

Ione School District plans \$2 million budget

The Ione School District will begin its year with a \$2,022,897 total budget, a \$177,340 opening balance and a projected \$200,000 ending fund balance, superintendent and budget officer George Murdock of the Umatilla-Morrow ESD told the ISD Board at its Aug. 19 meeting. "This is a good position to be in," said Murdock. He said that the ISD budget also includes an \$89,107 contingency fund.

Murdock also told the board that they may anticipate more funds from the state than previously budgeted because the ISD Board had built its projected budget on a \$4.78 billion state school budget and it looked as if the state would approve a larger amount. State legislators did subsequently approve a \$5.2 billion school funding budget with the possibility of additional funding.

Murdock said that ISD may be able to be reimbursed for 80 percent or more of transportation costs, rather than the 70 percent previously, because of the district's isolated rural school status.

Murdock said that the district has already received the first state school funding check via the Morrow County School District and commended MCSD for its timeliness in transferring monies over. According to Murdock, state monies for ISD must come through MCSD until June 30.

In other business, the board:

- scheduled a work session with staff, Murdock and ESD representatives to establish a class schedule.

- amended an inter-district transfer policy to read that students in the Lexington-Pine City area must get a formal release from the Morrow County School District to attend school in the ISD. "I think you need to be incredibly careful about policies that may be potentially discriminatory," Murdock cautioned the board.

- authorized the district to accept the Morrow County Unified Recreation District agreement with ISD for the 2003-04 school year.

- set pay to play fees as follows: \$50 for high school and \$30 for middle school with a \$100 maximum per year for an individual and a \$200 maximum per year for a family. A program to assist students in raising the funds is available through the Cardinal Booster Club.

- set gate receipts as follows: \$3 admission for adults and \$1 for students.

- established a four-day school calendar comparable to the MCSD calendar with a modification concerning conference schedules, as follows: district-wide in-service day Aug. 25; in-service days, Aug. 26-27; staff work day, Aug. 28; no school for students or staff, Aug. 29; school begins Sept. 2; end of first nine weeks, Oct. 30; Veteran's Day holiday, Nov. 11; early dismissal Nov. 26; Thanksgiving holiday Nov. 27-28; winter break Dec. 22-Jan. 2; school resumes Jan. 5;

end of semester, Jan. 15; Martin Luther King holiday Jan. 19; President's Day holiday Feb. 16; spring break March 22-26; end of third nine weeks, April 1; Memorial Day holiday May 31; Ione High School graduation June 4, 7 p.m.; end of fourth nine weeks, last day of school for students June 9.

- approved application with Oregon School Athletics Association for a cooperative sponsorship for the softball program.

-approved John

Rietmann and Gregg Rietmann as the ISD building and grounds committee.

- approved plans for development of a plaza at the school designed to be symbolic of the re-formation of the Ione School District. Plans include selling commemorative bricks as a fundraiser and placing the bricks in the plaza, along with a 100-year old school bell and concrete benches.

- learned that MCSD

continued page two

Utilities Commission gives Little League water for fields

The Heppner Utilities Commission agreed last week to give the Heppner Little League 400,000 gallons of water each year to irrigate three fields in Heppner.

The Little League has two meters to water the fields and was concerned the city would begin charging them under the new pricing plan.

Utility commission members said that little league could have 200,000 gallons of water for each meter per year. Any water usage over the 200,000 gallons would be billed to the Little League.

In other business the Utilities Commission talked

about the proposed new water system for Heppner.

The water update project as originally proposed would have cost approximately \$6 million. Last month the city council voted to put the project on hold while it studied a less expensive option. It was proposed that three wells and a 750,000-gallon storage tank be cut from the project and concentration turn to putting new pipe in the ground.

At last Thursday's Utilities meeting a scaled down project that would replace all the city's water

continued page two

Health district receives some bad financial news, some good

It's a case of good news, bad news for the Morrow County Health District. The district will not receive \$200,000 that had been included in the 2003-04 MCHD budget from the state-administered Pro Share program, due to a state error as to how the state calculated the funds, MCHD CEO Victor Vander Does told the board at their Monday night meeting in Heppner. Through the program, the state administered federal funds and distributed a portion of those funds to hospital districts. The state, however, had used some of the fluids for programs other than health care and the federal government disputed the state's calculations. Vander Does said that he doesn't anticipate receiving any more monies from the program which could have had two or three years of funding remaining.

In better news, Vander Does told the board that a state surtax will increase Medicaid reimbursement for nursing home patients. Pioneer Memorial Nursing Home currently is reimbursed for Medicaid patients at a rate

of \$111 per day. An \$8 per day, per resident surtax that the state will use to leverage federal monies will increase the reimbursement rate for PMNH to \$136 per day. The increase will be effective as of July 1 of this year.

The district is also in the process of renegotiating the interest rate on their bonds from 6.3 to 5 percent, which could save the district \$13,000 per year. The renegotiation could cost the district \$10,000 initially, however.

In other business, the board:

- heard a report from Vander Does on a Critical Access Hospital conference he attended in Washington, D.C., at no cost to the district.

continued page two

News deadline this Friday

The Heppner Gazette-Times will be closed Monday, Sept. 1, for Labor Day. The deadline for the Wednesday, Sept. 3 paper will be Friday, Aug. 29, at 5 p.m.

The office will re-open at its regular time, Tuesday, Sept. 2.

Fair may change 2004 dates, comments wanted

The Morrow County Fair is interested in your opinion. They are considering starting the Fair on Monday next year, instead of Wednesday. The reason is traffic problems that develop over the weekend due to the fair and rodeo both happening at the same time.

During the week of fair, a questionnaire was

available for people to fill out and offer suggestions, however, very few were turned in.

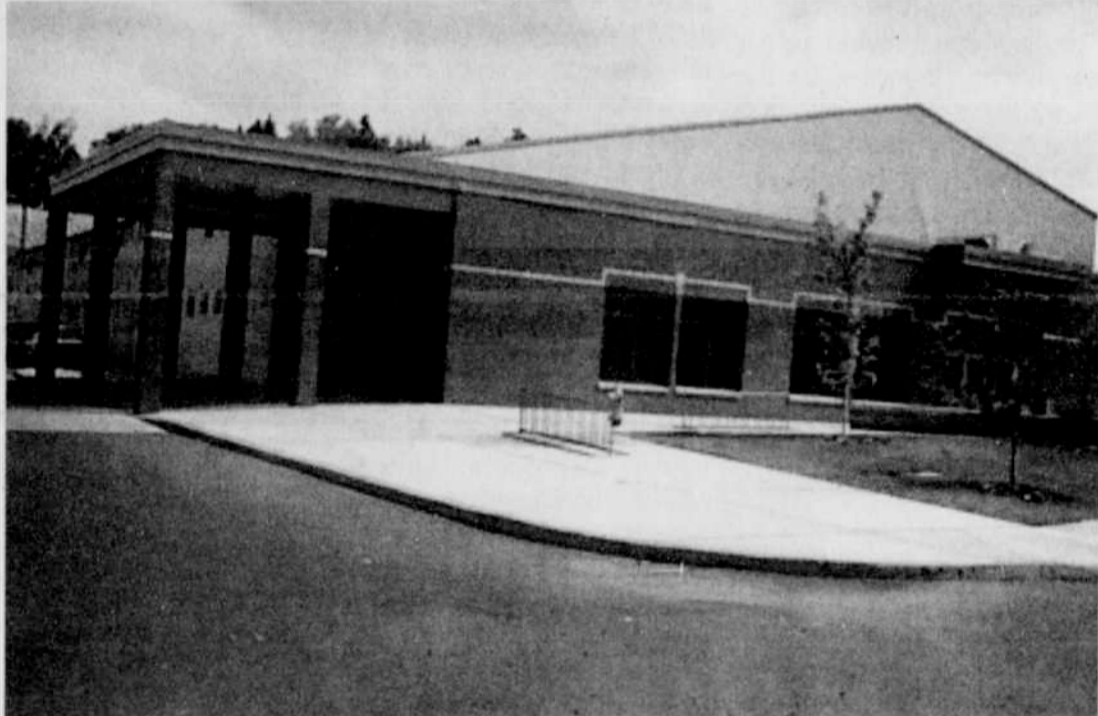
On Sept. 8, 2003, there will be a public meeting at 8:30 p.m., following the Fair Board meeting, if you want to speak your mind, please attend the meeting. There will be people from the Fair, OTRP and 4-H available to talk to.

HEPPNER

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New school buildings await students



New Heppner Elementary School building



New Ione Elementary School building

Two newly built buildings await students in both Ione and Heppner. The two new buildings are open and will be ready for students return on Sept. 2.

The new Ione building will house the elementary students as well as a new

gymnasium. Along with the new building, a new facade has been built for all of Ione schools, labeling the new Elementary edition, as well as the high school gym, the library and the Ione High School. Also included in the new building are office spaces

for the principal and office staff.

The new Heppner building houses, a music room, cafeteria and kitchen, gymnasium and locker rooms. The new Heppner building sits directly across from the currently building which houses the classrooms and offices.

HHS Booster Club to hold Tailgate BBQ

The Heppner High School Booster Club will be holding a Tailgate BBQ, Friday, Aug. 29, to kick off the first football game of the season. The BBQ will be held

from 5:30-7 p.m., at the Fairgrounds.

The Club will be serving hamburgers, hot dogs, chili, brownies and drinks.

Cost is \$5 per person or \$18 per family.

The Heppner Mustangs football game will begin at 7 p.m., against Enterprise.

**ALL NEWS AND ADVERTISEMENT DEADLINE:
Friday 5:00 P.M. This week**



Model BSR-2 (overhead-horizontal mount)

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