

B2H HEARING

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The meeting is being held in light of an expected determination this week by the BLM concerning the project.

While the court has seemed largely silent on the issue for the last several months, the B2H hasn't been forgotten. On Dec. 10, Morrow County Planning Department Director Carla McLane and county commissioner Don Russell both attended a B2H cooperating agency meeting in Ontario, OR.

At the Morrow County Court's Dec. 16 meeting in Boardman, McClane reported that the preliminary Environmentally Preferred Route was announced. According to McClane, that route will align with Interstate 84 between the proposed Longhorn Substation and west of Pendleton.

The route apparently was chosen based on comments from some Umatilla County landowners. A letter from the Umatilla Board of Commissioners also weighed heavily in the decision, though commissioner Russell said it was his understanding the Umatilla County Board of Commissioners no longer supports the I-84 route.

According to McClane's comments at the Dec. 16 meeting, the I-84 route was removed from consideration earlier in the process, and the west side of Bombing Range Road was determined to be Morrow County's preferred route because it fit well for becoming a corridor for moving power.

Russell voiced dissatisfaction with the results of the meeting, saying Morrow County citizens have not had a chance to evaluate the route, and people who thought they were not in the pathway now are. It was not his idea of a "cooperators" meeting, he said.

McClane said the BLM will send postcards to the affected landowners, who will likely be learning of the new route for the first time. The BLM is expected to make a determination Jan. 8.

The county court had earlier opted not to hold a public meeting on the issue, citing the fact that the county is not a decision maker in the process. However, with the expected action by the BLM this week, McClane requested that the county draft a comment letter and hold the public hearing this week.

Safety Summit to enhance emergency partnerships

PENDLETON—Blue Mountain Community College will host a regional Safety Summit on Jan. 21 to bring together schools, emergency personnel, health services, city and county governments, and other community organizations to identify resources and create partnerships to assist one another should a crisis incident ever occur.

The Safety Summit will take place at the Pendleton Convention Center from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

BMCC decided to pull together the Safety Summit after campus discussions following the tragic shooting at Umpqua Community College in October.

"That tragedy hit very close to home for us since UCC is another Oregon community college and many of our staff have colleagues who work there," said BMCC President Cam Preus.

"We've learned from that incident that there is a big reliance on the community to step forward to provide assistance and resources, so BMCC wants to make sure we have those partnerships in place ahead of time throughout our district."

BMCC quickly determined other area schools and organizations could benefit from sharing resources and formalizing partnerships; thus the Safety Summit.

The Summit will serve Umatilla, Morrow and Baker counties — BMCC's service district region.

The Summit will kick off with keynote speaker Mary Schoenfeldt & Associates/Safer Schools in Marysville, Wash.

Schoenfeldt has worked in emergency management/crisis response with a specialty in school systems for more than 20 years.

Her background combines law enforcement, emergency management, education and disaster mental health. She is also the author of several books on crisis response.

Her keynote presentation will focus on the

benefits and importance of community partnerships in crisis situations.

In addition to Schoenfeldt, Umatilla County Emergency Manager Jack Remillard and Oregon State Police Sgt. Mark Banks will discuss the community response in the wake of the fatal 2013 tour bus crash on Interstate 84.

The remainder of the Summit will see participants break out into group regions — Pendleton-area, Hermiston-area, Milton-Freewater-area, Baker County area and Morrow County area.

These groups will identify resources among each of their organizations, as well as begin to draft formal partnership agreements to aid in safety response planning efforts.

BMCC has invited all public K-12 school districts in Umatilla, Morrow and Baker counties, as well as the InterMountain Education Service District, law enforcement, emergency personnel, city and county governments, hospitals and health districts, bus companies, convention center directors, county fair directors, the American Red Cross, Head Start, the CTUIR, prison personnel and the National Guard.

BMCC suggests each organization send a participant in order to expand the network of resources and partnerships throughout the region.

Organizations that represent multiple locations should plan to bring a team.

Interested organizations need to RSVP by Jan. 15 to Shannon Franklin in the BMCC President's Office, sfranklin@bluecc.edu or 541-278-5951.

The Safety Summit is free and includes lunch for participants.

Questions regarding the summit can be directed to BMCC Vice President of Public Relations Casey White-Zollman (cwhitezollman@bluecc.edu or 541-278-5839) or Associate Vice President of Human Resources Tammie Parker (tparker@bluecc.edu or 541-278-5850).

Canyon Creek tops regional weather events list

Hot, dry conditions dominate list of top weather events

The Canyon Creek Fire, which burned 110 thousand acres of brush and timber and several structures, was 2015's top regional weather-related event as voted by staff members of the National Weather Service in Pendleton.

The fire complex south and east of John Day in Grant County, OR burned from Aug. 12 until fully contained Nov. 5. In addition to the long-term loss of timber, there is the short-term loss of grass and other vegetative cover which leaves the Canyon Creek Watershed vulnerable to flash flooding and debris flows. The Canyon Creek fire event received an average rating of 8.2 on a scale 0 to 10.

The top four vote-getters were all related to the hot, dry weather during 2015. Some of the other weather events that topped the vote were:

Drought—Severe to extreme drought conditions gripped eastern Washington and Oregon during the 2014-15 water year. During the summer, no measurable rainfall was recorded at Kennewick and Moxee City in Washington, and it was the driest summer on record at Pendleton and Pelton Dam, Oregon, and Dayton and Ellensburg, Washington. Irrigation water was restricted, which impacted agriculture. Stream flows were reduced, which impacted water quality and

water temperature and resulted in fish kills.

Multiple Wildfires—From June through October, 14 fires, each over 1,000 acres, burned through parts of eastern Oregon and Washington. The Canyon Creek Complex and Cornet-Windy Ridge Fire each scorched over 100 thousand acres.

Hot Summer—The June-through-August period was the hottest on record for Heppner, as well as for other Oregon locations The Dalles, Hermiston, Bend, Dayville, Moro, Prineville, Sisters, Long Creek and Pelton Dam. In addition, Hermiston set a record for the all-time, single-day maximum temperature in late June.

November 17 Wind and Dust—A strong cold front brought widespread damaging winds across eastern Oregon and Washington. Wind speeds topped 115 mph at 3,500 feet elevation on uninhabited Rattlesnake Ridge, west of Richland, WA. In the lowlands, peak wind gusts exceeded 60 mph and produced power outages, downed trees, building and sign damage and tractor trailer roll-overs. The strong winds combined with dry soils to generate a dust storm. The reduced visibility caused a multi-vehicle accident near Stanfield, OR in which one person was killed.

December 21 Wind and Snow—Strong jet

stream winds combined with a deep low pressure area and cold front tracked across Oregon and southern Washington. Peak wind speeds gusts were at least 65 mph at Goodnoe Hills, Helix, Kooskooskie, Athena, Hermiston, Pendleton and Madras.

May Flash Flooding—A large low-pressure system off of southern California pushed moist and unstable air north across the area for several days. The result was thunderstorms with heavy rainfall on May 21-22. Several areas across eastern Oregon recorded nearly an inch of rain in a 30-60 minutes time.

Strong El Nino—As of the first of December, the El Nino was the warmest since 1997-98. This weather pattern reversal has contributed to increased storminess on the west coast and southern plains, abnormal warmth in the eastern states, decreased Atlantic hurricane activity, and increased drought and fire activity in Australia. The El Nino is expected to continue into the spring of 2016.

Wet December—A barrage of Pacific storm systems unloaded frequent rain and snow across the area. By mid-December, most areas had received their normal precipitation amounts for all of December with additional storms into Christmas week.

Sheriff's Report

November 5 (cont.):-MCSO received report from a female in the Heppner area who stated she was selling a vehicle to a male who took the car and didn't pay for it. The caller requested phone contact regarding her options.

-A female in Irrigon advised that her daughter called her that morning and told her that her boyfriend beat her up, and that the daughter was currently at the store in Irrigon. The daughter did not want the mother to call the police but the mother requested a welfare check on her daughter.

-A caller in Heppner advised of a deer in the Main St. park bathroom. MCSO responded.

-MCSO was advised of a vehicle-versus-elk motor vehicle accident in Boardman. MCSO and Oregon State Police fish and game division responded and seized the antlers.

-A person at Irrigon Shell reported that he heard what sounded like someone yelling in distress. He advised he looked around and located a semi, and requested a welfare check on the subject inside. MCSO contacted the subject, who was intoxicated and going to bed.

November 6: -Morrow County was advised that Umatilla County arrested Robert Miguel Aguilera, 32, on a Morrow County Supervisory Authority warrant. Subject was lodged at Umatilla County Jail with no bail.

-A male at Irrigon Justice Court advised he had found a wallet and the wallet had drugs in it. He would like it picked up. MCSO responded.

-A female between Ukiah and Heppner reported her side mirror was hit by another vehicle. She was only reporting it for the time being. The other driver had left the scene and stated she would be back in 45

minutes to exchange info; possible hit and run.

-A person in Ione advised some kid was popping his head up at the Ione market and the caller wasn't sure if anyone was supposed to be locked in the market. At the end of the call the caller advised there was a second subject in the store. MCSO made contact with the store owner, who advised the subjects were his daughters.

-A person in Heppner requested a welfare check on a female; she was in a trailer out back and was drunk. The caller advised the female didn't want them to call and get help but she had been a victim of sexual assault as a child and the caller thought she needed a ride home. MCSO responded and made contact with the female, who advised she did not need a ride anywhere.

-John Day dispatch advised MCSO of a domestic off the 2104 road. MCSO arrested Jodi Lee Struloeff, 37, for Domestic Violence — Assault IV.

November 8: -Oregon State Police advised Morrow County Sheriff's Office that a mom and dad would be bringing their one-and-a-half-year-old to Pioneer memorial with burns to the hands and the face. OSP advised it was accidental but wanted dispatch to advise the hospital they would be there 120-30 minutes.

-A subject in Boardman advised MCSO that he had been drinking—he advised a fifth—and felt he was a danger to himself and others. He felt suicidal.

-A female in Irrigon advised a male subject just slashed her tires. She advised she knew who did it and why he did it. MCSO took it under investigation.

November 9: -Morrow County Sheriff's Office was advised by ODOT that they would be changing and updating the milepost

signs. ODOT advised that on Hwy. 207 from Lexington to Butter Creek the milepost numbers would be followed by the letter B and on Hwy 207 south toward Ruggs the milepost signs would now be followed by the letter C.

-A female in Heppner advised her tire was slashed over the weekend and she just took it to Les Schwab and they confirmed it was cut. She requested contact.

-Umatilla County Parole and Probation requested assistance arresting a female that had a warrant. The subject had called and given her parole officer a new address in Irrigon. MCSO arrested Cindy Torres Dias, 35, on a Umatilla County Circuit Court warrant for Parole Violation — Possession of Controlled Substance — Methamphetamine.

-A female on Hwy. 74-Lena, Heppner advised there was a small green pickup parked out by her residence and there was a small softball-sized hole in the window. She advised there was no hole in the window last night. No one was in the vehicle and the key was in the ignition.

November 10: -Morrow County Sheriff's Office was advised by someone at Umatilla Army Depot that there was a male at the front gates who seemed intoxicated and thought he was at home. The caller declined emergency medical assistance for the male but advised it appeared his car had some damage.

-A person at the Morrow County OHV Park on FS Road 21 reported a father and son yelling all morning; the father had made comments that they are scared will lead to violence. MCSO arrested Andrew Thomas Mervyn, 42, on PC charges of Disorderly Conduct II and Harassment.

-MCSO was advised of

WEATHER OUTLOOK

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was 55 mph, which occurred on both the 10th and 21st. There were two days when the wind exceeded 50 mph.

The outlook for January from NOAA's Climate Prediction Center calls for near- to above-normal temperatures and near-normal precipitation.

Normal highs for Heppner during January are 43.6 degrees and normal lows are 26.7 degrees. The 30-year normal precipitation is 1.47 inches.

The National Weather Service is an office of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, an agency of the U.S. Commerce Department.

Snowpack up this year

MT. HOOD, Ore.—USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) held its first snow survey of the 2016 season on Mt. Hood Dec. 29, 2015.

Hydrologist Julie Koeberle and Hydrologic Technician Dan Fries measured 21.5 inches of water stored in 80 inches of snow at the site. Across the Mt. Hood Basin, snowpack levels were 124 percent of normal for this time of year.

The entire state of Oregon is experiencing above-normal mountain snowpack this time of year—which hydrologists and ski enthusiasts agree is an excellent start to the 2016 snow season.

a Jeep not yielding at the sign at the bottom of the hill by Green/Matlock St. in Heppner. MCSO made contact with the driver regarding driving habits.

-Umatilla County Sheriff's Office advised MCSO that they arrested Marion Ivan Taylor III, 56, on an MCSO warrant for Failure to Appear on FTA.

-A female advised her ex-boyfriend stole her debit card and credit card and ran up charges between Irrigon and The Dalles of about \$600+. She advised she reported it to her credit card company and the bank and they told her to call the police and make a report.

-A female in Heppner reported three or four kids chasing deer up the hill behind the forest service building. MCSO was unable to locate.

-A male in Boardman advised that he thought a lady ran over a male subject. He advised the kids were walking across the street and the driver ran over his foot. The caller advised that she almost hit another kid but the other kids ran. The female advised that she pulled over to the side of the road.

-Heppner fire responded to report of a side-by-side ATV on fire in the Heppner area. No structures were threatened.

November 11: -A Morrow County Sheriff's Deputy reported being out with a possible disabled vehicle near Irrigon. A male subject was sitting inside, eating hot dogs.

-A female in Irrigon advised that while she was gone her truck was stolen and that she located it that morning not realizing yet that it had been stolen because she was out of town when it was stolen and she would like to make a report.

-MCSO was advised of a suspicious vehicle in Heppner. MCSO made contact

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