

Ione schol board *continued from page one*

district for these services. Districts must provide transportation to students attending charter schools within their boundaries in the same manner they currently provide transportation to students attending private school within their boundaries. Students must use current bus stops and routes. School districts are not required to alter or add bus routes to provide these transportation services. Charter student transportation costs will be reimbursed by the state at the same rate as are other transportation costs.

Funding: Charter schools are funded out of the State School Fund. Charter students are considered residents of the school district in which the public charter school is located for purposes of distributing the State School Fund. If the school district is the sponsor, it must contract with the charter to pay for educational services. The payment must equal an amount per weighted average daily membership (ADMw) that is at least equal to 80 percent of the amount of the school district's General Purpose Grant per ADMw for students in grades kindergarten through eighth grade; and 95 percent of the amount of the school district's General Purpose Grant per ADMw for students nine-12. (ADMw is the number of students attending the school, with additional funds received depending on other factors such as how many of the students speak English as a second language, are low income or require special education, for example. A facility determined to be a small rural school will also receive additional funds.) If the state Board of Education is the sponsor, the school district in which the charter school is located must contract with the charter school to pay for education services for charter school students. The payment must

equal an amount per ADMw of the charter school that is at least equal to: 90 percent of the amount of the school districts General Purpose Grant per ADMw for students in grades K-eight; and 95 percent of the amount of the school district's General Purpose Grant per ADMw for students in grades nine-12. A school district and a charter school may negotiate contracts that pay more than the above examples. School districts are legally required to forward payment for education services to the public charter school within 10 days after receiving the funds from the state School Department of Education.

Currently, according to the website, around 39 charter schools already exist in Oregon.

The ISD Board is further investigating the charter school issue, as is the MCSD, at the behest of MCSD Board Chair John Renfro. How MCSD would benefit from a charter school has yet to be determined, especially considering the current concerns voiced by some Irrigon and Boardman parents with regard to the district's high school attendance areas. Students living in the Irrigon attendance area, who would previously have attended Riverside High School in Boardman, will now be required to attend the new Irrigon Junior/Senior High School and some parents have petitioned the MCSD for their children's transfer. This fall (2004-05) Irrigon juniors and seniors will attend school at Riverside, while freshmen and sophomores will attend the new Irrigon school. Next fall (2005-06) Irrigon seniors only will attend school at Riverside and the following fall (2006-07), the Irrigon school will become a fully-functional seven-12th grade facility with Irrigon students attending school in Irrigon and Boardman students attending school in Boardman.

Chamber Chatter

By Claudia Hughes, Exec. Dir.

The Heppner Chamber is here to help you. Who are you? What do you do? How can people get in touch with you? How many people can answer these three questions about businesses in Heppner? Do you make it easy or hard for people to do business with you?

No matter what kind of products businesses provide, from soup to nuts, from catering to fuel, cosmetics to house cleaning, they need to let people know. They must tell people who they are, what they do and how to get in touch with them.

The same may be said for organizations. Who are you? What do you do? How can people get in touch with you, and additionally, what fundraisers are you putting on and how will people know about them?

The Heppner Chamber of Commerce can assist businesses and organizations with telling their story. Organizations need to let us know about special events open to all entities and visitors, so they can be placed on calendars, on various websites for visitors, in the Oregon calendar, on our local calendar, etc. We can't promote your business or your event if we don't know about it. Chamber can help you tell your story and include your business and event on our website: www.Heppner.net/chamber. If we know about you, we can satisfactorily answer and refer the many calls we get to your business or organization.

Without a Chamber, there would be no office to respond to the inquires about your community and it's many opportunities; and there would be no information center with which to inform the business community and advise it of current events affecting them. There would be no office to put together information packets to send out to visitors and prospective businesses; there would be no collective force to make known the physical needs of the community through the first Tuesday where all entities report; and there would be no focal point for gathering the business community where a weekly exchange of ideas and services take place. There would be no political voice to keep our elected representatives aware of the community feelings on legislative action and needs; and there would be fewer major events such as Town and County Awards Banquet, an office to implement Irish celebration, Celebrate Historic Heppner, parades, etc.

The Heppner Chamber is an instrument for the promotion of plans, ideas and projects. To all our renewing members, we appreciate the difference you are making.

To those who have not yet renewed or who have yet to experience Chamber, we encourage you to do so each Tuesday. Chamber is open to individuals interested in the community, ranches, recreation, government entities, and small and large businesses. To be included in the 2004 Directory and on the web pages, the deadline to join is fast approaching. For more information on joining, please visit the Chamber website, check out the links at the top of the page, or call 676-5536.

Thought for the week: "Life is 10 percent of what happens to us and 90 percent of how we react to it; we choose our reaction."

Forest Service recruits youth for YCC

Four young people between the ages of 15 and 18 are being recruited by the Forest Service, Heppner Ranger District, for summer employment in the Youth Conservation Corps. The work will include noxious weed removal, wildlife habitat improvement and trail maintenance.

The duration of the program will be six weeks from June 14, 2004 to July 23, 2004, or possibly up to eight weeks through Aug. 6, 2004 if funding is available. The pay will be the Oregon minimum wage rate of \$7.05 per hour. Applications will be accepted March 22, 2004 through April 28, 2004 at 4 p.m. Participants

Heppner grad to sing in South Africa

"Come sing for my people; come sing for the people of South Africa." Those were the words of Nobel Peace Prize winner and South African leader, Archbishop Desmond Tutu, after he heard the Willamette University Chamber Choiring.



Abby Kahl

It was an invitation not to be ignored. Forty-nine Willamette students, including senior Abby Kahl formerly of Heppner, will soon travel more than 10,000 miles to South Africa, to sing for hope, for understanding, for peace. Kahl, an honors graduate of Heppner High School, is the daughter of Bob and Marianne Kahl, formerly of Heppner, now of Oregon City.

In the spring of 2003, as part of the university's Atkinson Lecture series, Willamette University in Salem, Ore., was honored with a visit from Archbishop Desmond Tutu. During the event, the University's 49-voice Chamber Choir sang a powerful piece of music, "Hope for Resolution," which combines a traditional South African anthem, "Thula Sizwe," sung in Zulu, with the English hymn, "Of the Father's Love Begotten." The song, composed for former South African President Nelson Mandela, blends two vastly different musical styles into a single harmonious one. It's a powerful statement for the peaceful coexistence of people from differing backgrounds and experiences. The choir's performance moved the Archbishop to tears and lead to his unprecedented invitation for them to visit his homeland.

May 18, Kahl and the other young singers will board a jet in Portland bound for Johannesburg, Pretoria, Durban, George and Cape Town, South Africa. This won't be just a tourist visit. The group plans at least six concerts, some of them in conjunction with other South African choirs such as the Tsweleng Chorale, the Thokozani Chorale and the George's Men's Choir. Many of the planned concerts are to be performed in ghetto areas for poor people who might otherwise never hear such sweet music.

"I'm very excited about traveling to South Africa," Kahl says. "Many of us are seniors, so the tour of South African will be the icing on the cake for us. I can't think of a better way to finish my time at Willamette than to be surrounded by talented musicians sharing music with people."

The tour will be a cultural eye opener for Willamette students like Kahl. The tour's itinerary includes politically sensitive landmarks like the Apartheid Museum in Johannesburg, the Regina Mundi Church where the Trust and Reconciliation Commission gathered during the conflict in South Africa and

Robben Island Prison where Nelson Mandela was imprisoned for more than a quarter of a century.

"I want my students to understand the nature of the conflict in South Africa," says choir director Wallace Long Jr. "I want them to gain respect for the process through which reconciliation took place in South Africa. I especially want them to use their passion for song to touch the hearts of people in South Africa who hear them sing."

The group plans to perform at the St. George's Anglican Cathedral, Archbishop Tutu's church and the center of the Anglican Church. They also hope to perform for Nelson Mandela.

It's a trip of a lifetime for the students like Kahl. "I've heard so much about South African history. I'm hoping to gain a better understanding of the South African culture firsthand," expressed Kahl.

To pay for the 18-day adventure, students, parents, Willamette alumni, staff and faculty and other donors have raised \$120,000. They still need to raise another \$20,000. While the group has received two large donations of \$10,000 and \$20,000 from foundations, most of the donations have come from individuals and have averaged \$50-100.

Additionally, each choir member must contribute \$500 toward their trip expenses. A number of the students are struggling to come up with the money, so the group is trying to raise funds to enable them to give scholarships for those with financial need.

One of the ways they've raised money is through the sale of their CD "Hope for Resolution," a recording of their concert for Tutu. It was at the Archbishop's request that the group recorded the CD.

Kahl says she hopes people will help them raise the last bit of money for their South African tour so that the choir "can use music to touch the people of South Africa."

The group is planning a farewell concert May 15 at 7:30 p.m., the night before they depart for South Africa, at the Smith Auditorium on the Willamette University campus, 900 State St., Salem, OR. Tickets are \$10 (\$5 for seniors and students; children under 6 are free) and all proceeds will go toward paying for the costs of their tour. For tickets, contact the Willamette Music Department at (503) 370-6255.

Anyone interested in making tax-deductible donations can mail them to: South African Fund, c/o Wallace Long Jr., Willamette University, 900 State St., Salem, OR 97301. Make checks payable to Willamette University Chamber Choir.

Yearbook selling ads

The Heppner High School Yearbook Committee is selling ads and accepting donations to help raise money for the production of the yearbook.

Anyone who would like to purchase an ad or make a donation should contact Darlene Marquardt at Heppner High School, 676-9138 ext. 2528.

IRS PROBLEMS?

- Haven't filed for ... years?
- Lost records?
- Liens - Levies - Garnishments?
- Negotiate settlements.
- Prepare offer in Compromise.

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**MARY ANN ELGUEZABAL
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are conspiring to put on an
ALL NEW MEXICAN BUFFET
Saturday, March 27th, 5-9 p.m.**

THE BUFFET WILL BE BIGGER & BETTER THAN EVER!
with Roasted Chicken with Red Sauce
Pork Enchiladas with Poblano Chile Sauce
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Tostadas • Fajitas • Guacamole
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Adults: \$12.95 / Seniors: \$10.95
\$8.95 Teenagers / Kids: 6-12, \$6.95
5 and under are free (all meals include soft drinks)

**JOHN'S PLACE
MAIN STREET, HEPPNER**

Heritage Station to offer free admission

In honor of its 30th anniversary Heritage Station Museum is hosting free admission days on the last Saturday of each month (with the exception of December) throughout 2004 and in January of 2005.

Heritage Station Museum is located at 108 S.W. Frazer Ave., Pendleton. Operation hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Tuesday through Saturday. For more information call (541) 276-0012.

HEPPNER ELKS 358
676-9181 "Where Friends Meet" 142 North Main

**Saturday, March 27th
INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS**
Installation of Officers will be held at 4 p.m.
Dinner will start at 6 p.m.
Enjoy Oysters prepared by Al Osmin,
and Barbecue Ribs
Music starts at 8:30 p.m.

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