

Bessie Wetzell
U of O Newspaper Library
Eugene, OR 97403

Morrow County school district considers random drug testing

By Wade Smith, Heppner Schools Principal

There will be an informational meeting scheduled for Tuesday, Nov. 2 from 6-8 p.m. in the Heppner High School library regarding the possibility of Morrow County School District adopting a drug testing policy. Parents, citizens and students are invited to attend to both learn about and provide feedback.

Morrow County School District is considering adopting a drug testing policy for students enrolled in any or all of their Jr/Sr high schools. This policy will pertain to any students involved in co-curricular sports, extra-curricular school sponsored clubs, or other student body organizations including the student council and officers. Each Jr/Sr high school, upon recommendation from their principal, may elect to partake in the drug testing program.

The option of drug testing athletes and extra-curricular students has been the topic of conversation for the last year in Heppner's Community Education Committee meetings (previously referred to as the Heppner/Lexington Advisory Committee). Site Council and this year's joint countywide Community Education Committee gathering.

Concerns arose last year from parents and community members regarding what Morrow County School District was doing to help combat potential drug and alcohol abuse amongst its students. Currently, neighboring schools such as Pilot Rock, Echo, Milton Freewater, Ontario and many others have adopted and are drug testing their co-curricular athletes.

Following are sections taken from the proposed policy on drug testing:

Students participating in co-curricular activities represent the community, the school and their peers. When illegal substances are used by co-curricular participants, such use impinges upon general motivation, cohesiveness and performance. As a result, the well being of the individual and the general school community is diminished by a participant's use of illegal substances.

Morrow County School District is conducting a mandatory drug testing program for co-curricular participants in the Jr/Sr high schools that wish to participate by recommendation of their principal. The purpose of the drug testing program is threefold: (1) to provide for the health and safety of all co-curricular participants; (2) to undermine the effects of peer pressure by providing a legitimate reason for participants to refuse to use illegal drugs; and (3) to encourage participants who are found to be using drugs to participate in drug treatment programs. This drug testing program shall be instituted and conducted according to the procedures set forth in this policy.

DEFINITIONS:

Drug: Any substance considered illegal by Oregon Statute or which is controlled by the Food and Drug Administration.

Co-Curricular Participant: Any student participating in co-curricular programs sponsored by Morrow County School District, including but not limited to co-curricular athletics, extra-curricular clubs and organizations sponsored by the school and student body organizations including student council.

Season: Fall, winter and spring athletic and cheerleader seasons begin on the first day of practice and end the day prior to the next season as determined by the Oregon School Activities

Association. For other co-curricular activities, a season will be an academic quarter.

Positive Test: The presence of any level of illegal drugs other than prescription medications.

PROCEDURES:

Rules related to this policy will be made available in writing as a part of the registration process. The rules will be reviewed with students by the coach/adviser at the beginning of each sport season/activity in which the student participates. An "Authorization to Test for Drugs" Agreement will be signed by each student and his/her parent/guardian before the student will be allowed to participate in any co-curricular activity. The policy will be in effect the entire school year the student is enrolled at any Morrow County School District Jr/Sr High School and will govern the conduct of the co-curricular

continued page 2

HHS to host Veteran's Day Ceremony

Local veterans, who did not receive an invitation to the Heppner High School Veteran's Day ceremony, please call HHS at 676-9138 indicating whether you would like to attend the ceremony.

The ceremony will be held Wednesday, Nov. 10 at 10:30 a.m. at the HHS gym. Veterans and their spouses will receive a complimentary lunch after the service. Lunch for all other guests will cost \$2.50.

The public is invited to watch the celebration.

HHS to host Haunted House

Heppner High School will be hosting a Haunted House at the high school on Halloween night, Sunday, Oct. 31 from 6-8 p.m. Admission is \$1.

HEPPNER

50¢



azette
imes

VOL. 123 NO. 43 10 Pages Wednesday, October 27, 2004 Morrow County, Heppner, Oregon

Health district in the black for September

The Morrow County Health District ended up with \$24,319 to the black at the end of September, according to the district financial report released at the Oct. 25 regular meeting in Lexington.

The gain leaves the district with a \$6,204 loss for the fiscal year. MCHD posted a loss of \$33,247 for the previous month.

MCHD voted to change the term "profit" to "gain" in the profit/loss statement, to reflect that the district is a non-profit entity.

Also at the meeting, board members voted to suspend Dr. Kenneth

Wenberg's hospital admitting privileges for 30 days until he provides proof that he has obtained medical malpractice insurance for his privately operated clinic, the Willow Creek Clinic in Heppner. Dr. Wenberg is covered under the district's malpractice insurance when he is employed as a physician in the hospital's emergency room.

In other business, the board:

learned that a federal grant for a proposed migrant clinic to be established in Boardman has

been approved. The clinic, Columbia River Health Services, is to serve the general populace as well as the migrant population. The clinic, which, according to MCHD CEO Victor Vander Does, has 120 days after grant approval (approximately mid-February) to become operational, is now in need of a CEO, chief financial officer, physicians and other staff.

Vander Does said that the district would be happy to forward names of

continued page 3

Willow Creek Terrace takes scarecrow contest



Residents pose with several of the scarecrows that are displayed outside Willow Creek Terrace. (L-R): Lowell Gribble, Floyd Raver, "Mama and Baby," Stubby Rogers, George Jeffries, "Staff Member," Irene Swanson and Cleo Edwards.

The judges selected 10 category winners from the 15 stuffed scarecrows entered into the Chamber Scarecrow Contest during the Oktoberfest held Oct. 9. An overall winner was announced Oct. 25, with Willow Creek Terrace taking "Most Excellent."

"Most Excellent" and "Biggest Group" - A View from the Hill by Willow Creek Terrace;

"Neediest" - Hunter Patiently Waiting by the Heppner Neighborhood Center;

"Most Expensive" - Blood Sucking Attorney by Kuhn and Spicer;

"Safest" - Hangin' Scarecrow by Bank of Eastern Oregon;

"Youngest" - Ghostly Kid by Heppner Library;

"Most Fashionable" - Little Old Woman by

Munkers (365 Green St.);

"Wood-z-est" - The Hunter by Heppner Hardware;

"Healthiest" - Scarecrow by Willow Creek Clinic;

"Most Welcoming" - Scarecrow by Artisan Village; and

"Least Welcoming" - Rotten Rodney by Bucknuns.

HES 6th grade class combines pumpkins and reading



Mrs. Jannie Allen's sixth grade reading class decorated pumpkins to look like characters they have read about in books. Pumpkins range from Harry Potter to Dr. Seuss to Dumbo. (Back Row L-R): Ian Murray, Alex Pickles, Daisy Victorio, Leann Schwarz, Jordan Wright, Willy Gentry, Nick Kempas, Jacob Sallee, Cory Silvia and Brent Brosnan; (Middle Row L-R): Bud Jones, Donald Matthews, Sarah Kendrick, Lindsay Cutsforth, Justin Gutierrez, Amber Gray, Kolleen Chapa, Dustin Taylor, Justin Yocom, Jared Hedman, Connor Corbin and Brett Harrison; and (Front Row L-R): Joe Armato, Devin Robinson, Taighler Dougherty. "To make a pumpkin, plant a seed. But to make a character, read, read, read." - Sarah Kendrick



WINTERIZE NOW!

RV and Automobile Antifreeze in Stock

Morrow County Grain Growers

Lexington 989-8221 • 1-800-452-7396 For farm equipment, visit our web site at www.mcgg.net

ALL NEWS AND ADVERTISEMENT DEADLINE:

MONDAYS AT 5:00 P.M.