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Gazette Times

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Taco feed to benefit Roy Proctor

Heppner High School and Heppner Elementary staff show their support for Roy Proctor.

A taco feed is set for Friday, October 7, at the Morrow County Fairgrounds in Heppner beginning at 5:30 p.m.

The Mexican meal will begin before the Mustang/Stanfield game and continue until halftime or until the food is gone. The staffs of Heppner Elementary and Heppner High, in conjunction with the HES Parent-Teacher Club and HHS Booster Club, are sponsoring the dinner in support of Roy Proctor, alumnus of both HES and HHS.

Roy underwent his second bone marrow transplant in Portland in August in his battle with Fanconi's Anemia.

"Please plan to attend this event to enjoy two tacos with all of the trimmings, rice, dessert, a drink and the good feeling of helping someone," said a spokesperson. " The cost of the dinner is $5 per person, but the good feelings are totally free."

'Village People' entertain at HHS homecoming pep rally

The "Village People" HHS mothers (left to right) Teresa VanDoorn, Sandi Day, Ashli Gould, Lana Orr, Misty Bennett, Jymme Franzwa, Sariena Garrett and Shannon Boor surprise the Heppner High School students at their homecoming pep rally held October 22 after the noise parade. Photo by Sandy Matthews

Bank of Eastern Oregon names Arletta Arnspiger lending manager for BEO Mortgage Division

"We are pleased to announce Arletta Arnspiger has been named mortgage lending manager for BEO Mortgage Division," said president and CEO, Jeff Bailey. Bailey continued, "Arletta has over 15 years of mortgage lending experience and is ready to continue providing the excellent customer service our customers and associates are accustomed to from BEO Mortgage Division."

Arnspiger commented, "I am excited by the opportunity that Bank of Eastern Oregon has presented to me. Rural mortgage lending poses unique challenges, so growing up in eastern Oregon helps me to understand the rural lending needs of our customers. I am well versed in the entire real estate process, bringing knowledge from time spent as a realtor, escrow officer and loan originator. The time I have spent in the mortgage industry and knowledge of the loan programs available gives me the experience necessary to help our customers with their mortgage needs."

Arnspiger was raised in Ione, attended BMCC and spent time in the Portland area where she raised her family and began her career in the mortgage and real estate business. In 2007, she joined the BEO mortgage team. She has three grown daughters and a grown son. Her roots run deep in Morrow County as her great-great grandparents homesteaded in the Ione area and her uncle, Melvin Brady, was one of the first employees at Gilliam County Bank in Arlington and later served as a director.

Arletta Arnspiger

BEO Mortgage provides full service mortgage lending to customers throughout eastern Oregon.

BEO Bancorp is the holding company for Bank of Eastern Oregon, which operates 12 branches and two loan production offices in nine eastern Oregon counties. Branches are located in Arlington, Ione, Heppner, Condon, Irrigon, Boardman, Burns, John Day, Prairie City, Fossil, Moro, and Enterprise; loan production offices are located in Hermiston and Ontario. Bank of Eastern Oregon also operates a mortgage division and offers brokerage services through BEO Financial Services. The bank's website is www.beobank.com.

Mayors & managers propose big changes in county government

Group says, "times have changed"

By David Sykes

The mayors and managers of the county's five cities say Morrow County's form of government is outdated and it is time for a change.

Increasingly frustrated by what they say is a lack of representation of the cities in county government, the mayors and managers are proposing changing the city charter to have five elected county commissioners instead of the present three.

A news release issued following one of its meetings says the group will form a committee made up of "two members from the communities of Heppner, Boardman and Irrigon, and one member from each of the communities of Lexington and Ione." They said the committee will draft a proposed charter changing the form of county government to what some call "home rule" or five elected county commissioners. The charter would have to be passed by county voters in order to be enacted. "The process is expected to take many months and involve a great deal of pubic input before the draft charter is placed on the ballot," the news release said.

The relationship between the cities and the county has been increasingly abrasive, with much of the adversity dating back to March of 2008 when the cities banded together to place an initiative on the ballot that would change the way some $1 million in Tippage fees (money received from dumping fees at the large Finley Buttes Landfill in Morrow County).

The cities felt they were not receiving enough of the money. The cities in the county had banded together and placed a measure on the March 2008 ballot that would eventually redistribute 75 percent of the money from the county general fund to the cities.

Voters defeated that measure however, 753 yes to 1363 no. The latest squabble between the cities and the county involves state highway funds. The county has traditionally given money received from the states for use by the cities in their road funds. The county budget committee learned however, that it was not required to give that money and at first decided to cut the distribution of those funds in half this year and maybe eliminate them altogether next year.

After fierce protests from the cities, some of which the allotment made up their entire road maintenance budget, the county compromised by adding another $50,000 to the cities' share of the road funds next year, bringing the total to $227,500. Last year, the cities got $355,000.

The cities were also upset that they were not told of the cuts and were in the process of putting together their budgets when informed of the cuts.

Morrow County Judge Terry Tallman said the cuts to the city are necessary because the county is facing its own funding shortfalls and must come up with ways to save money in its own budget. Health insurance for county employees is going up by 10 percent, he said, and retirement accounts and personnel also are growing more expensive — most county employees will get a three percent raise this year, a compromise in exchange for cuts to their health insurance program. And tax revenue is not rising as fast as the county's expenses, Tallman said.

The mayors and city managers in Morrow County hold monthly meetings and the decision to move forward with formulating a new charter was finalized at their last meeting. The following is the entire press release approved for distribution by the group.

News Release
Mayor/Manager Meeting
September 22, 2011

"The Mayors and Managers of Morrow County met in Heppner Wednesday September 21 for their monthly meeting. The hot topic of the day was the proposal to change the way that county government is structured. The Mayors and Managers have become aware that the current government structure was established by general law with the Oregon Constitution. With the growth of the county population, budget, and the complexity of the situations that the county deals with, the Mayors/Managers believed that it was time for a change.

"The present county government structure was established with the Oregon State Constitution in 1859 under general law provisions. Times have changed and the needs and issues facing Morrow County are much different now than they were in 1858 when Morrow County was established. The Mayors/Managers believe that there needs to be a more contemporary government structure with more than three members elected from the population. Counties that have updated their form of government from general law have usually settled on five commissioners to conduct their county's business. Having more commissioners allow for a wider perspective of interests and would allow for broader representation of constituents.

"The Mayors/Managers of Morrow County discussed that changing the county government structure will be a difficult task and there are many questions that will need to be answered. The group consensus was to form a Charter Committee made up of two members from the communities of Heppner, Boardman and Irrigon and one member from each of the communities of Lexington and Ione. This committee will be tasked with drafting a charter that can eventually be submitted for a vote by the citizens of Morrow County. The process is expected to take many months and involve a great deal of public input before the draft charter is placed on the ballot.

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@rapidserve.net.

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