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VOL. 123 NO. 26 8 Pages Wednesday, June 30, 2004 Morrow County, Heppner, Oregon

## County welcomes new superintendent



MCSD Board Chairman John Renfro (middle) and former board member Marcia Kemp (right) greet Superintendent Burrows (left).

Morrow County residents gathered in Heppner at the City Park on Sunday, June 27, to welcome new Morrow County Superintendent Mark Burrows. Burrows comes from John Day where he served as the principal of Humbolt Elementary.

## MCHD to put tax levy before voters

The Morrow County Health District Board Monday night approved putting a tax levy before Morrow County voters, which they hope will solve the district's ongoing budget deficit without cutting current programs.

Board members John Prag, Ken Matlack and Larry Mills unanimously approved putting the levy up for a vote in the November election. Board members Linda LaRue and Ed Glenn were absent. The levy calls for a three-year, 39 cent per thousand assessed valuation tax on Morrow County property owners. A homeowner with a \$100,000 home, for example, would pay \$39 in additional taxes per year; a business owner with a \$500,000 business would pay \$195 per year; a farmer with a \$1 million

farm would pay \$390 per year. However, compression also figures into the complex tax calculations and property owners in some areas would not see additional taxes. Board members debated putting up a four-year levy and also considered asking for more per thousand, but feared that additional monies would put too great a burden on taxpayers and would result in defeat of the levy. Board Chair Larry Mills said that the district has not increased its .6050 cents per thousand tax rate since it was formed and noted that the original amount is "cast-in-stone" because of ballot measures which limit districts' taxing authority.

The district lost an average of \$33,515 per month over the past year and board members hope to raise around \$300,000 with the levy to cover their estimated deficit. Causes for the deficit include a disparity between the amount billed to Medicare and Medicaid and the amount reimbursed, and fewer taxes anticipated, primarily because some Port of Morrow businesses will be entering the enterprise zone, which dramatically reduces their tax burden and thus taxes generated. Other causes include rising costs in almost every area, and a patient-base that is not large enough.

The district earlier shut down Pioneer Memorial Nursing Home to help staunch the losses, again because the cost of caring for nursing home

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**ALL NEWS AND ADVERTISEMENT DEADLINE:  
MONDAYS AT 5:00 P.M.**

## Nomination petitions available for Heppner positions

Nominating petitions are available at Heppner City Hall, 188 NW Willow Street, Heppner, for elective positions to be filled at the Nov. 2, 2004 General Election. Nominations are open for the position of Mayor (two year term); City Councilor Position #1 (four year term); City Councilor Position #2 (four year term) and City Councilor Position #3 (four year term).

To be eligible to hold elective office in the City of Heppner a person

must be a qualified elector with in the meaning of the State Constitution and must have resided in the City of Heppner for one year

immediately preceding the election.

Nomination petitions must be filed with the City Elections Filing Officer no later than 5 p.m., Aug. 20, 2004 at City Hall.

## Neiffer and McElligott receive U.S. Army Reserve awards

Paul Neiffer and Natalie McElligott of Ione High School received the United States Army Reserve National Scholar/Athlete Award. Sergeant First Class Juan Morales, Station Commander, with the U.S. Army Recruiting Station in Pendleton, presented them the awards on June 4 during their commencement ceremony.

## IONE'S 4TH OF JULY & BLUES FESTIVAL

*"Red, White and Blues - Cruisin' to the Blues"*

-SCHEDULE OF EVENTS-

### Saturday, July 3rd

10:00 a.m. **Annual 4th of July Golf Tournament at China Creek Golf Course, Arlington.** (\$40 per golfer. Benefits IHS Scholarship Fund.) Contact Stacie Miller, 422-7410, or Craig Holland, 422-7455. Free bus service from Ione to Arlington and back. Sponsored by ICABO.

5:00 p.m. Children's Space Walk - Bouncing Room open.

6:00 p.m. **Talent Show** at Amphitheater Stage - Prizes! Contact Lyndee Ramos, 422-7559, or Donna Rietmann, 422-7435. *Cruisin' to the Blues Poster Contest winners announced.*

Food Vendors and Beer Garden open in the Park.

7:00 p.m. Children's Space Walk - Bouncing Room open.

**Music in the Park: "Wood"** (local talent-Jeff Eynetich, Jim Logan and Dustin Padberg). Music sponsored by Amphitheater Committee.

### Sunday, July 4th

7:30 a.m. **Dawn's Early Light Fun Run.** Contact Jim Raible, 454-2830, or Dale Holland, 676-5034.

8:45 a.m. St. William's Church service with Father Gerry Condon.

9:30 a.m. United Church of Christ service at Park Amphitheater with Pastor Paul Clay.

11:00 a.m. Children's fish pond and balloons races, and Horseshoe pit opens. (Other children's games and events after parade.)

1:00 p.m. **PARADE with theme "Red, White and Blues - Cruisin' to the Blues."** Grand Marshals: All Military Personnel-Veterans and Active Duty. Announced by Jim Raible.

**BLUES CRUISE CLASSIC CAR SHOW.** Contact Chuck Nelson, 989-8148.

1:30 p.m. Food Vendors and Beer Garden opens.

~ Scheduled Events:

\* Pie and Coffee in the Fire Hall, sponsored by the Altar Society Ladies.

\* Used Book Sale in the Fire Hall, sponsored by the Topic Club.

\* Bingo at the Legion Hall. Contact Harold Rietmann, 422-7472.

~ Children's Games:

\* Straw money pile (ages 3-8); \* Frog jumping contest (frogs provided);

Space Walk Bouncing Room.

~ Other Events and Games:

\* Dunk Tank, sponsored by Creative Care Pre-School.

\* Open volleyball and Golf putting.

\* Creek Duck Race sponsored by Cheerleaders.

\* Bicycles raffled off.

2:00 p.m. Swimming Pool opens ~ SWIM FREE!

Ione Booster Club Shirt Sale: Theme - "Cruisin' to the Blues"

3:00 p.m. **BLUES MUSIC with: Jimmy Lloyd Rea and the Switchmasters with Terry Robb; Two Slim and the Taildraggers; and Sawtooth Mountain Boys (Bluegrass band).**

5:00 p.m. Blues Cruise Classic Car Show awards by Chuck Nelson.

7:00 p.m. Jet Boat Fishing Trips auction-benefits Mike Matthews Scholarship Fund and Ione Education Foundation.

**MORE MUSIC!**

**DUSK FIREWORKS, FIREWORKS and more FIREWORKS!** (Made possible by your generous donations.)

**MORE MUSIC after FIREWORKS!**

(Please, NO dogs or fireworks in the park during our two-day celebration. Thank you!)

Ione "Cruisin' to the Blues" buttons on sale all weekend. Buy a \$10 button for a chance at several \$25 drawings! Must be present to win. All proceeds benefit the Ione 4th of July Fund.

Music sponsored by the Morrow County Unified Recreation District



We will be CLOSED July 3rd, 4th and 5th.  
Have a Happy Fourth of July,  
and we'll see you in Ione!

**Morrow County Grain Growers**

Lexington 989-8221 • 1-800-452-7396 For farm equipment, visit our web site at [www.mcgg.net](http://www.mcgg.net)