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HEPPNER
Gazette Times

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Hardman site listed on national historic register

A local Independent Order of Odd Fellows (I.O.O.F) hall is one of the latest listings in Oregon in the National Register of Historic Places. Oregon's State Advisory Committee on Historic Preservation recommended the I.O.O.F. nomination in their February 2012 meeting.

Constructed in 1900, the Hardman I.O.O.F. Hall/ Community Center still serves as a center for community activities in the town of Hardman. Like many I.O.O.F. organizations across the state, Lone Balm Lodge #82, established in 1886, served the cultural and social needs of the small town of Hardman, playing a significant roll in the civic and social development of the town. In addition to fulfilling the I.O.O.F.'s mission to "Visit the Sick, Relieve the Distressed, Bury the Dead, and Educate the Orphan," the building also served as a dance hall and music center.

The two-story, wood, false-front building is notable for its architecture, which is a good example of a historic building type that is closely associated with historic western towns. Today, the Hardman I.O.O.F. Hall is the only active commercial building left standing in Hardman, located south of Heppner on State Route 207. It is one of five historic properties in Morrow County listed in the National Register.

The National Park Service maintains the National Register under the authority of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966. For more information about the National Register and recent Oregon lists, visit www.oregonheritage.org.

The Hardman Community Center, which housed the I.O.O.F. Lone Balm Lodge #82, established 1886 in Hardman. *–Photo by David Sykes*

County Court discusses wind farm valuations

Dept. of Revenue valuations leave counties in tough spot

The Morrow County Court met in Boardman on Sept.12 with Judge Tallman and Commissioner Grieb in attendance.

The city and citizen comment period for Irrigon was opened, with no one present to comment.

The court reviewed and approved the minutes of the Aug. 22 meeting, also reviewed and approved the payroll payables, Life Flight payroll payables, August retirement taxes and account payables in the net total amount of $112,912.86. The court reviewed the projected cash balance activity for the week of Sept. 10, 2012 through Sept. 16, 2012.

Fair Board: The court requested a summarizing report regarding fair activities from Chair Rod Taylor. Doashea Qualls was appointed to the fair board.

Contracts: County Counsel Ryan Swinburnson reminded the court that Judge Tallman had previously been given the authority to sign Non-Disclosure Agreements related to Enterprise Zone and Strategic Investment Program negotiations on behalf of the county. The court reviewed and signed a Commercial Lease Agreement between the county and Community Counseling Solutions for office space in the Gilliam and Bisbee Building at a rate of $695 per month through June 30, 2013.

Oregon Solutions Plan: Boardman City Manager Karen Pettigrew explained the Oregon Solutions Plan that they have been working on for several years. Pettigrew stated that GEODC has written policies and procedures that clarify how the funds will be managed and tracked. Port of Morrow General Manager Gary Neal stated that the Port will front the $100,000 for match money, with the Port to be reimbursed through the Enterprise Zone fees over the next few years. The court decided to support the creation of the Boardman Housing Development Fund (BHDF) and agreed to participate through the Enterprise Zone. The court approved the Memorandum of Understanding between the City of Boardman and Morrow County to carry out these housing activities.

Commissioners Report: Judge Tallman reported that he went to Salem and met with the Dept. of Revenue (DOR) along with representatives from Gilliam and Sherman Counties. At the meeting, the valuation of wind farms was discussed. DOR has already reduced some values by one to 56 percent with no explanation as to the wide range of change. DOR stated that in the original valuation process they keep track of grant money, Production Tax Credits and Business Energy Tax Credits and subtract that amount from the value basis. This creates a major problem for the county when the tax dollars are distributed to the various Tax Code Districts only to have the amount appealed to DOR, and then the county is in the position of needing to refund large sums to the company.

Various correspondences and upcoming meeting notices were reviewed and discussed.

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

Like the Gazette?

Facebook page gives residents new way to 'like' their paper

Those looking to keep in touch with their hometown newspaper now have a new way to do so. The Heppner Gazette-Times has opened a page on the popular social networking site, Facebook.

Though newspaper staff will post on the page from time to time, Gazette editor Andrea Di Salvo says the page is primarily another avenue those with news to share can use to connect with the newspaper.

The paper will welcome postings of news, events, photos and anything else that might be of interest to South Morrow County. And, of course, those who follow the page will have the inside edge on stories posted there...a reason to go on Facebook and click that "Like" button.

Di Salvo hastens to add that those who aren't comfortable with technology like Facebook will still be able to reach the paper in all the usual ways, via phone, fax, email or by walking into the office on Willow Street in Heppner.

"A lot of people are on Facebook," says Di Salvo. "It's a very popular site. We just thought it was time we made the Gazette-Times more accessible to people for whom that's the most convenient form of communication."

Visit the Gazette-Times Facebook page at http://www.facebook.com/HeppnerGazetteTimes.

The Heppner Gazette-Times wants to see pictures of your trophy animals from this fishing/hunting season. Stop by to have your picture taken, drop off photos, or email them to editor@rapidserve.net.

ALL NEWS AND ADVERTISEMENT DEADLINE:
MONDAYS AT 5:00 P.M.

MCSD includes online learning program

By April Sykes

The Morrow County School Board heard a presentation about online/distance learning at its regular meeting at Irrigon Junior/ Senior High School on Sept. 10.

Jerry Boomer, a representative of Greenways Academy, a diploma-granting institution, told the board that the program is appropriate for a wide-range of students, from those who have lost time because of illness, active athletes, children who are bi-polar, are attention deficit/hyperactive, have Asperger's Syndrome, have been expelled, those who need credit recovery, all the way to English-as-a-second-language children, home schooled students and disciplined, self-motivated students who excel in their studies.

The program is currently in use by 10 students within the district, who may never even come into a school building, said MCSD Superintendent Dirk Dirksen. Dirksen said that if there is already a class offered within the district in a bricks-and-mortar classroom, they will place the student in the building before recommending the student for an online class. He said that this may be the best option for some students, especially while the district is dealing with budget cuts and reduced staffing at the secondary level, and subsequent scheduling conflicts. He said that the district's finances are currently fine, but funding is flat now and the district is anticipating a 7.2 percent increase in Public Employees Retirement System costs during the next biennium.

Educators stressed that their main goal is to educate kids, regardless of the format, while adhering to state standards. Boomer said that they were required to contact the students on a regular basis and added that Greenways teachers are bilingual.

A workshop for board members concerning the Greenways program is in the planning stages.

Dirksen said that while the population is really close to being flat from a year ago, the district is still in a good position with regard to offering college classes for high school students through the Eastern Promise program.

In other business, the board;

-heard a report from Kim Mabry, food service director for the district, who coordinates and oversees lunch menus and district kitchens. She said that the new menus include a lot of whole wheat and whole grain foods. "You can eat as many fruits and vegetables as you want," she added.

-learned from Dirksen that the district is in the process of collecting information on costs concerning the current district office in Lexington. The board had much earlier discussed the need for improvements at the district office building, the costs of such improvements, the current costs of heating and cooling the aging building and the costs of putting the district office at another location.

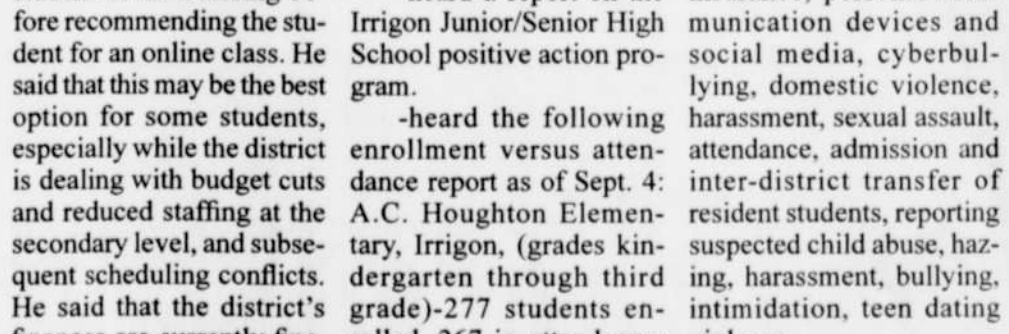
-heard a report on the Irrigon Junior/Senior High School positive action program.

-heard the following enrollment versus attendance report as of Sept. 4: A.C. Houghton Elementary, Irrigon, (grades kindergarten through third grade)-277 students enrolled, 267 in attendance; Irrigon High School (grades seven-12)-372/352; Heppner Elementary (grades K-six)-177/166; Heppner High School (grades seven-12)-181/175; Irrigon Elementary (grades four-six)-211/203; Riverside High School, Boardman (grades seven-12)-397/397; Sam Boardman Elementary (grades K-three)-343/334; Windy River Elementary, Boardman (grades four-six)-204/198; Morrow Education Center, Irrigon, Morrow County School District students-18/14 (no students from other districts enrolled); total 2,180 enrolled vs. 2,106 in attendance.

-approved the following employment action: resignations from Richard Rockwell, RHS educational assistant; Chad Doherty, Heppner Junior High School head football coach and Kristi Richmond, Irrigon Junior High assistant volleyball coach. Employment/promotions for Misty Bellamy, from RHS assistant cook to head cook. Extra duty contracts for Javier Garcia, HJH head football coach; Chad Doherty, HJH assistant football coach and Carol Johnson, RHS assistant volleyball coach.

-approved a resolution accepting and appropriating $1,100 from the Department of Education to Heppner High School, Dave Fowler and Troy Morgan, for a technical math curriculum research project, funds not anticipated during the regular budget process.

-approved the second reading rescinding old policies and adopting new policies on a wide variety of topics as follows: in-service on accident prevention, pest management, health insurance, personal communication devices and social media, cyberbullying, domestic violence, harassment, sexual assault, attendance, admission and inter-district transfer of resident students, reporting suspected child abuse, hazing, harassment, bullying, intimidation, teen dating violence.

-approved the appointment of Tom Wolff, Heppner, to the district budget committee with the term ending June 30, 2015

-heard the following announcements: next board meeting, Heppner High School, October 8, 7 p.m.; Oregon School Board Association fall regional meeting, Blue Mountain Community College, Pendleton, October 10, 6 p.m.; OSBA convention, Portland, October 8-11.