

Morrow County Court weekly meetings held

The Morrow County Court met on February 9 in Irrigon with Judge Tallman and Commissioners Grieb and Rea in attendance. Following is a summary of the meetings provided by Leann Rea.

The court reviewed and approved the minutes of February 2.

The court reviewed and approved the account payables and payroll payables in the net total amount of \$185,212.48.

Road Report

Ice and Snow: A few roads were plowed and sanded, mainly from Heppner area south towards the mountains. **Ditch Cleaning:** The crew has been working on cleaning borrow pits and ditches along Wilson Lane in Boardman. They have also been burning the ditches and then digging them out and removing the material as needed. **Culvert Cleaning:** The crew continued with culvert cleaning to open the inlets and outlets in the area just south of Lexington. Some of the roads done were Clarks Canyon Road, Fuller Canyon Road and Nolan Road. They are currently working in the Blackhorse Canyon Road area. **Road Grading:** Road grading has been done on Strawberry Lane, Dave Rietmann Road, Lindstrom Lane, Homestead Lane, Lindsay West Road, and Hanna Arbuckle Road. Continued hauling gravel to Balm Fork Road with a couple of belly dumps and

should finish this in a few days, weather permitting. **Patching:** The crew has been patching pot holes on Bombing Range Road and Baseline Lane. **Permits:** On the recommendation of Burke O'Brien, Road Master the court approved Permit #OHZ between the County and Umatilla Electric Coop to move a junction box on Downey Lane.

Planning

Carla McLane, planning director updated the court regarding the oral arguments that were given before the Court of Appeals on Friday, February 4, regarding the Love's Travel Stops and Country Stores. The Court of Appeals has until May 6 to make their decision. McLane then provided a report on the tour of the Umatilla Basin Water Commission water project area. She stated that the tour was well attended and was very informative with lots of good ideas being shared. McLane reported that the property owners of the land along Emigrant Lane have suggested the name of Lone Butte, the court agreed to withdraw their suggestion of Emigrant Butte and stating that they will support the property owners suggestion. McLane reported the department had only received approximately \$4,900 from building permit fees for the past quarter.

McCabe Lane

The court signed the "Order" approving the name change to McCabe

Lane. Ordinance

The court heard the first reading by title of "An Ordinance Amending the Comprehensive Plan Recreation Element; Amending the Zoning Ordinance Article 3, Section 3.150 Parkland Overlay Zone, Applying the Parkland Overlay Zone to the Morrow County OHV Park and Amending the Morrow County Zoning Ordinance Map showing the Parkland Overlay Zone to the OHV Park."

Commission on Children & Families

The court reviewed and approved an amendment to the lease with North Morrow Investment, LLC, stated that the CC&F will be using Suite 7 instead of Suite 10 for storage space.

Justice of the Peace

J.P., Ann Spicer presented the court with information regarding HB2712 which would greatly reduce the amount of fines that would go to the local governments, as well as take away the flexibility of fine assessment amounts. Spicer encouraged the court to contact legislators and strongly suggest a no vote on this bill.

Veterans Department

Morrow County Veteran's Office, Linda Skendzel provided the court with a report on the activities of her office. She requested that money that had been budgeted to attend an out-of-state conference

be used to hold some open houses in our local areas. The court approved this request, and encouraged Skendzel to provide as many services to local Veterans as funds will allow. The report indicated that for the 2nd quarter, (Oct., Nov. and Dec.) 40 Veterans were served with a recovery of \$27,370. Skendzel provided the court with a copy of a "Certificate of Recognition" that had been received from the City of Heppner Beautification/Parks and Land Commission.

Budget Update

Financial Director, Fred Carlson provided the court with more information and possible areas for cuts for the 2011-2012 budget year.

The court conducted the following business: Signed a Resolution regarding the Matter of Declaring a State of Disaster in Morrow County for the potential loss of production of grains due to the aphid infestation. Learned that the property that the county took for back taxes, located at 74609 Cain Lane, Irrigon has now been cleaned and will be put up for a sheriff's sale sometime later this spring.

Various correspondences and upcoming meeting notices were reviewed and discussed.

If you would like to be placed on the list to receive county minutes, contact Karen Wolff at (541)676-5620.

The court then signed the "Order" for the adoption of the ordinance.

The court conducted the following business: The court appointed Jerry Healy to a three year term on the Compensation Committee. Approved the contract between the county and Dean Robinson as a Fire Protection Consultant at the rate of \$15 per hour with the contract beginning on February 9, 2011 and going through December 30, 2011 or when the parks close, whichever is earlier. The court signed an IGA between the county and the State of Oregon in the amount of \$92,000 pertaining to the Spring Hollow Ridge project. The court signed a contract between the county and the State of Oregon in the amount of \$128,000 for intersection improvement projects at five intersections within the county. The court heard a request from the Michael Wilson with Westby Associates regarding the county providing some funding for the Columbia River Community Health Service's new building project. While the commissioners fully support the project and would like to assist

with the funding, with the tight upcoming budget, they suggested that a member of their Board of Director might want to attend the upcoming budget meetings. Wilson stated that the board would be very willing to work with the county on a smaller multi-year pledge. Dave Hughes, director of the Agape House made a presentation regarding the building of a family shelter facility located in Hermiston that would serve Morrow County and West Umatilla County. Hughes provided the court with information regarding the floor plans, architectural concept and information on how the occupants would be selected. This facility would be a short term solution to homeless families. While in the facility occupants would be required to participate in classes, such as GED, cooking, well baby, and money management training.

Various correspondences and upcoming meeting notices were reviewed and discussed.

If you would like to be placed on the list to receive county minutes, please contact Karen Wolff at (541)676-5620.

Ione Pep Band cheers on teams



Ione Pep Band members: (Back row L-R) Joel & Oskar Peterson, Jeff Eynetick, Duane Neiffer, Band leader Jordan Bemrose, Donna Thompson, and Judy Rea. -Photo by Paula Emmel

Willow Creek Tea Party Patriots meet with Hermiston group

On February 21 the Willow Creek Tea Party Patriots hosted an organizational meeting in Hermiston. The effort was to promote the interest and involvement of a local group of citizens of the Hermiston greater area. The meeting was attended by 49 locals.

Nine members of the Willow Creek Tea Party Patriots from south Morrow County traveled to Hermiston to encourage and inspire the folks to take hold of the Tea Party concept of conservative constitutional beliefs. Those attending from the Willow Creek Tea Party Patriots were: Billy Adams, Marsha Kemp, Norman and Wanda Lee, Jack Meligan, Cory Miller, Shirley Rugg, and Dick and Lynnea Sargent.

A number of people spoke in giving their resounding support for forming and supporting the concept of a conservative political group. Tom Broderick took the lead in speaking to his fellow community members with Frank Vincent volunteering to begin the administrative tasks.

The group over-

whelmingly voted to support and be a part of this new group with their first meeting set for Monday, March 7, time and place to be announced when set. The meeting concluded following a spirited exchange of ideas and encouragement by those who were in attendance to set the new Tea Party group in motion.

Each member of the Willow Creek Tea Party Patriots told of their own role in a conservative constitutional group. They offered words of encouragement and information from their own experiences in the Tea Party; how their being involved in the current political environment and process has brought them back in to the concept of "We The People..."; that their own role of being an active citizen voter and having a voice that does matter.

A member of the Hermiston group spoke about how they tried to start a group in Hermiston of the Tea Party a year ago but failed to follow up on it and let "the ball drop." Thus they lost that year, but now with the response they will go forward.

Cub Scout bowling party held



Heppner Cub Scout pack #661 held a bowling party and Blue and Gold banquet on President's Day. -Contributed Photo

Sheriff's Report

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

December 3: -MCSO was notified that Matthew Anthony Llanas, 33, was arrested by Umatilla PD on an Irrigon Justice Court warrant for Failure to Pay Fine/Failure to Appear.

-BPD issued a citation to Margarita Villegas Salazar, 36, for Violating the Speed Limit by driving 38 mph in a 25 mph zone.

-Boardman Ambulance received a call regarding a 10 month old baby girl who was sick and having a hard time breathing.

-Boardman Ambulance received a request for an ambulance for a 37 year old male who was dizzy. Boardman Ambulance and BPD responded.

-Irrigon Fire Department and MCSO received call regarding a natural gas leak at a residence in Irrigon.

December 4: -MCSO arrested Richard Keith Fisler, 30, for an Unauthorized Use of a Mo-

torized Vehicle. Fisler was also arrested on a UCSO warrant.

-MCSO received a report of the driver of a red Prius going west bound in the east bound lane.

-MCSO arrested Ayla Fuimaono, 19, on a Heppner Justice Court warrant for Failure to Pay Fine/Maintaining a Dog as a Public Nuisance.

December 5: -BPD issued a citation to Travis Wayne Scherrer, 29, for Failure to Use a Turn Signal Within 100 Feet of a Turn and No License Plate.

-BPD arrested Chester Brent Paradiso, 39, on a Morrow County Circuit Court warrant for Failure to Appear/Theft II.

-Irrigon Ambulance received a call regarding a female who was vomiting blood. The patient was transported.

December 6: -MCSO arrested John Louis Munkers, 28, on a warrant -Continued on Page TEN

Brannon invited to compete on Oregon Football Team

Seeks donations for summer trip

International Sports Specialists, Inc. (ISSI) has invited Drew Brannon, a 17 year old junior at Heppner High School, to compete on the Oregon Football Team as part of the West Central Conference traveling to Australia this summer.

Brannon is looking for sponsors to make donations towards the cost of traveling to and competing in Australia. A major source of funds comes through voluntary contributions of family, friends, and business sponsors. Donations will help him and his team fulfill this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity and will go to help cover the essential costs of the program (airfare, hotel, meals, uniform, tournament fees, transportation, insur-

ance, etc.). Brannon is the son of Russell and Dana Brannon and Shawn and Merry Chandler, all of Heppner. He has a sister Brandi and a brother Caira Jack. "This is a great opportunity for Drew," says his mom, Merry. "I know he can make this happen. An experience like this will always be with him and is beneficial in so many ways. His entire family is very excited for him."

Brannon started working part-time at Les Schwab Tires in Heppner and is presently working with Al and Donna Osmin since 2009 for the summers. In school he has been active in football, wrestling, track, baseball, yearbook, and

civics/debate club. The last two years he has entered in Cow Riding at the Morrow County Rodeo. He is involved in the local All St. Episcopal Youth Group, is currently enrolled in the Ford Leadership Foundation, and the Future Business Leaders of America. Brannon has volunteered at the Morrow County Fair and Rodeo, the Heppner DayCare, Inc., and the Willow Creek Water Park. His hobbies are hunting, sports, hanging out with his girlfriend Tayllor and babysitting his baby brother.

If a donation is made ISSI will give you a ticket into a drawing to win a trip for two to Australia and Hawaii this summer.

To make a donation visit www.downundersports.com or you can send it to Russell Brannon, ATT: Drew Brannon, PO Box 1192, Heppner, OR 97836. For more information call 541-676-5399.

The first Down Under Bowl was in 1989 when four states produced a handful of teams, to 2010 when ISSI sent athletes from almost all 50 states to compete in the Down Under Bowl, Hoops Classics and International Games. Down Under Sports hosts the Down Under Sports Tournaments which provide a forum for athletes from other countries to compete head to head in the sport they love.