

# CTE training Ione School

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that are combined to make one image that has a more solid, three-dimensional feel. Recognition software interprets the coded patterns on the workpieces and converts them into realistic virtual reality, which the student sees on the screen inside the helmet.

In other words, while working with the implements and digital metal, the student sees a realistic representation of virtual steel plates, welding beads and flying sparks. It's as close as you can get to a real welding experience without feeling the heat.

That's one side of the equation. The AR welder is also integrated with National Center for Construction Education and Research (NCCER) level one and level two curriculum, and includes classes, projects and tests to guide student learning. The whole setup also comes with a separate trainer's screen, where the instructor can view the student's work in real time or play a recorded exercise.

The school has purchased both the tabletop equipment and a smaller, hand-held version. Ione School District Superintendent and Secondary Principal Kevin Dinning says it's part of the school's growing focus on more Career and Technical Education (CTE) opportunities for students.

"If we're talking about teaching our kids stuff that they will find in the workforce, these are the skills they will need," says Dinning. "We want to be able to expose our students to a broader range of training materials."

And that's not all that's happening in the shop class. Across the building, Ione student Khira Kreitzer is experimenting with the school's laser engraver, the Trotec Speedy 400. Kreitzer has engraved a kitchen paddle board and then painted it. Now, she's preparing to engrave it again to see what effect that will have on the design.

The pattern changes color under the laser, as well as becoming deeper. "It feels more flat if you just do it once," explains Kreitzer, adding that the design gets deeper the more times the engraver goes over it.

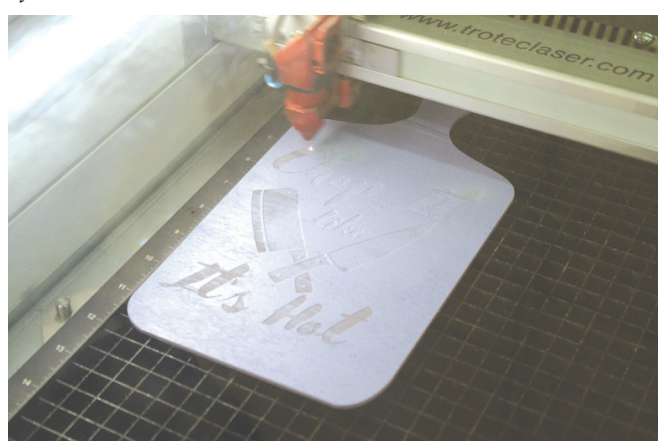
She also says that the engraver has different settings for different materials, including glass, different metals and a wide array of



Kelvin Rietmann cutting metal. -Photo by Andrea Di Salvo



A student-built shed in progress at Ione High School. - Photo by Andrea Di Salvo



The school's laser engraver at work. -Photo by Andrea Di Salvo

woods. The setting determines the specific voltage of laser, or burn, that goes into the material.

Dinning pulls out some samples of other engraved items—granite coasters, a wood engraving of a tractor—and says the students have been busy creating a variety of projects, including jewelry, leather and cups. Dinning says they want to attempt burning on jeans, next.

"It's applying art to something that's tangible," says Dinning, adding that many of the items made in the shop are given or sold to people in the Ione community. "We're really trying to get students to the entrepreneurial side of CTE."

By this time, Rietmann has finished welding and has moved to working on a metal project using the school's plasma cutter, which prints and cuts metal sheeting.

"It lets you be more detailed without having to do it by hand," explains Dinning.

Other equipment in the shop includes a heat press for printing on shirts and

a hat press. The next big plan the school has for CTE is for a heavy equipment simulator.

In back of the shop sit several storage sheds. They're a familiar sight, but these are special—they've all been built by Ione students. Dinning points out a shed built the previous year next to this year's shed, which is finished except for the roof. The sheds don't just collect out back, either. They are also sold, even made to order, for members of the community.

"We like to build them," Dinning says. He says that the school would eventually like to work up to building a house a year. For now, building the sheds teaches students the principles of things like flooring and studs, "But not having to do it while you're building a house," he adds.

Dinning says it's been great to walk into the school shop and see all of the projects happening as the students learn valuable skills while also providing services to the community.

"It's cool," he says. "It's all built by the kids."

# Ambulance service area plan

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counsel on the topic. The board had chosen to table a request by Hughes to repeal a 1998 ordinance regarding the county's ASA plan until commissioners had a chance to consult legal counsel.

At last Wednesday's meeting, Morrow County Board of Commissioners Chair David Sykes thanked everyone for their input on Morrow County ambulance services and said the county had engaged an attorney who was very knowledgeable on ASAs. The attorney, Bob Blackmore had presented the board with council on both the letter request and the ordinance.

"In the last month, the commission has taken action by engaging outside legal council to guide us in our understanding of our legal obligations and responsibilities of the county board of commissioners as we move forward in this process," said Sykes.

At a board of commissioners meeting Feb. 22, Hughes had requested a repeal of county ordinance MC-C-4-98, which regulates ambulance service providers in the county. Sykes said Blackmore had advised them not to repeal the 1998 ASA ordinance, but to instead move forward with preparing a new ASA plan to address and resolve many of the issues in the dispute. He also said counsel had advised them the 2021 ASA plan was not legally effective, as it was never legally approved by Morrow County.

"Counsel suggested a new ASA plan would include many of the provisions of that plan and mentioned that it would be a good starting point," Sykes said.

He added that, if the commissioners decided to move forward with a new ASA, county staff members would work on the ASA plan. Those county staff members would include Morrow County Interim Administrator Roberta Vanderwall, Morrow County Emergency Manager Paul Gray and Morrow County Counsel Justin Nelson, along with Blackmore, with others added to assist in plan development as needed.

"The goal in moving this forward would be to give everyone certainty, define ambulance service providers and territory and, in that process, create the best ambulance service plan for everyone in the county," said Sykes.

He added that participation by MCHD and BFRD as essential partners would be beneficial moving forward.

"If this road map is approved, we could then instruct legal counsel and staff to begin work on a new ASA plan as quickly as possible," he said.

Sykes said development of the new plan would include "appropriate" involvement from MCHD and BFRD and others interested in ambulance services in Morrow County, and that the county would expect ambulance services to continue as is in the interim.

During the following discussion, Morrow County Commissioner Roy Drago, Jr. agreed, and the board voted unanimously to move forward with a new ASA plan with Vanderwall, Nelson and Gray taking the lead with counsel from Blackmore.

The board of commissioners showed less of a

united from when it came to the request for a letter in support of ambulance licensing from Boardman Fire. Hughes had appeared before the board March 15 to request a letter in support of Boardman ambulance licensing from the board of commissioners.

Sykes said Blackmore had advised them that, until the new ASA plan was created, certifying additional ambulance needs would not mean BFRD would be licensed as an ambulance service provider in the county. That is, the attorney had advised the board that Boardman Fire would not be licensed without being designated an ambulance service area.

Blackmore further said that, if BFRD was seeking to work in Umatilla County as Hughes had previously stated, they should seek their letter of support from Umatilla County, and Morrow County would not oppose that.

Drago raised the issue of BFRD's proposed work with a military installation on the Bombing Range.

"That is in Morrow County, and the question there is, even if they were able to go out onto the Bombing Range and be there in case something happened, that they would have to transport through Morrow County at some point," said Drago, "which is not in the ASA. So, as far as the Bombing Range question, that was my concern there."

"Mr. Blackmore did say that there's nothing that precludes us from writing the letter of support," said Wenzholz, "Really, he said, it's a circular issue in that OHA (Oregon Health Authority) won't grant you a license without having an area to serve as part of an ASA, but you can't have an area to serve in an ASA without having a license."

Wenzholz moved to provide the letter of support for BFRD and let OHA "sort it out" and determine whether they should receive the license.

Sykes responded that he thought the county should create the ASA plan first.

"I think that's the backbone of the whole thing and should be done without anything else coming into play," he said.

"Are we able to get the timing right with an ASA and, if in that ASA it does allow an ambulance service area, is it going to delay the position of that service area to get a license?" replied Drago. "How would we time that to make it happen at the same time?"

"I do understand your point," Wenzholz told Sykes, "but I do feel it's a chicken and egg type of thing. If through the ASA process Boardman Fire were to be granted a service area, in a sense they can't get a service area without a license, so this allows them to go through the process and get a license."

"I don't think anybody's under the illusion that they're going to be able to do transports in Morrow County, because they don't have a service area in Morrow County," added Wenzholz.

The board voted 2-1 to have staff draft a letter of support for Boardman Fire to seek ambulance licensing, with chair Sykes opposing.

## Right-of-Way Construction Permits

Also at the meeting, the board voted to amend the process to approve permits for construction in the county right-of-way. The existing ordinance required certain permit requests to go before the board for approval.

Wenzholz recused him-

self from discussion and voting on the topic due to a possible or perceived conflict, though he did state that he did not believe he had a real conflict of interests.

Nelson told the commissioners that from 2017 to 2019, all permits for work in the county right-of-way could be approved by the Morrow County Public Works Director or Assistant Road Master. Public works also had the responsibility to make sure utilities and other entities working in the county right-of-way were meeting permit requirements.

In 2019, commissioners amended chapter 8.08 of the county code to require board of commissioners approval for any right-of-way work that exceeded 200 feet. Last week's revision took away the need for board approval and put permitting back in the hands of public works.

Nelson said the change was due to both the changed meeting schedule for the board of commissioners, which now meets every two weeks, and public works' anticipation of more large projects needing permits in the near future.

"A person can submit this to public works, they can review it, sign off on it fairly quickly," Nelson said of the change. "If it goes before the board, right now about a two-week period or more."

"Again, if a person has a concern or an issue, it can still come before the board," Nelson added. "This just lets it be streamlined a little more."

Former Morrow County Commissioner Don Russell was present to speak in favor of the proposed change. Russell also sits on the board of directors for Windwave Communications, a fiber company that he said does a significant amount of work in county rights-of-way throughout Eastern Oregon.

Russell said that, as commissioner, he had initially supported board approval as a way for commissioners to know who was doing large amounts of work in the right-of-way.

"As it evolved, it became a way to slow down the process of allowing companies that do work in public right-of-way to get a permit," said Russell. "It's my opinion that the previous commissioners picked the winners and the losers and they would slow walk permits for those companies that they didn't like."

Russell added that Windwave never had a permit rejected but that that some of the permits took a "very long time" to get approved. He said the company is currently doing work in Morrow, Umatilla, Baker, Harney, Grant and Wheeler counties, and has done work in the past in Wheeler, Sherman, Union, Wallowa and Malheur counties.

"And Morrow County is by far the hardest place to do business in," said Russell. "When I was a commissioner, again, we never rejected a permit to work in the public right-of-way. It just slowed the process down substantially, and I don't really see any reason for it."

He also pointed out the commissioners could still be a board of appeals but said the board had never overridden a public works decision in his eight years as commissioner.

The commissioners voted unanimously to amend the code and remove the need for board approval.

# County approves new SIP Agreement with Amazon

By Andrea Di Salvo

The Morrow County Board of Commissioner approved a new Strategic Investment Program (SIP) with Amazon Data Services at its regular meeting last Wednesday, April 5. Included in the agreement was a resolution asking Oregon Business Development Commission (Business Oregon) to exempt the development from property taxes.

The SIP exemption is for 15 years, and Morrow County Assessor Mike Gorman said it is a "fairly large" investment that will

trigger \$100 million taxable value, as well as up to \$2.5 million in community service fees. Gorman said the agreement also includes some negotiated additional payments, including future bonding and payments to benefit local infrastructure. Amazon has agreed to an Annual Contribution Payment equal to \$850,000 and an up-front Community Development Contribution of \$5 million.

According to the agreement, the development will provide 80 new, permanent, full-time equivalent jobs in the county.

Prior to making a decision, the board went into a short executive session to discuss the agreement, after which it held a public hearing on the SIP agreement. Wenzholz again recused himself from discussion and voting due to possible impact on a company with which he does business.

Morrow County Counsel Justin Nelson pointed out that board approval does not mean the SIP agreement is a "done deal." The agreement will now have to go to Business Oregon.

ing, Jasper Hardy, Clifford Hauger, Omar Madrigal, Luke Meyers, Cielo Munoz, Rosales, Monserrat Pacheco, Caelyn Pullen, Damian Quiriconi, Jose Romero, Eleazar Salas, Lucero Zaragoza.

Vice President's List (3.5 to 3.74): Lelila Cam-

bero, Sadie Hasbell, Samantha Howard, McKenna Kendrick, Leslie Lopez, Carmelita Morrison, Matthew Orem, Jimena Villarreal.

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