

National Night Out in Boardman August 6

Free barbecue and a chance to meet your police, EMTs and firefighters

The public is invited to an evening of free barbecue, refreshments and a chance to meet police, firemen and EMTs up close Aug. 6 from 5 to 8 p.m. at the Boardman City Park.

Bring the kids down and see the ambulances, police cars and fire trucks up close while the parents visit with the city's first responders. The evening is part of National Night Out event to meet the people who respond in emergencies.

"This is a chance for people to get to know who we are," says Boardman Police Chief Richard Stokoe. He says all his officers will be there, along with some patrol cars for the public to get to know better. "The public is who we work for and we think it is very important they get to know who we are."

Boardman Rural Fire Protection District Chief Marc Rogelstad agrees and says there will be fire trucks and ambulances to examine, as well as firefighters and EMTs to visit with. There will be instructions on what to do if there is a house fire, and a smoke alarm program for the public to get smoke alarms and learn how to set them up, he adds.



Boardman Rural Fire Protection District Chief Marc Rogelstad (left) and Chief of Police Richard Stokoe are getting ready for the National Night Out, an opportunity for local people to "meet and greet" their first responders, Aug. 6 at Boardman City Park.

In addition to free food and refreshment, there will also be a bouncy house for the kids, a bike raffle and lots of equipment to check out. Walmart, Pendleton Cash & Carry, and Jump Start Java in Boardman helped with donations.

The Morrow County Health District is also participating, says CEO/Administrator Dan Grigg, with ambulances to look at and paramedics there for people to talk with and to get to know.



Health District CEO/Administrator Dan Grigg.

The district will also have home health/hospice nurses on hand for the public to visit with. There will be a raffle for a children's bike to promote exercise and a raffle for an infant car seat

to promote safety.

Grigg says the health district is seeking new volunteer ambulance drivers and EMTs (or those who would like to become EMTs) in the Boardman area.

"There will be an opportunity for those who are interested to talk with our paramedics about what that entails, and a sign-up sheet for those who are interested," says Grigg.

"Overall, it will be a great opportunity for the community to come out and become more familiar with us and the services we provide in the Boardman area," he says.

"We are thrilled to have the opportunity to meet people and to participate in this great community event."

ODOT UPDATE

-Continued from PAGE ONE

involvement. Earlier this year, ODOT crews also worked in the north end of the county to upgrade sidewalks along 1st Street in Irrigon, as well as making improvements to Columbia Ave. in Boardman to allow for the expansion of the ConAgra plant in the Columbia River Enterprise Zone.

ODOT plans its work in four-year blocks, ODOT Region 5 Public Information Officer Tom Strandberg explained. The department is currently operating in the 2012-2015 Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP). While city and county work don't always fall under ODOT plans, Strandberg says Morrow County won't see much more ODOT activity in this period; ODOT is acquiring a right-of-way for rock-fall work to be done near milepost 35 on Hwy. 207, as well as surveying and acquiring land for snow fences throughout the county.

Other than that, plans for the 2015-2018 STIP are already in the preliminary stages. Strandberg and Region 5 Manager Monte Grove explained that there are two draft lists currently in the works for the 2015-2018 STIP, one for "fix-it" projects (those that fix or preserve an area) and one for "enhance" projects (projects that enhance, expand or improve an area).

South Morrow has no locations on either map; two Boardman locations are on the "enhance" project list. The men pointed out, however, that the proposed lists represent 150 percent of current ODOT funding, so not all the projects will make the final cut. The final list will be determined based not only on cost but on other factors such as heavy traffic use and safety concerns.

Speaking of locations that didn't make the cut, Grove brought up the issue of Horseshoe Bend on Hwy. 74. The well-known curve turns nearly 360 degrees, and has been a local "hot item" for some time, said Grove. However, the price tag on straightening the curve—two to three million dollars—knocks it off the STIP for now.

"It has no accident history, and it's competing with areas with a lot of accident history," said Grove. "If we could find an innovative way of bringing cost down, we could entertain that."

One innovation the men mentioned would be to convince the Oregon National Guard to use the project as a training exercise, similar to the way the Guard completed the Hager Park project in Heppner recently. With Guardsmen doing the excavation work as part of their training, Grove said, the price tag on the project would drop to around one million dollars. He stressed, though, that with an enhancement project like Horseshoe Bend, local people would have the greatest say, and responsibility, in raising the funding. Meanwhile, Strandberg added, ODOT will continue to take short-term measures to ensure the safety of the curve.

For those who want some say in the matter, Grove and Strandberg said the North East Area Commission on Transportation (NEACT), is the body to which to voice concerns and suggestions. County representatives and alternates currently on the NEACT include Morrow County Judge



Barratt Blvd. in Heppner is one of several ODOT projects that have taken place in Morrow County over the past year. -Photo by Andrea Di Salvo

Terry Tallman, Public Works Director Burke O'Brian, Boardman City Manager Karen Pettigrew, and Ron McKinnis and Lisa Mittelsdorf, both with the Port of Morrow.

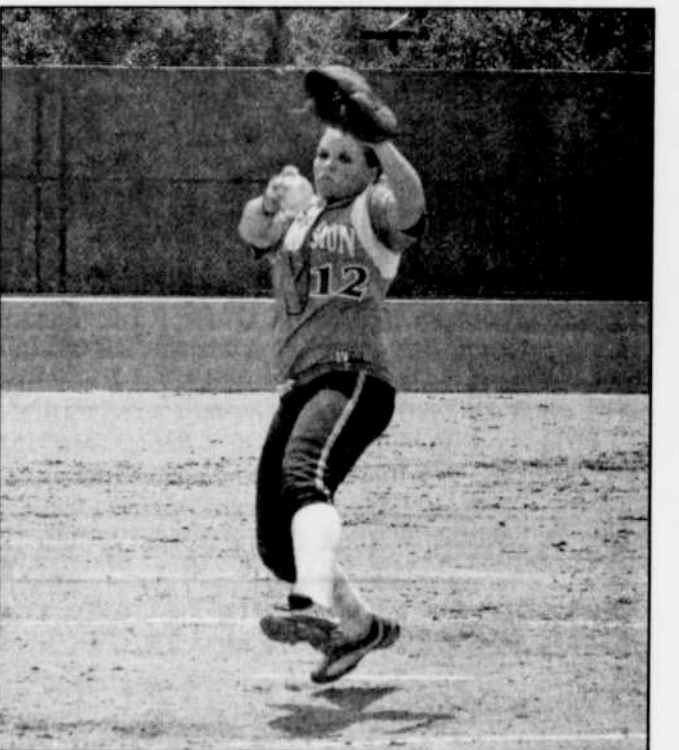
The men said local involvement is crucial because cities and counties usually put together "wish lists." Funded projects normally come from those lists, they said, because they have already been determined as high priority. They said that though the meetings usually are held in LaGrande, a bit of a drive for Morrow County residents,

anyone is welcome to sit in, or even address the group, at any meeting. However, they again stressed that it was best to begin at the local level to coordinate priorities.

"We rely on local representatives to chime in and help make decisions," said Strandberg.

The next meeting of the NEACT will be a joint meeting the South East ACT, held this Thursday, Aug. 1, at 9 a.m. at Community Connections, 2810 Cedar Street, in Baker City.

Heppner grad plays in national softball tournament



Heppner softball star Baily Bennett played in the ASA 18 Gold National Tournament in Clearwater, FL recently. -Contributed photo

Heppner softball player Baily Bennett recently traveled to Clearwater, FL to play in the ASA 18 Gold National Tournament.

Her team, The Washington Explosion, qualified for the tournament earlier this summer in Selah, WA.

"Only 64 teams qualify for the national tournament, so it was a great honor to be at the tournament," said Bennett's mother, Misty Bennett.

The tournament consisted of three pool play games then a double elimination bracket format. Bennett pitched three scoreless innings against the Texas Impact, and scored a run in the 3-1 first pool game win. The team lost the other two pool play games against The Tulsa Shootout and the Tampa Mustangs.

Bracket play began on Wednesday with a win against the Florida Select and the OC Elite (California) in which Bennett had the

game-winning walk-off RBI in the bottom of the 7th inning. Thursday saw a long rain delay and a loss to Fury 95 out of Tennessee, which put them into the loser's bracket. Friday started with another rain delay and then a final loss to the Miami Stingrays and an exit from the tournament.

The team finished 17th, which Bennett noted was an awesome accomplishment and a great experience for herself.

"I had such an awesome time and really want to thank everyone who helped sponsor and support me. I couldn't have made it without the great support I get from my community," said Bennett.

Bennett will be taking a break before she starts college this fall in Ontario, where she will continue her softball career as a Chukar.

"I look forward to getting to play softball at the next level and representing my community."

Clinic to offer sports physicals

Heppner High School has scheduled sports physicals for Tuesday, Aug. 6, and Thursday, Aug. 8, at Pioneer Memorial Clinic.

Boys' physicals will be on Aug. 6 from 1:30-5 p.m. on a walk-in basis. Girls' physicals will be on Aug. 8 from 1:30-5 p.m. on a walk-in basis.

Sports physicals are required for any student who has not had a physical in the past year, including first year junior high participants and sixth graders playing at the junior high level, and transfer students who do not have a copy of an OSAA physical

completed in the past year.

The form for the physicals can be found at <http://osaa.org/forms/PhysicalExamination-2010.pdf>. Students must bring this form with them to the physical. Players under the age of 18 must have their forms signed by a parent.

Football camp planned

Heppner High School will host its 21st annual Mustang Football Camp the week of Monday, Aug. 5, through Thursday, Aug. 8, at the Heppner High School practice field. The camp is for students in grades five

through 12. Registration for grades five through eight will be from 8-9 a.m. Monday, Aug. 5, with camp daily from 9-11 a.m. Cost of \$25 includes a hat.

Registration for grades

nine through 12 will take place from 4-5 p.m. Monday, Aug. 5, with camp daily from 5-8 p.m. The \$25 fee includes a t-shirt.

Contact Greg Grant at 541-676-5257 with questions.

Morrow County Health District

WILL SPONSOR
FREE SPORTS PHYSICALS
AT

Pioneer Memorial Clinic

For Any Morrow County Students

- Boys - Tuesday, Aug. 6th, 1:30 to 5 p.m.
- Girls - Thursday, Aug. 8th, 1:30 to 5 p.m.

Students may come either day if necessary.
If exam is not done during these two days there will be a \$32 charge.

Pioneer Memorial Clinic is located at
130 Thompson Avenue, Heppner, OR

541-676-5504



MORROW
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Knowles wins big in Salinas Rodeo

Heppner bulldogger Blake Knowles won an impressive \$6,000 in the recent Salinas, CA, rodeo, turning in a time of 21.4 seconds over three rounds.

His earnings put him in 12th in last week's Professional Rodeo Cowboys world standings.

Knowles commented that he was "lucky enough"

to get a few good steers and also credited the mare that he has had for the last several years, and which he rode at the National Finals.

He added that he was traveling with Dakota Eldridge, a Blue Mountain Community College veteran and last year's Rookie of the Year.