

VISITOR CENTER

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cial gatherings, as well as school-related functions.

About the South Morrow Industrial Park in Heppner, Neal said the Port is no nearer to finding a tenant to run the co-gen plant.

"We continue to work on what do we do with the Kinzua site," Neal told the Chamber, adding that trying to establish a wood-waste supply from the nearby Umatilla National Forest to burn in the plant and produce electricity has not been successful.

"Fuel supply is still the show stopper. I still think we can get something in there," Neal said optimistically. "We have come close several times." He said there is about \$24 million in value at the site.

Neal also said the Port has spend "thousands of dollars" trying to satisfy the Environmental Protection Agency and the Department of Environmental Quality at the former saw mill site. "We have spent thousands on attorneys and consultants trying to meet their environmental requirements," to no avail, Neal said.

Neal also gave a rundown on the positive economic impact of the Port, including that 12 of the top 15 tax payers in the county are located at the Port of Morrow.

Neal also said the Port has 5,600 irrigated farm acres and pumps and disposes of five million



Port of Morrow Commissioners attended the Heppner Chamber of Commerce last Thursday and discussed ongoing developments at the Port. (L-R) Larry Lindsay, Marvin Padberg, Jerry Healy, Joe Taylor and Don Russell. -Photo by David Sykes

gallons of water for agricultural product processing every day. In addition, Port-located businesses directly and indirectly affect 5,360 jobs, produce \$1 billion in product per year and pay \$26 million per year in state income tax. Morrow County is seventh in the state, Neal said, in average annual income, at \$36,800. The Port has a total of 2,500 acres of industrial zoned land available.

In other projects Neal mentioned the following:

-A \$100 million expansion of the Tillamook Cheese facility, which will add 17 to 20 jobs.

-Another data farm for Amazon that is 120,000 square feet and will cost \$120 million.

-RDO is adding another production line.

-Building five more miles of road in the East Beach area. The \$10.7 mil-

lion to build the road came from a state transportation grant. -Working with a coal company to transload coal through the Port facilities on barges for shipment down the Columbia to Vancouver and then on to China. The company has pledged to give \$350,000 per year in support of local schools.

Long-time board member Larry Lindsay told the Chamber one of his biggest disappointments is not being able to get something to come into the South Morrow Industrial Park, and said the Port is not giving up on its efforts.

Lindsay also praised Neal and said the major growth at the Port has occurred since he was hired as the manager.

"When I talk to people at other ports, all they want to talk about is all the things we are doing here," Lindsay said.

Local students compete in state chess tournament

On March 2 and 3, local students will travel to Portland to enter the state Chess for Success tournament.

On Friday, the middle-school teams and the kindergarten through fifth-grade teams will compete for the best overall team. On Saturday, individuals will compete.

Players who placed first at the regional Chess for Success tournament now have the privilege to compete with the best of the best.

Joe Jones, Tyson Vawser, Jackson Lehman, Gavin Hanna and Carson Brosnan will be among the group of players to compete both days.



Back (L-R): Sixth-grade team members Joe Jones, Patrick Burch, Alex Lindsay and Peyton Lehman. Not pictured is Leo Waite. Front (L-R): Kindergarten through fifth-grade team members Carson Brosnan, Tyson Vawser, Jackson Lehman and Gavin Hanna. Not pictured is Reiah Waite. -Contributed photo

Cows, sheep and pigs, oh my!

The Ione Community Livestock 4-H Club recently held their first meeting of the year and elected officers. President is Jenna Taylor, vice president is Hannah Padberg, secretary/treasurer is Morgan Orem and reporter is Austin Carter.

"The unique thing about this club is that all species are welcomed and we have all the major livestock areas represented this year," said club co-leader, Glenda Taylor. "We are really excited about the group of kids we get to work with and are thrilled that our club is expanding."

Ione Community Livestock 4-H Club, led by Glenda Taylor and Erin



The Ione Community Livestock 4-H Club's newly-elected officers. Back (L-R): Austin Carter, Jenna Taylor, Hannah Padberg and Morgan Orem. Front (L-R): Jake Heideman, Aaron Smythe, Tyler Carter, Matt Orem and Paul Taylor. Not pictured: Logan Burright, Rita McElligott, Mary McElligott and Donald McElligott. -Photo by Erin Heideman.

Heideman, is just one of the many youth 4-H groups in Morrow County that will showcase their skills and efforts at the Morrow County Fair in August. The next meeting for the group will be on Thursday, March 8 in the Ione High School shop at 3:30 p.m.

Ione 4-H foods takes field trip

By Aaron Smythe

On February 10, Ione Community 4-H first- and second-year food and clothing members took a field trip to Hermiston. There were 16 members in attendance with two leaders

and several parents.

The first stop was Lamb Weston. Members learned that the company produces 1.5 million pounds of French fries per day for McDonalds. Ninety percent of the French fries produced

in Hermiston are shipped to Japan and Korea. It takes an hour and 20 minutes for a potato to become a frozen French fry.

Club members said their favorite parts of the plant were the steamer that

explodes the peel off the potatoes in 17 seconds and the tube that "pitches" the potatoes through the French fry cutter at 60 miles an hour.

After the tour, Lamb Weston served the 4-H members fresh fries. The club was guided by Neal Flyg and Jim Quam.

The next stop was Aunty Ida's Quilt Shop, where second-year sewing students turned in their blankets for the Linus Project and club members received a tour of the shop and pink bracelets.

They then toured the Wal-Mart bakery, where participants all donned hairnets and were led by tour guide Carol Baher, Food Department Manager. Wal-Mart bakes bread and decorates cakes at the store.

After that, the club toured the meat department and learned how the meat was stocked.

Then they went around a back loop and saw the freezers, refrigerators and inventory shelves.

Members learned that Wal-Mart in Hermiston averages sales of about \$220,000 per day.

After the tour, they teamed up in pairs and went on a "scavenger hunt." They had to find 10 specific items and compare things like price and nutrition. The hunt was won by Ann Rietmann and Aaron Smythe.

Finally, the club members went and skated at the Hermiston Roller Rink, which everyone agreed was a lot of fun.

Ione preschool visits fire station



Top: The Creative Care Preschool recently visited the fire station in Ione. Pictured with fire department volunteer Stewart Syverson are (L-R standing): Katie Spivey, Carter Eynetich, Chloe Burke, DeLaney Stefani, Corey Rice, Mason Orem and Martin Medina. (L-R seated): Carter Epenbach, Liam Heideman and Jerson Peralta. Bottom Right: Ione Rural Fire Department Chief, Virgil Morgan, helps great nephew Liam Heideman into a set of turn-outs during the field trip. -Photos by Erin Heideman



Chamber lunch meeting

The next meeting of the Heppner Chamber of Commerce will be an all entities report on Thursday, March 1, at noon at All Saints Episcopal Church in Heppner. Cost of the lunch is \$9; Willow Creek Diner will cater.

Those planning on attending are asked to RSVP by the Wednesday

before to allow for adequate food and seating.

The Heppner Chamber is also still looking for boxers for the fifth annual amateur Irish Boxing Smoker. Anyone who is interested or knows of anyone who would like to participate should contact the chamber at 541-676-5536.



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Due to the Morrow County Fee schedule order No. OR-20-2011 as of January 1, 2012 the Morrow County transfer stations will increase their fees 20% for removal of waste. Due to inflation of annual operating cost and other expenses beyond our control.

Morrow County would like to encourage and remind you the free disposal of latex and enamel paints, computers, computer towers and televisions free of charge. Remember residence are still allowed to dump the large appliances and household items such as refrigerators, stoves, dishwashers, washer/dryers, water heaters, mattresses, sofa, loveseats and lounge chairs free of charge. Thank you. North end Transfer Station, 69900 Frontage Lane, Boardman, OR. 97818. South end Transfer Station 57185 Hwy 74, Lexington, OR. 97839. Both hours of operation 9:00 - 4:00 Saturday and Sunday. Any questions or concerns may be addressed to (541) 989-9500.



Marriage Licenses

The Morrow County Clerk has issued the following marriage licenses:

February 21: -Steven Niles Brudevold, 31, of Heppner and Angela Denise Parris, 42, of Heppner.

February 27: Lonnie Roy Rowe, 44, of Pendleton and Rosalie Ann Breidenbach, 39, of Pendleton.