

## County Court news

The Morrow County Court met in Boardman on August 8 with Judge Tallman and commissioners Grieb and Rea in attendance.

The city and citizen comment period for Irrigon was opened, with no one in attendance.

The court reviewed and approved the minutes for July 11, July 18 and August 1. The court also reviewed and approved the account payables in the net total amount of \$216,107.54 and the void corrections to balance and payroll payable's monthlies.

**Veteran's Dept. Report:** Veteran's Director Linda Skendzel provided the court with the fourth quarter report, showing that she completed 55 in-office interviews and one out-of-office interview and recovered \$65,536 for local veterans. Skendzel also discussed her need for additional storage space for archived records.

**Sheriff Dept. Report:** Sheriff Kenneth Matlack provided the court with a monthly update of activities. *Irrigon Area:* A report of a home invasion, this investigation is ongoing; Fire mutual aid to assist with a fire on the Army Depot; An animal complaint regarding a Chihuahua and a pit bull. When all of the facts were investigated, the owner of the pit bull decided to not sign the complaint. *Boardman Area:* On the Fourth of July, responded to a fight in progress at a rodeo on Peters Road; A report of shots fired, stolen firearms and a marijuana grow that is currently being investigated. *Heppner Area:* Recovered a stolen 16-foot flatbed trailer with a 1,000 gallon diesel tank in the Big Butter Creek area; A vehicle came down the hill and went into a pasture in the 400 S. Main St. area, no driver was around; A vehicle was falling into a sinkhole in the area of 500 N.E. Elder Street. *OHV Park:* Assisted with bringing a man having a heart attack to the OHV Park, where he was met by the ambulance for transportation. *Marine Call:*

A citation was issued for unsafe boating in the area of Marker 40; Assisted a stranded commercial fishing boat in the area of the Boardman Marina. Sheriff Matlack also provided and reviewed the Parole and Probation Report. The report indicates that there are 99 individuals currently in the program. The work crew has generated the following income: City of Irrigon, \$862; City of Heppner \$100; Morrow County Public Works, \$600; for a total of \$1,562. There was also income from the work the crew has been doing at Finley Butte Landfill; however, that number was not available.

**Public Works Report:** Sandi Putman provided the court with information on the three companies that submitted qualified bids for the inspection of the clock tower on the court house. After reviewing all information, the court approved the bid from the Walsh Construction Company in the amount of \$6,000. Putman informed the court that an agreement has been reached with OSU Extension and Hermiston Cleaning LLC regarding the cleaning of the Extension offices. A letter signed by each party will be provided at a later date.

**County Counsel Report:** County Counsel Ryan Swinburnson reported that he is working on the agreement for Brian Thompson to use the county's easement located in the old railroad bed for the placement of pipes to carry water to the irrigators between Heppner and Lexington. Swinburnson is also working on the road right-of-way issues for Cain Lane.

**Contracts:** The court reviewed and signed an Intergovernmental Agreement for the Sheriff's Dept. to provide services to the City of Irrigon. The court reviewed and signed a resolution regarding the distribution of the National Forest Related Safety-Net Payments. The court allocated 12 percent of the full county payment for expenditure on Title II projects

and three percent of the full county payment for expenditures on Title III projects. This is the same allocation that has been used for the past several years. The court reviewed and signed the \$50,000 Work and Financial Plan Agreement between the county and the USDA APHIS Wildlife Services for conflicts related to damage caused by predatory animals to livestock and human health and safety.

The court conducted the following business: Reviewed information for the NorthEast Area Commission on Transportation (NEACT) regarding the charter renewal. After some discussion, the court agreed to increase the credit card limit (VISA) for the following: Veterans, Road Department, Public Works, Planning Department, Fair Board and Health Department. This is being done to prevent the fees for temporary increases, and interest and late fee charges on gas cards.

Various correspondences and upcoming meeting notices were reviewed and discussed.

This information is provided by Commissioner Leann Rea. Anyone who would like to receive County Court minutes, contact Karen Wolff at 541-676-5620.

## Community Bank awards \$2,500 for good grades

Heppner Community Bank paid \$2,500 in awards to local students recently as part of the bank's "Earn While You Learn" program.

This is the second year of the bank-wide program; the bank paid \$6,975 in awards to more 275 student-customers throughout its branches. This was an almost 80% increase in awards paid to students in the program's inaugural year.

The program is designed to encourage students in their academic success by awarding them

## CITY SEWER

*-Continued from PAGE ONE*  
The existing sewer plant. The cost would be \$449,000 with an additional \$157,000 in administrative, legal and engineering fees for a total of \$606,000. Inflation could drive the final price of the project to about \$625,000, the engineers say. To pay for the new facility, the recommendation was to raise Heppner's sewer rate from \$28 per month to \$32 or \$34 per month. The city currently has 742 paying sewer accounts.

The alternative to completely pull out of the creek and not dump effluent in the water at all is one method more and more cities are using, said Owens.

"It would be great to get out of the river. It would be expensive but a lot of cities are doing it," he said. He gave the example of Prineville as changing to a system of using their effluent for irrigation instead of dumping into a waterway, thus avoiding new DEQ ammonia regulations.

For Heppner to take its effluent out of Willow Creek would be expensive and would require land on which to irrigate. At the meeting, Owens presented a map with six different sites that might be used to irrigate with affluent. He said there are currently a total of 24 acres available but the city would need 38 more to

make the plan feasible. The city would store the effluent all winter and then irrigate all summer.

"Prineville is putting in a wetland, but you do not have a lot of land available," Owens told the council.

After discussion, the council voted to go with the engineers' recommendation to build a new facility, and the plan will now be submitted to DEQ for approval.

In other action at the meeting, Mayor Paustian read a letter from newly-hired city manager Kim Cutsforth. Cutsforth, who was not in attendance at the meeting, takes over the job from retiring city manager Dave DeMayo next month, and her letter explained how she would now handle her Heppner real estate business Heritage Land Company.

Cutsforth said she is turning over operation of the business to JoyceKay Hollomon, owner of Willow Creek Realty, also of Heppner. Cutsforth said Hollomon would now be principal broker at Heritage and that two new agents, whom she did not name, would also be working there. One agent is activating a license and another is obtaining a license, Cutsforth said.

The council heard a report on the St. Patrick's Senior Center from administrator Judy Buschke.

Buschke said the housing authority has signed a one-year contract with Cascade Management Company, which had been managing the facility on a five-year contract, which expired. The housing authority has not always been happy with Cascade's performance, but has had trouble finding a replacement.

Buschke said Cascade will charge 9.5 percent of gross revenue from the senior apartments for management fees. She added that with the recent electrical rate increase from Columbia Basin Electric the center will probably end up raising rents. Electricity, water, garbage and sewer have been on the increase and are all included in tenant rents.

She was to speak to tenants on Tuesday about the possibility of increasing rents. All the apartments are currently rented, she said.

### Sheriff's Report for July 2012

**Traffic**  
There were five traffic stops, resulting in one arrest.

Two minor traffic crashes were reported.

Some juveniles were warned for riding their bicycles and not watching for traffic.

**Code Enforcement**  
Four loose animal calls were reported, resulting in two cats being transported to Pet Rescue and two citations being issued.  
An abandoned vehicle

was reported. The owner advised it was not running and it was going to be moved to get fixed.

A person reported loud music coming from vehicles on a regular basis. Contact was made with the offenders.

MCSO received a report of kids being loud, playing, after hours.

There were four code enforcement calls pertaining to garbage and debris.

Two barking dog complaints were received.

Two calls were received regarding loose horses.

An abandoned vehicle was reported. It was parked at the location for one day, and moved by the owner.

**Theft Complaints**  
A resident reported they had prescription medication stolen from their residence in June.

A flatbed trailer was reported stolen.

Four complaints of fraud were reported and are under investigation.

MCSO received a call regarding a person taking property from a residence. It was determined the person was married to the other resident and it was a civil issue.

MCSO received a report of a gas drive off.

A person reported a theft of a license plate. The license plate was located on the roadway.

**All Other**  
A juvenile reported being assaulted by her parent. It was determined to be unfounded.

A person reported kids climbing through a window of a residence. It was determined one of the kids lived at the residence and all was fine.

A juvenile was shot in the finger by a friend playing with a BB gun.

A juvenile was reported to be unsupervised. A deputy contacted the grandmother, who was supposed to be watching the child and was advised to keep a better watch on the child.

An intoxicated person was yelling and kicking a business door. The adult was contacted and trespassed from the business.

A domestic dispute was reported. It was determined to be a verbal argument and a civil issue over custody of a child.

A mental patient was leaving notes at a local business. The patient was trespassed from the business.

A juvenile was cited for shooting out a car window and two house windows with a BB gun.

A vehicle hood was damaged.

A fight in progress was reported. When the deputies arrived the involved parties had separated.

An adult female was arrested for possession of methamphetamine, harassment and endangering the welfare of a minor.



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## WCCC Men's Club results

On Sunday, August 12, 20 men played in the regular morning play. Winners were:

Gross: 1<sup>st</sup>, Ron Bowman, 63; 2<sup>nd</sup>, Don Eaves, 66; 3<sup>rd</sup>, Dave Allstott, 67. Net: 1<sup>st</sup>, Dave Mitchell, 53; 2<sup>nd</sup>, Rick Britt, 54; 3<sup>rd</sup> (tie), Ralph Walker and John Mc-

Cabe, 58. Least putts: Don Eaves. Special Events: KP 4/13, John McCabe; KP 2<sup>nd</sup> shot 6/15, Larry Runyon.

Next Sunday will be the men's two player "shoot out" with Dave Allstott, Dave Gunderson and Gary Watkins in charge.

**Plastic and Aluminum Signs**  
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