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The weather report was not available at presstime Tuesday.

Weather
by the City of Heppner

School board hears of special problems at Irrigon & Boardman schools

Elementary schools in Irrigon and Boardman are having special problems educating the children of migrant workers in the area, the Morrow County School Board was told Monday night.

Teachers from the two grade schools attending the board meeting said a large portion of students in the lower grades do not speak English well, have emotional problems and do not attend school regularly.

"This is producing an undesirable situation for education," said Steve Brownfield a science teacher at Heppner High School, and spokesperson for the Morrow County Education Association.

Brownfield said first and second grade classes, where most of the problems occur, are crowded, adding to the problem.

In one second grade class at Sam Boardman elementary, there are 28 students. Of the 28 one half have been held back a grade; for 30 percent Spanish is their primary language; 60 percent of the class has turned over during the year, and there are emotional problems.

"Dealing with 28 students who are average, it would be O.K.," the second grade teacher told the board. "But with this makeup it can be a problem."

She said 62 percent of the class is made up of Spanish speaking students, many of

who speak English well and do not have problems. "It's the others that are difficult to teach," she said. "They can speak it (English) and understand it, but vocabulary is the problem. As an example they know what an airplane is, but not a jet."

Mick Tolar, principal at A.C. Houghton in Irrigon, said his school is experiencing the same sort of problems. "The makeup (of student) is similar to Sam Boardman," he said.

Both schools have migrant specialists to help the students. Sam Boardman has one full time and one half time migrant aid, and A.C. Houghton has one half time migrant aid, which, according to the teachers, is not enough.

"The teachers are concerned about the quality of education; it's very frustrating for a teacher," said Brownfield.

"This is something we have to keep looking at," School Board Chairman Jerry McEligott told the teachers. "We have to look at the makeup of it (the school). We have to look at it as it comes; we can't program for it."

The district does not know how many migrant students it will have from year to year, and McEligott indicated this makes it hard to plan.

"Of 27 students, in one year 13 came and went," said one first grade teacher at Sam Boardman. "One workbook I had, had four persons names on it."

In other business, the board:

- heard a report from board member Pauline Winter who said the district and classified employees union had reached agreement on a contract. Winter said the major changes were: 1) one year instead of multi-year contract, 2) Three percent cost of living increase for all employees, 3) added Presidents day to the list of paid holidays, 4) gave the day after Thanksgiving, and the days after Christmas and New Year as unpaid holidays, 5) clarified the bereavement leave policy. The board approved the contract unanimously. The union was to vote on the contract Monday night.

- gave formal approval to hiring new Superintendent Doyle McCaslin (see story April 12 Gazette-Times) for a salary of \$43,000 per year with medical plan and annuity worth \$200 per month. "I think he'll do a good job. I think he's a good man," said board member Jean Bennett. The board was told McCaslin will be on the job in July, after he finishes up some business at his present position as superintendent of the Glide school district.

- voted to deny a grievance filed by Heppner Jr. High math teacher Mike Warren. Warren had requested a hearing with the board, which was held in closed-door executive session.

- heard a report from Board-

man attorney Ed Glenn, who was part of a Morrow-Umatilla vocational education training council. Glenn said the council had been compiling information from area businesses about "getting a job." Glenn told the board that employers want students with good work habits and good attitudes who are well schooled in the basics of reading, writing and arithmetic. Glenn said 15,000 of the reports were being printed up and would be distributed to every student and parent in the county. "Employers in a sense said give us a student with good work habits and the basics of reading, writing and computing and we'll take it from there and teach them a particular job," Glenn said of the council's findings.

- gave superintendent Matt Doherty the go-ahead to talk with several Ione residents about possible joint septic tank drain field construction. Doherty said the Ione schools are having problems, as are about eight residents of Ione. - agreed to participate in a joint newsletter with the city of Irrigon to disseminate information in that city. The newsletter would be published monthly and coordinated through the city of Irrigon. It would cost the district \$40 per month.

- heard a report and saw models of solar homes built as a science project by Ione elementary students.

At Extension workshop

Farmers learn computer basics

"Remember, the computer doesn't do what you want it to do; it does what you tell it to do," Oregon State University Extension Agent Gary Prothero told farmers at an extension workshop last Friday, April 13.

Vendors provided 14 different types of computers for the two-day workshop which began Thursday, April 12 and was attended by approximately 15 farmers and ranchers from the area.

Prothero stated that all of the computers were running the same program so that the farmers could see how the different computers differed doing the same thing. The purpose of the workshop was to let farmers who did not have computer experience try the different brands and make a decision about whether a computer could do them any good.

The demonstrations and instruction included general programs: a spread sheet program which is intended partially for future analysis, spray calibration and budgets; and a data base management program which is basically a record keeping system.

Rick Peterson, a Valby area rancher, said that this was his second workshop. He attended a computer workshop in Hermiston last December and found it beneficial. He has since purchased a computer,

and he and his wife Anita attended this workshop so that she could also learn to use the computer.

Peterson intends to use his computer not only to keep fuel records of diesel and gasoline but also to help figure costs for tillage including estimates of the total hours expended, and the amount of water and chemical needed for the specified rate of the chemical per acre.

Marlene Currin, another participant at the workshop said that it has been an "eye opener." She said that she and her husband have been thinking for some time about buying a computer, but felt that they needed some basic knowledge about computers before they made a decision to buy a certain one.

She said that a real plus of the workshop is that there were so many different kinds of computers and participants could try any one they wanted. She said that she had worked on one computer on Thursday and was doing the same sort of thing on a different computer on Friday.

Peterson commented that he was surprised at the relatively small turnout at the workshop because he thought that more people could benefit from learning about the use of computer programs and not necessarily have to own a computer themselves.



Alberto Johnston, associate director for the OSU Extension joins area farmers in learning to use computers for farm related situations at extension workshop last Friday.



Gary Prothero, OSU extension agent instructs computer workshop.

Burden begins as Public Works director



Otto L. Burden

Otto L. Burden began work as Morrow County Public Works Director Monday, April 9. He, his wife, Melody and two sons Kevin, 3, and Dale, 5,

are living at Ione.

For the past year, Burden has been working construction and he and family have been moving with the job.

Prior to that, he worked in Vancouver, Washington, for

four years where he was the assistant office engineer working primarily in land development for Clark County.

Burden has also worked out of Ritzville in Adams County, Washington, where he says the terrain is very similar to what we have here in Morrow County.

He grew up in eastern Washington near Moses Lake and graduated from Washington State University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Agricultural Engineering.

"I received a warm welcome moving in; all the ingredients are here in the public works department," said Burden who considers his new position a "challenge." He says that he is "still learning," but is "looking forward to working out the bugs on the new computer system."

Farmers consider costs of irrigation

Representatives from the Bureau of Reclamation, and the Army Corps of Engineers and the district water master from Pendleton, met with approximately 30 farmers living along Willow Creek below the dam Tuesday, April 10 at 8 p.m. at the Morrow County Courthouse in Heppner.

The purpose of the meeting was for irrigators, to find out how much it would cost them if they decided to use water stored behind the dam for irrigation.

Dick Wilkinson, chairman of

the Willow Creek District Improvement Co. explains that irrigation water drained from the regular flow level of the creek would be available as before, without charge, but if irrigators wanted to reserve a certain number of acre-feet of water behind the dam beyond the average 2,000 acre foot level for later irrigation uses, that the estimated charge would be \$8 per acre-foot.

He explains that irrigators are still considering all the factors and no decision has been made, but if they should

decide that they want to make use of the water reserve at the dam, they would probably need to form an irrigation district which would make the water charges to the individual users and assume the costs involved with reserving the water.

Another meeting is tentatively planned for next week after the water master has had time to investigate the costs of the ditchheads which would be placed in the creek so the irrigators could pump the water.

Lexington 'fly-in' helps pesticide spray performance



Gary Thomason (left) and Mel Boyer evaluate the computer printout of the spray pattern of one of Boyer's spray planes.



Mel Boyer, one of the pilots who attended the "fly-in" at the Lexington airport last Thursday pictured with some of the aircraft he tested.

Aerial applicators of pesticides were invited to a "fly-in" at the Lexington airport which was sponsored by cooperative extension and PBI Gordon Corporation.

Gary L. Thomason, pesticide education specialist with Washington State University has perfected a program to help aerial applicators of pesticides help themselves. The idea of the program is to provide equipment and the technology necessary to analyze what the aircraft's spray performance is.

He emphasizes that there are several factors which can influence the spray pattern from an aircraft even if the chemical, the dilution and the nozzle settings are identical. The new computerized equipment can describe what the

aircraft did do at a particular time under a given set of conditions.

The process he uses to analyze the performance of the aircraft is accomplished by putting a chemical tracer in the spray tank. The aircraft then flies across a test track where a line of collection dishes 100' wide have been placed. The dishes are collected and each dish is measured for the amount of chemical tracer. Knowing how much should be in the dish, it is possible to tell how much of the chemical tracer has fallen.

The results of this analysis read out from the computer in a graph which shows the pattern in which the tracer has fallen. The applicators can then re-position nozzles or

make other necessary adjustments to their aircraft to achieve more evenness of pattern and the amount of deposition which they wanted to apply.

Thomason says that his method using the computer is an improvement over the previous method used in which chemical dye was put in the spray tank of the aircraft and released in a flight over a 100' strip of adding machine tape. Spray patterns were determined by the depth and pattern of the colored dye.

This new computer analysis method was designed as a result of the damage to grape harvest allegedly caused by drifting of the chemical 2-4D. Thomason describes aerial applicators as conscientious businessmen who provide a

service at an acceptable cost to farmers. He also commends all chemical companies who help sponsor programs which provide this cost-free analysis to help the aerial applicators and ultimately the farmers.

Thomason said that the northwest is far in the lead of the rest of the country and he will be accompanying the representatives of PBI Gordon at "fly-ins" across Idaho, Montana and the Dakotas.

Puppet show slated for story hour

Walter Cafton-Minkel, children's consultant from the Oregon State Library, will be in Heppner Thursday, April 26, 10:30 a.m., to perform a special puppet show during the morning story hour at the library.

"Silly Stories by the New Rag Bag Theatre" is the title of this puppet performance.

Following the Heppner story hour, Cafton-Minkel will travel to Boardman where he will present an afternoon performance at the Boardman City library. Ann Sipe, Boardman city librarian, says that "he does a really neat show," and encourages everyone to come and bring their preschool children.