

Wildbill running for State Senate District 29 non affiliated

Prepares for Columbia River swim to highlight nitrate contamination in Lower Umatilla Basin



Tania Wildbill

Tania Wildbill is running for Oregon State Senate District 29 as a non-affiliated candidate and is not taking donations for her campaign. She is training for a swim across a portion of the Columbia River to raise awareness about nitrate issues in the Lower Umatilla Basin Groundwater Management Area. A resident of Pendleton, Oregon, Tania was born and raised in New York. She attended Spence School, La Guardia High School of the Arts, and Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism.

Tania worked as a reporter, producer, and anchor for media outlets including Rice Thresher, KASE/KVET Radio, Texas Associated Press Radio, and KCUW Radio. She also worked for CNN and The International Herald Tribune in Paris, France, covering major political events like the 1992 Democratic National Convention in New York City and the 1992 Republican National Convention in Houston, Texas.

Tania's fundraising and grant writing efforts resulted in acquiring 9.5 million dollars in federal, state, and private funds. She secured a \$350,000

grant from the Oregon Department of Education to establish the Nixyaawii Community School on the Umatilla Indian Reservation in Pendleton, Oregon.

In filmmaking, Tania co-wrote, produced, and directed the documentary "American Cowboys," about the 1911 Pendleton Round-Up, which gained recognition at film festivals and was broadcast on PBS affiliates across the United States.

Tania established the Yoga Round-Up, the first yoga festival in Oregon, and opened Wellness Wave, LLC, a retreat destination and studio. She received the National Indian Health Board Award for Local Area Impact.

Tania hosts the weekly radio show "Wellness Works" on KCUW Radio, focusing on healthy lifestyle success stories from tribal members of the Confederated Tribes of The Umatilla Indian Reservation, earning her the Yellowhawk Tribal Health Center's "Creativity and Innovation Award."

Oregon State Senate District 29 comprises all of Gilliam, Morrow, Sherman, Umatilla, Union, Wallowa, and Wheeler counties.

Morrow County Fair quilting competition



Cara Osmin with her bargello quilt that won the 2023 Morrow County Fair. - Contributed Photo

Quilting has taken America by storm, and Morrow County residents are a part of that growing interest. From the north to the south, Morrow County has numerous talented quilters who create works of art which vary from potholders to king-size quilts.

The Morrow County Fair offers opportunities for all quilters, with categories for beginner quilters and accomplished quilters alike. There are classes for youth, adults, professionals, 70 and over, and the physically challenged. The entries may be hand-quilted, tied, or machine-quilted. They may be creations that come from a kit, use a panel, or are the individual works that have garnered admiration through the generations, as the Fair theme proclaims. Quilting Department Superintendents,

Cara Osmin and Babette Wall, both accomplished quilters, welcome all quilters to bring their fabric art to share. They are pleased to announce three special prizes to encourage entries. A \$25 award will be given to the winner of the Judge's Choice entry. The winner of the People's Choice Award will receive a special gift, and the creator of the Grand Champion Quilt will receive a gift basket from Mama Bear's Quilt Shop in Stanfield.

Babette says, "Quilters are incredible kindred spirits. We are possessed with cutting up perfectly good fabric into tiny pieces and then sewing it back together. As your Quilt Division Superintendents, Cara and I are excited to see all the wonderful creations of our fellow band of quilters."

Morrow County Rural Transportation Equity Project Awarded for Excellence



HEPPNER – Oregon's statewide advisory committee on equitable community engagement, the Community Involvement Advisory Committee (CIAC), has awarded the Most Outstanding Project – Small Jurisdiction: Achievement in Community Engagement Award to Morrow County and its partners who researched and developed the report, "Rural Transportation Equity in Morrow County."

The Achievement in Community Engagement or ACE Award recognizes organizations and individuals who have actively promoted and implemented the values of Oregon's Statewide Planning Goal 1 through an outstanding community engagement strategy. All projects recognized with an ACE Award make innovative use of resources, build partnerships across and throughout the community, and intentionally engage historically marginalized and underserved communities.

"This project's goal was to better understand the challenges of community members who live and work in Morrow County," said Dr. Daniel Paul Costie, Assistant Professor of Public Administration at Eastern Oregon University (EOU) and lead author of the report. "The research team consisted of Morrow County, Euvalcree, Rural Engagement and Vitality Center (REV), and EOU. Under my supervision, and with feedback and guidance from Morrow County and Euvalcree, two outstanding students created a survey which was then distributed by the research partners. We then analyzed the data for key themes, then drafted the report based on the findings."

"We submitted our application for the ACE Award on behalf of these community-focused organizations, because we felt strongly that they deserved recognition for this amazing contribution to our county," said Morrow County Planning Director Tamra Mabbott. "The level of engagement we had from our community was outstanding. We have learned so much from this process." "The CIAC is thrilled to recognize Morrow County and their partners with this award," shared CIAC Chair Leah Rausch. "Rural engagement is a challenge, and Morrow County succeeded in ways that demonstrate an ongoing commitment to the work."

In 2023, Morrow County was awarded a grant through the Oregon Department

of Land Conservation and Development (DLCD) to study ways to engage traditionally underserved community members to identify opportunities to improve access to transit. The county planning department's vision was also seeking to learn how to engage traditionally underserved populations with planning. DLCD Transit Planner, Madeline Phillips, engaged directly with EOU and REV program staff, set up a Technical Advisory Committee comprised of businesses, special districts, and the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation who provides a free transit service throughout the region.

In Spring 2024, Morrow County launched a fixed route bus system in Boardman that provides transportation for employees who work at companies in and around the Port of Morrow. The survey results provided valuable insight the Planning Department will also use in the 2024 Heritage rail Plan update.

The CIAC was impressed by the following project elements:

Using demographics to understand the audience and coordination with existing community-based organizations to reach them,

Meeting community members where they were, Coordination with Eastern Oregon University for survey development and analysis, and

Consideration of and future aspiration to update Morrow County's Goal 1 plan to accommodate less traditional modalities in community engagement.

Partners in the project included Morrow County Planning Department, Eastern Oregon University, the Rural Engagement & Vitality Center, and Euvalcree, a culturally specific organization. Each organization will be recognized with an ACE Award. The report can be found at www.revcenter.org/reports.

The Land Conservation and Development Commission has committed to uplifting and celebrating the values of Oregon's Statewide Planning Goal 1 for equitable community engagement through the ACE Awards and other activities. The tenets of the ACE Award support the commission's commitment to the ongoing improvement of community engagement throughout Oregon.

Please direct inquiries to: Matthew Jensen, County Administrator mjensen@co.morrow.or.us (541) 676-2529

WCCC Ladies play day results

There were 6 players in the ladies' gameplay at the Willow Creek Country Club on July 9th. The weather was hot and dry. The results are as follows; Low Gross of the field was Tiffany Clement. The low Net field was Kris Linder. The least putts of the field were

Sharon Harrison. Flights-Low gross was (A) Coral Mitchell, (B) Betty Carter. The low net was Karen Smith Griffith. Chips ins-Sharon Harrison. Upcoming events: Tuesdays play begin at 8 am. Please sign in early on hot days we may play earlier due to the heat.

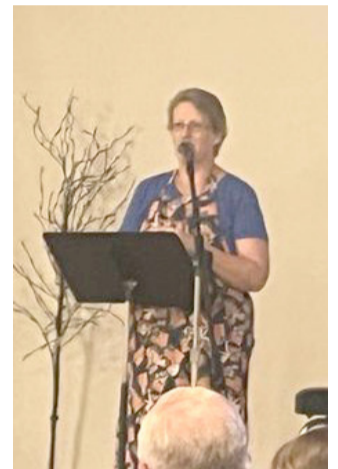
SMCSM celebrates one year anniversary



Jackie Alleman and Jerry Conklin speaking at the anniversary - Photo by Annalynn Black



Julia Brown



Jodi Seagraves

By Annalynn Black

The South Morrow County Seniors Matter (SMCSM) celebrated their first anniversary at their weekly 'Seniors Matter' luncheon on July 16th. The event was attended by many individuals, including Sheriff John Bowels, City Manager John Doherty, Perla Martinez from the Boardman Food Pantry, Julia Brown from Age+, and the two individuals who run SMCSM, Jerry Conklin and Jackie Alleman.

During the celebration, Sheriff John Bowels provided an update on the Lone Rock Fire, keeping everyone informed about the ongoing situation.

Jerry Conklin, one of the organizers of SMCSM, delivered a heartfelt speech during the event. He took the opportunity to express his gratitude towards the dedicated volunteers who contribute their time ev-

ery week. Conklin also acknowledged the various organizations that have provided financial support to SMCSM. Moreover, he made sure to thank his partner, Jackie Alleman, for her valuable contributions to the cause. Jodi Seagraves, the lead cook for the senior luncheon, also gave a speech thanking everyone who comes to support SMCSM and acknowledging her brother Todd, who passed away, for donating \$3,000 worth of food before his passing.

Julia Brown from Age+, a nonprofit organization dedicated to enhancing the lives of seniors, also gave a speech during the anniversary celebration. She recognized the hard work and dedication of Jerry Conklin, applauding his efforts in improving the lives of senior citizens in Heppner.

Bombing Range Road closed due traffic accident

Morrow County Sheriff reported that Bombing Range Road was Closed Monday MP 10-14 due to

Critical Incident - Oregon State Police is investigating a serious motor vehicle accident (MVA).

TWO WOLVES MEDIA GROUP AND BUCKNUM'S TAVERN PRESENTS

REVIVAL

FESTIVAL INFO

TICKET INFO

Guest Host Billy Hood

RUCKUS

IN THE BOONIES

HEPPNER OREGON

JULY 26TH AND 27TH 2024

BUCKNUM'S TAVERN
HEPPNER OREGON

Stoned Evergreen Travelers, Johnny Bourbon, Alison Self, Tales From Ghost Town, Cory Peterson, Blood Fire Rainwater, Dog Bite Harris & The Selfish Bastards, Yotes, Colette Jones, GHOSTWRITER, Cabin Fever

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