

Ione School Board Meeting *continued from page one*

interests of students and their parents," he said.

Others on the Ione board agreed. "We want what is best for your kids," member John Rietmann said. "That is what our goal is. That is what it is all about."

"Ione will uphold the Lexington-Pine City of over 50 years," board member Gregg Rietmann said. (See end of this article for complete letter sent from Joe McElligott to MCSD board member Bill Kuhn concerning out of district students.)

In related business the board approved three requests to change the boundary of the Ione school district. Tom and Marlene Pointer were granted inclusion in the Ione district of 1364 acres on Pettys Canyon Lane. The board granted John and Marinda Flynn of 67117 Condon Highway to include their property in Ione. They also agreed that Cecil and Molly Rill could have their property taken out of Ione and put in the Morrow County School District. The MCSD had earlier also approved these boundary change requests.

The board heard the following report from principal Dick Allen:

1. Current enrollment is 150 students.

2. The high school boiler that has been down since Sept. 1 should be running by Thursday, Oct. 16. The boiler provides heat to the high school, gym, and cafeteria. Apollo of Kennewick is replacing the controller on the burner with a modern electronic unit. They will also be replacing a faulty water level control unit along with putting in a vent system for steam. They are doing the job on a time and material cost basis. The estimated cost of the project is around \$6500. This price does not seem as high now as the colder weather is upon us.

3. The landscaping is about completed. Turf may be down by the time of this meeting.

4. Loyal Burns has completed installing playground equipment. Tom Brandon will fax me information on material to put inside the new playground area that will meet federal and state requirements.

5. The elementary gym floor has been sanded, a seal coat put on, and lines painted. A gym finish will be put on shortly. Expected time of occupancy will be around Nov. 3.

6. The Ione Educational Foundation has

agreed to take all surplus items from the Ione School District. Ione School District will only be using school owned property to store items that we want to keep and use.

7. The lines have been painted for parking and for the blacktop playground area.

8. The "Principal's House" has been rented by a young couple with two preschool children. They will be moving in the week of Oct. 20. They realize that they may be asked to leave in June when the new superintendent/principal is hired. Mr. Murdock and I have discussed and agreed to purchase from Lott's Electric an oven/range and refrigerator for the rental.

9. The Natural Resource class has returned from a very successful four-day field trip to the Mount St. Helens area.

10. The swimming pool has been drained. The water was so bad that it was a safety hazard. We have on our list to pull the circulating pump/motor to be gone over along with getting the chlorinator working properly so the water will remain clear. The use of the pool ended about the second week of September because the boiler being down created water that was too cold to swim in. A question has been raised if it is a good practice to have the pool drained for wintertime. It was kept drained for winter use for about 40 years. Starting in about 1995 we kept water in the pool for winter storage. As I recall it was so that the caulking would not dry out and have to be replaced every couple of years. Others recall that we started keeping water in the pool so that the underground water would not provide upward forces on the bottom of the pool. We have two brand new sump pumps that run year around to pump out underground water. I will look into this but would like to get the pump and chlorinator working if water is needed back in the pool for winter storage.

11. Loyal Burns donated to Ione School District an American Eagle Silver Dollar 2003 that he purchased at an auction that money went to the Ione Educational Foundation. We will plan on using the 2003 dollar for some type of display of honoring the newly formed Ione School District.

12. School continues to be running smoothly with the staff being able to focus more on education and/or their work as the construction comes to an end.

13. I have been talked into having cheerleading at Ione High School. Three students are trying out on Wednesday, Oct. 15. They will cheer at home varsity basketball games only. All costs will be paid by the cheerleading squad. Sharon Rietmann has volunteered to be the advisor.

In other business the board:

-briefly discussed how negotiations would be handled with the certified (teaching) staff in the district. Teacher Duane Neiffer said it was the teachers' wishes not to have negotiations drag on and possibly get them over in several days. The Ione School District teachers have not organized a district union such as the Morrow County Educational Association, however, some of them are paying dues to the statewide teacher's union, the Oregon Educational Association.

-heard a report from acting superintendent George Murdock that superintendent recruitment brochures were being sent out around Oregon and adjoining states, and also posted on the Internet.

-approved a request from Spanish teacher Karen Holland that a group of students be allowed to travel to Mexico in June of 2004. It was estimated there would be 10 in the group and they would all pay their own way through fundraising.

-heard from teacher Dean Robinson that it may be possible to have a school reader message board announcing the school name and activities placed downtown. It may be similar to one in Helix. Robinson also said he would work with the city to see if there could be a long-term agreement on shared use of the city lawn mower for the school grass care. This would save the district from having to buy an expensive riding lawnmower. "The city has been exceptionally easy to deal with," Robinson said.

-announced that the next meeting would be on Nov. 11. There would be a 6 p.m. executive session to discuss contract negotiations before the 7 p.m. regular meeting.

-heard a report from board member Debbie Radie who said \$300 was raised from sale of food at homecoming. It was also reported that people came from as far away as Texas and California to attend the state championship team reunion held on homecoming night.

The following is the text of board member Joe McElligott's letter to MCSD board member Bill Kuhn concerning the Lexington-Pine City student exchange:

Enclosed please find the Ione School District transfer policy, which was recently adopted by our Board. As you read through this policy, I think it will become readily apparent that there are actually two policies under a single heading-the policy, which impacts students in the Lexington-Pine City area and those who live elsewhere outside of the Ione District.

There are very good reasons why the Lexington-Pine City students find a special place in this policy. As I am sure you are aware, there has been a historic, good faith agreement that permits Lexington-Pine City students to make a choice between Heppner and Ione based upon their individual interests and needs. To the best of my knowledge, this is an agreement that goes back several generations.

Throughout the life of this agreement, students have chosen to go both directions in search of an education. Even within some households, some children have chosen Heppner and others have chosen Ione depending upon a variety of factors. There are still families in the Lexington-Pine City area whose children attend both Heppner and Ione.

When the Morrow County School Board first decided to recognize the integrity of this promise to the parents and children who live in the Lexington-Pine City area, the decision was applauded because it reflects policy that is developed to meet the best interests of individual students. The Ione Board remains optimistic that the MCSD will continue to honor this agreement.

I am aware that you, personally, have long been an advocate of exploring every possible avenue of instruction in order to help assure that students in South Morrow County have access to quality opportunities. I am told that this would include sharing staff, on-line learning, and other options, which expand the capacity of small high schools. I would anticipate that providing students with an opportunity to make educational choices would be a part of that commitment.

The creation of the Ione School District has created some friction or tension between Ione and Heppner. However, what is done is done and it is time to move on. We need to focus everything we do on the best interests of the children who attend our schools. We believe that honoring the long-time promise to the people of Lexington and Pine City is an important part of that mission.

The schools in Heppner and those in Ione have much in common and much to be gained from cooperation and collaboration. By working together in a positive way we can offer a better education for the

students who live in both areas.

Our Board is deeply committed to the idea of keeping the Lexington-Pine City students in Ione with or without state funding because we believe that the parents and the children involved feel that this is what they have been promised.

We are concerned that continuing to revisit this age-old agreement will only serve to foster ill feelings and prevent us from developing the kind of positive working relationship that both districts could benefit from.

Sincerely,
Joe McElligott

Another Message from the Pain Management Community

By Molly Rhea,
Dir. of Pioneer Memorial Home Health and Hospice

A couple of weeks ago I submitted a general article about the importance of addressing pain in medical care. This week, the abuse of narcotics seems to be the big news. This article is somewhat of a response to these events.

News stories about Rush Limbaugh's abuse of prescription opioids, namely Oxycontin, are focusing on the illegal and dangerous use of these medications. These news stories perpetuate long-standing myths and misconceptions about pain management and pain medications, and they have the potential to discourage people with pain from receiving effective treatment.

The current coverage is failing to describe the real news about these drugs- that prescription opioids can provide precious relief for people suffering with serious pain. Taking legal, FDA-approved, opioid medications as prescribed, is safe and effective, and only in rare cases leads to addiction. When properly used, pain medications rarely give a "high"- they give relief. And, most importantly, they allow many people to resume their normal lives.

The management of pain is finally just beginning to achieve the attention it deserves in healthcare. Every year there are over 75 million Americans- men, women, and children- living with chronic pain. Although pain can often be managed, most people affected by pain are untreated or under-treated. Why? One reason is an unfounded fear that opioid medications taken for pain are dangerous or addictive.

The diversion and abuse of prescription opioids is a serious national problem. Doctors and pharmacists need to be diligent in taking security measures against unlawful diversion of narcotics. Regulators and law enforcement must be uncompromising in their battle to combat the illegal diversion of opioids into street traffic, but this regulation should be done in a balanced way, that doesn't discourage the safe and legal use of opioid medications for pain care.

The media must balance news about opioids with information about their value to people with severe chronic pain. Most of all, we must be careful not to turn the "War on Drugs" into a "War on Patients."

MCSD to sponsor Coat and Toy Drive

The Morrow County Sheriff's Office is sponsoring its first annual Coat and Christmas Toy Drive. The drive is being held for all Morrow County communities.

This event is to help families who are experiencing financial difficulty and cannot afford to provide their children with a Christmas gift or warm coat during the cold winter months. Applications are being sent home with all Morrow County students in hopes of reaching families in need.

Also, anyone wishing to contribute a new toy, or a new or gently used coat, may do so by either sending it to the Morrow County Sheriff's Office, or by dropping it off at

a local drop-off site by Nov. 21. All contributions will go towards Christmas toys or to buy clothing or coats for children in Morrow County. Money donations can be hand delivered or mailed to Morrow County Sheriff's Office, 325 Willowview Dr., Heppner, OR 97836.

Drop-off locations are: Morrow County Sheriff's Office, Heppner; Ione United Church of Christ, Ione; Justice Court Annex, Irrigon; and Boardman Police Department, Boardman.

For more information you can contact the Morrow County Sheriff's Office at 676-5317.

Cardinal Booster Club news

The Cardinal Booster Club met Monday, Oct. 6 at the Ione School Library. Sixteen members were present. The club expects to hear from the IRS regarding the tax-exempt status. Lynn Dee Ramos will begin working on grant applications.

Athletic Director Dean Robinson is getting bids for building the track area fence. Mr. Schaber's class is constructing the new cement area outside the East entrance to the school. Morrow County Grain Growers donated paint for the bleachers and crow's nest. Community members gathered Oct. 10 to help

prepare the football field and put together the new bleachers.

The club approved the purchase of an anti-drug banner for the elementary school at a cost of \$37.50 plus postage.

There will be a JV tournament along with the varsity tournament during the Basketball Bonanza weekend of Dec. 5 and 6.

It was announced that the third and fourth grad classes are going to be selling window decals for \$5 each or three for \$12 as a fundraiser for a trip to OMSI.

The next meeting of Cardinal Booster Club will be Monday, Nov. 3 at 7 p.m., at the school library.

Trunk or Treat at HHS game

"Trunk or Treat" will be featured during half-time at the Heppner High School football game versus Stanfield on Friday, Oct. 31. Game time is 7 p.m.

Everyone is asked to bring candy and kids are invited to go from car to car trunk or treating.

PHOTOGRAPHIC CONTEST

C.B.E.C. wishes to conduct a photographic contest to solicit photographs depicting scenes containing "electrical significance" from within our service territory. The "electrical significance" can be either natural or man-made, infrastructure or subtle, indoor or out.



1. Entries will be received the week of November 10-14, closing on Friday, Nov. 14 at 5 p.m. at both the Heppner and Condon offices.
2. Entries must be photographs, either standard or digital, color or black and white, with some indication or reference to electricity or electrical infrastructure. This required element may be very minor, however.
3. A panel appointed by C.B.E.C. will perform independent judging of entries. Judges decisions will be final.
4. Entry classes will consist of: Entries of people / animals or Entries of landscapes / general interest. The same photo may be entered in both classes if desired, but a copy for each class will be required. Each entry must be titled.
5. There shall be first, second and third place awards for each class, with prizes granted being \$50 for each first place, \$35 for each second place, and \$15 for each third place award.
6. Entrants agree to allow Columbia Basin Electric Co-Op to enlarge, frame, and permanently display winning entries at C.B.E.C.'s discretion, with no compensation or value paid. Appropriate recognition will be noted of the entrant.
7. No single entrant may submit more than four (4) entries in any one class.
8. All entrants must be members / consumers of Columbia Basin Electric Cooperative, Inc.

Attention - Diabetic Customers:

Murray's is now accepting Medicare assignment on diabetic test strips. Please ask for details.

We appreciate your business and look forward to serving you in the future. Thank you.

Murray's Drug INC.

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