric, told the Heppner Chamber of Commerce last week.

Currently DEQ has proposed three options on when and how to close the Boardman plant, and none of them are workable, Buck said. She said Portland General Electric (PGE) has submitted a third 2020 plan that would have the company install state of the art low pollution burners, use lower sulfur coal and would end operation at

the plant in 2020, 20 years ahead of the plants normal life span. DEQ has rejected the PGE 2020 plan and has three options of its own. A 2015 (which would close the plant in 2015) is costly to customers, does not allow enough time to find replacement power, and does not provide adequate transition time for employees, Buck said.

A 2018 plan proposed by DEQ will not work because it will require installation of unproven technology at a cost of \$100 million and could create new pollutants forcing an



Wendy Buck, Government Affairs officer with Portland General Electric, told the Heppner Chamber of Commerce last week that a decision on when coal plant will close is near. —Photo by David Sykes

additional \$100 million in controls, she said

The 2020 plan proposed by DEQ is too costly for customers as it would cost about \$267 million —See COAL PLANT/Page SIX

Ione Education Foundation holds eighth annual dinner and auction

By David Sykes

The Ione Educational foundation held its eighth annual dinner and auction Saturday night. A large crowd enjoyed prime rib and salmon dinner followed by the auction to raise money for the foundation.

During the dinner Marvin Padberg presented Howard Mullins with an engraved watch in appreciation for Mullin's eight years of service on the Foundation Board. In addition to the many items for auction the Foundation was also presented with a \$40,000 check from 2Morrow Energy, LLC. 2Morrow operates a wind farm in the Ione area. "On behalf of 2Morrow Energy, LLC, Gamesa Energy USA and our wind project landowners, we are happy to make this \$40,000 donation in support of the Ione Community School, its staff and its students. We recognize that donations from the community have made the



Ione Community School the model of success it is today. Our donation, in conjunction with those of other community members, will help the Foundation continue its good work." Andrew O'Connell, 2Morrow Energy Manager said after presenting the check.



Top Photo: Jordan Bemrose directs the Ione Community School choir. Bottom Photo: Howard Mullins received an engraved watch for his eight years of service on the board of directors. —Photos by David Sykes

Entertainment was provided by the Ione Community School choir directed by newly hired music teacher Jordan Bemrose.

Health district receives clean audit

By April Sykes

The Morrow County Health District received a clean audit from its accounting firm, WIPFLI, at a regular meeting held Monday night in Boardman.

CPA Konrad Capeller with WIPFLI, formerly the accounting firm of Mike Bell and Company, told the board that the firm gave the district an "unqualified opinion" and discovered "no significant issues" with the district's controls. He said the "district is one of the most efficiently run" that his company has dealt with. However Capeller did caution the district against having its chief financial officer continue to sign checks for the district, which is the current practice. Board member Linda LaRue cautioned management concerning the practice and commented that even the practice of

having two check signers does not adequately protect the district.

As per the audit, MCHD had \$5,046,955 in total assets and \$3,093,080 in total liabilities for total net assets in the amount of \$1,953,875 for 2010, compared to \$1,753,080 in net assets for 2009 and \$2,140,235 for 2008.

The district had \$6,095,889 in total operating revenues for 2010, compared to \$5,671,798 for 2009 and \$5,143,907 for 2008.

Salaries and benefits were up over \$200,000 compared to last year and over \$800,000 from 2008. Total operating expenses for 2010 were \$7,059,017, up from \$6,766,853 last year and \$5,927,481 the year before. The district had an operating loss, be the practice and commented that even the practice of

—See HEALTH DISTRICT/Page SIX

Gazette-Times Trophy Corner



Top Left Photo: Logan Grieb of Heppner recently caught this Chinook and 35", 15 pound steelhead in the Columbia River off the mouth of the Deschutes River over this past weekend. Bottom Left Photo: Kevin Murray of Heppner shot his first elk with a bow, a five-point, on Saturday, September 25. Right Photo: Timothy Emmel hooked into a 25 pound, 36-inch, Chinook salmon while fishing on the Columbia River on September 12. Emmel is a high school student at Ione School. —Contributed Photos

Citizens asked to watch for vandalism at park

City officials have asked citizens to keep their eyes open for vandalism at the Heppner City Park. Apparently someone has been breaking the tops of the picket fence posts at the park. If anyone observes this behavior they are being asked to please call city hall or the sheriff's department.

The Heppner Gazette-Times wants to see pictures of your trophy animals from this hunting season. Stop by to have your picture taken, drop off photos, or email them to editor@rapidsolve.net.

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