

CHAMBER/ODOT

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with local highway projects to work with the city and the county and make sure they get into the local TSP (Transportation System Plan) first and from there the project will have a better chance of getting funded.

Strandberg said there are different "buckets" of money for various funding areas in the state including bridges, preservation, operations and safety and modernization money.

The northeast five counties in Oregon include Morrow, Umatilla, Wallowa, Union and Baker counties, and our representative on the commission is County Judge Terry Tallman. He said representatives from each county get together and talk about transportation issues.

Projects on tap in the NE section include a \$10 million project at the Port of Morrow in Boardman that includes in part access improvements extending Lewis and Clark drive to Hwy. 730, and improvements to create a multimodal rail logistics center at the port. These are scheduled for 2011.

In Heppner there is the reconstruction of Barratt Blvd for 2013, Sperry St. Bridge replacement

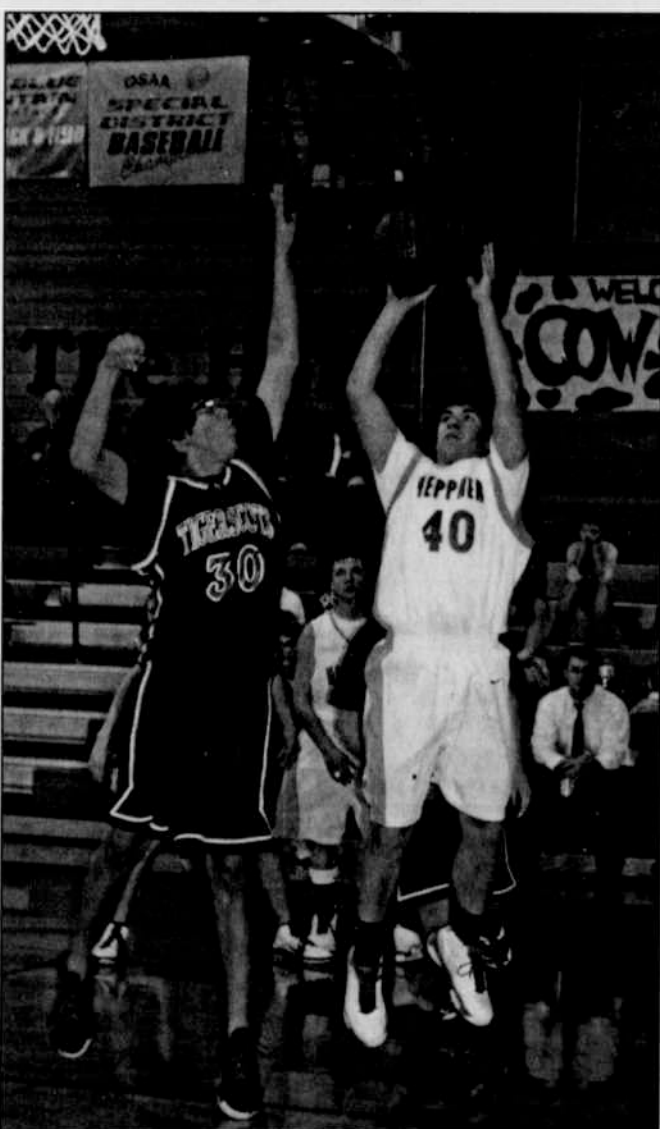
over Willow Creek in 2012, and drainage and slope improvements for pedestrians for 2012. These Heppner improvements will cost \$3.8 million and are being funded through the six cent per gallon gas tax that recently was imposed.

He also said \$100,000 was going to be spent on snow fence on Franklin grade in the near future.

On other questions Strandberg said about Oregon is actually getting more money back from the federal gas tax than its citizens pay in. "We got a lot of stimulus dollars also. We did a lot better than other states," he said.

Sandi Putnam of the Morrow County Public Works asked why money for highway was many times distributed around the state based on population. "What frustrates us is we have more miles of road that Multnomah County, but a lot less population, so we get less dollars. It's not fair." Putnam did acknowledge that the \$500,000 the county received from federal stimulus to do maintenance on the Heppner/Spray mountain road was much appreciated however. "That did a lot of good for us," she said.

Mustang basketball season winding down



Mustang JV player Bryce Fowler shoots against a Weston-McEwen Tigerscot. The final Mustang home games will be played on February 12. -Photo by Sandy Matthews

Community Lunch Menu

Christian Life Center members will be serving lunch on Wednesday, February 9, at St. Patrick's Senior Center. The meal will include beef stroganoff, orange-kissed beets, fruit cocktail, hot rolls, and red velvet cake. Menu is subject to change.

FREE Household Hazardous Waste Event

Morrow County will be hosting another Household Hazardous Waste event FREE of charge to County residents

Saturday April 23, 2011
11:00 am - 3:00 pm
Lexington Road Dept.
365 W. Hwy 74, Lexington, OR

Accepted during the event:

Used oil (containers less than 25 gallons) Oil filters, Spent Antifreeze, Automotive batteries, Alkaline & rechargeable batteries, Propane Tanks (smaller than 25 gal.) Oil based paint, Paint thinners and solvents, Roof and asphalt patch, Adhesives, glues and contact cement, Caulks sealers and joint compounds, Lawn and garden chemicals and fertilizers, Pool chemicals, Household cleaners (including bleach, ammonia, furniture polish, toilet bowl cleaners, carpet shampoos) Sludge (soil contaminated with oil smaller than 25 gal. containers) Mercury thermometers, Fluorescent lamps, All types of aerosol cans, Used cooking oil, Road flares, PCB ballasts, Organic peroxides (hardening agents)

Items not accepted: Empty containers, ammunition, explosives, biological waste, radioactive waste.

Morrow County Public Works
mcpbublicwork@co.morrow.or.us
P.O. Box 428
Lexington, OR. 97839
541-989-9500



HEALTH CARE

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If cuts in Medicare do come out of the reform act, it will affect the south end of Morrow County more than the north. The Heppner, Lexington and Lone areas have a higher percentage of retired people who are on the Medicare program. Blauer said more of the north end patients use Medicaid.

On a possible negative side of the new legislation, Blauer said the increase in regulation and paperwork from the federal government would be hard on small medical facilities. "We are already a highly regulated business. We have many strict reporting requirements, and that is going to increase," he said.

On the NRHA web site, that organization says the two most important issues facing rural health care in America are a workforce shortage and lower payments for rural providers.

"The Patient Protection and Affordable care Act...contains many critically important building blocks that will significantly improve the access to care faced by rural patients across the nation," the organization states.

The Rural Health Organization says the health care act in part develops rural training programs, recruits from rural communities and provides money from health education centers to help with the shortage of health care professionals in rural areas. The organization also says the health care bill provides for extra payments to doctors working in "health professional shortage" areas.

In general statements on health care reform and not specifics on the national health bill, the organization says rural areas need health care reform because a greater proportion of self-employed workers live in rural areas (40 percent to 32 percent urban). NRHA says rural Americans are sicker, with higher rates of chronic disease such as hypertension, high cholesterol, diabetes, chronic bronchitis, stroke and arthritis than people in urban areas.

Rural America is already experiencing a "health care workforce crisis", NRHA says, with less than 10 percent of physicians serving 25 percent of the country's population.

However, with more people having health insurance, the association said it could have another effect. "When more individuals have health insurance and are able to afford health care, the strain on the existing providers will be even greater."

Meet Heppner's foreign exchange students



Pictured are some of the foreign exchange students who are attending Heppner High School this year. Jessica Arellano, 16, is from Mexico and is hosted by Linda Corbin. Marie Broeckling, 15, is from Germany and is hosted by John and Kathy Marick. Bente Christen, 17, is from Germany and is hosted by Kathi Dickenson. Luiza Borborema, 16, is from Brazil and is hosted by Teresa Vandoorn. Anne Gokesch, 17, is from Germany and is hosted by Ginger O'Brien. -Contributed Photo

Cardinal Basketball Schedule

Feb. 4 - at Echo, 3 p.m. (GJV, BJV, GV, BV)
Feb. 5 - at Central Christian, 1 p.m. (GV, BV)

Heppner Wrestling Schedule

Feb. 5 - BEO Invitational, 9 a.m.
Feb. 11-12 - at Halfway Tournament, 2 p.m.

HJH Girls' Basketball Schedule

Feb. 4 - at Mount Vernon, 9 a.m.
Feb. 5 - at Riverside, 8 a.m.

St. Patrick's, St. William's recognize altar servers



The Holy Name Society of St. Patrick's and St. William's Parishes recently sponsored a celebration for the altar servers of the parishes. There were video games such as Madden NFL football, Mario Sonic Olympice, and Dangerous Hunt. The youth enjoyed ice cream floats and all were given complimentary soft drink cards for Murray's Drugs. Helpers included Tomas Elguezabal, Corey Sweeney and Barney Lindsay. -Contributed Photo

HEALTH DISTRICT

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elected at large.

Burns cautioned the board concerning email communication, saying that some communication to the entire board via email could be considered a quorum with public meeting notice requirements.

In other business, the board:

-accepted Linda LaRue's resignation.

-learned from CEO Michael Blauer that MCHD is sponsoring the Rolling Hills Run on Saturday, April 23, as a part of the district's mission to support community health.

-learned from Blauer that he is in the process of creating the district's second newsletter to be mailed in March and will be using a newly-created logo which has been designed to "represent the people in all corners of the health district." He said that plans are to use the logo to make magnets and other advertising purposes and eventually for district signage.

-heard from Blauer that a presentation from a representative of the Oregon Hospital Association is being planned in lieu of the April board meeting.

-approved delaying the February 28 board meeting until 7:30 p.m. to accommodate a meeting of the Community Health Improvement Partnership meeting set for 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at the Port of Morrow in Boardman.

-learned that the Columbia River Community Health Services new clinic groundbreaking has been planned in April. The clinic, located in Boardman, has received federal funds for construction.

-heard a report from Shawn Cutsforth who oversees the information technology for the district, which includes computer infrastructure and equipment-10 servers, 48 work

stations and 60 printers. He reported that the district "recently went electronic on credit card payments," which is more convenient for patients and will save time for the district. He said that he is looking at replacing the main network server, which currently "needs to be rebooted several times a week." "We're fortunate to have Shawn and his expertise," commented Blauer.

-received a December profit/loss statement from Mahoney which showed an \$86,112 gain for the month for a \$19,616 average monthly year-to-date loss. She said that a large Medicaid receivable, a \$40,000 Community Health Improvement grant from the Office of Rural Health and a \$16,000 SAIF dividend helped contribute to the gain. In December, the district showed \$533,100 in gross patient revenue, a \$19,902 provision for bad debts and a \$4,761 contractual adjustment for a total of \$24,663 in revenue deductions for \$508,437 in net patient revenue; \$94,733 in tax revenue and \$52,603 in other operating revenue for \$655,774 in total operating revenue; \$599,988 in total operating expenses and a \$30,326 non operating gain.

-received the following report for December: Pioneer Memorial Clinic had 444 patient visits with 45 new patients, 50 seen by a nurse and seven no-shows; Irrigon Medical Clinic had 159 patient visits with 14 new patients, 45 seen by a nurse and 10 no-shows; Heppner Ambulance had 16 transports for \$23,754 in revenue; Boardman Ambulance had 19 transports for \$21,696 in revenue; and Irrigon Ambulance had 13 transports for \$12,818 in revenue; for the year end, Heppner Ambulance had 226 total page outs with 191 transports, Boardman had 364 total page outs with 195 transports and Irrigon had 265 page outs with 147 transports, there were 23 flights; Pioneer Memorial Hospital had six admissions, three swing bed admissions, 13 admitted for observation, 436 total outpatient visits, 43 total emergency room encounters, 1637 lab tests, 81 x-ray procedures, 17 CT scans, 23 EKG tests, one treadmill procedure, two colonoscopy procedures, two endoscopy procedures and 11 respiratory therapy procedures; Home Health had 100 patient visits; Hospice had three admissions and 123 patient days; and pharmacy had 829 drug doses for \$42,980 in drug revenue.

-received gifts and recognition from the student body president and the ESD in commemoration of school board appreciation month.

-heard from Archer concerning the small student kindergarten population anticipated this fall. Archer said that he could identify only three prospective kindergarteners.

-received a financial update as of December 31 as follows: during the past month, the district collected \$112,368 in basic school support, \$5,184 in taxes, \$13,989 in federal REAP (Title) funds, \$35,600 from the Morrow County Unified Recreation District, and \$4,954 in Tier II grants from the Lone Education Foundation.

-learned that the district received a clean audit and the district's auditor, Chris Cockburn, will present the 2010 audit at the February board meeting set for Tuesday, February 22.

HHS Girls' JV Basketball Schedule

Feb. 4 - at Enterprise, 3 p.m.
Feb. 5 - at Union, 1 p.m.

HHS Boys' JV Basketball Schedule

Feb. 4 - at Enterprise, 4:30 p.m.
Feb. 5 - at Union, 2:30 p.m.

HHS Boys' Basketball Schedule

Feb. 4 - at Enterprise, 7:30 p.m.
Feb. 5 - at Union, 5:30 p.m.
Feb. 11 - at Irrigon, 7:30 p.m.

HHS Girls' Basketball Schedule

Feb. 4 - at Enterprise, 6 p.m.
Feb. 5 - at Union, 4 p.m.

IONE SCHOOLS

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question and answer period. All districts in the region are invited to attend, not just charter schools.

-heard a presentation from Tom Holland, student body president.

-heard an update from Mulvihill on state school funding which indicated at that time that state school funding will be built on a \$5.6 billion budget.

Mulvihill reminded the board that the state has a \$3.5 billion deficit and education funding will be competing with human services, collective bargaining and prison funding, among others. The education budget not only includes elementary and secondary schools, but ESDs and colleges and universities. He estimated that K-12 education will receive 38 percent of the state budget next year. "It's pretty sobering," said Mulvihill. He said that lone's 2010-11 budget was built on a \$5.6 billion budget.

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-learned that Morrow County forwarded a \$40,000 energy grant to the Lone School District on January 6.