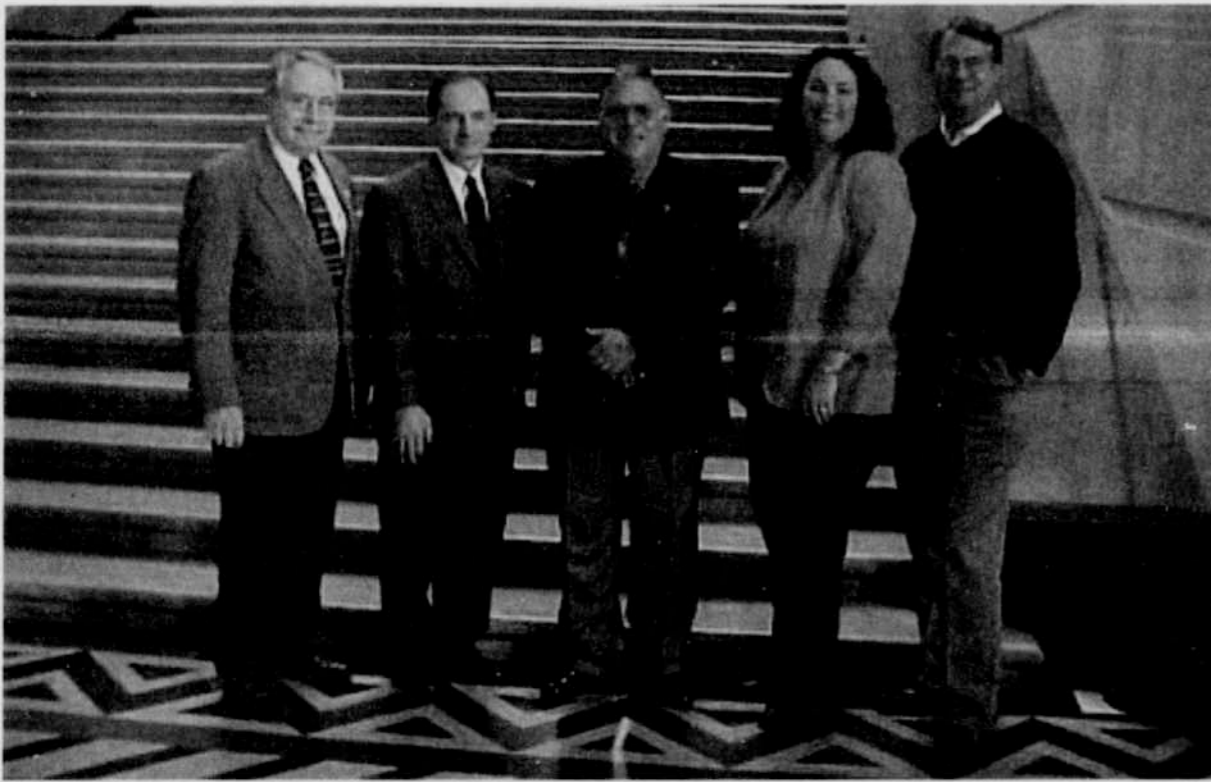


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VOL. 122 NO. 3 8 Pages Wednesday, January 15, 2003 Morrow County, Heppner, Oregon

E-board approves request for ATV funding



(L-R): Terry Tallman, Michael Carrier, director of the Oregon Parks Dept., Burke O'Brien, Karen Wolff and Martin Davis, in Salem at the Capitol.

The Oregon State Legislature's Emergency Board (E-board) has approved the request made by Morrow County for funding for the proposed ATV Park.

Terry Tallman, Burke O'Brien, Tom and Karen Wolff and Martin Davis all went to Salem, Thursday, Jan. 9, to submit the funding proposal to the

E-board. Michael Carrier, director of the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department, with Tallman by his side made the presentation to the E-board.

The E-board "increased the other funds expenditure limitation for the Parks and Recreation Department, by \$1,718,657, for an All-Terrain Vehicle park in Morrow

County," according to a summary report of the Emergency Board's actions.

The final funding will have to be approved by the Parks Commission before any further plans can be made. The Parks Commission is believed to make a decision within the next two weeks, according to the Public Works office.

Annual Town and County banquet is this Thursday

The annual Town and County banquet will be held Thursday, Jan. 16, at 7 p.m., at

Ballot Measure 28 out for the vote

Voters throughout Oregon have received their ballots for Measure 28. Measure 28 proposes a temporary increase of income tax rates for three years. The increased rates would apply to taxable income earned in the 2002, 2003 and 2004 tax years, with the existing tax rates restored in 2005 and later tax years.

Ballots must be received by Jan. 28, at 8 p.m. Postmarks will not be included. Ballots may be mailed or dropped off at any one of several ballot box locations. If mailing your ballot, you need to allow ample time for the post office to deliver it, as any ballots received after 8 p.m. on

the Elk's Hall in Heppner. A no-host social hour will be held at 6 p.m.

Ballot Measure 28 out for the vote

Jan. 28 will be ineligible for counting.

Morrow County ballot boxes will be located at the following sites: in Heppner, at the Morrow County Court House Clerk's Office; in Ione, at the Bank of Eastern Oregon; in Lexington, at the Public Works Building; in Irrigon, at the Justice Court lobby; and in Boardman, at the Behavioral Health Building.

All box locations will be open from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. on election day, except for Bank of Eastern Oregon, which will be open from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., and Morrow County Courthouse Clerk's Office, which will be open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Guest speaker, Bill Evans will give a talk entitled "Don't Panic Today, Wait Until Tomorrow."

Awards will also be given out, during the evening, in various categories.

Those interested in attending can purchase tickets at: Bank of Eastern Oregon, Heppner and Ione branches; Murray Drugs; Klamath First; and the Chamber of Commerce.

OSU Extension Service to be closed for holiday

The OSU Extension Service office will be closed Monday, Jan. 20, for the Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday.

School board hears protests against Heppner staffing cuts

The Morrow County School Board meeting Monday night at Heppner Elementary School provided a forum for people protesting cuts to Heppner's elementary and high school programs.

"The budget cuts made at the December board meeting were based solely on income vs. expenditures between schools," said Heppner Elementary teacher Cara Osmin, the HES Site Council chair. "We feel that they were not based on the educational interests of our district's children." In a prepared statement, Osmin said that "class sizes will be extremely large, representing a considerable discrepancy between students to teacher ratios across the elementary schools in our district. With the staff cuts we may be forced to have only one teacher per grade level of students."

Osmin said that with the staffing cuts, next year's kindergarten class at HES would have 17 students, first grade-20, second grade-24, third grade-35, fourth grade-33, fifth grade-28 and sixth grade-38. She said that no more than 18 students with two adults is "optimum." "We will suffer educationally more than any other elementary school in our district," she said. "The board goal is to have equity in funding for each individual school in the district, but where is the equity in students' educational needs? We do not see any equity in what is and should be important to the board: our children."

Molly Rill, also a teacher at HES, said that a group of around 30 citizens got together to brainstorm ways to increase revenue to the school and offset the cuts. Another meeting is planned for Jan. 25, after which the recommendations will be presented to the HES principal. "We need to look for equality in curriculum," said Rill.

The board took no action concerning the issues of staffing or budget cuts.

In other business, the board:

-approved retirement for: Susan Tolar, from her position as Sam Boardman Elementary School principal as of June 30; Marlene Pointer, from her elementary teaching position at Lone Schools as of Dec. 19; Nancy Dawkins, from her position as A.C. Houghton Elementary School Title I teacher; Joyce Hesla, from her position as ACH special reading teacher as of Dec. 31.

-accepted resignations for Ray Davis from his extra duty contract as Riverside High School assistant girls' basketball coach; and Chuck Matteson from his extra duty contract as Heppner High School head boys' basketball coach.

-approved promotion of Ken Eckman from HHS assistant boys' basketball coach to head boys' basketball coach, replacing Chuck Matteson.

-approved interim agreements for: Marlene Pointer to continue in her teaching position at Lone Schools from Jan. 6 through June 13; Joyce Hesla, to continue in her teaching position at ACH from Jan. 6 through June 13.

-approved extra duty contract for Megan Andreason, RHS assistant girls' basketball coach, replacing Ray Davis.

-recognized the following for their years of service at Heppner Elementary: Lorna Botefuhr-five years; Karen Smith-Griffith-15 years; Nancy McElhaney-25 years; and Linda Padberg-25 years.

-heard a report on construction progress from Nan Hall with Heery International, who said that raising the building at the Irrigon school construction site to prevent problems with flooding is expected to be under budget at around \$225,000, rather than the estimated \$400,000. Hall said that the foundation work has been completed at Ione and workers are moving on to masonry and wall framing. She also said that Heppner Elementary construction has been moving "pretty much as per schedule", however, she added that the speed bumps on the street where

children will walk between the elementary building and the cafeteria-gym are not effective and may have to be redone.

-heard from Superintendent Dr. Jack Crippen that with the directive to close the current district office in Lexington, plans are to relocate the special education director's and maintenance supervisor's offices to the alternative school in Irrigon and the administrative office to Heppner Elementary School. Dr. Crippen said that he plans to create a director of programs position and eliminate one assistant principal position so that Riverside High School and Columbia Middle School, currently with one assistant principal each, will share one person in that capacity. The principal's position at Ione, now a full-time position, will be divided between Heppner and Ione.

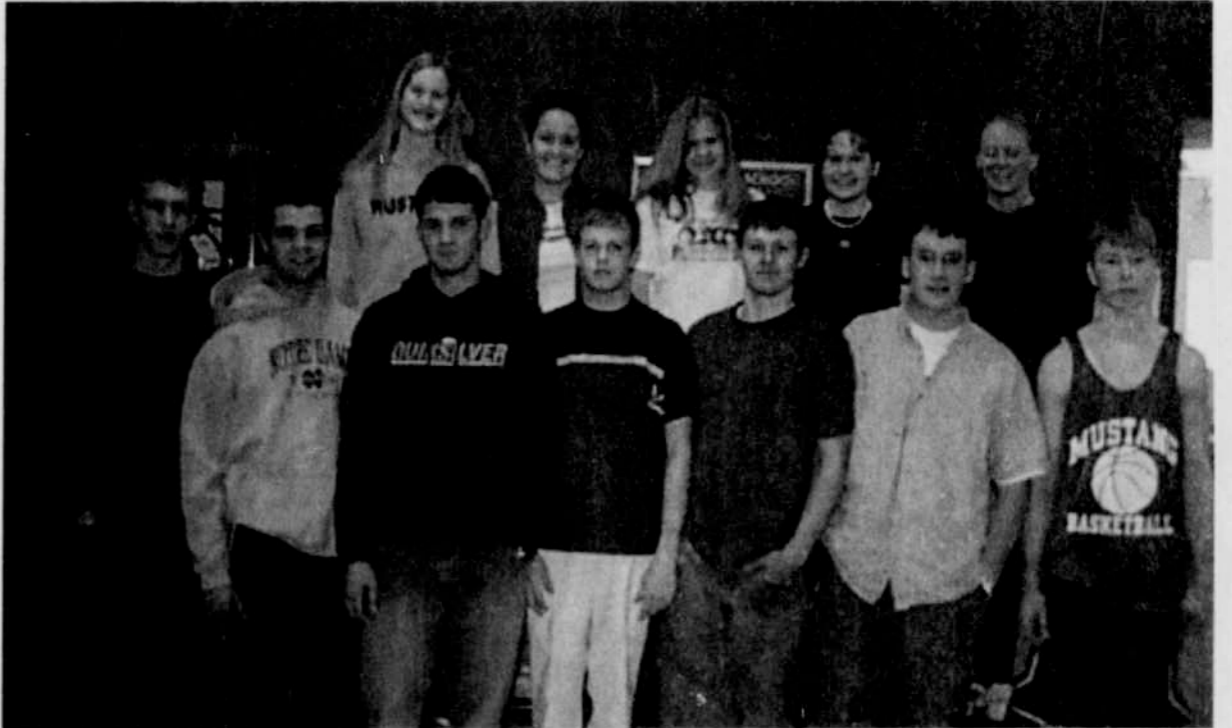
-instructed Dr. Crippen to proceed with plans to put the district office building up for sale.

-heard from Dr. Crippen that three contracts, the administrators', confidential employees' and teachers' contracts will all be up for renewal this year. The recently settled teachers' contract was only for one year and was retroactive. Board member Larry Mills brought up the governor's recommendation of a wage freeze.

-rescinded the regulations establishing advisory committees and instead established standing education committees: the Morrow County Computer Education Committee, the Boardman-Irrigon Community Education, the Heppner Community Education Committee, the Ione Community Education Committee and the Morrow Transportation Committee.

-heard the following announcements: Martin Luther King Jr. holiday-Jan. 20; board work session via V-Tel-Jan. 23, 8 a.m. at Riverside High School, the district office and the Oregon Department of Education; next board meeting-Sam Boardman Elementary School, 7:30 p.m., Monday, Feb. 10.

HHS offers last chance to donate coats



Students that helped with the HHS coat drive: (back l-r): Ashley Ward, Lacey Davis, Blake Allstott, Marcy Miller and Madison Bailey. (front l-r): Luke Murray, Chuy Elguezabal, Brad Adams, Josh Lankford, Brian Haguwood, Tyler Henderson and Matt Kenny. Not pictured are Lacey Matteson, Chantea Macaulay, Nicole Wilson, Courtney Nelson, Donald Adams, Tony Haguwood and Billy Gates (an IHS student)

Heppner High School students held their original coat drive for the Neighborhood Center on Jan. 5, but they wanted to offer the community one more chance to help contribute.

If you would like to donate any jackets or other winter clothes, call the HHS at 676-9138 and leave your street address. Students will be sent out Jan. 21-24 to pick up any donations called in.

So far the students have brought in over 275 coats along with numerous other clothing items. They have also gathered \$195 in donation money for the Center to purchase other miscellaneous items that might be needed for those the Center helps.

ALL NEWS AND ADVERTISEMENT DEADLINE:
MONDAYS AT 5:00 P.M.

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