

Portrait artist to teach Morrow County students and community in October

Portrait artist Myron Sahlberg will visit Morrow County to teach several classes to the public next month. Sahlberg and wife Ellen plan to be in Morrow County beginning Oct. 15, and various activities for students and community members are planned during their stay.



Myron Sahlberg

“As a young boy in rural Minnesota I longed to see a great painting with my own eyes,” Sahlberg recounts. “The summer I turned 17, I saw great master paintings for the first time at the Minneapolis Institute of Art. Learning to paint has been one of the joys of my life. Each day I get to paint is a great day!”

Exposure to the masters started him on a long journey with art, including a 40-year career in various aspects of art. He began as an illustrator in 1976 and spent the next 20 years creating hundreds of illustrations for magazines, books, greeting cards, university sports programs and advertising accounts. During that time, in 1985, he also started teaching drawing, painting and illustration in the Communication Art and Design department at

the Alexandria Technical and Community College in Minnesota, where he continued until 2013.

In 1990, he began oil painting, and paints commissioned portraits in his studio or in the client’s home. He has done many public portrait demonstrations and has studied painting with artists Pat Jerde, Richard Whitney, Casey Baugh, Bonita Roberts and John Howard Sanden.

“I am grateful for the unique and personal influence each of these artists have had on my artistic skills,” says Sahlberg.

He is also pursuing the gallery market with paintings similar to his portrait style. These paintings are intended to tell stories of people engaged in memorable activities to which the general public can relate.

Examples of his work can be found on the internet at MyronSahlberg.com.

Sahlberg will bring this experience and offer it to Morrow County students, both youth and adult. Morrow County students in each school will have classes beginning Oct. 17.

Evening classes are being planned for local communi-



“Reading Was My Comfort and Consolation,” 9” x 12” oil on gessoed board by Myron Sahlberg.

ties, as well. All-day classes on portrait technique will

be held at Riverside High School Friday and Saturday, Oct. 21 and 22. A live model will sit for the sessions.

Applications for the Friday and Saturday classes will be available at county high schools and libraries. The class size is being limited to 10 people. There is no charge but donations will be accepted. Some funding is being provided by Cultural Coalition of Morrow County.

Contact Claude Birt, 541-481-2525 ext. 2122 or birte@morrow.k12.or.us, or Terry Tallman, 541-481-3371 or tallman@centurytel.net, if you would like to take part in these activities.

BMCC offers retirement planning, investment classes

Blue Mountain Community College will offer a series of retirement planning and investment classes on Tuesday evenings beginning Oct. 18.

The classes are designed to help attendees gain the skills to estimate how much money they need to retire, learn about various ways to save for retirement and the basics of retirement income planning.

The classes are offered from 5:45 p.m. to 7:15 p.m. beginning Oct. 18 and will meet at the PettyJohn Building, 430 West Linden Way, Heppner. The class series will be held on three consecutive Tues-

days as follows: Investment Basics—Oct. 18, Retirement Basics—Oct. 25, and Retirement Income Planning—Nov. 1. The instructor is Rita Van Schoiack, a financial advisor and owner of Blue Mountain Investment Management LLC.

The classes are free and include a workbook. Advance registration is required; please call Anne Morter at 541-422-7040 or e-mail her at amorter@bluecc.edu to register. Students may also register online at www.bluecc.edu.

SWCD, Weed Advisory Board to meet

The Morrow SWCD and Morrow County Weed Advisory Board will meet Tuesday, Oct. 4, at the Port of Morrow offices in Boardman beginning at 6 p.m. The agenda includes minutes of the previous meeting, financial report, partner reports and staff reports. Meetings of the Morrow SWCD are open to the public.

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COUNTY COURT

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also said that if the county offices are removed from Irrigon, the businesses in town would lose dollars spent by employees and others who come to town to conduct business in the offices.

Commissioner Don Russell said he had “a long talk” with Sheriff Ken Matlack and his “wish list” for north-end facilities. Russell said the sheriff would like a presence in both communities (they currently have an office in Boardman), and better space for the department’s boat, storage space and a vehicle impound area. Russell said he also talked to the planning department, which said it does most of its business in Boardman.

“I want to put stuff where it makes sense. I don’t have a dog in this fight even though I live in Boardman,” he added.

Russell says he has also been concerned with how the county is going to pay for the new facilities. With the size of the building being discussed maybe in the 10,000-square-foot range, construction would most likely require a bank loan. Russell has said in the past the county court needs to have a “philosophical discussion” on whether to pay for facilities with a reserve fund, or through debt.

The new county Bartholomew Building in Heppner was paid for with a bank loan, which is being paid back with money from the SIP (Strategic Investment Program), payments from wind farms that have located in the county. SIP was adopted by the Oregon Legislature in 1993 to allow businesses and local governments to negotiate alternative property taxing agreements if these businesses are willing to invest at least \$25 million at a rural location in Oregon. The purpose of this program is to attract and keep companies that provide good jobs in Oregon, particularly capital-intensive, high-technology employers.

Morrow County is currently receiving \$1 million per year in wind farm SIP payment, and expects to receive about \$1.4 million per year for the next 15 years, when the Carty gas-powered generating plant comes on line. It is being proposed to use the money from the Carty SIP agreement to repay the loans to build the new county facilities.

“I am not going to say

we don’t have to borrow money, but it might not be as long to pay it back,” said Morrow County Judge Terry Tallman.

In other discussion on facilities the court also talked about the need for a new county road department facility in the north end. With much of the road work being done in the north end, officials are saying it doesn’t make sense to have the main road department in Lexington. The travel distance to return and bring equipment to work in the north end is costing the county money, they say. It has been suggested that the intersection of Bombing Range Road and Highway 730 might be a good place to put a new road department facility.

In other business at the Sept. 14 meeting, the commission voted to create a new half-time position in the planning department, called Planning Outreach Coordinator. The job, which will be for 19 hours a week and will pay \$21,000 per year, will focus on community outreach such as attending meetings, supporting the planning director with groups, committees and task forces, responding to information inquiries from the public, maintaining the planning website, and other duties as assigned. Planning Director Carla McLane said the position should be filled by mid-October.

In other action the commission:

-voted to sign a one-year janitorial services contract with Heppner Janitorial, LLC.

-appointed McLane as the contact person for the duration of the Carty Generating Station project. She will be handling information such as road crossing permits, weed evaluations and other business related to the new gas plant.

-also heard from McLane that the planning commission is recruiting two new members to replace David Sykes and Melissa Lindsay, who are resigning. McLane also announced that Hank Pieper, GIS Planning Tech in the planning office, is resigning. The department is in the process of finding his replacement.

-heard from Morrow County Administrative Officer Jerry Sorte that the county is in the process of receiving proposals for development of a new county

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EMERGENCY SERVICES DRILL

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 4TH 6 TO 8 P.M.

Morrow County Health District and area emergency services will be conducting a disaster drill involving hospital staff, Emergency Services, Life Flight, and Heppner Fire Department.

It is important for emergency services and hospital staff to have periodic drills to prepare everyone involved in case of a disaster.

We ask that during this time you please remain out of the area unless you have an emergency

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Questions? Contact Diana Grant at 541-676-9133 ext. 2932.

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