

## Chuck Starr receives educational honor



**Chuck Starr**

Morrow County School District Superintendent Chuck Starr has been awarded the Educational Excellence Award, sponsored by the University of Oregon College of Education Alumni Society.

Starr was presented the award at the MCSDD meeting April 13 by Boyd Swent of the Educational Service District.

Swent, in his presentation, said that Starr "has distinguished himself as an advocate for children above all else." He credited Starr for "excellent leadership to a district that covers more than 2,000 square miles."

Swent also cited Starr's leadership in the development of the district's comprehensive evaluation program; development of programs for academically gifted students as well as for those at risk of dropping out of school; and for using a systematic approach to assess and develop a plan to meet the district's needs through a multimillion dollar bond levy.

Swent said that Starr is not only "sensitive to the feelings of his employees but also demands excellence and high performance from each of them."

Starr, 57, was born in Oakland, CA, and spend most of his younger years in southern Idaho. He moved to Oregon in 1956 and graduated from West Linn High School in 1959. After graduation, he went to the University of Oregon on a full-ride football scholarship. His football coach at the U of O was Lynn Casanova. Assistant coach was John Robinson, long-time head coach at the University of Southern California and for the LA Rams.

In his sophomore year, Starr transferred to Lewis and Clark College in Portland, attending on both football and academic scholarships. He graduated with honors from Lewis and Clark in 1963, receiving a bachelor of science degree, majoring in math, health and physical education.

Before graduation, in 1961, he married Deena, his high school

sweetheart.

Starr began his teaching career at his alma mater, West Linn High School, where he taught math, health and PE and coached football, wrestling and track. Starr laughs that his first teaching contract, for 1963-64, was for \$4,866 a year--\$4,500 for the teaching position and 366 for coaching three sports.

In 1966, he won a fellowship to return to the U of O to work on his doctorate, which was the study of physical education and the total education program of elementary school students in Oregon.

Starr received his master's degree in 1967 and in 1969 was hired as a professor at Pacific University at Forest Grove, where he taught teachers, aspiring teachers and graduate students. He was also head track coach and assistant football coach. At the end of his third year at Pacific, he was named chairman of the education division over any department which prepared students to become teachers.

However, since Pacific was primarily funded through tuition payments, the school experienced a budget crunch and consequently froze salaries for two of the three years Starr taught there. Instead, he decided to move to Heppner where he received \$1,600 more as a high school teacher than he did as a college professor. He taught math at Heppner High School and was head football and track coach and was JV basketball coach for one year.

In 1976, Starr was hired as principal at Lone High School and from 1985 to 1989 was the Morrow County School District assistant superintendent.

In 1989 he was hired as superintendent at Central Linn, which is south of West Linn. In 1993 he returned to Morrow

County as superintendent.

Starr says that of all his accomplishments, he is proudest of his family, his wife and two sons, both of whom became teachers. His son Terry teaches fourth grade and coaches football in Pendleton. He and his wife, Debbi, have two boys. His son Denny teaches math and science for grades seven through 12 and is head football and track coach and athletic director at Spray. Denny and his wife, Darlene, have four sons.

Professionally, Starr says that he feels good about his teaching career. "I've helped a lot of students learn," he said, "and they helped me learn, too." He added that he has enjoyed his administrative experiences with the exception of the 1989 Morrow County teachers' strike.

He says that the district has done a good job of preparing its students for life after high school. "I'm extremely proud of the educational program we have in Morrow County. I think the graduates are prepared to seek the careers they are interested in and have the ability to go on to further education. I see many of them as successful members of this community and society in general. We are preparing kids for the future."

Starr retired from his position in March, but will continue on as interim superintendent until June of 1999.

He says that he and his wife have no special plans after he retires, but they do not plan to leave the area. "This is our retirement home," he said.

Starr is an avid fisherman and hunter. Besides professional organizations, he is a member of the Chamber of Commerce in Heppner, Irrigon and Boardman, and is a charter member of ICABO in Lone.

## Nurse practitioner joins MCBH staff



**Tim Holt**

Tim Holt, a psychiatric nurse practitioner, has joined the staff of the Morrow County Behavioral Health office.

Holt, 35, lived in Chicago, Florida, Wyoming and Montana before moving to Portland, where he lived for five years, and then LaGrande, where he has lived the past two years.

Holt will work for MCBH every other Friday, spending mornings at the Boardman office and afternoons at the Heppner

office.

In addition to his work in Morrow County, Holt also contracts with other agencies, working a day in Baker and two and a half days at the prison in Pendleton. He also is an instructor in the school of nursing at Eastern Oregon University at LaGrande, teaching the mental health component of the undergraduate nursing program as a part of the Oregon Health Sciences University satellite program at EOU.

Holt received a bachelor of science degree in nursing in 1987. He worked for 10 years before returning to school at the OHSU School of Nursing in Portland where he received a master's degree. He completed additional hours beyond his master's degree to become certified as a nurse practitioner in 1996.

Holt is licensed to perform psychotherapy, using various types of treatment, including prescribing medications, and works independently of physicians and psychiatrists.

Holt and his wife, Ginny, who is a nursing student, have a 10-year-old daughter, Rebecca. Holt enjoys fly fishing.

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**You're invited to attend a Public Forum  
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**PANEL SPEAKERS:**

Senator David Nelson - Moderator

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For more information,  
contact Patty Wehrl - Forum Coordinator  
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Made available by a generous donation from Fred Starr, Ex. Dir. of Eastern Oregon Irrigators

## IEB Community Day, April 28

Inland Empire Bank employees will be manning hammers, hoes and hedge clippers instead of teller windows on the afternoon of Tuesday, April 28.

The first annual IEB Community Day is a bank-wide community service project on behalf of citizens in the Boardman, Hermiston, Umatilla, Stanfield and Pendleton areas. Inland Empire Bank branch lobbies will close at 11 a.m. on Tuesday, April 28, so that employees may participate. All drive-up windows and ATMs will remain open and ready to serve customers as usual on that afternoon.

"Committed to People and Community" has been the philosophy by which we've run our business since the founding of our bank 50 years ago," said Jess Foster, president and CEO of Inland Empire Bank. In March, Inland Empire Bank observed its 50th anniversary of operation.

"We wanted to show our appreciation to and pride in being a part of our communities by rolling up our sleeves and assisting our friends and neighbors through an annual bank-sponsored community service event," Foster noted. Nearly 500 man hours will be donated by bank employees during the afternoon activities.

While deciding to launch the community service day was an easy decision, selecting the community service projects was more difficult. "While there are hundreds of worthy organizations that could benefit from our employees' efforts, we wanted to choose an organization that had a presence in each of the communities where we have branch locations. The senior citizen centers fit our criteria and were very helpful in identifying projects and people who could use our help," Foster explained.

To ensure customers are not unnecessarily inconvenienced during the bank-wide community service event, all drive-ups will

be open as usual on the afternoon of April 28. In addition, each branch will be staffed to answer phone calls, and all ATMs will continue to provide customers with uninterrupted service.

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## Tan Hermens

Plain Speaking #5

## The SYSTEM vs. OUR KIDS

As a former teacher and current school board member in Monument, I have a pretty good handle on what many say is the number one problem facing us, the education of our kids.

But the solution is not what we hear from every politician in every election ... "Our kids are our future, we need to spend more on education"! Well, Oregonians are already doing a great job funding education ... **more than half of every income tax dollar goes to education and that doesn't include property taxes!**

It's not time to spend more, it's time to get a clue: **the principle cause of the decline in school performance are teachers' unions and liberal social mandates on the classroom!**

First things first: we've got a system which is essentially a government monopoly, not subject to competition, and controlled by collective bargaining, a recipe for inefficiency. Teacher unions were instituted not to improve education standards, but to lobby, strike and use political muscle to increase the pay, perks and pensions of their membership!

Now don't get me wrong ... I'm not knocking the thousands of public school teachers who only want the very best for our kids, but their collective bargaining contracts force school districts to pay teachers on the basis of seniority, rather than merit. Our best teachers have little incentive to excel, the bad teachers have no incentive to improve!

We are lacking legislators willing to defy the politically powerful union bosses. I am determined to fight to institute rules of "pay-for-performance" in public schools.

Next week I'll talk about education's other serious problem: **the abandonment of proven basics and legislatively-mandated, "outcome-based" experiments on our kids.**

If you have questions about my campaign, call me at home, (541) 934-2275.

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