

Answers to the Mysteries of Education

by Dr. Jack Crippen

When basketball's second season begins (District and State Tournaments), Spring is practically upon us and it seems that the end of the school year is here in the flick of an eye. It also appears that schools will not know what the legislature has in store for them until after school is out. In education, money is the question on everybody's mind, in one way or another.

When will the Legislature set the education budget?

According to Sen. Dave Nelson in a conversation held in his office on February 17th, he feels the legislature will not answer that question until after the May revenue forecasts. With the news from the March 1, 2003 forecast, one can understand their reluctance to venture a guess at this time. The legislature has found a way to not have education lose any more revenue after the March forecast, which we appreciate. There is an additional \$224,000,000 loss in state income. The March forecast changes the picture for the 2003-2005 biennium. It may mean that the recession may not have hit its lowest point (the May forecast may be even lower). It also changes what the legislature had determined was its starting point in putting the 2003-2005 biennium budget together. Many legislators feel this first two to three months is the sixth special session, since they are still dealing with the 01-03 biennium. Some time in March they will be able to begin work on the 03-05 biennium.

Is it true that Ione is going to leave the Morrow County School District?

After months of discussion, having hired an attorney, a lobbyist, an educational consultant and an educational financial consultant, and having Sen. Nelson introduce a bill in the Senate in early February, the Community of Ione held a meeting on February 11th and officially decided to secede from MCSD. This created many official questions and a barrage of rumors. Many felt these questions would be answered and the rumors laid to rest during the process before the Umatilla-Morrow ESD when it acts as the Boundary Board. However SB 372, which moved more rapidly than one expected, had its first hearing on Tuesday, February 18th. Many felt that an intention of this bill was to force the ESD Boundary Board to approve the request because SB 372 stated, "a remonstrance petition or election may not be allowed on any request for a boundary change submitted to the district boundary board..." Which many felt did not allow for the discussion needed to answer the questions and settle the rumors. A remonstrance petition is the way the patrons show formal opposition to the act of secession, even to the point of forcing a vote of the county to decide the issue.

With the help of the Confederation of Oregon School Administrator's (COSA) we were able to explain that there was opposition to the bill, and it did have financial impact to the remaining district, both items the Ione lobbyist had indicated did not exist. We also expressed our concern that the passage of the bill stopped due process as we had expected to have with the U-M ESD Boundary Board. They agreed to delay a vote on the bill.

In light of these events, the MCSD Board felt compelled to take a position on SB 372, and called a special meeting on Friday, February 21st. The position they felt they needed to take to protect the best interests of the children of the district was to oppose the bill and asked to have it killed in committee.

Over the course of the last weeks, we have been able to answer most of the questions and clear up most of the rumors: The Ione attendance area does not include Lexington; the property owners in the new Ione School District, if approved, will still pay taxes on all the bonds; they will have a separate transportation contract completely separate from MCSD; employees have the option to remain with MCSD. The Ione committee understands that if they separate from MCSD, MCSD would not have any responsibilities to them nor would we maintain any special relationship with them. We would interact with them as we do with all surrounding districts, from the standpoint of mutual benefit, or cash.

Which brings us to the major concern for most people, the division of Assets and Liabilities. During the time between the Community of Ione's vote on February 11th, and today, many people have made their views known to members of the MCSD Board. The majority indicated that they are generally in favor of allowing Ione to secede from MCSD. Their concern is the division of the assets and the liabilities. Oregon Law, in chapter 330.123, Division of assets and liabilities upon changes in boundaries, explains how this is to happen. "Assets include all school property and moneys belonging to the district at the time of the division. Liabilities include all debts for which the respective districts in their corporate capacities are liable at the time of division. ... school property shall be estimated at its real market value." The division... "shall be made in proportion to the resident average daily membership of the districts." SB 372 uses the term of average daily membership weighted, however our attorney John Witty has received proposed language to amend the bill, which will use the language in ORS 330.123.

The district does not have on hand the real market value of the district that is require for ORS 330.123, there are companies who are able to provide such information. We do have two sets of information that may establish the high and low values requested. Our insurance company provides us with replacement values of the districts buildings and personal property. Replacement values may be higher than real market values. We also have the County Assessor's appraised value of the districts buildings and grounds, which may be less than real market value. Therefore the amount owed is probably some where in between the two estimates listed.

If you have questions about items in this article or desire an explanation of items concerning education, please write or E-mail me in care of this newspaper or to the Morrow County School District office at P.O. Box 368 Lexington, Or 97839

Boardman man arrested and charged on kidnapping and rape charges

Francisco Gutierrez Bernal, 27, of Boardman, was arrested Feb. 26, 2003 and lodged in the Umatilla County Jail on charges of Kidnapping in the First Degree, Rape in the First Degree, Sodomy in the First Degree, Sexual Abuse in the First Degree and Unlawful Sexual Penetration in the First Degree.

Bernal is accused of having kidnapped a child under the age of 14 as she walked home from the store the evening of Feb. 25. He is further accused of forcibly raping and sodomizing the child before releasing her. Bernal plead not guilty at his arraignment. Circuit Court, by Circuit Court Judge Jeffery M. Wallace set bail at \$450,000.

Morrow County District Attorney David C. Allen said, "These charges are obviously shocking for such a small community. We are relieved to have the suspect in custody but are continuing our investigation with the able assistance of the Morrow County Sheriff's Department, Boardman Police Department and Oregon State Crime Lab forensic specialists." The next scheduled court proceeding is a preliminary hearing set for March 6.

Ione Schools' March schedule announced

Ione Schools began March with the state bowling championship, March 1 and 2, and a winter sport dessert March 4.

The Morrow County School District meeting will be held March 10, at 7:30 p.m. in Ione. The Ione Site Council will be holding their meeting at 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday, March 12; and the Advisory Committee meeting is at 7 p.m. on Thursday, March 20.

Spring Break will begin March 24 and classes will resume March 31.

Elementary group pictures will be held Wednesday, March 12 at 8:10 a.m.

Middle school track practice starts Monday, March 17, and the high school track team has a meet at Umatilla on March 21. Tennis also begins March 21 in Athena.

Gun Club news

Cool, blustery weather challenged the shooters this week, but Mark Schlichting was still able to lead the way at the 16 yards, hitting 24 out of 25. Rob Ashbeck and Chris Goble tied for second each getting 21. Harvey Childers had the high score for the 20-yard handicap busting 23.

Eight-year-old Cameron Day shot his first 25 relay and busted six of the wild flying clays. Way to go Cameron.

Jeff Cutsforth and Barry Munkers still lead with only four more weeks to shoot.

The team of Childers and Schlichting closed the gap this week by shooting the first perfect 100 point score.

Annie Oaklies, this week, were won by Ryan Boozer and Childers. Childers also won one of the bushwhackers; Chris Goble won the other.

Keep a look out for more information on the Gun Club's upcoming night shoots.

We Print Envelopes
Heppner Gazette-Times

Reading brings rewards for 2nd graders



Thirteen Heppner Elementary School second grade students received ice cream cones or milkshakes from the R&W Drive-In as a reward for earning at least 10 points in the Accelerated Readers program with Mrs. Clough and Mrs. Rill.

Local residents enter Motorcycle Mechanics Institute

Raymond K. Howey, Jr. and Brian E. Rystedt have taken a new spin on life and have enrolled at the Motorcycle Mechanics Institute (MMI). Howey and Rystedt plan to start coursework in May, training to become professional motorcycle technicians.

MMI produces highly trained, entry-level technicians for the motorcycle industry. Programs provide the technical information, practical demonstrations and

hands-on training required by industry customers.

MMI is supported and endorsed by the five major motorcycle manufacturers: American Honda Motor Co, Inc; American Suzuki Motor Corp.; Harley-Davidson Motor Co.; Kawasaki Motors Corp., USA; and Yamaha Motor Corp., U.S.A. These companies provide MMI with educational training materials and products.

Universal Technical Institute, Inc. (UTI) owns MMI and is one of the nation's

leading providers of technical education training. The institute provides industry customers with professional technicians by offering entry-level, manufacturer-specific and update training in automotive, collision repair and refinishing, and diesel, as well as motorcycle, marine, personal watercraft and heating/ventilation/air conditioning/refrigeration. MMI has campuses in Phoenix and Orlando.

For more information, log on to www.uticorp.com.

Sheriff's Report

The Morrow County Sheriff's Office (MCSO) reports handling

-MCSO received a report of an audible, residential burglar alarm at a Boardman residence. It was advised that the building was secure and owner made contact to inform that the alarm wasn't set right.

-MCSO received a report of a possible motor vehicle accident in Boardman. It was determined not to be an accident but a disabled vehicle.

-MCSO arrested Wesley Aaron Hendren, 25, on an Irrigon Justice Court warrant for Failure to Pay Fine/Driving while Suspended. Bail was paid in full and subject was cited and released to appear at a later date.

-MCSO received a report from a caller in Lexington that she had been receiving harassing phone calls and thought she knew who they were from.

-MCSO received a report of two vehicles driving too fast up and down the street and advised that one of the vehicles had almost hit the caller's car.

-MCSO received a report from a caller in Boardman that her son received a phone call threatening her husband. It was unknown who that caller was.

-MCSO received a 911 hang-up call from a residence in Boardman. It was determined that all was okay and it was a child playing on the phone.

Dec. 31: MCSO received two 911 hang-up calls from a Boardman business. It was determined to be wind causing a phone disturbance.

-MCSO received a report from a caller in Lexington advised that she had received another phone call, but this time no one was there. She later called to report that she received yet another call and the subject had told her she was outside her residence. Deputies were unable to locate the subject.

-MCSO received a report from a caller in

Boardman that his wife had taken off with his wallet and his entire ID.

-MCSO cited a male subject for Violation of the Basic Rule, 43 mph in a 30 mph zone.

-MCSO received a report from a caller in Irrigon that her vehicle was stolen some time during that night. It was determined that the vehicle had been repossessed.

-MCSO received a report from Hermiston PD that they arrested Jose Luis Ceniceros, 23, on an Irrigon Justice Court warrant for Failure to Pay Fine/Resisting Arrest. Bail was paid in full and subject was cited and released to appear at a later date.

-MCSO received a request for records from a probation officer.

-MCSO received a report from the City of Heppner that a dog with no collar had been found at City Hall and owner will have an impound fee.

-MCSO cited Elena Ponce, 31, for Maintaining a Dog a Public Nuisance.

-MCSO received a request from the Federal Investigations Processing Center for a records check on four individuals.

-MCSO received a report from a caller in Irrigon that her boyfriend was in the bathroom with a gun. While on the line the boyfriend came out of the bathroom into the living room and was in his pickup outside when units arrived on the scene. It was determined that all was okay and subject was not suicidal and the call had been a false report.

-MCSO ran gun from the above call through LEDS and received a hit on a stolen gun out of Kennewick PD with the same serial number. MCSO was unable to get descriptor from Kennewick PD, and attempted contact with owner of gun that was stolen. They were able to reach him at a later time and he confirmed along with the deputy that it was the same weapon. Kennewick PD was advised.

-MCSO arrested Jamie Marie Shelton, 27, on a

UCSO warrant for Failure to Appear/DUII. Subject was lodged at UC Jail.

-MCSO received a report of a possible motor vehicle accident in Boardman. It was determined to be a disabled vehicle.

-MCSO cited Angelica Maria Torres, 28, for Failure to Use Seatbelt on a Child.

-MCSO received a report of a vehicle on fire at the Boardman 76 Station. It was advised that the fire went out on its own and the Boardman FD stood down.

-MCSO received a request for an ambulance from a caller in Irrigon for her 71-year-old who was light-headed, dizzy, constipated and on the floor and unable to get up.

-MCSO arrested Balmore A. Espinoza-Lopez, 27, on a Sherman County warrant for Failure to Appear/Driving while License Revoked and Parole Violation/Driving while License Revoked; a Crook County warrant for Parole Violation/Menacing and Harassment; and a Hermiston warrant for Failure to Pay Fine/DUII. He was lodged at the Umatilla County Jail.

-MCSO deputy cited Daniel Duane Doyle, 39, for Violation of the Basic Rule, 63 mph in a 45 mph zone and Driving while License Suspended-I.

-MCSO received a report from a caller in Irrigon that her son had been beaten up and possibly had a broken nose.

-MCSO, Oregon State Police received a report from UCSO of a possible DUII; the vehicle was swerving in both lanes.

-MCSO received a report from a caller at the Heppner Chevron of a minor motor vehicle accident. The drivers exchanged information.

-MCSO received a relayed report from a caller in Irrigon that when they came home there were two suspects in the residence. They left on foot towards Columbia Junior High School. One suspect was identified. -