

St. Patrick's Senior Center news

Joe Burlison, by election at the annual meeting, is a new, two-year member at large for the St. Patrick's Senior Center Board of Directors. Archie Padberg and Grace Drake were re-elected for two-year terms. Felix (Pete) Swarzin, Judy Buschke, Tom Wilson and Florene Robinson were re-elected to the offices of president, secretary, vice president and treasurer, respectively. Carol Mitchell is ex-officio member of the Board. Mary Goheen was presented with a certificate of appreciation for her time of service to the former meal site and to the St. Patrick's Board.

Action was taken to revamp and reenergize what has been known as "The Trust Fund." By official action of the board, any funds, memorials and other monies received with "trust" designation will be deposited in the St. Patrick's Senior Center Endowment Fund. Only interest and other income from these funds are available for deposit in the

Elks announce scholarship winners

The Heppner Elks Lodge is pleased to announce the winners in their annual "Most Valuable Student" scholarship competition. The local Lodge awards \$700, \$300, and \$250 cash scholarships to the first three places, respectfully, in both a young men's and young women's divisions.

First place winner in the young men's division was Paul Neiffer of Ione. Paul is the son of Duane and Linda Neiffer. Second place went to Luke Murray of Heppner. Luke is the son of John and Ann Murray. Third place was William "Billy" Gates of Ione. William is the son of Tom and Arlinda Gates. Natalie McElligott of Ione took first place in the young women's division. Natalie is the daughter of Joe and Jeri McElligott. Brooke Rust of Heppner placed second. Brooke is the daughter of Tim and Shannon Rust. Blake Allstott of Heppner was third. Blake is the daughter of David and Patti Allstott.

The above listed winners will be formally presented with their awards at their high school graduation ceremonies. The top winner from each division will advance to district competition, and possibly state, regional and national competitions.

Missing from this year's competition were the personal interviews that have traditionally been conducted by the scholarship committee. All Elks Lodges in Oregon used

general fund. Members are reminded that memorials, honorariums and similar gifts are welcomed and encouraged. An oversight committee for this fund is in the process of being set up. St. Patrick's Board will have representation; other members will be from the community at large.

Shelia Piper, head cook, is creating a cookbook of recipes from senior citizens and others in the community; among them will be recipes she uses in preparation of the Center's weekly meals. Feb. 2 is the deadline in order for the book to be ready for sale during St. Patrick's weekend. The funds from the sale of the book are for the Senior Center.

On Feb. 4, the Christian Life Center volunteers are hosts for the noon meal. The menu is beans 'n ham, green beans, Jell-o salad, fruit, corn muffins, coconut pudding and milk.

The interview to assist in determining the overall potential and well roundness of candidates. The interview has never been a part of the national Elks protocol, and was officially disallowed this year. "We missed the personal interviews," said a local scholarship panel member, "they really helped us to get an overall perspective on a applicant." It was decreed that any local winner who participated in an oral interview would be ineligible for advanced regional or national awards.

The local Lodge appreciates the scholarship panel members who volunteered their time to evaluate each application.

An Elks "Technical Training" scholarship program is currently soliciting entries. Interested students should contact their high school counselors for more information.

Morrow SWCD to hold meeting

The Morrow SWCD/Weed Advisory Board will hold their regular meeting on Feb. 3 at 10 a.m., at the Port of Morrow in Boardman.

The meeting agenda items and discussion items include: Manager report and agency reports. There is prospect of an executive session according to ORS 192.640(2).

The meeting is open to the public.

Christian Church to hold Sweethearts Dinner

The Preteen/Youth Ministry of Heppner Christian Church is sponsoring a Sweethearts Dinner and Show on Saturday, Feb. 14 at 6 p.m., in the fellowship hall of Heppner Christian Church.

The variety show will include musical performances, comedy, poetry reading and much more. The cost will be \$25 per couple and prepaid reservations must be made. To make your reservations, contact 676-9209 or 676-8161 before Feb. 6.

Sykes named WCVEDG president

David Sykes, publisher of the Heppner Gazette-Times newspaper and real estate agent for Heritage Land Company in Heppner was elected president of the Willow Creek Economic Development Group at its annual meeting Jan. 21. Sykes will replace Jerry Breazeale, Heppner City manager, who served in 2003.



David Sykes

WCVEDG's goal is to recruit businesses into Heppner, Lexington and Ione and to provide more jobs for local people.

Before stepping down Breazeale outlined some of the accomplishments of WCVEDG over the past year including: formation of a business incubator to help new businesses that would like to locate here; putting together plans and possible financing for a 5,000 square foot building that could be built to house a new business; continued mass mailings and other marketing efforts to locate interested businesses, and putting on of an entrepreneur work shop for local people.

Sykes said he would like to continue on with marketing and other efforts. "We are still working to bring business into the area. We have our eye on the ball and we are not giving up," he told the gathered lunch crowd.

Other officers elected at the annual meeting were Vice President Nancy Snider and Secretary Marcia Kemp.

Gary Neal, General Manager of the Port of Morrow was the featured speaker and spoke on current and potential projects at the Port. He also told of marketing efforts by the Port for the South Morrow Industrial Park near Heppner, which is owned by the Port of Morrow.

Births

Teagan Victoria Birt - a daughter, Teagan Victoria, was born Jan. 7, 2004, at Good Shepherd Medical Center in Hermiston to Myrene K. and Claude N. Birt of Boardman.

School board meeting

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program, but had instead offered to make recommendations on what programs they would fund, if it would help the school district get out of a difficult political situation.

Estes also told the G-T that Renfro had based his comments about disproportionate funding among the schools on last year's financial figures and stressed that a 2004-05 MCURD budget has not yet been established. She said that MCURD wants to fund comparable athletic programs in all schools in Morrow County, including Ione. She said that the \$94,000 that MCURD allotted ISD last year was the same amount MCS D had budgeted for the Ione Schools prior to their secession from MCS D. She added that if Ione's athletic budget were restricted to seven percent (Ione has approximately seven percent of the county's students) of the MCURD budget, it probably could not afford to have an athletic program. "Ione also deserves to have an athletic program," she said.

Also at the meeting, a Riverside parent raised the issue of Heppner schools getting more per student than the more populous schools in the north.

Estes told the Gazette that in the past MCURD has traditionally funded soccer and wrestling in north county schools in addition to other sports.

In other business, the board:

-heard a presentation on technology from Nate Arbogast, who currently oversees technology for the district. The board sought input as to whether they should continue with Arbogast or manage their technology program through ESD. Arbogast said that it depends on the direction the district wants to take. Acting superintendent George Murdock, Umatilla-Morrow ESD, implied that without Arbogast's expertise, the district might be more likely to opt for ESD management.

-heard from Murdock that around eight candidates have responded to the search for an interim superintendent. The board decided to review the information received to narrow the candidates in order to make a selection.

-voted to select a panel of Irrigon residents, including a high school student, a Booster Club member, a senior citizen, a retired educator, a minister, the PTA president and two school board members, to select the colors and mascot of the new Irrigon High School. Students had expressed a desire to select the colors and mascot themselves and Weikel stated that the board had promised to allow the students to make those selections themselves. "I'm tired of breaking our word," she said.

-approved a cooperative sponsorship for baseball between Riverside High School and Arlington High School for 2003-04.

-approved personnel changes for: Joe Chavez, from full-time RHS ESL teacher to half-time assistant principal assigned to ESL and half-time ESL teacher.

-accepted the 2002-03 audit as prepared by Oster Professional Group, which said the district had a clean audit.

-set the next regular meeting for Feb. 9 at Heppner High School.

Health District

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operated a nursing home. Under the swing bed program, beds could "swing", that is, be used for either hospital patients or long-term care patients.

Vander Does reported that Willow Valley Assisted Living facility has filled 15 of 16 spots. He said that the fees for the facility have changed depending on the level of care the residents require, since the facility is accommodating some residents requiring a greater level of care with the closure of the nursing home. The district, which manages the facility for the Willow Valley Assisted Living Board, is still seeking a full-time administrator for the center.

Sharon Barrick and Degaberto Hernandez, both Boardman, appeared before the board to solicit the board's support for a proposed migrant health care center in Boardman. According to Glenn, Dr. Robert Boss, a private Boardman physician, has indicated that he would offer his clinic for sale to the proposed program and also accept employment from the program. Dr. Boss is currently under contract with the MCHD to provide medical care for the Boardman community. Glenn told the board that Dr. Boss brought a grant writer before the Boardman City Council, asking for a letter of support and funds from the city. Glenn said that the Boardman mayor wrote a letter of support for Dr. Boss, but no funds. Glenn also said that Dr. Boss was prepared to front \$30,000 to pay for costs incurred to assemble the grant.

The federal program requires broad-based community support, requires those providing services to be employed with the program, rather than contracting out services, and adheres to a strict application process. While the MCHD Board indicates its support of the program, and voted to draft a letter to that effect, board members say they believe that the district's involvement, and consequently direct benefits from the program, will be limited. Board members stress that the program is expected to fill a great need to provide health care for an underserved population. Vander Does has met with the Morrow County Health Department (public health department), the agency taking the lead in coordinating the application process, as well as numerous other agencies. Once established, the clinic would offer care to the general populace, not just migrant families. Estimates indicate that around 51 percent of the Boardman community and around 20 percent of the Irrigon community are Latino, however the definition of "migrant" may have a very limited scope within the terms of the grant.

In other business, the board:

-voted to authorize the sale of the district-owned Boardman Clinic, vacant for some time, to Pam and Scott Neal of Boardman for \$150,000. Mahoney said that the Neals plan to turn the building into a video store.

-heard from Vander Does that the district is still searching for a nurse practitioner.

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