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School district to redraw board zones

The Morrow County School Board, at their April 8 meeting in Irrigon, reviewed a proposal for redrawing the school board zones. The board rejected a motion to put the zones into effect immediately and instead voted to allow the communities in the district time to review the proposed changes. The board stipulated that they would make no changes to the zoning proposal unless they received a "compelling" reason to do so. The rezoning plan will be available for review at the Heppner-Lexington Advisory Committee meeting at Heppner High School on Wednesday, May 1, at 7 p.m.; the Ione-Lexington Advisory Committee meeting at the Ione School on Thursday, May 2, at 7 p.m.; and the Boardman-Irrigon Advisory Committee meeting at Riverside High School in Boardman on Tuesday, May 7, at 7 p.m. The board is expected to take action on the proposal at the next regular meeting planned May 13 at 7 p.m. at the district office.

The rezoning proposal, which was created by Portland State University at the request of the board, was designed to redistribute the population more equally among all the zones. The target per district was 1,571 people per zone, based on the 2000 census. Proposed Zone 1 would include a population of 1,521; Zone 2-1,589; Zone 3-1,643; Zone 4-1,535; Zone 5-1,518; Zone 6-1,674; and Zone 7-1,515.

Based on the 2000 census, the populations of previous zones are as follows: Zone 1-1,689; Zone 2-1,606; Zone 3-880; Zone 4-1,074; Zone 5-2,246; Zone 6-1,164; and Zone 7-2,336. The school board is mandated by law to delineate zones so that they represent an approximately equal number of citizens.

Proposed Zone 1 includes the area immediately east of the city of Boardman and small portions north and west of the city; proposed Zone 2 is the area east of the city of Boardman to the eastern county line, excluding Zone 4 and Zone 5, from the Columbia River south to Highway 74, excluding the city of Heppner; Zone 3 is the area from the Columbia River to the southern border of the county, encompassing Ione and Lexington, excluding Zones 1 and 7; Zone 4 is the area which is immediately west of the city of

Irrigon, north to the Columbia River; Zone 5 is the area including the city of Irrigon and east to the county line; Zone 6 is the area south of Highway 74, east to the eastern county line and south to the southern county line, including the city of Heppner; Zone 7 is the area including the city of Boardman. (See accompanying zone maps.)

In other business, Superintendent Bruce Anderson discussed problems which would delay construction of new elementary school buildings at both the Boardman and Irrigon sites if issues are not resolved. Planners are requiring improvement of streets, funds for which are not included in the construction bond.

The board also voted to combine the Heppner Elementary School and Heppner High School principal positions into one kindergarten through grade 12 position.

The board heard a complaint from Heppner Advisory Committee members Mike Armato and Marcia Kemp about the height of the stage for the new construction at Heppner Elementary School. Armato and Kemp maintained that the stage, as planned by architects with an 18-inch elevation, would not allow the audience to see children as they perform. They said that the advisory committee had not approved blueprints and requested a 36-inch stage, but Nan Hall, representing the architects, said that a 36-inch stage would require extensive ramping. The board offered a solution in which risers would be employed.

In other business, the board:

- received a report from Hall concerning the pre-bid conference held at the Port of Morrow. The general contractor bids will be opened at 8 p.m. at the school district office in Lexington on April 24, with the Heppner projects on May 22 at 8 p.m. and the Ione projects in June.

- discussed with Anderson a procedural issue concerning a vendor who contacted a board member concerning school district purchases prior to contacting the superintendent and, in another issue, clarified that hiring recommendations to the board are the sole responsibility of the superintendent.

- rejected the bid of Knerr Construction for \$166,289.32

because of budget constraints and voted to extend the bid deadline until April 12.

- received a report from Anderson concerning state school funding.

- heard comments from a member of the audience commending Phyllis Danielson for her many years of employment with the district and expressing a hope that the district be able to continue to employ her. Danielson, a former teacher, recently resigned as principal at Heppner Elementary School.

- heard a report from board Chair Julie Weikel on the small schools conference she and Anderson recently attended.

- heard a curriculum report from the Columbia Middle School art teacher and students concerning murals in the school cafeteria about the 9-11 tragedy and about student life at CMS.

- accepted first readings for the following: science curriculum and textbook adoption; hazing/harassment/intimidation/bullying/menacing policy; promotion/retention of students policy revision; education records management policy; personally identifiable information policy revision; confidentiality-students with disabilities policy; classified/confidential personnel; second languages CIM recommendation.

- approved the MidCo contract for transportation services.

- approved the PERS/Bond resolution.

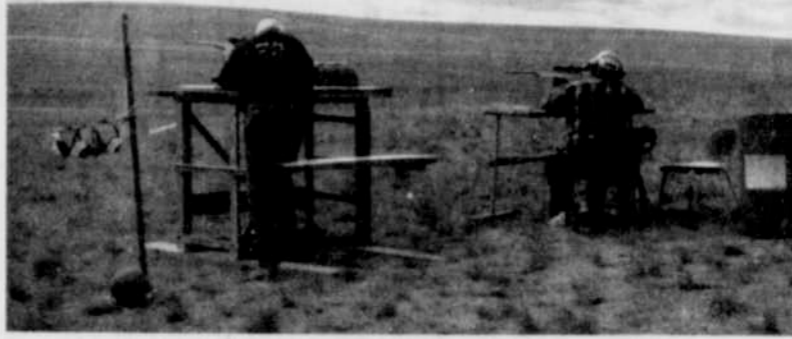
- approved resignations/retirements for the following: Samie Griffin, retiring from her position as CMS head cook; Julie Rogers, English as a second language teacher at Sam Boardman Elementary and Riverside High School.

- approved employment for Nina Minton, CMS assistant custodian, replacing Tom Taylor; Cathy Gates, Heppner Elementary School special education one-on-one assistant (autism); Kristi Orcutt, SBE special education one-on-one assistant (autism); Darla Vandever, RHS special education one-on-one assistant (autism); Bertie Van Dyke, CMS special education one-on-one assistant (autism); Janet Wilson, HES special education one-on-one assistant (autism).

- approved extra duty contracts for David Boor, RHS assistant tennis coach, replacing Alissa Daltoso.

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TV 1000-yard shoot-out held



Shooters test their long range skill.



Keith Rea won \$100 when he shot and broke a TV.

Approximately 65 shooters turned out to test their skill at long range shooting on a very windy day last weekend. Three holes were found in the TV, but only Keith Rea, designated shooter for Elmer's Irrigation of Hermiston, broke the tube, winning the \$100 prize money. This year, the \$100 gold pieces were in the bed of a remote controlled Ford pick-up.

Terry Mewhinney, event organizer, deemed the shoot-out a success, with enough money collected to buy lots of prizes for kids' games at the Ione 4th of July celebration.

Local student heads to national convention



Josh Zinter at ACE state convention at GFU in Newberg. Zinter won first place for making a scale model of the world's simplest jet engine.



Barney Zinter assists Josh in attempting to light the pulse jet engine. By Sarah Collier

Josh Zinter, an 18-year old senior from Ione, will soon be displaying his talent to an international audience.

Zinter, a home-schooled student, recently won first prize in a science and engineering contest held by Accelerated Christian Education. He used blue prints, Internet information and a steel bar to build a scale model of a pulse jet engine.

This was the first time Zinter had entered the regional contest at George Fox University in Newberg, an opportunity that will now take him to the ACE internationals in Flagstaff, Arizona, in May.

Zinter, the son of Sid and Barbara Zinter, began working on his entry in September and finally finished it less than a month ago. His brother, Barney, helped him to perfect and machine some of the parts on the pulse jet engine.

The pulse jet engine is the world's simplest jet engine with only one moving part. Conceived in the 1930's and developed during World War II, the engine was known as the jet that powered the "Buzz Bomb".

Primary May 21

By Sarah Collier

Morrow County voters will choose candidates for Oregon's general election when the primary election is held on May 21.

Republican candidates for the Morrow County Board of Commissioners, position two, include Betty L. Gray, Ray Grace, and David L. Barnett. Barbara B. Bloodworth is running unopposed for the Democratic position. No one is on the ballot for either the Democratic or Republican county precinct position.

The Democratic list for state governor includes Jim Hill, Caleb Burns, Ted Kulongoski, William Peter Allen, and Bev Stein. Republican choices are Roger Weidner, Kevin L. Mannix, W. Ames Curtright, Lee R. Shindler, Ron Saxton, and Jack Roberts.

Both parties' candidates for the 57th district state representative position are running opposed: Elizabeth Scheeler, Democrat, and Greg Smith, Republican.

For the position of Commissioner of the Bureau of Labor and Industries, voters will decide between Victor Hoffer, Pavel Goberman and Don Frazier. Republican voters will have an additional candidate to add to the list, Dan Gardner.

The choices for Superintendent of Public Instruction are Stan Bunn, Rob Kremer, and Susan Castillo. Democrats will have the opportunity to nominate a fourth runner, Gloria McCleary.

Judge of the Court of Appeals nominees include David Hunnicut and David Schuman for position one and Walt Edmonds for position two. The candidate for Oregon Supreme Court, position one, is Thomas A. Balmer. The Oregon Tax Court choice is Henry C. Breithaupt.

Voters will see David C. Allen running for District Attorney and Garry L. Reynolds on the ballot for judge of the sixth district Circuit Court, position one.

In addition to the individual positions to be filed, three ballot measures will appear on voter's ballots this spring.

Measure 10 will amend Oregon's constitution to allow public universities to receive stock in private companies as compensation for publicly created technology. This proposal would allow the schools to receive the compensation for technology that the schools create and to hold certain stocks invested in Oregon technology development.

Measure 11 would allow the state to issue obligation bonds instead of the current revenue bonds to finance OHSU medical research capital costs. The current revenue bond financing is more expensive than the proposed general obligation bonds.

Measure 13 would amend our state's constitution to allow legislature to use any portion of the education fund principal for specified circumstances. This would transfer \$220 million into the State School Fund from the educational stability fund.

Ballot drop sites will have extended hours on election day. The Morrow County Courthouse in Heppner will be open from 7 am until 8 p.m.; the Lexington Road Department will stay open from 8 am until 8 p.m.; and the Ione Branch of the Bank of Eastern Oregon will accept ballots between 8 am and 4 pm. Boardman voters can leave their ballots at the Morrow County Behavioral Health office between 8 a.m. and 8 p.m. and voters in Irrigon can take theirs to the Irrigon Annex building between 8 a.m. and 8 p.m.

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