

August Thoughts

August is National School Bus Month so we will start this article off with the thought that summer is about to end with the beginning of school. As said in prior articles, bus routes are a higher priority for the Road Department and it is nice when mail and bus routes utilize the same roads. Usually within one month of the start of school we will know where the designated routes are. The operators across the county are well aware of the residents they serve and have a general idea of where the routes might be but don't hesitate to stop them and let them know your needs.

In speaking with a rural patron this morning, she described the weather conditions in central Box Butte County as tropical but that a farmer should never complain about moisture - she was tired of it though. We are in the same state, just give us a few days of sunshine so we can put back everything that has been undone since the last storm. In this time of rains hitting and missing several producers have come forward and hauled aggregate to the roads near their property; it has been the policy of Box Butte County that the County will pay for the aggregate if the producer wishes to haul it. If you wish to do so, please call the office so we know who is hauling, the location to which the aggregate is being hauled to and which pit the aggregate is coming from. The loaders are mobile so we they may not be in the pit of choice.

A little-known fact along the way is that the line of sight height is three and a half feet (3.5 ft.) above the surface of the road. What that means is the eyes of the driver of a motor vehicle, as he is sitting in the vehicle, are 3.5 feet above the ground. (I would challenge that in Box Butte County where the predominant vehicle is a pick-up not a passenger car but this is the guidance set on the national level.) This is important this time of the year as the crops, corn in particular, are growing and encroaching at intersections. If there are any concerns voiced regarding reduced sight distance at intersections the property owner will be notified and a request will be made to reduce the vegetation to no taller than 3.5 feet tall. If this does not happen the right-of-way will be mowed with a rotary mower by county employees. We have also seen an increase in patrons mowing the roadsides; to everyone doing so we wish to say thank you, it is a tremendous help that pays dividends in the snow season.

The Box Butte County Road Department is still looking for help; in particular one full-time truck driver and one full-time motor grader operator. If you are interested in either position, please stop by the office at 101 Howard Street for an application. As always; if you have any questions or concerns, please call the office at 762-6797. Have a safe rest of the summer.