

HEPPNER



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## School board to seek transportation bids

The Morrow County School Board, at a special meeting held Monday, Jan. 23, in Lone, voted to seek bids for contracting school transportation for the 1995-96 year as a possible cost-saving measure. The district faces more cuts in the 1995-96 year as they adjust to the final phase of ballot measure 5 and school equalization.

The board's action followed a presentation by representatives from Mid-Columbia Bus Company. Mid Columbia owner Doug Flatt said that after a survey of the Morrow County School District's transportation program, he believes contracting busing services could be feasible for the district. Mid Columbia suggested numerous transportation options that the board may want to specify in a transportation contract.

School superintendent Chuck Starr recommended that the board authorize bid specifications to be prepared with several stipulations:

-the specifications include the

expectation that bidders plan to hire all existing qualified personnel;

-that the specifications include a "hold harmless" provision in areas of wages and salaries (that wages won't be reduced);

-that the prospective bidders not be required to maintain current benefit packages;

-that specifications include the renting of the school district bus facilities (garages, etc.) to the contractors;

-that the contractors purchase the buses outright, with a buy back clause included;

-that the bid proposal is for a three-year period;

-that the district prefers a commitment to buy locally.

Starr and the board stressed that they are satisfied with the transportation staff and are seeking bids only to see if a private company can provide the service cheaper. They reiterated that they may decide to reject all bids.

When questioned by the

Gazette-Times if Mid Columbia could provide cheaper transportation services, especially with the specifications that employees be hired back at the same wages and that buses be bought outright, Flatt said that he didn't know at this time.

The board directed Starr to have the specifications prepared for the Feb. 13 meeting.

In other business, the board adopted a boundary change and memorandum of understanding between the Morrow County School District and the Olex School District that the east portion of the Olex district be merged to the Morrow County District. Students in the annexed area will attend Morrow County Schools and the Morrow County district will receive state school funding for those students and will receive property and any taxing benefits from the area merged.

Other portions of the Olex district will be merged to the Arlington and Condon districts.

## Artist illustrator visits lone schools

Author and illustrator, Chris K. Soentpiet, visited Lone schools recently. While there he talked to students about his life and work and autographed his recently published book, "Around Town".

The 24 year old Soentpiet was born in Seoul, South Korea, the youngest of six children. He was orphaned at the age of seven. His older brothers and sisters tried desperately to keep the family together, but life was very difficult for them. At the same time in Hawaii, Harriette Soentpiet Orr was looking for children to adopt into her family. Christmas 1978 Chris and his sister traveled to Hawaii to join their new family. Soon after, this family moved to Portland where Chris entered fifth grade at Alameda School and then Grant High School.

Chris' artistic talent soon became evident and he entered



Katie Hams (l) gets Chris Soentpiet to autograph her copy of "Around Town".

classes at Portland Art Museum. He won an art scholarship to prestigious Pratt Institute in New York City, where he still lives and works. His new book is a beautifully illustrated story about a girl and her mother coming to New York City and enjoying the active street life of the city.

Soentpiet talked to Lone

students about his life and desire to publish his own books. He demonstrated some of the techniques he uses in painting and encouraged students to pursue the study of art. Teachers and students agreed that his life story and art work are interesting and inspirational, said a spokesperson for the school.

## Marilyn Garcia manager of First Interstate



Marilyn Garcia

Marilyn Garcia has been named manager of the Heppner branch of First Interstate Bank. Garcia replaces Jackie Allstott, who retired from that position on Sept. 30 after 25 years with the bank.

Garcia, who is also manager of the Condon and Fossil branches of First Interstate, started her banking career at the First National Bank in Fossil 29 years ago as a teller and file clerk. Garcia says she encourages young people to look at First Interstate as a career choice, because "you can train and grow" within the bank. She says that the most important part of her career is the people. "As long as I can deal with my

customers," she said. "I would hate to have an inside job where I wouldn't deal with my customers. I like people."

Garcia was named manager of the Fossil branch of First Interstate eight years ago and manager of the Condon branch five years ago.

Garcia says the Heppner branch is trying to build their agri-business area up. "We want people to become aware of all the things we offer." Garcia credits her staff in assisting her in managing three banks in three different towns. "I have

a really good support staff, cross trained and real knowledgeable of their communities." Garcia says she generally spends two days in Heppner, two in Fossil and one in Condon, but adds that her schedule is flexible and she goes where she is needed.

Garcia, 55, was born in Kinzua. The family moved around and she eventually left the area for a while, but returned to Fossil in 1962. She has a grown daughter who lives in Culver City.

## People for pool hold meeting

The annual meeting of People for the Pool will be held Monday, Jan. 30, at 7 p.m. at the Columbia Basin Electric Co-op conference room. Officers will be elected for the new year and the financial report will be given.

People for the Pool is a non profit organization dedicated to raising funds for a pool in south Morrow County.

Ideas will be gathered on how to campaign for the upcoming pool levy. Plans are for interested individuals to establish a publicity group. "People for the Pool desperately needs help from all who are interested in promoting a pool," said a spokesperson for the group. "Please come to this meeting and find out how to help your swimming pool."

## MCGG to display worlds largest tractor at breakfast



Regular size tractor and two people are small compared to "Magnum"

The world's largest display tractor, the Case IH 7250 MAGNUM tractor replica, will be displayed at the Morrow County Grain Growers in Lexington during their annual customer appreciation day set Saturday, Feb. 11.

"This is no ordinary tractor," said Butch Laughlin, equipment salesman at MCGG. "This inflatable tractor measures 30 feet in height, 45 feet long and 24 feet wide." The replica serves as a goodwill ambassador and is approximately three times the size of

a normal tractor.

The monster tractor will be displayed during the dealership's open house and breakfast from 7 a.m. to noon. Morrow County Grain Growers invites everyone to view the newest farm equipment. The first 25 families will have their photographs taken next to the giant tractor. The 30 foot tractor has been displayed in over 20 states and Canada. This will be the first display in Oregon.

For more information, contact MCGG manager Larry Mills, 989-8221.

## Ballot deadline nears

Thursday, January 26, is the deadline to submit ballot measures and candidates for the March 28 election.

Morrow County Clerk Barbara Bloodworth says that there will be a voter's pamphlet for the election. Deadline for submission of the explanation of the measures by the various districts for the pamphlet is also Jan. 26. Deadline for submission of an argument for or against a ballot measure is Monday, January 30.

There is no cost to submit an explanation, says Bloodworth, but the cost for submitting an argument for or against is \$25.

Deadline for candidates wishing to be in the voter's pamphlet is Thursday, Feb. 9. Cost for candidates is \$10 for unpaid positions.

The paperwork for entries in the pamphlet is available at the clerk's office.

Bloodworth says that the pamphlets will be mailed before the ballots which, "in all likelihood," will go out March 10.

Following are candidates who have filed for office as of noon Tuesday, Jan. 24: Irrigon Park District-Mildred K. Shade, Orville J. Buchanan; Lone-Lexington Cemetery District-Don Ball, director; Lone Rural Fire District-Kenneth E.

Nelson, director; Boardman Park District-Julie A.M. Beemer, Raymond D. Michael, Doug Pope; Boardman Rural Fire District-Delmer A. Hug, Mike Allison, directors; Morrow County School District-John Rietmann, director Zone 3, Scott A. Johnson, director, Zone 5, Rollie Marshall, Heppner-Lexington Advisory Board no. 5; George Miller, lone-Lexington Advisory board no. 5; Oregon Trail Library District-Barbara Hayes, Shannon Meyers, directors; Port of Morrow-John L. Bristow, position no. 4, four year term, John M. Grace and Deane Seeger position no. 1, two year term,

James H. Hankins, position unnamed at presstime, Jerry M. Healy, position no. 3, two year term, Larry Lindsay, position no. 5, four year term; Willow Creek Park District-Ken Turner, position no. 2, John Ripple, position no. 3.

## St. Patrick's auction seeks donations

The St. Patrick's Day Auction Committee will be conducting a "Donation Day" in Heppner on Thursday, February 16. Volunteers will be asking local businesses and neighborhoods to contribute items that can be auctioned to support the St. Patrick's Day celebration. The yearly auction provides the main financial support for this community event.

"Now that Christmas is over and we've all acquired new 'treasures', it's a good time to sort through your crowded house, make some room, and

part with a few of your old treasures for a good cause," said a St. Patrick's committee spokesperson.

In addition to the donation day effort, volunteers will also pick up large items at your home or business. Call Steve Rhea, 676-9113; Mike Mills 676-9141 or John Murray 676-9158 days and 676-9631 evenings to arrange for pick up service. Small items may be left at the Kuhn, Spicer and Mills office on Main Street or at Doris Brosnan's house.

## Meeting set for 7-12 configuration

The second community meeting concerning the Heppner Junior High move to the high school has been scheduled for Thursday, Jan. 26, from 7 to 8:30 p.m. at the junior high auditorium.

Heppner Elementary/Middle School Principal Bill Karwacki and Heppner High School Principal Steve Dickenson will discuss how the transition to a 7-12 configuration will be made.

**Customer Appreciation Day**  
Friday, Feb. 10 - Chemical Clinic  
Sat. Feb. 11 - Free breakfast • Trade Show  
Door prizes • Knife Sharpening  
**Morrow County Grain Growers**  
Lexington 989-8221 1-800-452-7396