

Bessie Wetzell
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John Day elementary principal new Morrow County superintendent

The Morrow County School Board voted unanimously Monday to hire Mark Burrows of John Day as the new superintendent.

Burrows, who is currently the principal of Humbolt Elementary in John Day, will assume the reigns of the Morrow County District on July 1.

The board voted unanimously for Burrows, however, board members Julie Weikel and Pat McNamee were not at Monday's meeting.

Burrows, who is a widower with two grown daughters, graduated from the University of Oregon in 1968 with a bachelor of science degree in social sciences. He then went on to obtain a master's degree in education from University of Oregon in 1974 and then his basic administrator's license from Lewis and Clark in 1997. He obtained his administrator's license from Oregon in 2001.

His professional experience is with the Grant County School District as elementary principal from 1997 to the present.

Burrows said he was "delighted to be here. Kids are number one and my first priority is academics," he told the board. "I'm convinced there is a lot of energy here in this district, and I want to get

everyone pulling in the same direction."

School board chairman John Renfro said he was "impressed" with Burrows and his attitude.

Burrows' hiring comes after the district and Reedsport superintendent Duane Yecha were unable to reach agreement on a contract. Reports on why Yecha, the district's first choice, did not end up with job range from an explanation that he turned down the job because financial incentives were not good enough, to the fact that the Morrow County school board did not vote unanimously to hire him. The board voted 4 to 3 April 12 to hire the former Riverside Principal before he turned down the job.

Burrows' salary for the three-year contract will be a reported \$90,000 per year, with 2 percent incentive raises



New superintendent Mark Burrows

built in each of the next two years if Burrows achieves favorable board evaluations.

Health District approves \$70,000 yearly donation to migrant clinic

The Morrow County Health District Board, at their regular meeting in Lexington Monday night unanimously approved a donation of \$70,000 a year for three years to the Columbia River Health Services, the migrant health clinic proposed for Boardman.

The district's approval hinged on a "letter of understanding" from Dr. Robert Boss to the district indicating that he would close his privately operated health clinic in Boardman and terminate his contract with the district if the migrant health clinic project goes through. MCHD currently has a \$140,000 per year contract with Dr. Boss with two years still remaining on that contract. According to MCHD Board members Ed Glenn and John Prag, Dr. Boss has indicated that he is considering retirement.

Jim Carlson, grant writer for the migrant project, submitted a budget to the district and initially requested \$90,000 per year from the district. He told the MCHD Board that the project would have little chance of approval from federal authorities unless the project received district monies. According to Carlson, the feds favor projects that require only around 25 percent of federal funding. This project's budget includes around 41-44 percent funding over three years. Carlson suggested that the board pledge \$90,000 per year, but withdraw that pledge if monies were not available, but board Chair Larry Mills was emphatic in saying that he was not comfortable with that scenario. "If we were going to make a commitment, then we're going to make a commitment," said Mills. The board suggested that Carlson approach Morrow County, Morrow County Behavioral Health, Morrow County Health Department (public health) and the City of Boardman to ask for additional monies make up the \$20,000 per year shortfall.

John Prag's wife, Lynn Prag, Columbia River Health Services Board chair, was also in attendance at the

meeting, along with Dagoberto Hernandez, CRHS committee member.

In approving less than the \$90,000 request, the board pointed to the district's bottom line. The district lost \$9,843 last month and \$309,491 for the year. Board member Linda LaRue said that she had hoped that when the district's contract with Dr. Boss' expired, a portion of the \$140,000 could be used for other necessities in the district. However, she emphasized the importance of providing health services in the Boardman area and added, "I'm not comfortable with the district being responsible for this grant not being issued," Carlson, Glenn and Prag also reminded the board that they have a responsibility to provide health care services for Boardman area residents and reiterated that if Boardman receives no benefit from the district (other than emergency services), those residents are very unlikely to support a proposed tax levy.

The board has determined that the district will need additional tax monies if it is to continue operating without making cuts in services. Board member Ken Matlack expressed concern that the Irrigon clinic operated by the district would be closed if services had to be cut and said in that event, he did not believe Irrigon voters would support a levy. MCHD CEO Victor Vander Does replied that the Irrigon clinic was currently breaking even and the district would be reluctant to close it. "I wouldn't mess with Irrigon," said Vander Does. "It's pretty darn close to a break even." He said that lab and other work ordered for Irrigon patients also benefit the district. However, it was previously recommended that funding to all clinics-Pioneer Memorial Clinic, Irrigon Clinic and the subsidy to Dr. Boss-be eliminated in the event of a major shortfall. Now Vander Does said that the district is loath to cut services unless the proposed levy fails.

(Mills and LaRue said they believed their respective

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HEPPNER

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VOL. 123 NO. 17 10 Pages Wednesday, April 28, 2004 Morrow County, Heppner, Oregon

Cement truck goes through Heppner bridge



Miller and Sons Excavating use a track hoe to remove a cement truck that went through a wooden bridge in Heppner.

On Friday, April 23, a Miller and Sons Excavating cement truck tried crossing the wooden bridge at Main and Campbell streets, in Heppner, but wound up in Hinton Creek. Morrow County Sheriff's Office, Heppner Fire Department, the City of Heppner crew and Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife responded to the scene.

Elks gathering service addresses for care packages

The Heppner Elks Club is looking for addresses for Heppner, Ione and Lexington service men and women who are currently serving at home or abroad. The Elks are will be sending care packages to these individuals.

Current addresses can be given to Tony Clement at the Heppner Elks Lodge by

There were no injuries in the accident, as the truck's back end went through the bridge and into the creek. Before the truck could be extracted, the cement was transferred into another truck and taken to the intended work site. Miller and Sons then extracted the truck from the bridge with their track hoe.

Elks gathering service addresses for care packages

calling 676-9181 or by mailing the address to the Heppner Elks Lodge, P.O. Box 494, Heppner, OR 97836.

Ballots to be mailed out

Ballots for the May 18 primary will be mailed out Friday, April 30. The last day to register for voting in this election was Monday, April 26.

The was a sign posted at the bridge that said, "No loaded trucks."

Miller and Sons was unavailable for comment at time of publication.

The bridge was just rebuilt a little less than two

Local son returns from Middle East

Petty Office Joseph R. Baker has returned from a two-year tour in Bahrain. He is the son of Robert Baker, Ione, and Robin Baker Krebs, Ione.

While in Bahrain he was stationed on the USS Dextrous, a minesweeper deployed in the Persian Gulf and Arabian Sea. Baker is a mineman trained for seamine detonation.

He has been in the US Navy for eight years and plans to make it a career. His next duty station will be Ingleside,

years ago, said City Manager Jerry Breazeale. The city's insurance company is investigating the incident and will make recommendations to the city on how to proceed once that is complete, stated Breazeale.

Senior Class to hold car wash

The Senior Class of 2004 is having a car wash on Friday, April 30, from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m. at Les Schwab's. There will also be a bake sale, running at the same time, at the Heppner Post Office.

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