

Board changes attendance policy

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school attendance areas," but is available at another district school.

Parents, principals, and the superintendent must then agree that it would be in the best interests of the student for educational or social purposes to grant such a transfer.

No changes in district bus routes will be made to accommodate such transfer students.

in April came under fire shortly after it was approved by Meg Murray of Ione, who sought a transfer on academic basis for her son.

Mrs. Murray objected to the earlier policy's provisions that would have barred her athletically inclined son from participating in sports as a freshman at Heppner High.

At least one administration official indicated that he did not feel the dropping of the athletic eligibility clause would open the floodgates to mass transfers within the county, since the new policy sets down strict guidelines to be met.

Superintendent Matt Doherty suggested that parents of elementary students submit letters of intent on high school preference with school officials prior to the time children reach high school age.

In other developments, the board hired former Ionian Anne Munkers as fifth grade teacher at A.C. Houghton Elementary; Jennifer Spray as second grade teacher at the same school; Don Woolley as fifth grade teacher at Ione, and Pat Campbell, a Central Washington graduate, as counselor at Riverside High.

Stan Scott, Physical Education teacher at A.C. Houghton, was named Riverside High football coach. Scott will continue to teach at the Irrigton elementary school. He served as an assistant football coach at Hermiston High last year. Scott is a former Eastern Oregon State grider.

The board accepted resignations from retiring Heppner High counselor Vi Lanham and Riverside teacher Roberta Jenkins, as well as from Heppner High teacher George Koffler, A.C. Houghton staffers John M. Dawson and Geneva Coker, and Heppner Junior High staff member Jerry Deford.

LaVonne Bergstrom was hired as head cook at Ione, with Pauline Gates employed as her assistant. Kristy Crow-

ell was hired as bus driver at Ione, replacing Merlin Marvin, and Herb Ekstrom Jr. was hired to replace Ione school bus driver Lindsay Kincaid.

The board gave first reading to a proposed early graduation policy. Under the proposed policy, students must meet all academic requirements for high school graduation, after planning a course aimed at early graduation with the high school principal. Parents must make a written request for early graduation from the school board at least one semester prior to the planned graduation date.

Early graduation requests must explain educational or

vocational purposes for seeking the early graduation, under the proposed plan.

Accelerated graduations have not taken place in Morrow County during past years. Superintendent Doherty said the intent of the policy is to accommodate unusually fast-learning, high-achieving students who may wish to make use of the early-out option in years to come.

Due to the success of the school board's recent construction bond sale, it was announced that the amount of taxes to be raised to finance the budget for the coming fiscal year will be \$25,000 less than expected.

Mrs. Bill Snow attends daughter's graduation in east

Mrs. Bill Snow recently returned to Ione from Millers-town, Pa., to attend the high school graduation of her daughter, Angie Parkhurst.

Angie, a member of the National Honor Society, graduated fifth in her class of 73. Mrs. Snow also visited son Tom, also a high school student at Millers-town.

OBITUARY

Anabel Alison

Word has been received that Anabel M. Allison, 61, Portland, founder and owner of Allison Enterprises Inc., died of cancer at her home in Portland last month.

Mrs. Allison was born in Heppner, the daughter of Frank W. and Lillian Turner. She grew up in Heppner and was a graduate of Heppner High School.

She is survived by two daughters, Jan Allison of Portland and Jo McKenzie of Aloha; a sister, Jeanette Huddleston, Boise, Idaho; a brother Robert Turner, Walnut Creek, Calif.; and four grandchildren.

There was no funeral. The family suggests contributions be made to the American Cancer Society.

Swimming instruction hours are changed

Hours for next week's beginning of swimming lessons at the Heppner municipal pool have been changed.

The advanced beginners class will be held Tuesday through Friday starting at 9 a.m., as will the intermediate

class. Beginners classes will start at 10 a.m. A "mother and tot" swim session for mothers and their toddlers will start on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays at 11 a.m. and will continue through the summer.

Children's summer hour features Japanese tea

The children's summer reading program at Heppner Elementary School library during the coming week will feature films on Japanese fairy tales and a Japanese tea ceremony.

The oriental flavored pro-

gram will begin at 10 a.m. Tuesday in the school library.

It is expected to last one hour.

The school library will be open for book checkouts from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. during the remainder of the day.



Timothy D. Skow, son of Mr. and Mrs. John Skow of Heppner, won the Harry S. Truman

Foundation

Award during recent ceremonies at Gonzaga University in Spokane.

The award, established by congress as the official memorial to Truman, is a permanent education scholarship.

Beef prices climb to record high; supply low

After two and a half years of relatively low prices, retail beef prices have reached a new record high, gaining 23 per cent over the prices enjoyed by consumers in 1977.

The price turnaround comes at a time when the supply of beef is significantly less than is has been in the past two or three years, reports Stephen Marks, Oregon State University Extension agricultural economist.

This decrease in beef supply stems from the forced liquidation of U.S. beef herds from 1974-77 when farmers and ranchers had to cope with drought as well as depressed cattle prices, he explained. "U.S. cattle numbers are at their lowest point in seven years, so fewer cattle are going to slaughter," said Marks.

"Now that the drought is over and grass is plentiful, ranchers are starting to hold back cattle from market in order to take advantage of the available forage and to rebuild their depleted herds," he observed.

Although consumers are feeling the effects in their pocketbooks, beef prices are not much higher than they were in June, 1975 when consumers boycotted super-

markets, commented Marks.

Choice beef cuts, including all the cuts from a steer carcass, average around \$1.70 a pound now compared with \$1.61 in June, 1975, the previous record high. During 1977, however, average beef prices dropped to a low of about \$1.38.

Ground beef with 30 per cent fat costs \$1.19 a pound now, and leaner hamburger can cost up to about \$1.59 a pound, estimates Marks.

One reason for the high prices is that, with fewer cattle going to packers, the competitive demand has doubled the cost of slaughter cows for packers relative to the prices that prevailed in 1975 when herds were being liquidated. While ranchers are reaping the benefits of such a market now, Marks points out that they have been operating at a loss for the last four years.

In addition, these price rises are not due solely to the decreased supply of beef, said Marks. Increased marketing costs for such things as transportation, labor, packaging, taxes and utilities, have also boosted retail meat prices. Despite rising costs, Marks believes consumers are not likely to boycott beef

again, unless retail prices rise more than consumers' spendable income. "Even with inflation, consumers now seem to feel they have enough increase in income to afford meat at current higher pri-

ces," he said.

Marks contrasts the advance in beef prices over the past three years with that in wages. Wages in the manufacturing business have risen 19 per cent in three years to an

average of \$6 an hour. This hourly wage now buys about 14 per cent more beef than the 1975 wage did, he said.

"All in all, consumers are getting a good buy in beef and other farm products even

though food does cost more. This is because incomes have increased faster than food prices have," said Marks.

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