

# New food processing plants exempt from BMCC bond levy

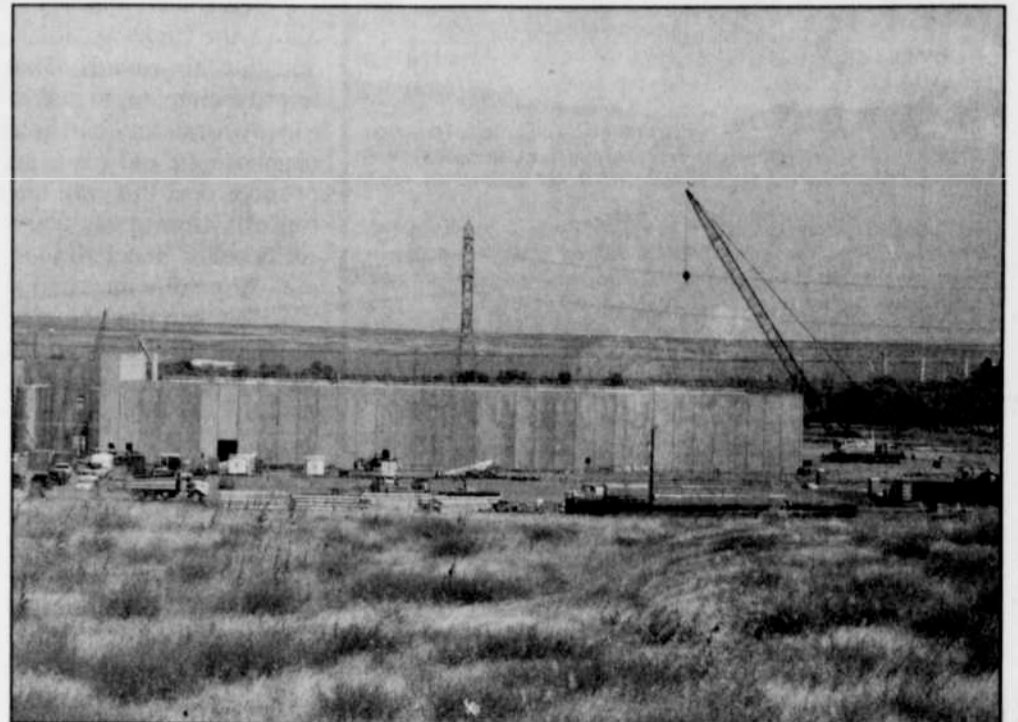
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**By David Sykes**  
Lamb Weston is in the middle of a \$211 million potato-processing expansion, and Tillamook Cheese is building a new \$90 million whey-

processing facility, both at the Port of Morrow in Boardman. However, these new expansions are in the Columbia River Enterprise Zone (CREZ), and therefore exempt from a proposed 15-year, \$28.1 million Blue Mountain Community

College bond levy set to go in front of voters for approval in November. If approved, the levy would be used to fund a major BMCC infrastructure upgrade, including a new animal science center in Pendleton, a precision-

irrigated Ag center in Hermiston and a food-processing job training center in Boardman, which would train workers to operate the new food-processing facilities. (See *NO BMCC BOND FOR PLANTS/PAGE THREE*)



Lamb Weston has started construction on its new frozen potato facility at the Port of Morrow in Boardman. The investment will add a new line to the plant and increase its capacity for making french fries and other frozen products. The expansion is expected to create approximately 100 new jobs.

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## Ione School Board discusses transfers of Morrow County students to Ione



Newly elected board members (L-R) Bill Jepsen, Ann Morter and Lisa Rietmann with Superintendent Mark Mulvihill. —Photo by April Sykes

**By April Sykes**  
Ione School Superintendent Mark Mulvihill told the Ione School Board that Morrow County School Superintendent Dirk Dirksen has asked him to help discover why Boardman schools are losing students to Ione. Mulvihill disclosed the inquiry at the Ione School Board at a work session July 30, prior to their regular meeting. Mulvihill said the Intermountain Education Service District (formerly the Umatilla Morrow ESD), of which he is also superintendent, has found that only four percent of Boardman students attending Morrow County Schools have transferred to Ione, a number that he does not consider significant. "I don't really think you have much of a problem," he said. "There are some kids coming to Ione, but not an alarming number." He presented information showing that educational data between

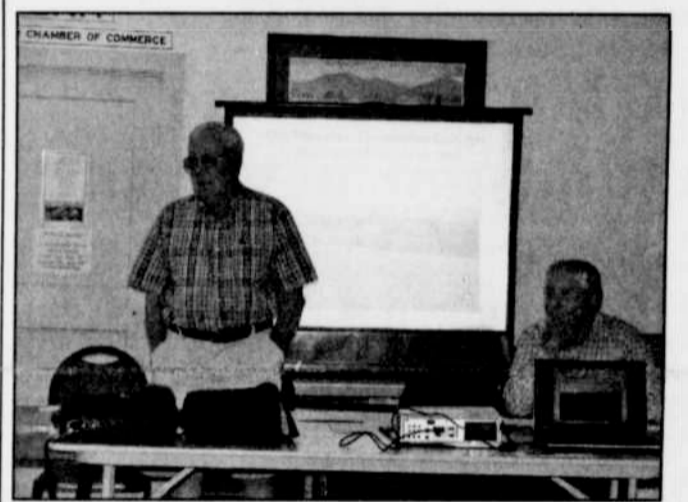
Boardman schools and Ione Community School demonstrates very similar educational results and stressed the value of cooperation and collaboration between the districts.

Board member Bink Ramos pointed out that he believed that Boardman schools may also be losing students to the Arlington School District and objected to time spent investigating what he believed was only a Morrow County School District issue.

Newly-hired Ione School District Principal Sarah Crane-Simpson, providing her first principal's report, said that she hoped to create a dialogue between ISD and students who are entering and exiting the district and their parents for better communication and transition between the districts.

—See *IONE SCHOOL BOARD/PAGE FOUR*

## BMCC to seek \$28 million bond levy approval



Louis Carlson of Heppner discusses the upcoming BMCC capital improvement bond levy at a meeting of Friends of BMCC held recently in Heppner. The levy will go before voters for approval in November. —Photo by David Sykes

**By David Sykes**  
Blue Mountain Community College will ask voters in November to approve a \$28.1 million bond levy for upgrades and rehabilitation to its Pendleton campus, as well as the addition of new facilities in Hermiston and Boardman. A group of college officials and Friends of BMCC came to

Heppner recently to explain the proposed expansion and upgrade levy.

If approved by voters, the bond levy will replace BMCC's current bond, which expires in June 2014, at the same tax rate (\$0.31 per \$1,000). The new levy will raise approximately \$28.1 million to support

—See *BMCC BOND/PAGE THREE*

## Relay for Life 'Successful in every way,' planners say

Anticipate exceeding \$25,000 mark



The Morrow County Relay for Life, though a poignant reminder of loved ones lost in the fight against cancer, also had fun activities, with themed laps and special events to brighten the long hours. Pictured: Representatives from the participating teams show off their spirit during the "Superhero" dress-up lap. —Contributed photo

The 2013 Morrow County Relay for Life, held Aug. 3-4 at the Morrow County Fairgrounds, was truly successful, event planners say.

"It started with a great committee who worked endlessly together, getting sponsors, and teams being put together and having fundraisers and working toward a successful event," says Heppner Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Sheryll Bates.

Activities were planned for every lap, along with recognition of survivors and caregivers and a special dinner served for all who could join in. A silent auction was held, teams had fundraisers, individuals walked lap after lap until the last song was played to remind them why they were there. They were

—See *RELAY FOR LIFE/PAGE TWO*

## More hot weather on the way

Rainfall still short for year; predictions call for above-normal temperatures for August

According to preliminary data received by NOAA's National Weather Service in Pendleton, OR, temperatures at Heppner averaged warmer than normal during the month of July. The average temperature was 73 degrees which was 3.2 degrees above normal. High temperatures averaged 90.7 degrees, which was 5 degrees above normal. The highest was 101 degrees on the 3<sup>rd</sup>. Low temperatures averaged 55.2 degrees, which was 1.3 degrees above normal. The lowest was 45 degrees, on the 13<sup>th</sup>.

On 17 days, the temperature exceeded 90 degrees. It was at least 100 degrees on one day. Precipitation totaled 0.00 inches during July, which was 0.33 inches below normal. Precipitation this year has reached 5.54 inches, which is 3.45 inches below normal. Since October, the water year precipitation

—See *HOT AUGUST ON THE WAY/PAGE TWO*

## Special fair section in this week's Gazette-Times

A special 28-page Heppner Gazette-Times. Fair and Rodeo section The section contains the upcoming Morrow County Fair and Rodeo. and other information about articles, interviews, photos



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