

Morrow County Court weekly meeting held

The Morrow County Court met on February 23 in Heppner 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 16.

The court reviewed and approved the account payables in the net total amount of \$130,103.12, retirement taxes in the amount of \$5,084.61 and a payment of \$758.34 to Uni-Tech for work done for the sheriff's department.

Presentation

The court heard a presentation from Kelsi Putman relating her experiences while attending the Girl's State Conference in June of 2010. Putman stated that she had an excellent time and learned a lot about

how government worked, adding that she has decided that she does not want to go into politics.

Bid Opening

Two bids to provide portable toilets for the county were opened. One from CB's Portable Restrooms from La Grande in the amount of \$1,810 per month plus an additional \$15 for extra servicing for three months. The other bid was from Doug's Septic Services from Milton-Freewater in the amount of \$1,620. Both bids will be reviewed for completeness and the awarding of the bid will be done at a later date.

Public Hearing

The county court held a public hearing regarding the matter of entering into a Strategic Investment Program (SIP) Agreement between the county

and Portland General Electric Company (PGE). The proposed project is for the construction of a combined cycle gas generating facility near the existing Coal Fired Plant. The court reviewed and approved a fifteen year SIP agreement with PGE.

The court conducted the following business: Appointed Sheree Smith, Shelly Salisbury, and Nancy Anderson to four year terms on the Morrow County Commission on Children, and Families. The court authorized a refund of property taxes in the amount of \$548.36 to James and Joan Key, due to a double payment of the taxes. Reviewed and signed an IGA between the County and Polk County acting on behalf of the ORCATS Partners. The ORCATS Partners consists of Deschutes, Jackson, Tillamook, Columbia,

Coos, Jefferson, Harney, Hood River, Linn, Umatilla and Polk Counties. This is a partnership of counties for an assessment and taxation computer program. Conversion and maintenance costs and scheduling were discussed. The court reviewed and approved a five year agreement between the county and Wilkinson Ranches, LLC for a rock quarry site located on their property. The agreement will terminate on January 5, 2016, with a one-year renewal for stockpile purposes only.

Various correspondences and upcoming meeting notices were reviewed and discussed.

Anyone who would like to be placed on the list to receive county minutes can contact Karen Wolff at (541)676-5620.

UMCDF surpasses 8 million safe hours

The Umatilla Chemical Agent Disposal Facility (UMCDF) has surpassed 8 million hours without a lost workday accident. As of February 23, it has been 1,692 days, or more than four and a half years, since a UMCDF employee missed work because of an accident.

This is the first time UMCDF has reached 8 million safe hours, which is the equivalent of 100 employees working more than 38 years without missing a day of work due to an accident. UMCDF has about 830 workers. The Safety Department verified the milestone this week and determined it was reached on February 19.

"What's most important about that number is it means our people are not getting injured at work," said Steven Warren, project general manager for URS, the company that built and operates the chemical demilitarization plant on the depot. "And when our employees work safely, it means we are keeping the community and environment safe as well."

One measurement of the effectiveness of a company's safety culture is its rolling (or 12-month) recordable injury rate (RIR).

OSHA describes a recordable injury as one that requires medical attention, ranging from injuries that require stitches or prescription drugs to more serious injuries. UMCDF has a RIR of .82, or less than one recordable injury for every 200,000 work hours.

The 8-million mark is remarkable, Warren said, especially considering the heavy industrial work that's done regularly at UMCDF. For example, workers frequently are involved in mechanical and electrical work, welding and crane operations.

The management at UMCDF points to the project's employee-led teams, which focus on safety and environmental compliance, as one key to keeping workers safe. The project was designated a Volunteer Protection Program (VPP) Star site by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) four years ago. VPP Star status represents the highest safety recognition issued by the federal government. It is OSHA's official recognition of the outstanding efforts of employers and employees who have achieved exemplary occupational safety and health.

Community Lunch Menu

Hope/Valby/All Saints members will be serving lunch on Wednesday, March 16, at St. Patrick's Senior Center. The meal will include corned beef and cabbage, potatoes, carrots and onions, fruit cocktail, black bread, and chocolate/peanut butter parfait. Menu is subject to change.

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Justice Court Report

Justice Court Judge Ann Spicer has released the following Justice Court Report:

-Andrew E. Burt, 32, Heppner, DUII, \$1,170 fine.

-Eric A. King, 22, Heppner, Driving While Suspended-Violation and Driving Uninsured, \$763 fine.

HHS Baseball Schedule

March 15 - at Tri Cities Prep, 1 p.m.
March 18 - at Grant Union, 10 a.m.
March 29 - Pendleton at home, 4 p.m.
April 2 - Sherman County at home, 11 a.m.
April 5 - at Irrigon, 4:30 p.m.
April 9 - Union at home, 10:30 a.m.
April 11 - at Pendleton, 5:30 p.m.
April 16 - at Pilot Rock, 11 a.m.
April 20 - Stanfield at home, 4:30 p.m.
April 26 - Irrigon at home, 4:30 p.m.
April 30 - Weston McEwen at home, 11 a.m.
May 7 - Dufur at home, 11 a.m.
May 10 - at Stanfield, 4:30 p.m.
May 14 - at Horizon Christian, 11 a.m.
May 21 - District Tournament in The Dalles, 10 a.m.

HHS JV Baseball Schedule

March 17 - at Pendleton High School, 4 p.m.
March 28 - Pendleton High School at home, 4 p.m.
April 4 - at Stanfield, 4:30 p.m.
April 8 - Grant Union at home, 1 p.m.
April 22 - at Stanfield, 10 a.m.
April 25 - at Pilot Rock, 4:30 p.m.
April 29 - Stanfield at home, 10 a.m.
May 6 - Pilot Rock at home, 10 a.m.
May 13 - Stanfield at home, 10 a.m.

Preschool students share Valentine's celebration



Heppner Preschool students celebrated this past Valentine's Day with the residents at Willow Creek Terrace Assisted Living. -Photos by David Sykes

Boardman names Loren Dieter interim police chief

Boardman City Manager Karen Pettigrew announced during the March 1st City Council meeting, she had promoted Lieutenant Loren Dieter to Interim Police Chief.

Interim Chief Dieter has worked for the Boardman Police Department for six years, serving the three years as sergeant and the past three years as the departments' Lieutenant. He will maintain the duties of the chief until a permanent replacement is hired.

In other city business, the council approved a candy cane decoration project sponsored by the Boardman Chamber of Com-

merce. Councilors heard the city's grant application made the first round of cuts for the transportation grant for South Main Street; thirty other projects around the state will be competing for the grant. After much discussion regarding the future of the Boardman Police Department, the council scheduled a Town Hall Meeting on the subject for March 16 at 6 p.m. at the Port of Morrow's Riverfront Center.

The next meeting of the Boardman City Council will be Tuesday, March 15, at Boardman City Hall Council and will begin at 7 p.m.

Ladies invited to join the Pendleton Women's Chorus

A new women's choir is forming in Pendleton for a late spring concert. All ladies (age 14 and up) who love to sing are welcome to join.

Rehearsals will be Mondays in the Pendleton High School choir room from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Pendleton musicians Lezlee Flagg and Cheryl Carlson will co-direct and Denise Owens will be piano accompanist. There is no audition required. Music selections

will cover a variety of styles and difficulty levels.

The primary goal of the group will be to have fun through singing in an enriching and supportive environment. The name of the choir has yet to be determined and will be selected by the members themselves.

Any questions can be addressed to the directors via their email address at womensingpendleton@gmail.com.

Community Chamber Chatter

Boardman

March Membership Lunch - The March Membership Lunch will feature Cindy Finlayson, Umatilla Electric, discussing the "how-to" of testifying at the Legislature. Attendees will also hear from Dave Hughes of the Agape House on the proposed homeless shelter, Martha's House. Lunch will be catered by Pudding on the Ritz and serving begins at 11:45 on Wednesday, March 16, at the Port of Morrow. RSVP is required and the cost of lunch is \$10.

Frostbite Golf Tournament - The Frostbite Golf Tournament is set for Saturday, March 26, at the Willow Run Golf Course. The team registration forms are available at the Chamber office. All funds from the Frostbite are used to fund Riverside High School scholarships.

Columbia River Community Health Services - Extended hours on Monday's from 5-7 p.m. Walk-in's are welcome. For more information on the new hours or any clinic services call 541-481-7212.

Boardman Senior Breakfast - The Senior Center at Boardman will have the community breakfast on Saturday, March 5, from 7:30-10:30 a.m. Breakfast is \$5 per person.

RHS Outdoor Club - The Riverside High

School Outdoor Club will hold a chili feed and silent auction on Saturday, April 16, at 4:30 p.m. at RHS. Tickets purchased early are \$5 for adults and \$3 for children.

Heppner

Wee Bit O'Ireland - The 29th annual St. Patrick's Celebration will be held Thursday-Sunday, March 17-20. The schedule of events is available here at the Chamber office or at www.heppnerchamber.com.

Rolling Hills Run - The Morrow County Health District is sponsoring the Rolling Hills Run on Saturday, April 23, at 10 a.m. at the Morrow County Fairgrounds. For more information go to www.active.com/event_detail.cfm?event_id=1936646.

Irrigon

Jokers Ball - A wonderful time (in spirit only) will be had by all at the annual April 1st Jokers Ball. Proceeds from the ball will help fund the Artist in Residence Program at Windy River and Irrigon Elementary. Raffle tickets are \$10 each and available at Boardman and Irrigon branches of Bank of Eastern Oregon and at the Banner Bank and Oregon First Credit Union in Boardman. Call 541-481-4761 or 541-481-5717 with any questions.

Sheriff's Report

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

December 12:

-MCSO issued a citation to Caleb Joseph O'Neal, 21, for Providing Liquor to a Minor. A male juvenile was cited for Minor in Possession - Alcohol and Minor in Possession - Tobacco.

-MCSO received a report of a roll-over accident. Boardman PD, Boardman Fire, Boardman Ambulance, and Oregon State Police assisted. The patient refused transport by ambulance.

-BPD issued a citation to a male driver for Violation of the Speed Limit by driving 53 mph in a 35 mph zone.

December 14:

-MCSO arrested Vince Monroe Strong, 25, on two Morrow County Circuit Court warrants for: Failure to Appear/Criminal Misdemeanor I, Assault III, Tamper with Witness, and Assault IV; and Failure to Appear/Kidnap II, Recklessly Endangering Another and Harassment.

-MCSO was notified that Salem PD had arrested Howard Joel Larson, 54, on a Morrow County Court warrant for UUMV.

-MCSO took into custody and transported Tia Nielson, 33, to Umatilla County Jail on a probation violation.

-MCSO arrested Amber Michele Pimentel, 18, for Assault IV and Harassment.

-MCSO issued a citation to Amber Danielle Gomez, 26, for No Operator's License, Display

Switched Plate, and Failure to Register Vehicle. Gomez was also cited for Driving Uninsured and Failure to Use Child Restraint Device. MCSO also arrested Wayne Bradley Schwabrow, 35, for Possession and Attempt to Deliver Marijuana.

-Boardman Ambulance received a 911 call regarding a female with a swollen face and neck and was having difficulty breathing. The patient was transported to Good Shepherd Hospital.

December 15:

-MCSO served Wayne Bradley Schwabrow, 35, with an Irrigon Justice Court arrest warrant for Failure to Pay Fine/DUII.

-MCSO arrested Joel Garcia Jimenez, 41, for Identity Theft and Forgery.

-MCSO arrested Cheri Ann Sink, 39, on a Hermiston PD warrant for Contempt of Court.

-Boardman Ambulance transported a 50 year old man who was having seizures to Good Shepherd Hospital.

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