

HEPPNER



VOL. 120 NO. 8 10 Pages Wednesday, February 21, 2001 Morrow County, Heppner, Oregon

Judie Laughlin retires from Heppner TV



Judie Laughlin

Judie Laughlin, a familiar face at Heppner TV off and on since the 1950s, almost slipped into retirement without recognition... almost.

Laughlin, 60, who retired from Heppner TV last November, began working part-time at the TV office while she was still in high school. Her family had moved to Heppner from The Dalles in 1954 and her father, Carl Spaulding, was instrumental in bringing television to the Heppner area. He served as secretary-treasurer of Heppner TV and she worked in the office, helping with customers and billing.

After graduating from Heppner High School in 1958, Laughlin attended the University of Oregon for a year and then returned to Heppner to marry her "best friend," Butch Laughlin.

Laughlin worked for Columbia Basin Electric Co-op for five years before returning to the TV office in 1964. Laughlin says she has "done everything at Heppner TV except be a lineman." She has been secretary-treasurer since 1985. Prior to that she also completed a year-long stint as secretary for the Morrow County Judge.

"I enjoyed Tom Springer so much and I have learned so much about computers from Tom Rawlins," commented Laughlin about her employment with Heppner TV. (Springer, who recently passed away, owned Tom's TV and worked with Heppner TV and Rawlins is currently employed with Heppner TV.) "I miss the people who came into the TV office, so now I come down town every day to get my mail so I can visit."

Laughlin doesn't plan to spend her retirement in the rocking chair--she has already

started a new business as a "Stampin' Up" senior demonstrator. The business involves all kinds of stamps which can be used to create cards and decorative items for everything from birthdays, and holidays to memory albums. She holds workshops to demonstrate the stamps and materials

Classic Car Cruz-In added to St. Pats Day

The Heppner St. Patrick's Day Celebration has added the first annual St. Paddy's Cruz-In for Sat. March 17.

Classic car clubs and individuals are invited to bring their cars and be in the parade, and then display their cars downtown during St. Patrick's Day Celebration Saturday, says Cruz-In organizer Dick Sargent of Heppner.

Each participant in the Cruz-In will receive a small plaque with winners in each category receiving a larger plaque. There will also be two overall categories: Leprechaun's Choice and People's Choice.

Entries for the Cruz-In must be received by March 12. For more information contact Dick Sargent at 676-9621 or the Heppner Chamber of Commerce at 676-5536.

Mustang boys and girls head to district

The Heppner High School boys' varsity basketball team will play in the Columbia Basin Conference district tournament this Friday, February 23, beginning at 3:15 p.m. at the Pendleton Convention Center. The boys will play either Sherman County or Stanfield.

The Mustang girls' varsity team will play in the district tournament on Friday at 7 p.m. vs. Weston McEwen.

The winners of the Friday games will play on Saturday, Feb. 24--the girls at 1:30 p.m. and the boys at 3:15 p.m.

An awards presentation and selection of all stars will follow the Saturday games.

Cost is \$5 for adults and \$3 for students for each session (two games). An all-day ticket for

Friday is \$8 for adults and \$5 for students. Cost for a pass for three sessions is \$12 for adults and \$7 for students.

available. Laughlin says that there are stamps for "everything imaginable, from pretty to funky."

Laughlin is also active in supporting the annual St. Patrick Celebration and in the St. Patrick Church. She has done the St. Patrick Church bulletin every week since Father Gerry Condon became priest at the church.

She and her husband enjoy attending high school and Blazer games, which she says is easier now since she has a more flexible schedule.

Laughlin has three children, Tami Berthold, Mosier, Lottie Holcomb, Madras, and Shane Laughlin, Heppner, and three grandchildren, Jarren, 21, who is in the Navy, Nick, 16, and Wes, 14.

St. Patrick's Day schedule on the Internet

A complete schedule of events for this year's St. Patrick's Day Celebration is posted on the Internet at www.heppner.net.

Meeting set on Ione north/south road

An important meeting concerning the future of the Ione north/south road has been scheduled for this Friday, Feb. 23 at 7 p.m. at the Ione High School.

Several politicians including Greg Smith, Bob Jensen and Ted Ferrioli are scheduled to be in attendance. Local county court members and Port of Morrow board members will also be on hand. The public is invited to attend.

At issue is the possible closing of the road from Ione to north Morrow County used by employees of the Coal Fired plant and other north county businesses, who live in south county and commute.

Community leaders say the road also needs to be left open because proposed development in north county is going to create jobs that future workers may wish to commute to from Ione.

The road is threatened with closure because part of it is located on private property which will soon be purchased by the Nature Conservancy.

Local people fear the conservancy will close the 2.5 miles of road on its property, and thus shut off an important connection and public route between north and south Morrow County.

Ione scores "exceptional" on state report

The Morrow County School Board heard a report from Mike Keown, assistant superintendent, on the state-issued school and district report cards at its regular meeting February 12.

Keown reported that Ione Schools received an "exceptional" rating; Heppner High School and Sam Boardman Elementary School received a "strong" rating and Heppner Elementary School, A.C. Houghton Elementary School, Columbia Middle School and Riverside High School all received a "satisfactory" rating.

According to the report issued by the state, Ione School was rated strong in student performance, showing improvement over time, with students consistently performing better than comparison schools and the state in reading, writing, math multiple choice and math problem solving.

In the area of student behavior, which shows attendance and dropout rates, Ione bested state standards each year since 1996-97 and showed a zero percent dropout rate, earning an exceptional rating in that category.

In school characteristics, Ione received an exceptional rating, with 100 percent of the students taking state tests, vs. a state rate of 98 percent.

Ione students scored lower than the state average in SAT scores and the number of students tested. The staff at Ione averaged four more years of experience and four more years in the district than the state average.

Heppner High School was rated strong in student performance, showing improvement over time. Heppner High School students in grades eight and 10 scored higher in reading, math multiple choice and math problem solving than comparison schools and state averages, but lower in writing.

Student behavior was rated exceptional with a higher attendance rate than the state average and a significantly lower dropout rate.

HHS received an exceptional rating as to student characteristics with 100 percent of students taking state tests vs. a 98 percent state average.

SAT scores for HHS students were close to the state average and higher than the national average and a greater percentage of the students took the tests.

HHS staff had two years less experience and two years less experience in the district than the state average.

Heppner Elementary School was rated strong in student performance, showing improvement over time.

HES students in grades three and five were below comparison schools and the state in reading, writing and math problem solving, but slightly above in math multiple choice.

Student behavior was rated strong with HES above the state average in all years since 1996-97.

HES was rated exceptional in school characteristics, with 100 percent of students taking state tests vs. 98 percent for the state.

In terms of staffing, 22 percent of HES teachers had a master's degree compared to 46 percent for the state. HES teachers averaged 14 years of experience, the same as state averages, but had two more years experience in the district.

Sam Boardman Elementary School was rated strong in student performance, showing improvement over time.

SBE students in grades three and five were equal to state standards and above comparison schools in reading, above comparison schools, but below the state in math multiple choice,

significantly below comparison schools and the state in writing and slightly below comparison schools and the state in math problem solving.

SBE received a satisfactory rating in student behavior with attendance higher than state averages since 1996-97.

SBE received an exceptional rating in school characteristics, with 100 percent of the students taking state tests compared to 98 percent statewide.

Fifteen percent of SBE staff has a master's degree or higher vs. 46 percent statewide. SBE teachers had three years less experience and three years less experience in the district than the state average.

Riverside High School was rated satisfactory in student performance with improvement over time.

RHS students in grade 10 were above comparison schools, but below state averages in reading, writing, math multiple choice and math problem solving.

RHS was strong in student behavior, although showing a lower attendance rate than the state average since 1996-97. The RHS dropout rate was slightly lower than the state average in 1996-97, double the state average in 1997-98, slightly above in 1998-99 and down to 5.3 percent in 1999-2000. No state average was available last year.

Riverside was rated exceptional in school characteristics with 95 percent of the students taking state tests, vs. 98 percent state-wide.

Riverside students scored below the state and national averages in SAT scores and below the state in percent and number tested.

RHS staff averaged four more years of experience and four more years in the district than state averages.

Columbia Middle School received a satisfactory rating in student performance, with the school showing improvement over time.

CMS eighth-grade students scored above comparison schools and only one point below the state average in reading. They scored below the state average, but only one point below comparison schools in writing. CMS was below the state in math multiple choice, but slightly above comparison schools. CMS students were below both the state and comparison schools in math problem solving.

CMS received an unacceptable rating in student behavior, with their attendance rate falling below the state since 1996-97.

CMS received an exceptional rating in school characteristics, with 96 percent of the students taking state tests compared to a 98 percent state average.

Fifty percent of the instructional staff at CMS has earned a master's degree, compared to 46 percent state-wide.

Teachers at CMS have three fewer years of experience and five fewer years of experience in the district than the state average.

A.C. Houghton received a satisfactory rating in student performance with the school improvement declining over time.

ACH students in grades three and five were below comparison schools and state averages in reading, writing, math multiple choice and math problem solving.

The school was strong in student behavior, with the attendance rate above state averages since 1996-97.

ACH received an exceptional rating in school characteristics, with 99 percent of students taking state tests, compared to 98 percent state-

wide. Twenty-eight percent of the teaching staff has received a master's degree or higher, compared to 46 percent state-wide. ACH teachers average one year less experience and one year less experience in the district than the state average.

In other business, the board heard a report from the Union-Baker ESD and the alternative education teacher on the alternative ed program at the Morrow Education Center.

heard a report on the structuring of the bond measure.

heard a report on small school funding.

heard an update on the progress of the "Yes for Kids" bond campaign

approved a proposal from the Union-Baker ESD to offer driver's education to eligible Morrow County School District students.

approved resignations from: Justin LaCoss, A.C. Houghton Elementary kindergarten teacher; Lori Bulow, Sam Boardman Elementary English as a second language ed assistant; Tanya Morris, Columbia Middle School part-time food service clerical assistant; Elaine Vandecar, CMS school secretary; Joyce Whitbeck, ACH part-time assistant cook.

approved employment for Michelle Pollentier, SBE one-on-one special ed assistant; Runnisha McNamee, CMS part-time food service clerical assistant, replacing Lori Bulow; Virginia Garcia, ACH special ed one-on-one assistant; Angela Anderson, ACH ed assistant, replacing Gladys London.

agreed to present two calendar options to the staff for their preference.

Option A called for a pre-Labor Day start with one week-plus at Christmas. Teacher inservice and workdays would be held Tuesday-Friday, August 21-24, with classes beginning on Monday, August 27, Christmas break from Friday, December 21, through Tuesday, January 1, spring break Monday through Friday, March 25-29, the last day of school Friday, May 31, and the last day for teachers Tuesday, June 4.

Option B calls for a post-Labor Day start and one week-plus at Christmas. Teacher inservice and workdays would be Tuesday through Friday, August 28-31, with the first day of school on Tuesday, September 4, Christmas break from Friday, December 21, through Tuesday, January 1, spring break Monday through Friday, March 25-29, the last day of school Thursday, June 6, and the last day for teachers Monday, June 10.

accepted the first reading of a district attendance policy, which was revised to comply with the law.

heard the following announcements: OSEA negotiations, March 5, 7 p.m., CMS; next board meeting, March 12, 7:30 p.m., district office; OSEA negotiations, March 15, 7 p.m., district office; OSEA negotiations, March 22, 7 p.m., SBE.

Ione boys head to state

The Ione Cardinals Boys Varsity will head to the 1A state tournament on Wednesday, February 28, at Baker City.

Ione will play North Powder at 3 p.m.

The Cardinals earned second place in the Big Sky tournament by edging out Condon, 56-53. Billy Gates clinched the win by making a last minute three-pointer.

Early Greenthumbs!
GARDEN SEEDS ARE HERE
Morrow County Grain Growers

Lexington 989-8221 • 1-800-452-7396 For farm equipment, visit our web site at www.mcgg.net

