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MCSB discusses ESL teaching methods

The Morrow County School Board debated the merits of "immersion" versus "transition" methods of teaching English-as-a-second-language students at the board's regular meeting Monday night at Heppner Elementary School.

Board member Ken Matlack said that he had contacted several educators in other states who promoted the immersion program, which immerses the student in English, concentrating on intensive English instruction before teaching subject content.

District superintendent Dr. Jack Crippen favored the transition method, which he believes is the method taught in Morrow County schools and, he says, has been successfully employed at A.C. Houghton Elementary School in Irrigon. The transition method employs bilingual teachers and aides to assist monolingual Spanish-speaking students. Matlack countered that he did not believe the transition method was as successful as it should be. However, the difference between the two methods was not immediately apparent and the board directed Matlack to research the immersion program further.

Dr. Crippen told the board that they currently didn't have enough

bi-lingual people to implement either program.

The board also discussed new language concerning the district's athletic policies. The district's policy, attempting to discourage athletic contests Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays, would require principals to sign off if they permitted games on those days. Board member Julie Weikel said that the proposed policy would be impossible to uphold and suggested changes that the district could live with, while still discouraging games on those days. A committee agreed to fine-tune the policies via a V-tel meeting set for Wednesday, Nov. 19 at 8 a.m.

In other business, the board:

-discussed proposed facility changes and costs to turn Columbia Middle School into Irrigon Junior/Senior High School. Proposed changes suggested by building principals include: outfitting a shop building appropriately for senior high school students; remodeling a resource room, remodeling the library, remodeling the commons/office area; upgrading the gym fire exit and installing security cameras. Athletic and extra-curricular changes include improvements such as: football field lights-at a possible cost of \$45,000, bleachers, goal posts, score clock, and a restroom/concessions field house estimated at \$228,000; soccer goals, gym bleachers and a score clock-\$7,000; wrestling mat-\$9,000; baseball and softball backstops and field prep; an all weather track-\$250,000; upgrading locker rooms, a weight room and equipment, security fencing and grades seven through 12 uniforms for all sports-football, volleyball, soccer, basketball, wrestling,

track, baseball and softball-\$172,805.

Facilities adjustments for Riverside High School grades seven through 12 included bleacher/restroom concessions facility-\$228,000, a four-pole, three net volleyball set up for Windy River Elementary-\$2,225; storage shed-\$1,000; locker room upgrade-\$10,000; seventh and eighth grade science equipment, seventh and eighth grade library books and security cameras.

Many of the projects may be appropriate for bond monies, said Dr. Crippen. He said around \$800,000 in bond funds still remains.

-received a report from Dr. Crippen outlining player numbers, coaching staff required and costs for current junior high and high schools and estimated data for three junior/senior high schools, Heppner, Riverside and Irrigon, for the 2005/06 school year. Costs are estimated to increase from \$400,247 for 2003-04 to \$494,105-\$498,105 for 2005-06, if all current athletic teams remain. Coaching positions are estimated to increase from 84 to 95. Crippen said that athletic participation might increase when Riverside High School is divided into two schools and each school will likely be classified as 2A, rather than 3A for athletic competition. Heppner already competes at the 2A level.

Currently HHS offers football, volleyball, cheerleading, boys' and girls' basketball, boys' and girls' track, softball, baseball and

golf. RHS currently offers football, volleyball, soccer, cheerleading, boys' and girls' basketball, wrestling, boys' and girls' track, baseball, softball, golf and tennis. Yearly participation at HHS is currently averaging 211 students; yearly average participation at RHS is currently 398. Estimates for 2005-06 are: 209 participants at HHS, 206 at RHS and 194 at Irrigon High School.

Currently Heppner Junior High offers football, volleyball, cheerleading, boys' and girls' basketball and boys' and girls' track with an estimated 126 participants; Columbia Middle School currently offers football, volleyball, boys' and girls' basketball, wrestling and boys' and girls' track with an estimated 221 participants. For 2005-06, HJH would have the same programs with approximately the same number of participants; Riverside Junior High would offer the same programs as CMS with an estimated 98 participants and Irrigon Junior High would also offer the same programs as CMS with an estimated 126 participants.

-requested a meeting with the Morrow County Unified Recreation District to begin talk about extracurricular funding. MCURD gave the district \$318,000 this year to fund extra curricular programs.

-heard from Morrow County Assessor Greg Sweek who explained that Coyote

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HCMF to host community-wide Thanksgiving dinner

It is that time of year again, when we long to hear the "Gobble, Gobble" song sang at the Community Thanksgiving Dinner. Heppner Christian Missionary Fellowship is hosting the dinner, joining with the Episcopal Church who has graciously donated their facilities to hold the gathering.

The dinner will be held on Thursday, Nov. 27 at 1 p.m. Everyone is invited to

come and hear the "Gobble, Gobble" song and enjoy good food and have a great time of fellowship.

Last year, Bank of Eastern Oregon donated five turkeys and this year they have donated six turkeys. Central Red Apple Market also donated a turkey last year. The community support for the dinner is greatly appreciated.

For more information contact John or Kathy Marick at 676-5951.

Ione celebrates Veterans' Day



Adam Collin, of Ione, displays flag created by first through fourth graders at Ione Elementary School to show their support for the veterans.

Around 40 people gathered on Tuesday, Nov. 11, Veterans' Day, at the Ione Legion Hall to show their appreciation to the local veterans.

As part of the program, the Legion Post 95 Color Guard displayed the flags, guest speaker Bob Spanger, of Pendleton shared of his time in World War II and patriotic songs were sung.

Mustangs advance to quarterfinals

The Heppner Mustangs took a 47-2 win over the Vernonia Loggers on Nov. 8 in the OSAA/US Bank/Les Schwab Tires Class

2A football playoffs. This win advances them to the quarterfinals, which will be held in Heppner on Saturday, Nov. 15, at 1 p.m. The Mustangs will be going against the Myrtle Point Bobcats.

HEPPNER

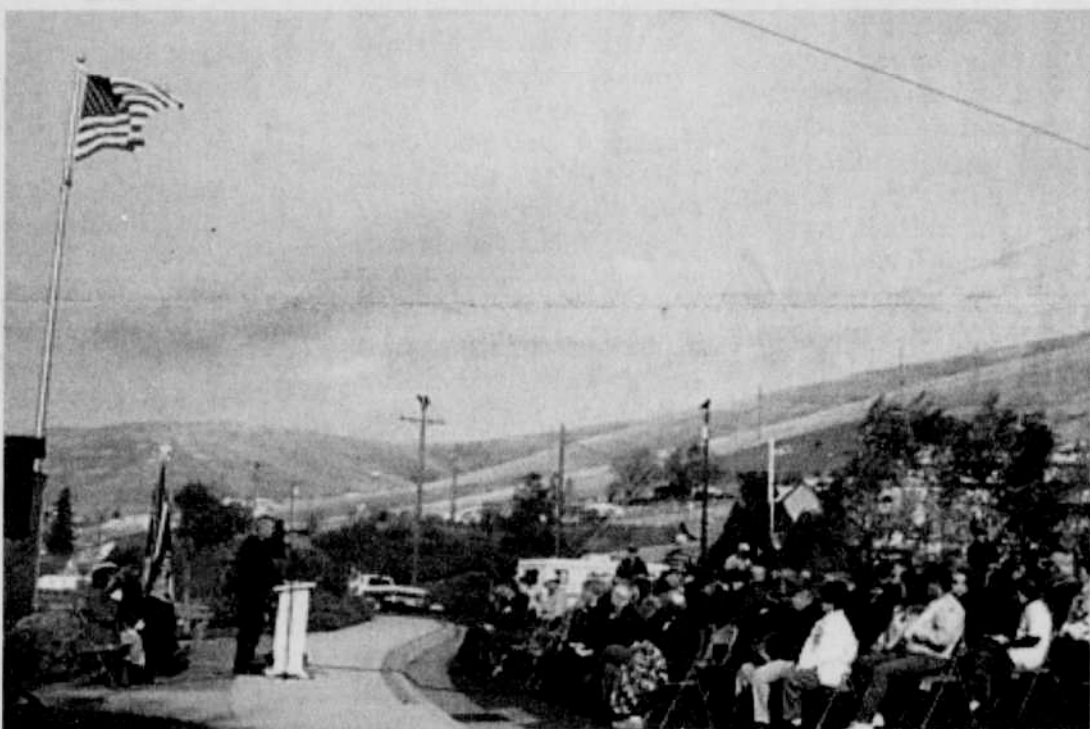
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Heppner celebrates Veterans' Day



Heppner Mayor Bob Jepsen addresses crowd of 80 at the Memorial Park. Also included in the program was Mothers speaking for their sons. The mothers were Wendy Appleton, Linda Schultz and Donna Schonbachler. Samarra Van Dorn sang God Bless America and Luke Murray played taps. Jerry Breazeale read the names of the Heppner war dead, Pastor Keith Brudevold talked about our responsibility to veterans. Judy Rickert read the story of the origin of the song taps. The ceremony ended with a fly over by a Chinook helicopter from Pendleton and then a reception was held at John's Other Place.

City of Heppner moves ahead with \$3 million water project

The City of Heppner voted Monday to move ahead with the city water system renovation project at a cost of \$3 million. The project is a pared down version of a water renovation project originally adopted earlier this year.

The city raised water rates this summer to pay for the new system, however, council members feared the rate increase would not cover the cost of a \$6 million project so they cut the project in half.

High priority work (mainly water line replacement) is scheduled to be done on the following streets: Gale, May, Aiken, Water, Center, Willow, Cannon, Hill, Jones, Shobe, Union, A, and Baltimore.

Medium priority streets to have water line replacement are: Thompson, Gilmore to Reservoir 5, Cowins, Hager, Court, Chase, Linden Way (650 feet south

of Jenkins to Main), Riverside, Sperry, Morgan, Elder, Minor, South of Shobe, and Church.

Low priority streets are Rock, Pioneer and Linden Way Alley. If funding becomes a problem or bids for the project come in too high the low priority streets would be cut off.

Council member Tom Wolff has been adamant for many months that the city is only able to afford a \$3 million water project, and Monday he reiterated that stand. Wolff presented the \$3 million plan to the council. "I believe this is an affordable and do-able project. If costs go up we start cutting streets," Wolff said.

The city raised water rates in July to cover the cost of the new water system. Since the increase the city has collected \$51,360 more than over the same period last year. At that time, city officials were unsure if Heppner residents

would cut back so far on water use that projected incomes to pay for the new system could not be met. Actual water collections are about \$2,848 less than had been projected by city officials.

Now that the city water project has been approved, bids on the project are expected to be taken next fall, with construction to begin next winter. Engineers explained that better bid rates are received for projects in wintertime when many contractors may not be as busy.

In other water related business, the city manager said city water had been receiving higher than allowed coliform readings. Treatment was added to the system and the problem has been traced to leaky lines that run through

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