

County awards \$371,939 in COVID grants

Morrow County, last month, awarded \$371,939 in CARES, Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security and Tillamook Cheese money grants to businesses and organizations throughout the county. The funds came from the federal government, down through the state and then to the counties. In an

effort to help local businesses Tillamook Cheese of Boardman also added money to the fund. Below is a list of the businesses and organizations who received funding. The county has announced another round of funding and is now taking applications. See related article this issue.

By Doris Brosnan

Can you smell it? Springtime seems to almost be blowing in the wind, probably from the plants emerging from the ground and leaves forming on the trees. But while these changes seem to be occurring down here, more accumulations of snow were recently forecasted for the mountains. Pleasant for us lowlanders and good omen of more moisture for later agricultural operations.

Trees on Main Street that have reached the end of their longevity – some broken, some dying – are being removed by the City Maintenance employees, soon to be replaced with new trees, which will, hopefully, serve to beautify the street for another 30 years or so.

City Manager Kraig Cutsforth views as very good news the increasing interest in new building construction in Heppner. Some building sites have merited interest by individuals planning to make our community their new home, another new duplex is being planned, and some buildings that previously housed particular entities are going to be repurposed soon.

The fifth- and sixth-grade teachers at HES, Mrs. Proudfoot and Mrs. Coiner, are thrilled to be able to bring back Time Out for Reading this year. It's a reading program that began with Mrs. Allen many years ago... and something fifth and sixth graders look forward to every year. Students keep track of minutes

read each week for four weeks (four quarters) and earn prizes for their participation and effort. "We are so thankful for generous donors this year (Jannie Allen, Karen Smith-Griffith, Heppner Parent-Teacher Club, Heppner Oddfellows Lodge) who allow us to continue offering this fun program. This year there were 14 students who read over 1,000 minutes in the first week."

As reported in the East Oregonian, Hunter Nichols was scheduled to travel to South Dakota on Monday morning to participate for Eastern Oregon University (in his second year) in the NAIA Indoor National Track and Field Championships in Yankton, SD, scheduled for March 3-6. Ranked nationally 14th in the 1000-meter, Hunter will face the prelims on Thursday. The finals will be on Saturday. He is ranked 8th all-time in the EOU record book, but according to his coach, "He could be one of the best we have ever had."

On February 23, Pat Sweeney listened to his wife, Trish, and went to an ER in the Tri-Cities. On the 24th, Pat received a stent in a heart artery that was 95 percent blocked. On the 25th, the Sweeneys headed home but were diverted by a call from Spray. Fortunately, Pat says he was feeling fine then and continues to feel good. He cautions that a person should listen to his/her body before having to listen to a spouse, and he expects that he will have to listen for the next ten years to Trish's "I saved

your life."

Some good news items come from beyond our south Morrow County limits, but they prove the truth of "the ties that bind."

Hannah Green, daughter of Dave Green, is a junior at Wenatchee High School in Washington. Hannah spent last week-end with her dad but first began her time in Heppner in a 6:30 a.m. Skype interview on Fox News. The school is making a hit on social media and national news networks with its green practice pods (small, one-person-and-instrument tents) for its bands, and Hannah was chosen as one of three golden apple band members interviewed for their insights into this innovative approach that allows students to gather together but individually in their pods to practice live instead of online. Such an honor for an outstanding student.

Janet White appreciates being able to catch weekly glimpses of our area, via the Heppner Gazette: "I am one of the many subscribers who once lived in that area. I lived in Ione for almost 20 years. I just renewed my subscription for a year to the Gazette." Janet, who now lives in Redmond, looks forward especially to reading more Ione news.

Last week from Verina (French) Schiller who is a daughter of Raymond and Norma French, "I didn't think I had any good news, but now I am happy to say that we have electric power, warmth and water again here in our apartment in north Austin [Texas] area.

We were melting snow for water and boiling the water. Our family in Dallas and south Austin has electricity again. Also, we do not have any burst water pipes... (but so much fall-out and damage from this disaster is still going on in the way of burst water pipes in both residential plus commercial and business buildings, plumbers here are overwhelmed with calls and many are told they won't be able to get any help until sometime in April, if even then) ... or damage from snapped tree limbs weighed down by thick, heavy ice (as some have suffered). We have been in Texas for over 27 years now and have never seen anything like this before. We are more grateful than ever for these basics that seem like luxuries now and will not take any of these for granted again.. Also, I am grateful for my hometown of Heppner and the Heppner Gazette-Times in which I can come home every week."

Readers will surely be happy to see your good news, so take a few minutes, if you wish, to jot it down as an email or call it in. (Just a few ideas: new babies, marriages, anniversaries, new jobs, new businesses, visitors, travels, vacations, adventures, promotions and successes, great pets, children's' accomplishments.) Anyone who has a tidbit is invited to email it to dbrosnan123@gmail.com or to call 541-233-1490.

Hoping some good news comes to everyone reading this.

Tillamook Grant Awards	
Business Name	Amount of Award
Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church	\$2,500
Citlalimendoza/A&C Trucking	\$2,500
Saeskin LLC	\$2,500
Studio 6 Designworks LLC	\$2,500
Columbia Basin Heating and Cooling	\$2,500
Connell Company, LLC	\$2,500
O'Doherty Outfitters	\$2,500
Perk and Brews	\$2,500
Marcie's Nutrition Center	\$2,500
Marcie's Consulting Service	\$2,500
Seco Pallets LLC	\$2,500
Danielle K. Hoeft, LMT	\$2,500
	\$30,000

Resiliency Grant Awards	
Business Name	Amount of Award
Dancing Bee Acres, LLC	\$ 5,628
Columbia River Gifts & Goodies	\$ 5,628
Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church	\$ 5,628
Boardman Jumpstart Java	\$ 8,165
Citlali Mendoza/A&C Trucking	\$ 5,628
3's Company - Bucknums Restaurant	\$ 10,471
Saeskin LLC	\$ 5,628
Heppner Day Care	\$ 24,218
Studio 6 Designworks	\$ 5,628
Head to Toes Salon Care	\$ 5,628
Nolan's Janitorial	\$ 11,532
Route 74 Restaurant	\$ 10,471
Kaley Patterson, LMT	\$ 6,089
Tacos Hometown	\$ 9,318
Gateway Café/Happy Pappy Catering	\$ 11,532
Hair Expressions - Kellie	\$ 5,628
Hair Expressions - Amber	\$ 5,628
Steve's Guide Service	\$ 5,628
Hair Expressions	\$ 7,842
Xtreme Housekeeping	\$ 9,318
Essential Massage	\$ 5,628
Hair I Am	\$ 5,628
Columbia Basin Heating and Cooling	\$ 9,318
Equine Elegance	\$ 5,628
Connell Company, LLC	\$ 5,628
Willow Creek Terrace	\$ 7,934

American Auto Body, LLC	\$ 5,628
Jay Coil Fabricating, LLC	\$ 5,628
Heppner Community Foundation	\$ 11,433
O'Doherty Outfitters	\$ 5,628
Perk and Brews	\$ 8,165
Ione Market & Deli	\$ 8,165
Sage Clothing Company	\$ 5,628
Black Acre Farm	\$ 5,628
The Learning Adventure	\$ 16,237
Macarios Mexican Restaurant	\$ 10,471
Desert Food Park	\$ 5,628
La Reyna Fruteria	\$ 5,628
Don Martin - translation office	\$ 5,628
Trenda La Guadalupana	\$ 7,012
Pena's Boutique	\$ 5,628
Taqueria Apatzingan	\$ 7,012
El Salvadoreno	\$ 7,012
Triple A Trucking LLC	\$ 5,628
Marcie's Nutrition Center	\$ 5,628
El Torto Party Rentals LLC	\$ 5,628
Xocolatl Bakery	\$ 7,012
Seco Pallets LLC	\$ 5,628
Marcie's Consulting Service	\$ 5,628
Neighborhood Center of South Morrow County	\$ 5,628
	\$ 371,939

NEW IRRIGON FACILITY

-Continued from PAGE ONE

diesel, gasoline, lubricants and aviation fuel for the next three years. Under the agreement Devin Oil will provide approximately 67,500 gallons of unleaded gas and 60,000 gallons of diesel fuel to the Morrow County Road Department in Lexington, 1,500 gallons of unleaded mid-grade fuel, and 2,000 gallons of diesel delivered to the OHV park, 7,000 gallons of aviation fuel to the Lexington airport and various types of oils, greases and hydraulic fuels to operate county vehicles.

\$1 million to schools for STEM

In other business the county agreed to pay schools in the county \$1 million over the next year for their STEAM and STEM programs in the schools. The programs promote an "approach to learning that uses Science, Technology, Engineering,

the Arts and Mathematics as access points for guiding student inquiry, dialogue, and critical thinking." Each school in the county will receive a \$100,000 base amount and then more per school depending on their enrollment.

In each school the money will be allotted 60 percent going to the science, tech, engineering and math, and 40 percent going to arts and music. The money for the program comes from the new Wheatridge wind and solar project in Morrow County, which pays Strategic Investment Program money to the county in lieu of taxes.

Food processor gets tax refund

The commissioners learned RDO/Calbee Foods, LLC of Boardman would be getting a tax refund of \$94,141. Calbee had appealed the property valuation of its potato processing plant at the Port of Morrow to Oregon tax court and a ruling was made in their favor.

Under the judgment, Calbee's property valuation will be reduced from its current \$16,345,520 to a court ordered \$14,797,170. Calbee had appealed its valuation to the court and as a result will be refunded the overpaid taxes from the past two years.

Last November the county had created a reserve account especially to repay taxes on valuations that were appealed and granted. Commissioners set aside \$380,020 and the refund will be paid from that. Pacific Ethanol Columbia, LLC also filed an appeal to the Oregon Tax Court on its property tax assessment, however no judgment has yet been issued by the court. Any refund to Pacific Ethanol would also be paid out of the reserve fund.

County to host two school interns

In other action the county agreed to host two high school internship positions, one through the planning office in Irrigon and the other as a "float" posi-

tion in south county. (see article p. 2 in last week's Gazette-Times) Under the program students are paid minimum wage through the Port of Morrow Enterprise Zone agreements. The county would be considered the host employer, but the students are technically employed by Intermountain Educational Service District, IMESD, in Pendleton.

Under the plan host employers such as the county will provide a position description which will be posted on the IMESD employment page. Students will apply March through April and interviews are held the middle of May.

The program covers students to work up to 15 hours per week. Students start their internship the second week of school in the fall. Mid-semester evaluations are done to determine if the placement is a good fit. If the host employer and student would like to continue, they can keep working through the rest of the school year.



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