

# School District office will stay in Lexington

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an office in the north end, voiced opposition to the board's action. Mills, however, told Dr. Crippen that the board's action did not preclude him from setting up an office in Boardman or Irrigon. "If you want an office in Boardman or Irrigon, I'm not opposed to it," said Mills.

The board rejected a motion by Mills that a larger school district budget be approved for 2003-04 because of increased projections for the state education fund. Mills said that legislators now believe that the state school fund will have \$5 billion or more, rather than the \$4.6 billion projected earlier, which he believes would leave MCSD with an additional \$1 million in the budget, sufficient to fund additional teachers. Mills' motion recommended preparing a budget using a \$4.9 billion figure for the biennium. Mills said that he wanted the district to settle the issue as soon as possible for teachers and their families and expressed concern with the district's perception in the community. "My concern is that we're messing with a lot of employees' lives," said Mills. "I don't think there's any question that it (the MCSD budget) is going to be more than \$4.6 billion (the state school budget amount upon which the district currently is basing its budget)." Crippen said that at this point the district was not laying off any teachers, but would not fill positions of teachers who retire. He also told Mills that if any additional teachers were hired, they would be hired in the north end, especially in the English-as-a-second-language program. "If we're going to put in an ESL program, I think we need to get started," replied Mills.

Rietmann pointed out that if the MCSD were to receive the additional monies, the district would have approximately \$2 million in carryover, which he deemed excessive and "unacceptable." Crippen urged passage of the current budget, using state projections of \$4.6 billion, especially considering a state deadline of July 15 to accept the district budget. "I can't believe it's the middle of June and we don't have any contingency plan (for an

alternate budget)," Rietmann interjected.

Weikel, McNamee, Frederickson and Renfro voted against Mills' motion, saying that they would rather approve a supplemental budget later to include the funds, rather than risk hiring teachers prematurely and then possibly face cutbacks later. O'Brien and Rietmann voted in favor of Mills' motion.

The board rejected its only bid for appraisal of real property in the proposed Ione School District, opting instead to turn the matter over to the state school superintendent's office. The board approved its sole bid from Maximus, an organization in the Portland area, to appraise personal property, such as desks, computers and other items in the Ione School District, in preparation for Ione's secession from the district. The bill for secession is now on the governor's desk, awaiting his signature.

The board approved a motion to move fifth and sixth grade classes in Boardman and Irrigon to the new elementary school buildings this fall, after Dr. Crippen told the board that savings in mothballing the buildings in terms of utilities were "negligible". Costs were anticipated for classified and custodial employees. Rietmann, however, said that if the new elementary schools are to be opened, a high school in Irrigon should be established at the same time, because the openings will trigger state facility grants to the district. Rietmann said that if the grant monies are received, they could be used before the monies are really needed—when the Irrigon high school is opened. Crippen responded that he did not believe the facility grants were applicable to remodels, such as the remodel of the current middle school building into a high school in Irrigon.

Rietmann also chastised the district for lagging in outfitting the new Ione School, when other recently built schools have already received playground equipment and other furnishings. Ione Principal Mike Stuart said that plans were to move into the new building this weekend.

In other business, the board recognized outgoing

board members for their years of service on the board. Gary Frederickson, who did not run for re-election, served 10 years on the board; John Rietmann, who was defeated in the May election, after 13 years on the board; Larry Mills and Burke O'Brien, both as interim members. The board also honored Susan Tolar, who is retiring after 28 years with the district, 24 of those years as principal at Sam Boardman Elementary School; and Duane Yecha, who has accepted a position as superintendent of the Reedsport School District, after nine years as principal at Riverside High School.

In other business, the board:

-learned that the superintendent has withdrawn his request for a new contract, which leaves his existing three-year contract in effect. The board approved a motion to that effect, scheduling a full performance evaluation for Dr. Crippen in December. Weikel, Frederickson and McNamee voted against the motion.

-met the new principal at SBE, B.J. Wilson, who attended the Monday night meeting.

-learned of the three top names selected for the new Boardman elementary school—Windy River Elementary School, Sandy Heights Elementary School and Wells Spring Elementary School. The Irrigon elementary school naming committee is to meet next week. The Boardman school is expected to open in September, while the Irrigon school is expected to open in late September or October.

-heard an inquiry from Don Russell of Boardman concerning the costs and impacts to curriculum and athletic programs at Riverside High School and a new high school if a high school is established in Irrigon. Weikel said that the board would thoroughly investigate the issue.

-heard an inquiry from Samie Griffin of Irrigon questioning the projected numbers for students at RHS and a new high school if a high school were established in Irrigon. Griffin, urging establishment of an Irrigon high school, pointed out that over 1,200 signed a petition favoring the new school.

Weikel said that the proposed attendance numbers would also be investigated.

-hired Jack Johns as director of programs for the district. According to Weikel, Johns would take over the duties of former assistant superintendent Mike Keown, whose position was eliminated earlier due to budget constraints, plus additional duties. Weikel said that some of the duties formerly handled by Keown had been delegated to RHS Principal Duane Yecha and teacher Karen Cooley, but with their resignations and two new principals on board, in addition to a reduction in assistant principals' time, it was necessary to create a new position. Johns, who is currently special education/talented and gifted/504 programs at Baker, will be in charge of the ESL program, special education program, academic program and district-wide teacher training, in addition to other duties.

-learned that the Matrix information, which contained a comprehensive wish list of items to be included for schools in the district, has been located. The wish list will be reviewed in terms of additions, since the board anticipates leftover monies after the school bond construction has been completed.

-approved \$7,000 for a parking lot at the new Boardman elementary school, but did not act on funding a sidewalk at that facility, because of costs, at the advice of Crippen.

-heard from Frederickson that he will continue to work on the negotiations concerning the division of assets and liabilities between MCSD and Ione after his current term on the board ends, if necessary.

-certified results of the May 20 election, including Craig Miles as the winner for Position #1, Debbie Radie, Position #3; Ken Matlack, Position #4; Pat McNamee, Position #5; and Barney Lindsay, Position #6.

-heard proposals from the Oregon Business Association and from the mayor of Eugene concerning school funding.

-ratified the contract between MCSD and the Morrow County Education Association, with details to be released after the contract is ratified by MCEA.

-accepted resignations and retirements from; Shari Huber A.C. Houghton Elementary School

teacher; Sharon Barrick, Riverside High School counselor; Bobbi Angell, Heppner Elementary School head cook; Debi Stratton, Columbia Middle School assistant cook; Cathy McCabe, Ione head tennis coach; Dana Heideman, Ione High School head girls' basketball coach; and Marvin House, CMS athletic director.

-approved employment for Maria Gamboa, CMS special education teacher; Teena Sirucek, RHS department secretary.

-received a list of those elected to various school board and committee positions.

-approved an attendance variance for a child to attend school in the Hermiston school district.

-heard a bond report from Nan Hall of Heery International and a district project report from Howard Sheets.

-heard the following announcements: last day of school for students—June 11; last day of school for staff—June 13; next board meeting—district office, July 14, 7:30 p.m.

## Ione Library to host summer reading program

The Ione Public Library will sponsor a summer reading program again this summer. The theme will be "Explore the World: Open a Book."

The program will run for six weeks and is open to all ages. Special certificates will be given to children too young to read who spend time reading with their parents. Parents are urged to bring their children even if they plan to be gone for a while this summer. The program is a self-paced one and can be completed even if some weeks are missed. Prizes and awards will be given at the end of the program for all who complete. There will be prizes for any children whose parents check out books.

The first session will be Wednesday, June 25 at 2 p.m., and will be a dress-up party. Children (and their parents) are encouraged to come dressed as a favorite book character.

For more information call Kristy Crowell, at 422-7564. Regular library hours are 3-5 p.m. Monday and Wednesday afternoons.

## Mustangs fall to Prospectors in semi-finals

The Heppner Mustangs held off the Grant Union Prospectors for four and a half innings, but the Prospectors scored three runs in the fifth and four more in the sixth to take an 8-2 win in the semi-finals of the US Bank/Les Schwab/OSAA 2A baseball playoffs on Tuesday, June 3 in John Day. The Mustangs ended a very successful year with a 24-5, a record for wins, and equaled the highest finish ever.

The loss also ended the high school baseball careers of seniors, Brad Adams, Donald Adams, Josh Winters, Trevor Rhea, Ben Turrell, Robert Whalen and Conor Kilkenny.

The Mustangs scored first in the top of the second when Kory Paullus led off with an infield single and went to second when the throw sailed past the first baseman. Donald Adams singled and Kyler Lovgren scored Paullus with a single.

The Prospectors tied it in the third and would have scored more, but Winters made a diving catch of a line drive in the gap between left and centerfield.

In the fourth, Brad Adams singled, Billy Gates singled and Donald Adams had an RBI double to give the Mustangs a 2-1 lead.

The Mustangs threatened again in the fifth, when Winters reached on an error, Brad Adams singled and Paullus walked to load the bases with two outs and Gates hit a long fly ball to centerfield, but the centerfielder ran it down for the third out.

The Prospectors then scored three runs in the bottom half to take a 4-2 lead and added four more in the sixth to seal the win.

Donald Adams went two for three with an RBI. Brad Adams went two for four. Luke Murray, Gates, Lovgren and Paullus each picked up the remainder of the hits.

Heppner 010 100 0-2 8 0  
Grant Union 001 034 x-8 12 2

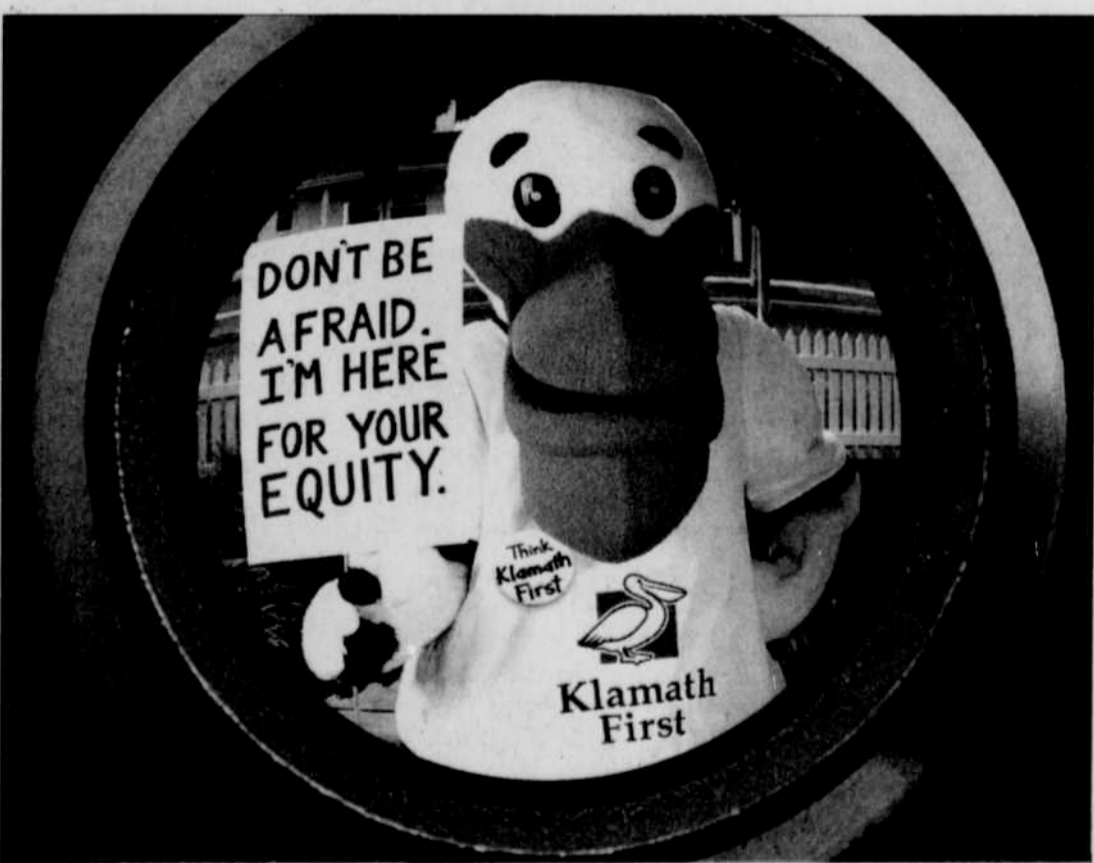
Chuy Elguezabal, Conor Kilkenny (6), Billy Gates (6) and Gates, Elguezabal (6); Matt Curtis and Bo Thunnell. W- Curtis: L- Elguezabal. 2B- Donald Adams (H). Trevor Simmons, Billy Colson (GU). 3B- Kyle Myers (GU). HR- none.

## CLC to host guest speaker

A few years ago, Duane Parrish found himself stripped of the ability to read, write or speak following a major brain operation.

Pastor Tim Van Cleave invites everyone to hear Parrish's story of human despair and of divine power, of healing and the power of a grateful spirit. He will speak at the Christian Life Center, 535 W. Morgan St., Heppner, on Sunday, June 15 at 10:30 a.m.

The positive faith and spiritual insight with which Parrish speaks, will inspire courage to face life and deal realistically with doubts, fear, conflicts and obstacles. His story has helped many to believe that, with God, they are "Destined to Overcome."



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## Wedding Tables

**Dawn Boor & Jeffery Eynetich**  
Wedding - Saturday, June 21

**Lindsay Harle & Marc Orem**  
Shower - Saturday, June 21  
Wedding - Saturday, July 12

**Kimberly Becker & Brent Gunderson**  
Shower - Friday, June 27  
Wedding - Saturday, August 23

**Jessica Krebs & Nate Langley**  
Shower - Monday, June 30  
Wedding - Saturday, July 5

**Sara Greenup & Tygh Campbell**  
Shower - Saturday, July 12  
Wedding - Saturday, August 2

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