

Gazette Times

BPA planned outage scheduled for Ione area next week

Columbia Basin Electric Cooperative, Inc. would like to announce to its members in the Ione area that the Bonneville Power Administration will be having a planned outage on May 5 and 6 at its Ione substation. The outage is scheduled to begin Friday, May 5, at 11 p.m. with re-energization scheduled for 5 a.m. on Saturday, May 6.

BPA personnel will be servicing and testing equipment and performing routine maintenance on their substation equipment during that time.

Columbia Basin Electric states it would like to apologize to its affected members for any inconvenience this outage may cause, but says every measure was taken to schedule this outage at the least disruptive time possible.

The outage will affect only the CBEC members served out of the Ione substation. Those areas include: Town of Ione, Ella Rd., Lower Rhea Creek, Brenner Canyon, Ione Gooseberry Rd., Dry Fork, Lower Willow Creek, North Lex and the surrounding areas. The communities of Heppner and Lexington will not be affected by this outage.

Members unsure whether or not they will be affected by this outage, please call Columbia Basin Electric at 541-676-9146 and a CBEC representative will be happy to assist in answering any questions.

Merkley to hold town hall in Heppner Sunday

U.S. Senator Jeff Merkley will host a town hall meeting in Heppner this Sunday, April 30, from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. at Heppner Elementary School, 235 Stanbery St. the public is invited to attend.



Sen. Jeff Merkley

Accessing the jobs in our own backyard

Port of Morrow, schools strive to collaborate on workforce training

By David Sykes

Editor's note: The Port of Morrow has experienced major successes in attracting and expanding industrial development in the Boardman area, and that development has brought thousands of new jobs and employment opportunities to Morrow County. Helping local people access these jobs is a major goal of the Port and our local schools. In an effort to better understand what jobs are available, and how people may prepare for them, the Gazette-Times recently sat down with Port of Morrow General Manager Gary Neal to discuss the issues.

"There are a lot of good jobs here that don't require a four-year degree," Neal says right away. "But industry is evolving and becoming more technical so good training is absolutely necessary if our young people want to get them," he emphasizes.

Just to get a perspective on what is going on at the



Port of Morrow General Manager Gary Neal checks out a construction project at the Port. The Port is working in collaboration with local educators to better train local youth in preparation for the new jobs becoming available there. -Contributed photo

Port, and the surrounding Boardman area, there are now about 6,000 jobs in the different businesses of food production, data processing and energy production, and Neal says these industries are always looking for good workers. The jobs available are many and varied all the way from computer processing technician to refrigeration, cooling systems, electricians, welding and fabrication, mechanical

By April Sykes

Morrow County Health District CEO Bob Houser announced that the district has purchased the Windwave building at 162 Main St. in Heppner for \$122,500. MCHD plans to move the offices of Pioneer Memorial Home Health and Hospice into the building after the restroom there has been remodeled to become handicap accessible. Administration and board say they believe this is a good move to transfer the facility to Main Street and will improve patient access, especially for seniors.



Morrow County Health District has purchased the Windwave building on Main Street in Heppner for use in the district's home health and hospice program. -Photo by David Sykes

Houser said that Wind-

wave, a fiber optics company and subsidiary of Inland Development Corporation, is moving into a building they are in the process of constructing in Boardman. Windwave, founded in 2004, took over the former Heppner TV, a television cable company.

Houser also announced that he has met with Mindy Binder, CEO of Columbia River Community Health Services, a federally-funded migrant clinic located in Boardman that also serves the general public, concerning a possible "joint venture of services, recruitment efforts and the possibility of board representatives meeting as well." Houser said that Dr. Robert Boss, former head of the clinic before it became federally affiliated, was also present at the meeting, but no agreement was made.

Also at the meeting, the board approved a \$12,125,791 budget for fiscal year 2017-18.

Chief Financial Officer Nicole Mahoney outlined next year's budget as follows with revenue listed first and expenditures second:

Nursing: proposed revenue-\$1,245,878/proposed expenditures-\$1,944,147; Emergency/professional fees: proposed revenue-\$1,209,412/proposed expenditures-\$931,003; Ambulance: \$402,405/\$262,461; Central Supply: \$104,651/\$91,883; Laboratory: \$1,907,092/\$797,547; E K G / Treadmill: \$42,169/\$12,456; Radiology - X-ray: \$489,237/\$292,780; CT Scan: \$449,501/\$104,672; Pharmacy: \$1,099,273/\$417,471; Procedure: \$367,026/\$29,358; Respiratory Therapy: \$65,646/\$52,380; Therapies: \$157,676/\$25,141; Home Health: \$341,616; Hospice: \$215,160/Home Health & Hospice \$713,247; Boardman Ambulance: \$391,320/\$383,478; Irrigon Ambulance: \$297,775/\$345,286; Ione Ambulance: \$12,634/\$11,358; Lexington EMS: /\$6,978; Pioneer Memorial Clinic, Heppner: \$1,434,273; \$1,390,443; Irrigon Clinic: \$1,554,395/\$1,147,453;

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Bryant foundation is 'incredible gift to the city of Heppner'

Foundation director Kim Cutsforth speaks to Chamber

By David Sykes

The Howard and Beth Bryant Foundation will be of "great benefit to Heppner," foundation board member and director Kim Cutsforth told the Heppner Chamber of Commerce last week.

Cutsforth gave a talk to chamber about how the foundation works, and its latest project, a new sports training facility being built near the swimming pool and agricultural museum in Heppner.

First off Cutsforth explained the trust was funded by a large donation from life-long Heppner natives Howard and Beth Bryant.

She said the Bryants made the bulk of their fortune from investing in Precision Cast Parts, which was bought out by investor Warren Buffet in 2015.

Before passing away Howard Bryant wanted to make sure the foundation was up and operating and, although he did not talk a lot about it, began giving out grants to local groups and organizations.

Under the rules of the foundation Cutsforth says cash grants will be made for betterment of the community to nonprofits, municipalities and special districts.



Kim Cutsforth briefs the Heppner Chamber of Commerce last week on the work of the Howard and Beth Bryant Foundation, including the new sports training facility being built near the swimming pool in Heppner. -Photo by David Sykes

She says so far this year they have given out \$410,000 and hope to reach \$1 million by the end of 2016.

Although not a complete list Cutsforth says some of the examples of grants given already included the assisted living center, cemetery, walking path, senior center, museum, city of Heppner and fire department.

"It's a long list with a range of things," she said. Cutsforth told the

Chamber members that in the future she would like to see groups use the money from the foundation as matching money for other grants.

"I want to help people get more money," she said.

Cutsforth urged anyone from a qualified organization with an idea to stop by and talk to her about a possible application. Her office is located in the former chamber of commerce office next to city hall.

For the latest project Cutsforth said she was approached by Heppner coach Greg Grant about funding a sports circuit training park on Riverside near the swimming pool and the agricultural museum.

She said there would be

grass areas for training and a mixed sports area with 10 to 11 pieces of equipment. Cutsforth said they are even planning a stage with picnic and spectator area and public restrooms. She expected the sports facility to be done by October.

Several people have compared the Bryant Foundation to the Leo Adler Foundation in Baker, which has done many good things for the community.

"This is an incredible gift to the city of Heppner," County Commissioner Melissa Lindsay told the chamber meeting.

"People will not fully appreciate this until they see it happening," Cutsforth added. "I am super excited about it."

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