

School board hears year-end report

Morrow County School Superintendent Chuck Starr delivered a report to the board summing up the 1997-98 school year at their regular board meeting on July 13 in Lexington.

Starr listed the successes he felt occurred in the school district last year as follows:

- bond projects completed in Boardman schools, nearing completion in Heppner schools and underway in Lone schools;
- implemented elementary Spanish program;
- implemented school and district improvement plans;
- added staff, including 7-1/2 teachers (1/2 time counselor at A.C. Houghton Elementary School in Irrigon; 1/2 time counselor and one teacher at Sam Boardman Elementary, one teacher at Heppner Elementary, two teachers at Riverside High School, one art teacher for Heppner and one, 1/2 time music teacher for Heppner and one alternative education teacher for Irrigon), two full-time education assistants, six part-time ed assistants, one part-time media assistant, one part-time custodian and seven extra duty positions for computer trainers (one at each school);
- expanded music and art programs at Heppner and Lone Schools;
- established full-time counselors at ACH and SBE;
- implemented an alternative education program at the Irrigon Learning Center;
- accommodated BMCC Skills Centers at both the Boardman and Irrigon learning centers;
- provided staff training in math skills, assessment, technology, writing and portfolios, among others;
- received a positive audit with no management letter;
- prepared a new performance based teacher evaluation plan;
- negotiated three-year contracts with classified, confidential and administrative employees; and
- continued and improved an "outstanding education program".

Starr also said that the dropout rate improved from 6.7 percent in 1995-96 to 4.8 percent for 1996-97, the last year data has been compiled.

According to Starr, 82 of the 122 seniors who graduated this year plan to enter some sort of advanced training after high school-75 percent of the Heppner High School seniors, 88 percent of the Lone High School seniors and 62 percent of the Riverside High School seniors. Fifty-eight (48 percent) of the seniors took the SAT (Scholastic Aptitude

Test) with a district average of 970. While the average was lower than in 1997, Starr said 19 of the 1998 seniors scored over 1000.

Starr said that two teachers, Betty Rietmann from Lone Elementary School and Pam Files from SBE, were among eight named state-wide as AOI outstanding teachers for Oregon.

In other business, the board:

- heard progress reports on the bond projects with the Boardman projects completed and the Heppner projects moving along well and expected to be completed by the time school starts.
- Bob Baker, project manager, said that there was still a lot of work to be completed on the lone projects and hopefully school will begin there on time.
- learned that the Morrow County Unified Recreation District has reduced the school district's budget for extracurricular activities by an additional \$10,000 to \$365,000 for 1998-99. The extracurricular activities budget is \$61,000 less than what was budgeted last year.
- Starr said that the district is waiting until after teacher negotiations and after the staffing situation is finalized before they decide to make any changes in extracurricular activities for the 1998-99 school year.
- He said that the tax judge has still not made a decision concerning Ed Glenn's suit challenging the legality of MCURD's taxing status.
- received a report on the vandalism at Heppner High School and learned that no one has been charged as of yet.
- learned that Mike Keown and Duane Yecha made a presentation to the Federation of Oregon School Administrators concerning the district's newly formulated teacher evaluation plan.
- approved resignations for: Helen Marshall from Lone Schools science teaching position; Kelley Swarat, Lone Schools social studies teacher; Bill Ewing, fifth-sixth grade combination teacher; Ron Neighorn, Heppner and Lone music teacher; and Chad Otterness, extra duty Columbia Middle School assistant track coach.
- approved employment transfers and promotions for: Phyllis Danielson, from ACH fifth grade teacher to Columbia Middle School language arts/social studies teacher; Melissa Isaacson, ACH probationary contract for fifth grade teaching position; Toni Schultz, CMS probationary Spanish teacher; Duane Neiffer, Lone Schools probationary science teacher; Chris Davis, Lone Schools probationary social studies teacher; Melody Tovey, ACH part-time food service clerical assistant; Jane Ginther, transfer to full-time ACH special

Board member sought

Northeast Oregon Area Health Education Center (NEOAHEC) is seeking one board member from Morrow County for a three-year term.

NEOAHEC is a private, non-profit with the mission to attract and retain health care professionals by providing regional educational opportunities. The center serves a 10-county area of northeast Oregon.

The board needs to fill a slot for a female consumer who is not a health care provider in any way. Board members are expected to commit to attending at least four full board meetings each year and approximately two subcommittee meetings. Between meetings there are reports, newsletters and other items to read. Meetings may be held anywhere in the 10-county area and board members are expected to travel to those meetings. There is a small reimbursement for travel.

Prior board members who have served on this board from Morrow County are: Larry Mills, Linda La Rue and Kevin Erich.

To learn more about the organization and board membership, contact Sandy Ryman at 541-962-3801.

Market Report	
Courtesy of Morrow County Grain Growers	
Tuesday, July 21	
Soft White	
July	\$2.78
August	\$2.80/\$2.83
September	\$2.86/\$2.89
Loan deficiency payment: 43¢	
Barley	
July-December	\$85

ed assistant position; Donna Bond, transfer to ACH combination kindergarten-first grade/one-on-one ed assistant; Coral Flores, from part-time CMS ed assistant to full-time ACH ed assistant; Jeffrey Toms, SBE assistant custodian; Tony Pupo, from Heppner Junior High assistant boys' basketball coach to Heppner High School assistant boys' basketball coach; Keelie Keown, from HJH assistant track coach to HJH head track coach and to HHS assistant boys' basketball coach; Jason Just, HJH assistant track coach; Chuck Matteson, HJH assistant football coach; Tim VanCleave, HJH assistant boys' basketball coach; Jean Strange, HHS assistant volleyball coach.

-approved the second reading of a policy concerning administering medicine to students.

-approved the first reading of a tobacco violation policy.

-accepted and appropriated a Meyer Memorial Trust Grant of \$3,919 to Riverside High School.

-approved annual organizational details.

-learned that the building administrators will return on August 3.

The next meeting will be held on August 10 at the ACH library at 7:30 p.m.

Bids opened on tone alert system

Representatives of the Chemical Stockpile Emergency Preparedness Program (CSEPP) from Morrow and Umatilla counties held a public bid opening for the Tone Alert Radio System at the Umatilla Courthouse on July 7. Six vendors submitted bids for either the tone alert radio/receiver system and/or the tone alert radio control system.

The tone alert radio/receiver system is the indoor warning device that will provide emergency information in the event of a chemical release at the Umatilla Chemical Depot. The control system involves software, programming, training and equipment for transmission of CSEPP, National Weather Service and emergency alert system messages and alerts.

Representatives from Morrow and Umatilla counties, Oregon Emergency Management and the Federal Emergency Management Agency will perform a technical evaluation of all vendor proposals. This evaluation process will determine which vendor best meets the conditions outlined in the radio/receiver unit and control system request for proposals. A contract will be awarded no later than Friday, Aug. 7.

Two Oregon winners (one junior and one senior category) will receive a trip to the National Make It Yourself With Wool Finals to be held in Denver, Colorado in January 1999, in conjunction with the American Sheep Industry Convention.

For entry forms or more information, contact Maureen Krebs, State Director, Make It Yourself With Wool, 69956 Highway 74 Cecil, Lone, OR 97843; Phone: (541) 422-7548 or e-mail: eatlamb@ptinet.net.

The Oregon Make It Yourself With Wool program is sponsored by the Oregon Sheep Growers Association and the Oregon Sheep Commission. It is part of a national competition designed to promote the beauty and versatility of wool and to encourage personal creativity in sewing, knitting and crocheting with wool fabrics and yarns.

Entry forms for the 1998 Oregon Make It Yourself With Wool competition are available from state director, Maureen Krebs, and county extension offices throughout the state.

Entry forms must be submitted by November 13, 1998, to be eligible for the statewide competition to be held Saturday, December 5, at the Hood River Inn in Hood River.

Contestants must select, construct and model their own garments. Garments must be constructed of 100 percent wool or wool blend, with a minimum of 60 percent wool and the garment must have been completed after January 1, 1998.

Contestants may enter in one of four age categories, with the categories determined by age as of December 31, 1998: preteens (ages 12 and under), juniors (ages 13 to 16), seniors (ages 17 to 24), adults (25 and over).

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Exporters sell U.S. grain to Pakistan

U.S. grain exporters sold 300,000 metric tons (MT) of white wheat to Pakistan under its July 15 tender, according to a news release from Oregon Wheat. Australia also sold 200,000 MT to Pakistan on this tender.

Price levels for the sale were right around \$100/MT, or approximately \$2.77 per bushel. The Portland cash market closed on July 16 at \$2.71.

Without congressional and administration action to lift the sanctions on the GSM credit programs, this sale could not have been made, said the release.

Lexington Grange holds meeting

Lexington Grange #726 met at the mountain cabin of Barbara and Eldon Gilbert on Sunday for their annual potluck picnic.

A short business meeting was held following lunch, with Master Clarence Buchanan presiding.

A report was given by Barbara and Eldon Gilbert, who attended the state grange session.

The food bank, which subordinate granges support, amounted to 13,000 lbs. This was in commemoration of 125 years of Oregon grange work.

Springwater was the first organized grange in Oregon. The grange sponsors several worthwhile projects such as dogs for the deaf, food bank, family group participation, legislation, concern about local projects and community service. Grange also sponsors juvenile and youth granges, and has a fire insurance group.

At present, the granges are taking a stand concerning the fish projects and the drawdown of the river. It was reported that Barbara Gilbert served on the environmental committee. The Umatilla Pomona put on the degree work as it was done 125 years ago.

Several items were donated for the 4th of July sale in Lone. Several 40" windows, a bicycle and several smaller articles are for sale that were not sold on the 4th. It was announced that anyone in arrears of dues for 1998 will be dropped in September if they don't pay.

Pomona Grange will meet in July at the Marina with Greenfield Grange (Boardman) as hosts.

Jack and Jill tournament planned

The Willow Creek Country Club golfers will have a Jack and Jill mini-tournament on Friday, July 24 at 6 p.m.

The activity will involve male and female couples playing in a nine-hole modified couples' type of play with the format determined by the committee in charge. Prizes will be awarded for low

scores and special events. The charge will be \$3 per couple for members and \$10 per couple for non-members.

Light snacks will be provided by the committee in charge. Hosts will be Dave and Deborah Kendrick, Karen Morgan and Craig and Debbie Gutierrez.

Munkers to travel to Australia

Ryan Munkers of Lexington has been selected as an exchange student to Australia.

Munkers will spend nine months in Australia as an agricultural trainee through the International Agricultural Exchange

Association beginning in September of this year.

While in Australia he will work in agriculture as a trainee and will experience the life and culture of the country, living and working with a host family.

Munkers is the son of Martha and Gary Munkers of Lexington.

Thomson family gathers for celebration



Front row (L-R): Marshall Teter, Jim Thomson, Stacey Teter; back row (L-R): Bruce Thomson, Phyllis Thomson, Bernice Thomson, Meredith Walters and Bob Teter

Four generations of the Jim Thomson family gathered in Heppner over the Fourth of July weekend.

Jim's daughters, Meredith Walters from Shell Beach, CA, and Bernice Thomson from Tigard, and his son Bruce and his wife Phyllis of Aloha visited.

Also visiting from Joseph were Bruce and Phyllis' daughter and son-in-law, Stacey and Bob Teter and their son Marshall who was born on June 2.

Jim is a life-long Heppner resident. His father and uncles began operation of a grocery and dry goods business around 1898, and Jim and his wife Madge assumed operation of the Thomson Bros. Grocery in 1942, and were a fixture on Main Street until their retirement in 1978.

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15th Annual IRRIGON WATERMELON FESTIVAL

Saturday, July 25th at the Irrigon Marina Park

BREAKFAST 6:30-9:00 a.m.

SOFTBALL TOURNAMENT 7:00 a.m.

PARADE 10:00 a.m.

STREET DANCE & 9:00 p.m.-Midnight

Spectacular Video Show with RadioActive Music

CONTINUOUS ENTERTAINMENT 11:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Arts and Crafts Booths • Bingo • Dunk Tank • Food Booths

Kids' Games • Hula Hoop Contest • Giant Raffle

LOTS OF FREE, FUN FAMILY ENTERTAINMENT!

STEFF NELSON

1998 Oregon State

Jr. Fiddle Champ

Master Gardeners will do

free water testing from 12-4 p.m.

Containers available at City Hall

Umatilla Chemical Depot

Ammunition Demonstration

Trailer will be on display

The HERMISTON KNIGHTS

Hot-Rod Car Club on display

For more information, call Donna Eppenbach, 922-3197, or LaVelle Partlow, 922-3386

Entertainment and advertising funded by the Morrow County Unified Recreation District

Bring a Lawn Chair!

CHATA ADDY

Professional drummer, composer,

dancer and choreographer from

Ghana, West Africa

TONY MADRIGAL

Entertainer Extraordinaire

CHRIS LEE LOID

Music from the '40s-'50s

and Country

QUETZALCOATL DANCERS

Colorful and Dynamic

BMCC QUARTET

"Absolutely Nobody"

Outrageously Talented and Hilariously Funny

STEVE BLUM

Country Western

& Old-Fashioned Gospel

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