

Ione board meeting

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eligible and welcome to apply to attend school in the Ione School District. The following steps are necessary for application: 1) Apply for admission to the superintendent of the Ione School District; 2) Make a formal written request of release from the Morrow County School District. (Forms are available from the Ione School District.) 3) Students must be in good standing in the prior school year to receive Ione School District approval for admission. Ione School District reserves the right to accept/reject students based upon the availability of space, resources, personnel, appropriate programs and a positive review of the student's educational records. 4) Students who are granted admission, but have not been released from the Morrow County School District, will be charged tuition in the amount of \$50 per year with full scholarships available to all students from the Ione School Foundation.

*** Nonresident Students**-a nonresident student is defined as one whose parent or legal guardians do not reside within the boundaries of the Ione School District, unless otherwise provided for by the Lexington/Pine City Attendance policy or by law. The Ione School District may enroll nonresident students as follows: 1) By written consent of the affected school districts. The student becomes a "resident pupil" of the Ione School District, thereby allowing the Ione School District to receive State School Fund moneys. 2) By unilaterally admitting a nonresident student with tuition (the amount to be determined on a case-by-case basis) whereby neither district is eligible for State School Fund moneys. The Ione School District may deny regular school and alternative program admission to nonresident students who are under expulsion from another district. The Ione School District shall deny regular school admission to nonresident students who are under expulsion from another school district for a weapons policy violation.

*** Inter-district Transfer of Resident Students**-The Ione School District Board must approve inter-district transfer of a resident student. All requests must be submitted in writing to the Superintendent with a complete explanation of the reasons for the request. Ione School District will work to facilitate the best educational experience for each child.

-discussed the issue of division of Morrow County Unified Recreation funds. The funds had been divided per capita, which amounted to 7-3/4 percent for ISD but

McElligott said that he discussed the issue with MCURD and it was agreed on June 26 that funds will be divided according to the number of athletic teams each school has. ISD anticipates 22 percent of MCURD funds for the 2003-04 year.

-appointed a committee, consisting of Lisa Rietmann, Jerry Rietmann, George Murdock of the ESD and Joe McElligott to follow through concerning the division of assets between MCSD and ISD.

-received the proposed 2003-04 budget with an estimated budget of \$1,534,875, including a \$150,000 ending fund balance. Board member John Rietmann said he was extremely pleased that the Ione School District could offer a program to Ione students comparable to the one offered by the Morrow County School District

-heard from Ione teacher Duane Neiffer, who voiced concern that a special education position would be filled, rather than a junior high science position. The special ed position, however, is contracted through ESD, while the science teaching position would be funded through the Ione School District. ISD Board member Anne Morter replied, "Let's give us a break here. Let us get our feet on the ground." (A meeting to discuss the school schedule, which will also impact the budget, is planned for this week at Ione United Church of Christ building.)

-postponed setting a regular monthly meeting date until the board members could be polled.

-discussed the issue of hiring a superintendent. George Murdock suggested that the district put off hiring a permanent superintendent until next fall to allow time for a search, and in the meantime, hiring an interim superintendent. The ISD Board decided to proceed with the search in hopes of finding a superintendent as soon as possible.

Pie Contest to be held

A homemade pie contest will be held July 25, as part of the Celebrate Heppner festivities. Pies should be taken to Sherrell Insurance, Main St., Heppner, between 8-10 a.m.

A first place winner will receive a \$100 gift certificate. The second place winner will receive a \$50 gift certificate.

A pie auction will be held at 6:15 p.m., at Heppner City Park.

The contest is sponsored by Sherrell Insurance and the Heppner Chamber of Commerce.

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Heppner Gazette-Times

City votes to outlaw 'jake' brakes

The sound of a truck's "jake" brakes coming into town early in the morning, or any other time for that matter, is going to be a thing of the past, the Heppner City Council ruled Monday night.

Because of their loud noise, the council voted to outlaw the use of exhaust or jake brakes in the city limits of Heppner. The council took the action after hearing a complaint from Heppner resident Verde Hager at last month's council meeting.

A large percentage of trucks use their jake brakes while coming into Heppner from the south, on the Heppner-Spray highway.

The law takes effect immediately, however, signs will not be posted for a while. The city limits of Heppner starts about where the Norene's property is on the Heppner-Spray highway.

In other business at Monday's meeting the council:

Voted to release city deputy Jamie Rietmann from Heppner patrol duty when a suitable replacement can be found. County deputies sign a "contract" when they begin to patrol Heppner saying they will stay on Heppner patrol for three years. The city contracts with the county for police protection so all police in Heppner are sheriff's deputies.

Rietmann asked to be released into the regular county sheriff patrol so he could gain more experience in police work. "Heppner is a very quiet town with very little crime. I am not gaining the valuable experience I will need in my career. In order for me to gain this experience and be challenged in my job I need to be someplace where there is a heavier call load and more crime investigations," he wrote in a letter to the council requesting to be released from Heppner patrol. The council unanimously approved Rietmann's request.

MC Fair premium books now available

Morrow County Fair premium books are now being distributed throughout Morrow County. Books can be picked up at Heppner, Ione, Irrigon and Boardman Post Offices, the OSU Extension Offices in Heppner and Boardman, Morrow County Grain Growers in Lexington, Boardman Pharmacy and at the Fair Office in Heppner.

The Morrow County Fair will be held Aug. 13-17. This year's theme is "Morrow County: True to the Red, White and Blue."

Marriage Licenses

June 30: Michael Kaye, 50, Freehold, NJ and Kellie Lynn Hill, 48, McConnellsburg, PA.

Letters to the Editor

Editor's note: Letters to the Editor must be signed. The Gazette-Times will not publish unsigned letters. Please include your address and phone number on all letters for use by the G-T office. The G-T reserves the right to edit. The G-T is not responsible for accuracy of statements made in letters. (Any letters expressing thanks will be placed in the classifieds under "Card of Thanks" at a cost of \$7.)

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Did Irrigon receive empty promises?

[Editor's Note: This letter was read at the Morrow County School District board meeting, July 14, 2003.]
To the Editor:

First I would like to say welcome to the new Board members. I am one of the people that worked tirelessly to get the construction bond passed for MCSD. Though we were deeply concerned about the crowded conditions at A.C. Houghton, much of our motivation was the promise of having a High School returned to Irrigon. And that promise was made before the election; not officially but in private conversations. Now we are being told that this Board is not bound to honor promises made by former Boards. I do not want to think our votes were bought with empty promises, but the evidence certainly points in that direction. This is not the first broken promise Irrigon has endured. Forty-four years ago Irrigon was promised a new high school in three years if they would loan their children to Boardman for that period of time. That was lie number one.

Recently, ex-board member Gary Frederickson stated that he could not imagine future boards not honoring a promise made by past boards. The fact is that for 44 years every Board has done just that including the Board Mr. Frederickson was a part of.

In 1999, the people of Irrigon were told that if the bond passed the district would be able to build a new elementary school in Irrigon and no longer need to house the sixth grades at CMS, freeing that school to become a 7-12 facility. On May 15, 2000, election day, we were told by the Superintendent and some MCSD Board members that the stipulations had been met and a high school would be returned to Irrigon. Lie number two.

At the May 2003 meeting John Rietmann, Larry Nelson and Burke O'Brien refuted every excuse for delaying the opening of Irrigon High School. Dr. Crippen offered the information that this move could be made in late fall or early winter of 2003. Still four Board members voted no to our high school. These Board members did not offer one fact to justify their position. They based their decision on a variety of "what if" questions.

What if we lose programs? Apparently the only person to look into this matter is Bruce Anderson and he said that we absolutely would not. If Heppner can offer calculus then certainly Boardman and Irrigon can.

What if the district

cannot afford this move? Again, Bruce Anderson did the math and concluded the cost of educating the Irrigon and Boardman children involved would be the same as it is now. For years MCSD board members sent money earned by Irrigon and Boardman children to Heppner and Ione. Almost a million dollars a year. I find it amazing that at no point did the Board members from Irrigon suggest that some of that money be used to reinstate our high school. At that time, Board members were still expected to represent the entire zone they were elected to serve. It makes me wonder just how many years Irrigon has been under-represented.

On April 14, 2003, the Board voted to make an exception to the board goal of equity and allow Heppner Elementary to exceed their funding level by \$190,000 for the 2003-04 budget year. This was done because as Julie Weikel said, "One of our schools cannot live within their budget." Cannot or will not because they know that if they want something an exception can be made for them. Again not one board member suggested that enough money be allotted to start Irrigon high school. I have no objection to this money being made available to bus Heppner kindergarten children. However, I do wonder why such an exception to the board's goals cannot be considered for the return of our children. That cost would certainly be much less than \$190,000. I think it is time to stop hiding behind bogus stipulations and admit the real reasons to deny us a high school.

The kids don't want it? The Irrigon kids did not want to go to school in Boardman in 1959 but that didn't stop what the adults decided. We talk to many, many kids that want to go to school at home. They can see the advantages of eliminating the 26 mile round trip to school. If you are a child of low-income parents, and many Irrigon children are, you can afford little connection with Riverside beyond the classroom. Could it be that the people that make this statement talk to the children of Irrigon more than the people of Irrigon do?

Another weak excuse for denying Irrigon what is rightfully theirs is, there is no interest in Irrigon in reinstating a high school. Who is the author of this nonsense? It certainly isn't the people who gathered 1200 signatures of people who want to see a high school returned to Irrigon. I might add that we did not canvas all of Irrigon. We thought 1200 names would be impressive.

We have been accused of having a one-issue mind set. That is such an unfair analysis of our situation. Imagine the impact removing your High School would make on your community. The negatives are endless. Our one-issue mind set encompasses a multitude of disadvantages. It seems that the biggest fans of denying this community a High School are the communities that have one. If not having a High School is such a desirable state perhaps Boardman will volunteer to move Riverside to Irrigon for 44 years. We have a high

school willing and waiting.

We have also been told that only a few old ladies in Irrigon want the high school returned. Let me make this perfectly clear. This old lady represents six adults and three children that I am related to. I also represent many parents and children that simply do not have time to attend every School Board meeting and so rely on me to speak for them. So keep this in mind. Every time you see me stand up and speak to you, I am not alone, I am a crowd. I know that the same thing can be said for every old lady that stands before you to demand equality for their community. It might also interest you to know that without the old ladies in this county there would be no new schools being built. It was the old ladies that got the bond passed.

When MCSD's Board denies the Irrigon taxpayers the same privileges the other communities enjoy it is for only one reason. Because they can. They have become so comfortable with the discrimination that Irrigon parents and children endure they do not recognize how truly shameful their treatment has been for nearly half a century.

We want a definite starting date for our high school to be announced in the near future. If this is not done, we will know that using empty promises is an acceptable method of getting voters to pass a bond. However, I can guarantee it will never work again. We will also know that this district has no more need for Irrigon than it did for Ione. Perhaps the time has come for Boardman and Heppner to have the district all to themselves.

Until our High School is opened we want the practice of dumping our athletes along a major highway in the middle of the night stopped. If a coach schedules practice on Friday or Saturday we want activity buses to pick up our athletes and take them to Boardman. Has anyone ever bothered to find out how many of our children are left out of Riverside's sports program because of this elitist system? No child should be left out because they cannot provide their own transportation. We want activity buses to be available to our children so they can enjoy all the benefits and functions Riverside offers. We want a program to help low-income parents maintain a reasonable relationship with their children's teachers. We want the same access to Riverside High School for every student. It is time for MCSD to exhibit the same ethics and morals we are trying to instill in our children. In short, MCSD should provide Irrigon's parents and children the same opportunities the parents and children of Boardman take for granted. Is the Board only interested in providing financial equity? In an area that is primarily low-income, true equity can never be accomplished when much of the student body's only connection with the school is class time. If true equity is too expensive to insure, then your only course of action is to separate the high schools as soon as possible. After all this is the United States of America, and no child should be left behind.

(s) Meredith DeHaven
Irrigon

CUSTOM BANNERS
Heppner Gazette-Times
676-9228

Wedding Tables

Sara Greenup & Tygh Campbell
Wedding - Saturday, August 2

Jessica Van Winkle & Joseph McHaney
Wedding - Saturday, August 9

Kimberly Becker & Brent Gunderson
Wedding - Saturday, August 23

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