

View from the hill

continued from page one



The lone High School choir also performed for residents. (L-R): Kasie Peterson, Barbara Holland, Kim Morris, Ashly Grams and Krystal Temple.

continued from page one

working there because of the interaction with people. After they sold the store, her interest in people continued to draw her to retail work. She worked at Murrays' Drugstore and later managed the La Bushe Dress Shop for Virginia Whittaker. "I really enjoyed working with people," Quackenbush remembers.

Quackenbush's apartment offers stunning evidence of another interest and talent she continues to enjoy: art. This artist has given away many paintings and has painted at least 14 crosscut saws and several circular saws. She has painted on glass, which is especially difficult because the painting is accomplished on the back of the glass; therefore, painted in reverse of the final image. Tole painting, ceramics and quilting round out Quackenbush's multi-talented background and she and Phyllis still occasionally work on projects together.

Quackenbush's birthday celebration will usher in the month of March, which is already beginning to fill with activities. The Terrace is planning a pinochle party for Wednesday, March 2, from 1:30-4:30 p.m. Readers of this column are encouraged to consider this an open invitation to join the residents for an afternoon of good company, cards, snacks and prizes. Interested players are asked to contact George at 676-0004 to RSVP.

Also in March, residents will be treated to Mary Kay facials offered by a group of high school youth, and the "Has Been Wanna Be's" will entertain musically on St. Patrick's Day. Some residents will be taking in the Wee Bit O' Ireland Celebration from Thursday, March 17 through Sunday, March 20.



Residents Lowell Gribble and Irene Swanson enjoy Valentines.

The 15 residents of Willow Creek Terrace are looking for another neighbor, as one apartment is available. One resident suggested that a wanted poster for a new resident might read, "Wanted: a mature adult looking for a secure home, good food, good care and options." That view of life at the Terrace seems to be shared by many of the residents. Interested persons should visit the facility or call 676-0004.

Letters to the Editor

Editor's note: Letters to the Editor must be signed. The Gazette-Times will not publish unsigned letters. Please include your address and phone number on all letters for use by the G-T office. The G-T reserves the right to edit. The G-T is not responsible for accuracy of statements made in letters. (Any letters expressing thanks will be placed in the classifieds under "Card of Thanks" at a cost of \$7.)

Heppner man regrets city's decision to remove trees

To the Editor:

A long time ago there was this businessman, one of his sayings was- bad day at black rock.

Well I had my bad day last Wednesday, Feb. 9. When I returned home, here was all this carnage on city property, now there is no more trees or lilacs.

Why you ask. Well there is this complainer who would go to city council meetings and complain about not being able to see. The county would drive through and look and at the next meeting they would report no problem.

So come next month, low and behold, she would come back and complain again and again,

one council member told me they got tired of her. To bad the city council members didn't have the back bone to stand up to her, this is our decision the trees were brought to town from the mountains. Also there was a weeping willow and a crab apple planted in memory of my dad and Bill Rawlins, a devoted garden club member, so much for my dad's memory. So much for beautifying Heppner.

I implore you to contact your city manager, council, city foreman, for the overkill.

My dead old mother had a bad heart and if she would have witnessed the carnage on city property and that would have done her in.

One other thing, she took away the flowers on the corner and now the trees, what is next?

(s) Tom Gonty Heppner

We Print Business Cards Heppner Gazette

Superintendent proposes district reorganization

continued from page one

district decided to terminate the alternative education contract with the troubled Union Baker ESD and operate its own alternative ed program.

-learned that the filing deadline for the next election is March 17, with three board positions, currently held by Berto Hernandez, Barney Lindsay and Bill Kuhn, and all Community Education Committee positions up for election.

-heard a report from student John Cain and teacher Dave Fowler on partnering technology with math and science through a GIS (global information system) and GPS (global positioning system) project, which was funded through a 4-H/school partnership grant.

-briefly discussed a statewide salary schedule, which some board members say may benefit the district, and statewide health coverage.

-discussed mandates that may come down from the state which would install tougher nutrition policies to reduce the "high fat, high sugar" content of school lunches, require daily physical education and ban school vending machines to reduce the trend toward childhood obesity. Renfro said that the proposed requirements could result in a "drastic change in food service as well as the PE program." Board member Bill Kuhn, however, commented that the currently proposed \$5 billion statewide budget would not allow for funding of additional mandates. However, changes could still be required, whether schools receive additional funding or not.

-learned that the district office is contemplating changing to an electronic board information packet, which would be e-mailed to board members, rather than the paper packet that is currently sent through the mail. Once the board members receive the electronic packet, they could burn the information to a CD. At board meetings, the electronic method would require one laptop computer which would project the information onto a screen. Burrows said that there are some concerns about confidentiality, that may be resolved after further examination. Board secretary Julie Ashbeck said that the electronic method could save time as well as around \$4,800 a year in costs for copying and mailing the packets. The electronic program would cost around \$2,000, she said.

-discussed the latest estimates of state school

funding, ranging from the governor's proposal of \$5 billion to a senate proposal of \$5.2 billion. MCS D Board members unanimously approved a recommendation to state legislators that they pass a \$5.3 billion school budget. The governor's recommendation of \$5 billion is an increase over the previous year's school budget, however statewide school expenses have increased and would exceed that amount unless cuts are made.

-reappointed Renfro to the Umatilla-Morrow ESD budget committee. Renfro commented that a MCS D connection to the ESD is important since Morrow County taxpayers pay around \$570,000 in taxes to the ESD. Renfro has been on the committee for three years.

-approved an easement requested by the city of Heppner so that the city could improve the city's water system. Heppner Elementary/High School Principal Wade Smith told the board that the easement would involve minor work on school property near the elementary school and added that the city agreed that they would not work on the improvement when school is in session. However, he added that if the project indeed goes ahead, it would involve the school's loading zone.

-discussed negotiations between the city of Irrigon and the district concerning the old school building which is currently used as Irrigon City Hall. Neither the city nor the district wants the building, which is considered to be a liability. If the building is not used for three years, it will revert back to the school district. Kuhn and Matlack were appointed to the committee to negotiate with the city, however, Kuhn, who is an attorney, represents the city of Irrigon and Matlack is on the Irrigon City Council. Board member Pat McNamee was also appointed to the committee and Lindsay was selected as an alternate.

-agreed to approve the request for a leave of absence without a loss of seniority for a Heppner math teacher who may receive orders to report for active duty. The board, with the exception of Kuhn and Renfro, approved the request if the teacher does receive orders.

-approved attendance variances for students whose parents plan to move out of the MCS D.

-approved employment for: Rachel Reyes, ACH English as a second language ed assistant; Matt Combe, Morrow Education Center

alternative education coordinator; Forrest McKinnis, MEC alternative ed teacher; Donna Maben, MEC ed assistant; Susie Lemmon, MEC ed assistant; Tiffanie Greenup, MEC ed assistant; Debbie Royer, Sam Boardman Elementary Title I teacher; Darrin Skaggs, HHS special education one-on-one assistant; Christina Heiple, SBE Title I ed assistant, replacing Kelly McDaniel; Jennifer Leighton, Windy River Elementary ESL ed assistant, replacing Shannon Muir.

-approved retirement for: Jerry Bair, Riverside High School head custodian, retiring March 31; Pat Furgerson, Irrigon Elementary School sixth grade teacher, as of June 10.

-approved extra duty resignations for: Maryanne Anthony, from Irrigon Junior/Senior High School cheerleading coach; Molly Rhea, from Heppner High School assistant volleyball coach.

-approved resignations from: Susan Morelli, Boardman Community Education Committee position #2 and Richard Rockwell, Boardman CEC position #3.

-approved appointment for: Jocelyn Jones, to Boardman CEC position #2, replacing Susan Morelli; Alissa Daltoso to vacant position #5.

-approved Umatilla-Morrow ESD 2005-06 resolution services.

-approved the 2003-04 district audit.

-received the following enrollment report as of Feb. 1: ACH (grades K-4)-341 students; IHS (grades 7-10)-216; HES (grades K-6)-197; HHS (grades 7-12)-221; IES (grades 5-6)-110; RHS (grades 7-12)-500; SBE (grades K-4)-425; WRE (grades 5-6)-151; for a total of 2228 students district-wide.

-received the following 2005-06 calendar options:

-Option A: pre-Labor Day start with teachers beginning Aug. 22, students beginning Aug. 29, one-plus weeks at Christmas with students ending June 2 and teachers ending June 6;

-Option B: post-Labor Day start with teachers beginning Aug. 29, students beginning Sept. 6, one-plus weeks at Christmas with students ending June 8 and teachers ending June 12;

-Option C: pre-Labor Day start with teachers beginning Aug. 22, students beginning Aug. 29, two-plus weeks at Christmas with students ending June 7 and teachers ending June 9;

-Option D: post-Labor Day start with teachers beginning Aug. 29, students beginning Sept. 6, two-plus weeks at Christmas with students ending June 14 and teachers ending June 16.

-heard the following announcements: President's Day holiday, Feb. 21; Boardman CEC meeting and Heppner CEC meeting Feb. 22; Irrigon CEC meeting Feb. 23; board work session via Polycom, IHS and HHS, Feb. 24; next regular board meeting, SBE, March 14, 7 p.m.; deadline to file for open district positions, March 17; Oregon School Boards Association spring regional meeting, May 2; spring election, May 17.

-held an executive session dealing with an expulsion report, a personnel issue and attorney communication.

Real Estate
By DAVID SYKES REALTOR

SELL THE HOME YOURSELF?

I'm sure you've heard it said: "Why should I sell my home through a REALTOR? I can sell it myself and save a lot of money." Right?... Wrong! This kind of thinking usually turns out to be financially unwise. The prospects will usually start by mentally deducting the commission and then start negotiating from there. On average, a homeowner saves little or no money when he sells his own home. In fact, the opposite is often true. A lot of time is wasted showing homes to unqualified curiosity seekers and many possible sales are lost because the owner could not financially structure a viable sale in today's fast-changing money market.

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