

Port of Morrow reveals new economic impact analysis

Economic and fiscal impacts by the Port of Morrow and port-related businesses have increased measurably over the past several years. According to the news release, key highlights from the 2017 Port of Morrow Economic Impact Study that was revealed in December include the following:

- Total employment of 8,452 jobs (3,858 direct, 2,792 indirect, and 1,801 induced)
- Total output of \$2.77 billion (\$2.03B direct, \$0.52B indirect, \$0.21B induced)
- Total GDP of \$1.08 billion (\$712M direct, \$256M indirect, \$114M induced)
- Over \$500 million in labor income (\$289M direct, \$152M indirect, \$59M induced)

-Annual local/state tax revenue/payments of over \$118 million (includes in lieu payments)

-Annual federal tax revenue/payments of nearly \$142 million

According to the analysis, in comparison, over the last eleven years port-related economic impacts have increased measurably. Comparative findings include:

-Port-related businesses now account for nearly \$2.8 billion in annual output in 2017, up from \$1.8 billion in 2012 and \$896 million in 2006 (in inflation adjusted constant 2017 dollars).

-The share of direct economic output within Morrow and Umatilla counties attributed to port-related businesses increased from 15 percent to 26 per-

cent between 2006 and 2017.

-The share of direct employment that is considered to be Port-related accounts for 52 percent of all jobs in Morrow County in 2017, up from 36 percent in 2006.

"I am pleased to share the economic data showing continued growth in our region's economy. The Port of Morrow is privileged to be a part of that progress. The Port of Morrow Commission, our dedicated staff, and partners both locally and at the state level help to accomplish these goals. The results of that effort are identified in this report," said Gary Neal, Port of Morrow General Manager.

For more information visit the Port of Morrow website at www.portofmorrow.com or call 541-481-7678.

Bryant Foundation receives beautification award



Kim Cutsforth accepts the certificate of recognition on behalf of the Howard and Beth Bryant Foundation from Merle Cowett, a member of the Beautification Commission. - Photo by April Sykes

Merle Cowett of the Heppner Beautification Commission presented a certificate of recognition to Kim Cutsforth of the Howard and Beth Bryant Foundation.

The foundation was recognized for their overall dedication, contributions and hard work toward creating an attractive environment for the community.

The Beautification

Commission presents the award to the individual or business who has done the most to promote the beautification within the community every two years.

Chamber lunch meeting

The next lunch meeting of the Heppner Chamber of Commerce will be held at noon on Thursday, Feb. 1, in the Heppner City Hall conference room. This meeting will be all entities reports.

Cost of lunch is \$10 and chamber lunch attendees are asked to RSVP at 541-676-5536. Bucknum's will be catering the lunch.

The meeting location is accessible to persons with disabilities. A request for an

interpreter for the hearing impaired or for other accommodations for persons with disabilities should be made at least 48 hours before the meeting to Sheryll Bates at 541-676-5536.

Cursillo movement to be discussed

All Saints Episcopal Church will be hosting a spaghetti dinner, provided by the Heppner area Fourth Day Group, and sharing information about Cursillo on Sunday, Jan. 28 at 5:30 p.m. Persons interested in the Cursillo movement are invited to attend.

Information will be shared about Cursillo and the upcoming weekend, with applications avail-

able to work on the team. "Cursillo is an ecumenical community of faith, love and hope that supports individuals in their search for discovery and renewal in Christ," said a spokesperson.

For additional information contact Dan or Diana Sharp at 541-676-8262 or George Nairns at 541-571-6519.

Nordic skiers outing to Coal Mine hill



Ten skiers enjoyed fresh snow conditions for the Arbuckle Nordic Clubs weekly ski trip Saturday, Jan. 20. The group started out at the snow park at the top of Coal Mine hill and skied Heron Meadow and then east up the 750 road.

Heppner Friends of FFA recruiting new members

The Heppner Friends of FFA will hold a meeting on Jan. 30 at 7 p.m. in the Ag room at Heppner High School. The meeting is geared toward recruiting new members.

The group of Heppner alumni would like to invite

anyone with interest in FFA to attend the meeting. It is not necessary to be a former FFA member to join the group.

For additional information contact Angie Hughes at 541-676-9909.

Chamber announcements and upcoming events

Dinner tickets for Heppner Chamber's Annual Town and Country Community Awards Dinner event on Thursday, Feb. 8 went on sale Friday, Jan. 12. Tickets are available at the Bank of Eastern Oregon, Heppner Chamber, Heppner City Hall, Community Bank and Murray's. Ticket prices this year are \$25 each until the week of Feb. 5, at which time they will be \$30. Reserved tables will be available on a first come, first serve basis by purchasing round tables of eight or long tables of six. Contact the Heppner Chamber for more information or to reserve seating at 541-676-5536.

Thursday, Jan. 25 will be the Business Education and Training seminars, coordinated by Boardman Chamber of Commerce. The Boardman Chamber is coordinating a seminar presented by Paul Hutter, which will include morning and afternoon sessions. Morning will be "Health Care Update; Marijuana in the Workplace; and Oregon Overtime Rules for Manufacturers. The afternoon session will include discussion on Motivating and Retaining your employee. Cost for 1/2 day for chamber members will be \$200, \$250 for a non-chamber member (Heppner Chamber members will pay the chamber rate). Cost for a full day is \$350 as a chamber member or \$400 for a non-chamber member. Small businesses with 10 employees or less is offered a \$50 discount. Bring multiple company employ-

ees for one price. Contact the Boardman Chamber at 541-481-3014 for more information or to register.

Tuesday, Feb. 6 at 10 a.m., Veterans and seniors Town Hall meeting with Legal Aid Services of Oregon at the Irrigon Library. Legal Aid Services of Oregon will present information related to Senior Planning (wills, trusts, funeral trusts, estate planning, bankruptcy) and referrals to attorneys who could assist with specific needs. To arrange transportation, call The Loop at 1-844-676-5667. For questions and to RSVP, contact Morrow County Veterans Services at 541-922-6420.

Heppner Chamber's Annual Town and Country Community Awards dinner will be held on Thursday, Feb. 8 at 6 p.m. at the Morrow County Fairgrounds. This annual event, coordinated by the Heppner Chamber of Commerce, recognizes nominated community members and a local business for their involvement in our community. The theme for the event will be "An Evening with the Stars" and the awards will recognize a Woman of the Year, Business of the Year, Citizen-Educator of the Year, Lifetime Achievement and a Youth Award. Dinner, catered by Alvin Liu of Gateway Café, will consist of prime rib, green salad, green beans, roll and dessert. So purchase your tickets early and plan on coming out and enjoying a great community event and celebrate with just a few of

the great community members who make Heppner a great place to live.

Sunday, Feb. 11 at 6 p.m., Valentine's Dinner at Heppner Christian Church. Bring a date or come alone for a Valentine's Dinner of prime rib, baked potato, tossed green salad, roll and cheesecake for dessert. There is no charge for the meal but donations will go to Hope2Liberia.

Thursday, Feb. 15, the Willow Creek Valley Economic Development Group is hosting their annual luncheon from 12-1 p.m. in the Senior Center dining room with Gary Neal as the speaker. RSVP no later than Tuesday, Feb. 13 to guarantee a lunch. Lunch will be served by Alvin Liu of Gateway Café and the menu will consist of BBQ ribs, BBQ chicken, BBQ beans, potato salad and dessert. Contact the Chamber at 541-676-5536 to RSVP.

Saturday, Feb. 18 at 8 a.m., Sweetheart's Breakfast at the Heppner Christian Church. Breakfast will consist of pancakes, eggs and bacon. The breakfast is free.

Tuesday, Mar. 6 from 10-11:30 a.m., Walla Walla VA Medical Center Town Hall meeting. This Town Hall presentation on VA Modernization - the next chapter in VA's story of change will be held in the Irrigon Library and is for all Veterans and any interested community members. Morrow County transportation will be provided by The Loop, call 844-676-5667 to secure a seat.



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