

city land swap *continued from page 1*

option." Several members of the fire department were at the meeting and spoke in favor of the proposal.

City Manger Jerry Breazeale said it appears the city could purchase the bank building without any new money and would not require a bond issue. There has been enough money set aside through the budget for city hall improvements that is in the reserve account to make the loan payments. The Bank of Eastern Oregon is offering to loan the money to the city at an interest rate of 4.9 percent. There is also a tenant in the Klamath First building that would generate income to the city through rentals.

Council member Tom Wolff said he has heard negative comments about the project but "I don't know of a better combination of events to happen at the same time. Council member Judy Buschke said most of the comments she has heard from

the public have been positive, however, there are still questions from the public about taking the bank property off the tax rolls.

In other city business the council heard a report from Breazeale that a proposal to include property west of the city limits in the urban growth boundary had met with mixed feelings from landowners. He said some landowners want to be included in the UGB, but others did not because of fears their taxes would increase. "Many people feel this is the first step towards annexing their property into the city," Breazeale said he explained to property owners that the council had no desire to annex the property included in the UGB unless the owners wanted to put city sewer and water on their property, and at that time the property would have to be annexed into the city. He pointed out that these properties are already getting police service.

Ione School District hires first superintendent

The Ione School District Board, at their regular meeting Feb. 17, unanimously hired 28-year-old Bryn Browning as the first superintendent/principal of the fledgling 150-student school district.

Browning, who has been working as an administrative intern of the 22,000-student Vancouver, WA School District, is the daughter of acting ISD superintendent George Murdock, superintendent of the Umatilla-Morrow ESD. For the past six years Browning has worked as an intern, teacher and reading specialist at the Hazel Dell Elementary School in Vancouver. (See adjoining story.)

Also at the Wednesday night meeting, the board approved two-year contract extensions for the 2005-06 and 2006-07 school years for all the district's teachers: Barbara Collin, Dale Holland II, Duane Neiffer, Jim Raible, Ryan Rudolf, Thomas Shear, Lindsay Orem, Karen Holland, Linda Neiffer, Dean Robinson and Steve Schaber.

In other business the board:

-appointed Lisa Rietmann, Bink Ramos, Joel Peterson, Howard Mullins and Linda LaRue to the ISD Budget Committee.

-approved a contract with Umatilla-Morrow ESD, which agreed to provide the same level of services for the coming year as in the past.

-approved selling non-nutritious food items, such as juice and fruit roll-ups, to the students. Principal Dick Allen told the board that the items are offered to the students after lunch. The board also heard that the students are enjoying lunch more and are getting more to eat than previously.

-learned that the Ione Schools counselor has taken a position at Windy River Elementary School in Boardman. However, Allen said that the position might be soon filled with an Ione resident.

-heard a report from Allen concerning the district's

Ione superintendent *continued from page 1*

in March of 1998.

In Vancouver, she has been integrally involved with school improvement planning and evaluation, curriculum design and implementation, K-12 literacy integration and training, along with community and parent involvement programs. Most recently, she served as chair of the Hazel Dell Elementary School Building core team which oversaw the construction of a new \$7.5 million elementary school. The school opened in the Fall of 2003.

As part of her duties at Hazel Dell she has been active in a variety of events, which are designed to create a partnership between the parents, the community and the school.

Browning, a native of Walla Walla, WA, is a 1993 graduate of Walla Walla High School. At Walla Walla, she participated in volleyball, basketball, and softball. She was secretary and vice-president of the Walla Walla FFA Chapter and competed at both the state and national level in the Marketing and Sales and Service competitions. She is a recipient of the State Farmer Degree.

Prior to leaving Eastern Washington University and entering the teaching profession, she was employed by K & F Harvesting as a pea combine driver. She also drove wheat combine for both Joe Frazier Farms and Bill Frazier Farms as well as driving a grass seed combine for Sandpiper Farms.

Browning is married to Josh Browning, a graduate of Kennewick High School, Eastern Washington University, and a teacher and coach at Alki Middle School in Vancouver. She has two children, Leslie, age three, and Morgan, nine months.

The new

superintendent and her family plan to move to Ione as soon as possible after finishing their duties in Vancouver.

In talking about her new assignment, Browning said, "This is incredible. After the interview process, it become perfectly clear that the Ione School District is a community endeavor to which everyone is committed. It is a wonderful professional opportunity for me and a tremendous place to raise a family.

"The interview process was designed to provide a firsthand look at the community, the classrooms, the relationship between the schools and the community, and the vision of the Board. In short, it was just an exciting process and our family is thrilled to be making this move.

"I was impressed with the faculty and the commitment they have made to creating this district. I was also impressed with how much they care about making Ione a special experience for their students.

"In putting together a new entity, the Board has had the courage to depart from the norm in terms of creating a new model for how Oregon's small, rural districts should operate in the future. In fact, I believe the Board itself has a firm belief that many other Oregon districts will want to emulate what Ione is doing.

"I met a lot of people who came to the interview process and was surprised to learn that while there were certainly parents there, there were also lots of community members who just care about what happens in the schools. This kind of commitment is critical to the future of public education.

"I am grateful to the Board for their confidence. I intend to prove that their investment was very worthwhile."

IUCC to hold 30-hour famine

Eleven teens at Ione United Church of Christ are looking forward to missing meals this Saturday and Sunday, Feb. 28 and 29. They will be participating in World Vision's 30-Hour Famine, a program to raise awareness of world hunger in young people while raising money to help others in poverty-stricken areas of the world.

The teens, who will go without food for 30 hours, are seeking pledges and donations from family, friends, and church members for the time that they fast. The money raised is sent to World Vision, a Christian relief organization that has been helping in communities afflicted by poverty, drought, famine, and disaster for 50 years. They provide clean water, food, medical care, and education to children and families that would otherwise do without.

The group will also provide service to the local community during their fast. They will go door to door in

Ione collecting canned food for the Heppner Neighborhood Center on Saturday, beginning at 2 p.m. Other activities during the Famine will include bowling, Bible study, worship, games and an overnight at the church. The teens will break their fast with communion, followed by a meal, Sunday afternoon.

Participants in the Famine include Tiana Camarillo, Kara Clay, Shannon Clay, Beka DesBouillons, Britnee DesBouillons, Tori Heagy, Stormy Kendrick, Brenna Rietmann, Ashley Sjurset, Lynzee Sjurset and Missy Baker. To help the group with their efforts, contact any participant or their manager, Terri Clay.

Farm Foundation meeting rescheduled

The Farm Foundation annual meeting has been rescheduled for Tuesday, March 2, at 7:30 p.m., at the Museum.

Blakes Ranch *mail continued from page 1*

exposed gravel and are down to a dirt surface.

5. I found numerous instances where the road was in need of repair or maintenance, to include many potholes and ruts. This condition was found along the length of the road from the beginning to the end.
6. There are a number of cattle guards on the road. It is unclear to me why the road requires a number of cattle guards. This leads to additional questions and concerns.
7. The road has a number of sharp, blind corners along a very narrow roadbed (single lane). A car traveling from the opposite direction at a moderate or fast rate of speed could easily lose control of their vehicle with very serious consequences.
8. It is still not clear to me what the condition of the road is during the wintertime. I have been informed that during ice and snowy conditions that it is frequently not possible to drive this route.

"At this time, I cannot approve an extension beyond the highway intersection with the turn-off road. I will allow a cluster point for a number of boxes to be established at this location."

In response to the post office findings, Morrow County Public Works Director Burke O'Brien wrote the following to local postmaster Sally Larsen: "I recently read a letter refusing mail delivery to the Blake Ranch addition. It seems the substance of the letter referred to the Blake Ranch road as unimproved. I beg to differ with this opinion. The Blake Ranch road is an 'improved graveled county road. It is maintained on a routine basis to a level that allows school bus operations. The inference that this road needs to be a paved road seems to be the one area that I cannot argue. There currently are no plans to pave this road. I also would question if the Postal Service does not deliver mail on other roads in Morrow County, which are only gravel. If that is the case why does this road need to be paved?"

Richard Ramso, who has lived at Blakes for eight years, said that both UPS and Fed EX as well as school buses deliver to the entrance to Blakes Ranch and he can't

understand why the post office will not. "It seems that Mr. Ellis does not want to change his original ruling, and since we have proved him wrong about the condition of the Blakes Ranch Road, he is trying to find other excuses to deny us mail service," Ramso wrote in a letter to US Senator Ron Wyden.

Both Wyden and Smith wrote letters to Keck asking that the Post Office extend service to Blakes Ranch. A representative from Wyden's office also visited the road to inspect its condition.

Keck told Ramso other reasons for not extending service to the entrance to Blakes. "It is important for the Postal Service to see and understand not only what customers want at the moment in the way of mail service, but also what future potential issues we may have to face when we extend deliveries. Customers may demand a level of service that would be inappropriate for a carrier to provide. Two situations that would require our employees to drive on the side roads in the subdivision would be if mail is too large for the mail receptacle or if a customer has accountable mail that requires a signature, thus requiring door delivery if the home is within one-half mile of the mail box. The private roads on the ranch leading to homes not sufficiently maintained."

Ramso said 23 full time residents and 50 part time live at Blakes Ranch and they must travel to Heppner where they rent boxes that cost anywhere from \$36 to \$60 a year. Ramso also said that, "It is my understanding that the person the Postal Service has hired to do their rural mail delivery refuses to make the four-mile trip from Willow Creek Road to Blake Ranch. "Rural carriers do not make decisions about where mailboxes are to be placed or their lines of travel," Ellis wrote in a letter to Ramos. "That is the function of postal management."

"You are not required to pay for mail service as long as you have available an alternative form of mail delivery," Ellis added. "You have the right to place a mail box on the line of travel of the carrier, which is at the Blakes Ranch Junction. Should you decide to elect to have this form of mail delivery, you will need to contact the Postmaster in Heppner."

Prescription Printouts Available On Request For Tax Purposes.

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POOL CALCUTTA BENEFIT for RON SCHWARTZ
Saturday, February 28th at GD's Restaurant in Heppner Starting with an Auction at 4 p.m. at GD's (The Calcutta will begin after the Auction)
Sign up for the Calcutta at GD's Restaurant
For more information call Pat at 676-9048
Proceeds to go towards medical and travel expenses

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