

## Ione recognizes perfect attendance



Ione Community School has announced that the following students received awards for perfect attendance for the month of October, 2012:

Chloe Burke, Liam Heideman, Martin Mendoza, Mason Orem, Corey Rice, Katie Spivey, Dylan Christian, Karensa Jones, Cameron Proudfoot, Lewkus Burright, Carson Eynetich, Alexandria Gurinko, Madison Orem, Bryce Rollins, Daralynn Teeman, Morgan Alldritt, Blake Carter, Emily Ehrmantraut, Hailey Heideman, Mazie Hill, Faviola Juarez Alvarez, Haylie Peterson, Kayla Rodriguez, Tom Rudolf, Julianna Teeman, Katelyn Thompson, Anthony Villegas, Maricarmen Aguilar, Larysa Burright, Cameron Crum, Eva Martin, Abigail Pringle, Ola Rietmann, Jordan Rollis, Wyatt Aleksa, Madison Alldritt, Shaun Epperson, Jake Heideman, Matt Orem, Jill Rudolf, Paul Taylor, Tyler Carter, Payton Miller, Renee Peterson, Syd Stefani and Susanna Teeman.

Attendance awards for grades seven through 12 were also given to the following students, each of which had two absences or less for the first quarter:

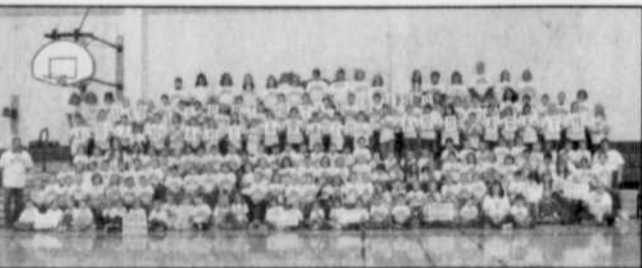
JD Aleksa, Andrew Ames, Maggie Flynn, Wyatt McNary, Austin Morter, Nicole Navarrete, Dayshawn Neal, Morgan Orem, Roman Sheena Rodriguez, Emily Taylor, Hector Aguilar, Pedro Bolanos, Tatum Clark, Dan Doherty, Karsen Dumler, Tristan Estabrook, Hannah Flynn, Yaniva Garcia, Colton Hollis, Ashley Medina, Hannah Padberg, Babali Peterson, Breawna Teeman, Jorge Aguilar, Jessie Flynn, Rachel Holland, Jason Juarez, Tre Neal, Ann Rietmann, Joshua Stillman, Brendan Thompson, Cassidy Braun, Joe Doherty, Lauren Garrett, Adara Hasbell, Dan Holtz, Brandon Peck, Oskar Peterson, Miranda Taylor, Bailey Haguewood, Jaqueline Juarez, Larissa Steinlicht, Tyrell Barnett, Julianne Carlson, Tim Emmerle, Francisco Ramirez and Alisha Taylor.

## Ione students show responsibility



Ione Community School recognized students in kindergarten through sixth grade who did an outstanding job showing responsibility during the month of October. Students awarded were Martin Mendoza-kindergarten, Karensa Jones-first grade, Bryce Rollins-second grade, Gary Walls-third grade, Eva Martin-fourth grade, Elaina Ehrmantraut-fifth grade and Susanna Teeman-sixth grade. —Contributed photo

## HES shows Colt pride



On Thursday, Nov. 1, students and staff at Heppner Elementary donned their Colt shirts to show their Colt pride. Once again, HES has received an outstanding rating on the Oregon state report card. The students are holding signs that boast: "HES is outstanding again...and again...and again." That is surely the case, as HES has received the highest ranking seven times. —Contributed photo

## BEO shows spooky spirit



Bank of EO's Heppner employees gathered for their annual group photo in celebration of Halloween. Orange and black was the dress code for the day for most, and tellers dolled up in their finest witch costumes. The loan processors took the liberty of dressing like their supervisor, Senior VP/Senior Loan Officer John Qualls, while the real John Qualls surprised everyone with his bright green money costume, dubbing himself "Big Money Daddy." —Contributed photo

## County Court news

The Morrow County Court met in Heppner on Oct. 24 with Judge Tallman and Commissioners Grieb and Rea in attendance.

The City and Citizen Comment period for Ione/Lexington was opened; Dee Birch from the town of Lexington provided photos for the court's review of the town's new city hall and fire station. She also reported that the old city hall/fire station has been torn down and the site is being cleaned up so a park with picnic tables and restrooms can be provided for the citizens. Lexington now has a website; it is [www.lexingtonoregon.com](http://www.lexingtonoregon.com). The council minutes and meeting calendar are some of the items that will be posted.

The court reviewed and approved the minutes for Oct. 17. The court also reviewed and approved 4-H and FFA premiums, payroll payables, 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter SUTA, Nov. 6 election postage, garnishment refund and the account payables in the amount of \$76,200.09. This was after pulling a \$64,260 invoice for jail beds and \$44,998 for a marine patrol vehicle. The court then reviewed the projected General Fund cash balance activity for the week of Oct. 22 thru Oct. 28, 2012. The remaining cash balance was \$114,046.52. The projected General Fund expenses for the next week and the projected tax turnover will leave a balance of approximately \$22,046.52.

**Emergency Management Monthly Update:** Undersheriff Steve Myren stated that the communities are all working on their Emergency Opera-

tions Plans (EOP) and that he is continuing to refine the county's EOP. The court then went out and viewed the replacement Marine Patrol boat.

**Assessor/Taxation Report:** Assessor Greg Sweek informed the court that the City of Irrigon's property tax bills are up about 20 percent due to a sewer system bond that was passed in 2004, but this will be the first year the city requested the amount be included on the property tax statements. Sweek informed the court that the estimated assessed value of \$1.413 billion provided in April 2012 was a little low and the actual value came in at \$1.572 billion. One of the larger companies that was eligible for Enterprise Zone status failed to file for their exemption, so that accounted for a large portion of the difference.

**County Counsel Report:** Mr. Swinburnson stated that he is continuing to work on the resolution regarding the ownership of Cain Lane.

**Commissioner Report:** Judge Tallman stated that he had attended a meeting at the OSU Experiment Station regarding the giant cane (Arundo Donax) that PGE is experimenting with to burn at the Coal Fired Plant. It appears the state is proposing some rules that would make it impossible to grow enough stock to serve the plant. There will be additional meetings regarding the newly-proposed rules, and Judge Tallman will plan on attending these meetings. Commissioner Rea reported on the latest meeting for the Umatilla

Basin Water Commission, stating that the original test project has now been completed and the commission needs to make a decision as to who should operate the system. There was also a lengthy discussion as to whether the commission should contribute \$20,000 to the Oregon Solutions that has been working on water issues in the basin. It was decided to not contribute until the commission knew how the funds were going to be spent. Rea also stated that the Umatilla Commissioners would like to invite the Morrow County Commissioners to attend a meeting with Yakima County Commissioners to discuss water usage from the Columbia River.

Various correspondences and upcoming meeting notices were reviewed and discussed.

The Morrow County Court met in Heppner on Oct. 31 with Judge Tallman and Commissioners Grieb and Rea in attendance.

The City and Citizen Comment period was opened, with no one in attendance.

The court reviewed and approved the minutes for Oct. 24.

**Planning Department Update:** Planning Director Carla McLane informed the court that more research will need to be conducted regarding the code enforcement issue in the Heppner area. McLane then provided information on the Administrative Draft for the Environmental Assessment (EA) that is being prepared for the Carty Lateral project. The court learned that they have been appointed as

a Special Advisory Group (SAG) for several energy projects (power generation and transmission projects) that are being processed through the Oregon Dept. of Energy. McLane will provide the court with the entire list of projects at the next court meeting.

The draft Environmental Impact Statement for the navy bombing range, which will allow the use of the range by the Oregon National Guard, was discussed. Public Works Director Burke O'Brien provided a letter regarding the potential impacts to county roads, which he would like to see incorporated into the county's comments. A lengthy discussion ensued regarding some of the other negative impacts that could affect future development both on and off the Bombing Range property.

The court conducted the following business: Reviewed and signed a letter of support for the Ambre Energy (Coyote Island Terminal Application #49123), a letter requesting Oregon State University to fund the 4-H Program in Morrow County and a letter to the Navy requesting an extension of 30 days to comment on the Naval Weapons Systems Training Facility Boardman Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

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.

## Governor declares rural health day

Governor John Kitzhaber has declared Thursday, Nov. 15, Rural Health Day.

His declaration is part of a national movement to celebrate the role of health care services in rural areas. The National Organization of State Offices of Rural Health (NOSORH) created National Rural Health Day as a way to showcase rural America; increase awareness of rural health-related issues; and promote the efforts of NOSORH, State Offices of Rural Health and others in addressing those issues.

Approximately 62 million people—nearly one in five Americans—live in rural and frontier communities throughout the United States.

"These small towns, farming villages and frontier areas are fueled by the creative energy of ordinary citizens who historically have been willing to step forward and take risks in order to provide a wealth of products and resources for the rest of the country. They also continue to be places where everyone knows each other, listens to/respects each other and works

together for the greater good," notes NOSORH Director Teryl Eisinger.

Unfortunately, these communities face unique healthcare concerns: a lack of healthcare providers; accessibility issues, particularly in terms of transportation and technology; and affordability issues as the result of larger percentages of un-/underinsured citizens and greater out-of-pocket health costs. Meanwhile, rural hospitals and health systems face declining reimbursement rates and disproportionate funding levels that make it challenging to meet the physical, social and economic needs of their communities.

The Morrow County Health District works directly with the Oregon State Office of Rural Health to address the challenges it face and to receive support in our mission of providing excellence in healthcare," says a MCHD representative. "We're proud to provide a wide variety of services and we sincerely appreciate the support we receive from the residents of Morrow County. Please join us in celebrating Rural Health Day."

## Free Facebook workshop planned

The Ione Public Library will host a free workshop on "Facebook Basics—Getting Started" on Wednesday, Nov. 28, from 6-7:30 p.m. at the library.

Heidi Nelson will lead the class. Class members should bring a laptop, iPad or tablet device if they have one. The class is intended for beginning, reluctant or non-users of Facebook with the aim of increasing their comfort level with this trend in social media.

Topics covered in the

session include: signing up, logging in, finding friends, how to post and share, commenting and sharing photos, messaging, controlling what appears in your news feed and terminology. There will also be time for questions and answers.

Space is limited; interested patrons must RSVP by either contacting Anne Morter at [amorter@hughes.net](mailto:amorter@hughes.net) or 541-422-7429, or getting their name on the list at the Ione Library.

## CITY WASTEWATER

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amount does not include maintenance or monitoring costs. It was also determined that, because the irrigation program is as heavily monitored by the DEQ as any other wastewater program, this irrigation program could require modifications or even be disallowed after some time

and major investment.

"For these reasons, the city will not be pursuing this option and will be refocusing on an ammonia-reduction plant," said a city spokesperson. "It is a disappointment that there were so many obstacles, and the city appreciates the effort put forth from our local farmers."

## SWCD to meet

SWCD closed Monday for holiday

The Morrow SWCD will hold a regular board meeting on Tuesday, Nov. 13, at 6 p.m. in the Ag Service Center conference room.

Agenda items include minutes of the October 2012 meeting, treasurer's report, staff reports, grants update, partnership reports, Accounts Receivable status,

director elections update, a 2013 puncturevine proposal and a USDA lease discussion. There will be time for public comments.

All meetings of Morrow SWCD are open to the public.

Our offices will be closed Monday, Nov. 12, in observance of Veteran's Day.

## Financial aid info night planned

A financial aid night will be held in the Heppner High School library on Nov. 14 from 5:30 to 7 p.m. for parents of students wanting to learn about financial aid for their students.

A representative of Blue Mountain Community College will be there to cover the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). All senior and junior parents along with their students are encouraged to attend.

## Irrigon, DEQ to discuss groundwater

On Nov. 8 at 6 p.m., the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) will host a meeting to talk about groundwater in the Irrigon area.

The meeting on Nov. 8 will focus on providing information on groundwater and how it responds to local land uses. DEQ representatives will be talking about how groundwater gets in the ground, how it can get

contaminated. This meeting is likely to be of interest to anyone who has a well they use for household use, crops, maintaining livestock and septic systems for wastewater disposal.

The meeting will be held at Stokes Landing Community and Senior Center, 195 NW Opal Place, Irrigon, OR. Call Sheree Stuart at 503-229-5413 for more information.