

RULES

Continued from Page A1

Wallowa doesn’t have either teachers or students who identify as transgender, either, but even if they did, Wallowa Superintendent Bret Uptmore was unruffled by the changes and the hubbub surrounding them.

“It’s all about politics outside our doors,” he said. “Inside, it’s about the kids. My first transgender student was eight years ago in Ontario. We just made accommodations – whatever the student needed.”

Although the Oregon Department of Education guidelines are new, they largely reflect existing laws and legal precedents, according to the Oregon Department of Education.

Under state law, it is illegal to discriminate against students at public schools that receive state funding, including based on their gender identification, according to the Oregon Department of Education guidelines. It is also illegal for programs that receive federal funding to discriminate against people on the basis of sex, and the U.S. Department of Education’s Office of Civil Rights has determined federal law Title IX protects transgender and non-gender conforming students.

Among the many details of the document were definitions for 15 words so that administrators could understand the material – from ‘assigned sex’ and ‘cisgender’ to ‘transition

and ‘transsexual.’ These terms, however, were to take second place to terms the student might prefer to use to describe themselves.

Among the directives to administrators was the necessity of providing privacy for transgender students. Superintendents were cautioned that some transgender students may not want their parents to know they chose a different gender identity at school and therefore administrators must “balance the goal of supporting the student with the requirement that parents be kept informed about their children.”

Administrators, teachers and staff may find this a particularly difficult balance given the fact that the directive makes clear these gender distinctions can be made by children as young as kindergarten.

So, if a kindergartener arrives and declares their name to be John, although their registration shows Joan, teachers, staff and administrators are instructed to refer to the child as John even so far as their attendance and grade records. “John” must be “respected and treated like any other boy” and all personal pronouns used must match his chosen identity.

Older transgender students create another dilemma for administrators as they enter sports according to their gender identity and, as a result, showers, locker rooms and competitions.

“It is recommended that alternative accommodations, such as a single “unisex” bathroom or private change space

should be made available to students who request them, but should not be forced upon students or presented as the only option,” the guidelines state.

This either/or approach is in line with the assertion by The American Civil Liberties Union of Oregon which stated in a letter to the Dallas School Board sent in January 2015 that: “The refusal to allow transgender students to use the same facilities used by other students in accordance with their gender identity violates Title IX and impairs students’ ability to learn, grow, and thrive in the school environment.”

The state guidelines give an example of a transgender student transitioning to female feeling uncomfortable in the all-girl changing room and how that problem was solved by a simple dividing curtain. It does not deal with the comfort level of the cisgender girls — girls who identify with their biological gender — in the same changing room as this is not the subject of the directive.

Even without a visible example of gender fluidity in the district, some parents are made nervous by the sex-education requirement alone. That education is to begin in elementary school.

“Course material and instruction for all human sexuality education courses that discuss human sexuality in public elementary and secondary schools shall enhance students’ understanding of sexuality as a normal and healthy aspect

of human development,” according to the guidelines. “The plan requires inclusive materials, language, and strategies that recognizes different sexual orientations, gender identities and gender expression.”

Dallas (Ore.) School District made the news last year when it struggled to determine how to accommodate a female assigned transgender student who wanted to be recognized as a boy and join in boys’ sports teams and use the locker room.

Dallas School District Superintendent Michelle Johnstone said the school held a public meeting during which Salem-based attorneys from Garrett Hemann Robertson, advised attendees that barring transgender students from using bathrooms or locker rooms of their gender choice would get a school district sued.

Abiding by the federal Title IX regulations may also get a school sued by outraged parents, the attorneys said, but the ultimate loser in that situation would be the students as the parents would lose but the legal battle would cost the school money that would otherwise be spent on school programs.

Dallas School District is fortunate, said Johnstone, in that it recently passed a bond for remodeling that will allow the district to make the structural changes required.

“It’s going to cost us about a half a million dollars,” Johnstone said.

That’s just to remodel the infrastructure. How to manage the

treatment of individual students, both transgender and cisgender, and their privacy needs is another matter and required further planning.

“We had Oregon Department of Education and our attorneys at the table when we came up with our plan,” Johnstone said. “We’re working with kids on a one to one basis. You can’t say to a transgender student you are limited in any way.”

Dallas School District put together a facilities committee to see how to respect the privacy of all students, Johnstone said. Several of the concerned parents volunteered for that committee.

“We’re trying to make sure everyone has options,” she said. “We still have questions that surface but some of the parents who had the biggest concerns are part of the facilities committee. What I really appreciate about our community is that they want to find a solution that is best for all our kids.”

School districts will not necessarily be out half a million

dollars, said Wallowa School District Superintendent Bret Uptmore.

“The law does not say you have to make a half-million accommodation it says you have to accommodate for the kid,” said Uptmore.

There will be a standard of privacy to meet, but there are a number of ways to meet it, Uptmore said.

As for how to treat the kids, Uptmore smiles at the notion this is something new to teachers or administrators.

“The guidance from the feds goes off what school districts probably have always done – give students what they need in order to learn,” he said.

In the end, Uptmore said, it’s about teaching and “sex education” should be understood in the same way discussions of religion in a school setting are understood.

“We don’t teach religion in our schools, but we talk about religion,” he said. “As for “sex education”, we teach health education (emphasis on education).”

FOR THE RECORD

Dispatch log:

Monday, June 6

8:19 a.m.: 911 reporting a domestic incident in Enterprise.
5:45 p.m.: Becci Rhee Sasser, 60, of Enterprise was arrested and charged with probation violation. She was transported to Umatilla County Jail.
7:03 p.m.: Community Corrections issued a detainer warrant for the arrest of Levi Westly-Albert Fine of Wallowa on an original charge of harassment.

Tuesday, June 7

9:18 a.m.: Controlled burn in rural Joseph.
9:52 a.m.: Lost male chihuahua from S. River St.

Wednesday, June 8

8:43 a.m.: 911 reporting a careless driver on the Minam.
2:39 p.m.: Report of a disturbance in Enterprise.
3:43 p.m.: Report of criminal mischief in Enterprise.
4:03 p.m.: 911 report of a missing child in Enterprise. Child was located safe soon after the call was received.
6:38 p.m.: After receiving a 911 call reporting a domestic disturbance in Joseph, Matthew Steven Johnson, 32, was arrested and charged with felony domestic violence and interfering with a 911 call. Johnson was transported to Umatilla County Jail.

Thursday, June 9

6:30 a.m.: 911 reporting 3 cows loose in Enterprise.
11:26 a.m.: Complaint of negotiating bad checks in Wallowa.
4:55 p.m.: Xzavious Reinbold, 27, of Mountain Home, Idaho was arrested by Enterprise Police for assault, strangulation, menacing, and harassment. Reinbold was transported to Umatilla County Jail.
5:15 p.m.: Vandalism reported in Joseph.

Friday, June 10

6:33 p.m.: Report of a road hazard on highway 3 in rural Wallowa

County.

1:03 p.m.: David Lawrence Sticka, 24, of Enterprise was arrested by Wallowa County Sheriff’s Office on a Wallowa County Circuit Court warrant on charges of burglary, theft, unlawful possession of meth, carrying a concealed weapon, and criminal mischief. Sticka was transported to Umatilla County Jail.
2:09 p.m.: At a traffic stop in Enterprise. Enterprise Police arrested Darrel Wayne, 48 of Lostine for possession of meth and fail to carry and deliver proof of ID, Darrell was transported to Umatilla County Jail.
Stacie Lynn Davis, 28, of Grants Pass was cited and released on charges of felony possession of a weapon. Erik

Alan Jenkins, 24, of Central Point was arrested on charges of felony possession of a weapon, giving false info to a police officer, and a Josephine County Circuit Court detainer for probation violation on an original charge of meth possession. Jenkins was transported to Umatilla County Jail.
2:20 p.m.: Levi Westly-Albert Fine, 22, of Wallowa was arrested by parole & probation for probation violation on an original charge of harassment. Fine was transported to Umatilla County Jail.
2:32 p.m.: Statewide misdemeanor warrant issued for Dalton Daniel McKay, 22, of Adams for furnishing alcohol to a person under 21 years of age.

3:12 p.m.: Report of hit and run vehicle damage in Joseph.

5:31 p.m.: Dead deer reported in Enterprise.

Saturday, June 11

1:01 a.m.: 911 reporting a disturbance in the city of Enterprise.
9:12 a.m.: Traffic complaint at the county park at Wallowa Lake.
11:52 a.m.: Traffic stop in rural Enterprise.



Wallowa BUSINESS

Serving **918 entrepreneurs** creating **new jobs** since **2001**

Supports Free and Confidential Business Counseling and Services through Blue Mountain Community College
Wallowa County Small Business Development Center

Rick Bombaci, Small Business Advisor

To begin your free and confidential business consultation contact Rick at
541-426-9095

Wallowa Business is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit public benefit corporation

APRIL SPECIALS: SENIOR PORTRAITS & FAMILY PORTRAITS!

NATURE'S LIGHT PHOTOGRAPHICS
www.natureslightphotographics.com

Ellen Morris Bishop
Joseph, Oregon

Portraits, Events, Editorial, and Architectural Photography
541 398 1810 paleobishop@gmail.com

504 NW 1st St Enterprise, OR 97828

Summer FUN • Summer SAVINGS

Consumer Event:
Saturday
June 24th
9am-3pm

Hot dogs, chips, drinks and cookies! Door Prizes every hour! Games and More

*Professional driver on closed course. Always protect the environment and wear your seat belt, helmet, eye protection and protective clothing. Read the owner's manual and product warning labels before operation. Model shown with Genuine Yamaha Accessories.
©2015 Yamaha Motor Corporation, U.S.A. All rights reserved. • YXZ1000R.com

HOTDOG!

You're Invited To The Jo Hard Customer BBQ

20% Off* Bucket SALE

Sat, June 18th 11 am - 2 pm

JOSEPH HARDWARE
WORK HARD. PLAY HARD. JO HARD.®

101 S Main St 541-432-2271 johard.com

*Starting at 11 am, the first 200 people get a DoItBest paint bucket and receive 20% off what can be fit inside, some exclusions apply, see store.

True Value BARGAINS of the MONTH®
While supplies last.

29⁹⁹
Deluxe Aluminum Frame Backpack Chair/Cooler
T 199 398 4

M-F 8AM-6PM • SAT 8AM-5PM • SUN 9AM-3PM

Hurricane Creek Road Enterprise, Oregon 541-426-3116

GRAIN GROWERS
WALLOWA COUNTY

True Value START RIGHT. START HERE.
Sale Ends 6/30/2016 ©2013 True Value Company. All rights reserved.