

Business enhancement grant funds available

Willow Creek Valley Economic Development Group (WCVEDG) has funds available for local businesses in south Morrow County to use for outside/exterior improvements. The requestor must provide at least 50 percent of the funding of the total project budget, which can include in-kind and cash contributions from local and regional sources. The grant payout will be up to \$7,500 with at

least 50 percent match. Although the business enhancement grant is open all year if funds are available, completed grant requests received March 15 through April 15 will be reviewed and awarded at the end of April. Grant applications, as well as eligibility and exclusions information, are available by contacting Sheryll Bates at 541-676-5536 or by email-

ing heppnerchamber@centurytel.net. Forms are also available at Heppner, Ione and Lexington city hall offices or printed from the Economic Development tab on the Heppner Chamber website at www.heppnerchamber.com. Grant applications must be received at the chamber office by April 15 to be considered for April funding.

Students to test engineering skills

KidWind, the international leader of clean energy education, is hosting a KidWind Challenge Event at Riverside Junior/Senior High School on Thursday, March 14 starting at 9 a.m. At the event, approximately 50 students from Riverside Junior/Senior High School and Heppner Junior/Senior High School will showcase and test the performance of their handcrafted wind turbines and present their design process to a panel of judges. EDP Renewables North America, which owns the Rattlesnake Road and Wheat Field Wind Farms outside of Arlington, is sponsoring the event.

The judges will evaluate each team's wind turbine energy output and design, the documentation of their design process and their knowledge of wind and renewable energy. Teams placing first and second in the middle and high school

divisions automatically qualify for the 2019 National KidWind Challenge hosted at the American Wind Energy Association (AWEA) WINDPOWER 2019 conference in Houston, TX on May 20-23. A team from Riverside Junior/Senior High School has attended the National KidWind Challenge the past two years thanks to generous support from the local community, including travel scholarships from EDP Renewables North America.

"As more communities recognize that wind energy is a worthwhile alternative to other non-renewable energy sources, companies developing wind farms such as EDP Renewables North America will need more skilled workers," said Michael Arquin, founder of KidWind. "Giving students the knowledge, tools, and time to create a functioning

wind turbine brings real-life science to the classroom, helps develop students' problem-solving and engineering skills and generates excitement - which could encourage students to pursue a career in the renewable energy industry."

The KidWind Challenge is a nationwide initiative to help students learn about renewable energy and hone their engineering skills through the spirit of competition. Since the first event in 2009, the KidWind Challenge and its partners have hosted more than 220 events in 26 states, impacting roughly 35,000 students.

The National KidWind Challenge and the local KidWind Challenge events are made possible through contributions from generous sponsors. For more information about the KidWind Challenge, visit kidwindchallenge.org.

Power outage scheduled for Ione area substation

Columbia Basin Electric Cooperative, Inc. has announced a planned power outage in the Ione area on March 22 beginning at 9 p.m. with re-energization scheduled for 7 a.m. March 23. The Bonneville Power Administration has scheduled the 10-hour outage to replace some damaged equipment that aids in the

protection of CBEC's distribution lines outside of the Ione substation.

The outing was originally scheduled in December but had to be postponed. This outage will only affect CBEC members served out of the Ione BPA 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 who are unsure if they will be affected by this outage should call Columbia Basin Electric at 541-676-9146.

Radon gas second leading cause of lung cancer

Morrow County eligible for free home test kits

Radon is the second leading cause of lung cancer in the U.S. after cigarette smoking, and the leading cause of lung cancer among non-smokers. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency estimates that radon is responsible for more than 20,000 lung cancer deaths per year in the United States.

Radon is odorless, tasteless and invisible. It is a naturally occurring radioactive gas that comes up from the ground and is drawn into buildings, where it can build up to dangerous levels.

"Every homeowner should test their home for radon every two to five years," recommends Kari Christensen, Radon Program coordinator at the Oregon Health Authority, Public Health Division. The best time to test for radon is during the heating season, when the windows and doors are closed tight. This is when you would expect to find the highest radon levels in your home.

Many regions of the state are at moderate risk

of having high radon levels, with several pockets of high-risk areas in the northwest, around the Willamette Valley and in eastern and southern Oregon, according to 2018 data published on the Oregon Radon Program.

The Radon Program collects radon test data from test kit manufacturers in an effort to understand which areas of the state have the potential for high radon levels, and to identify areas where educational outreach efforts need to be focused. The program is offering a free radon test kit to residents whose homes are in Morrow County with fewer than 20 radon test results. Residents can send an email to radon.program@state.or.us to receive instructions on how to get a free test kit, which will be provided while supplies last.

For more information on radon testing and mitigation, radon-resistant new construction, or to order a test kit online, call the Oregon Radon Program at 971-673-0440, TYY: 711 or www.healthoregon.org/radon.

Willow Creek Ag Water Quality LAC to meet

The Willow Creek Ag Water Quality Local Advisory Committee will conduct its biennial review of the Willow Creek Ag Water Quality Management Area Plan on Wednesday March 20 from 6-8 p.m. at the Ag Service Center in Heppner.

For additional information, contact Kevin Payne with the Morrow SWCD at 541-676-5452. Meetings of the Morrow SWCD are open to the public.

Community and public enhancement grants offered

Willow Creek Valley Economic Development Group (WCVEDG) has funds available to be used for community and public enhancement for south Morrow County communities. Organizations must be a local organization, club, special district or governmental entity in the south Morrow County service area as defined on the WCVEDG service area map.

Those requesting funds must have at least 50 percent of their own funding for the total project budget, which may include in-kind and cash contributions. Completed grant requests

will be accepted between March 15 and April 15.

Forms may be obtained by contacting Sheryll Bates at 541-676-5536, emailing heppnerchamber@centurytel.net, picked up at Heppner, Lexington and Ione city halls or may be found under the Economic Development tab on the Heppner chamber website, www.heppnerchamber.com.

Grant applications may be emailed, mailed, hand delivered or faxed to 541-676-5656 and received no later than April 15 to be reviewed and considered by the WCVEDG board.

School board approves property transfer

The Morrow County School Board, in a regular meeting at Irrigon Jr./Sr. High School Monday night, gave the okay on a minor partition involving transfer of property from Morrow County Grain Growers to the school district.

The property will be used to erect a softball batting practice facility with an easement for access from Riverside Street in Heppner. The petition was requested by Kim Cutsforth, director of the Howard and Beth Bryant Foundation, on behalf of Heppner High School.

The board also ap-

proved a resolution accepting and appropriating unanticipated revenues of \$70,000 for Heppner Junior/Senior High School from the Howard and Beth Bryant Foundation; and an additional \$2,000 and \$3,310 from the foundation for Heppner Elementary School.

The board approved sending two calendar options to district staff for their input.

-Option 1 is a pre-Labor Day start with students beginning August 26, 2019; school ending June 4, 2020; winter break from December 20-January 5; spring break from March 23-27; school on Friday when there is a holiday on Monday.

-Option 2 is a post-Labor Day start with students beginning September 3, 2019; school ending June 11, 2020; winter break December 20-January 5; spring break from March 23-27; school on Friday when there is a holiday on Monday.

Superintendent Dirk Dirksen informed the board that the six snow days to be made up for Heppner

schools and the five snow days to be made up for Boardman and Irrigon schools will be April 5 and 12 and May 3. He noted that for each two snow days, students are required to make up one school day.

"It's strange that we're having snow this time of year," Dirksen noted.

In a report concerning four-year graduation rates with a GED or diploma Dirksen said that Riverside Jr./Sr. High School in Boardman had a 92 percent rate with Irrigon Jr./Sr. High School having an 80 percent rate and Heppner High School bucking

tradition with a 76 percent rate. HJSHS Principal Matt Combe told the Gazette-Times that the uncharacteristically low rate was due in part to students leaving the district that they were unable to track, low student numbers that skewed the percentages and other factors.

In other business, the board:

-heard recaps from district principals on sports successes from the various schools, including the

-See SCHOOL BOARD/PAGE EIGHT

Births

Lauren Deborah Lindsay - Dan and Ashley Lindsay of Lexington announce the birth of a daughter born Feb. 22 at 12:56 p.m. at St. Anthony Hospital in Pendleton. Lauren weighed 8 pounds and measured 19.5 inches long. She joins brothers Paul, 14, John, 12, Max, 7 and Kenny, 2. Her sisters are Claire, 10 and Lucy, 5.

Grandparents are Vilas and Deb Ropp and Larry and Corrine Lindsay, all of Lexington.



Lauren Deborah Lindsay

Death Notices

Kenneth M. Gates

Kenneth M. Gates, 73, of Lexington died Monday, March 11 at Pioneer Memorial Hospital in Heppner. He was born Nov. 13, 1945 at Prairie City, OR. A memorial service will be held on Friday, March 22 at 11 a.m. at the Lexington Bible Church.

Sweeney Mortuary of Heppner is in care of arrangements.

DEADLINE: MONDAYS AT 5PM



Family Hunt Club Looking for Big Game Land

Wildlife Development Association (WDA), a hunting club which is over 40 years old, is seeking to expand its leased big game hunting areas by 10,000+/- acres. WDA is known for promoting the highest standard of hunting ethics, hunter safety and family hunting.

Using club volunteers we hold annual work parties on leased properties working on projects directed by the property owner (fence and gate repair, road improvement, vegetation removal, etc.). We do projects to improve hunting, such as "No Trespassing" signage, and Predator Control program. References are available upon request.

If you have land to lease please contact: Wildlife Development Association Jason Slangan, President(503) 927-5643



Valby Lutheran Church
Valby Road
Ione Oregon. 97843

Church Services 1st & 3rd Sundays

Available for:
Weddings ♦ Funerals
Family Events

Old Country Church
All are Welcome

