

HEPPNER

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Tazette imes

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Ione brings home 3rd and 6th place trophies from state tournament



The Ione boys (top) bring home the 3rd place state basketball trophy. The girls (above) took 6th place. Stories and more pictures on page 3 & 4.

Family St. Patrick's Day flags retired

The Heppner St. Patrick's Celebration Committee voted to retire the family flags this year due to their condition. However, because the new windsocks were not available, those flags without tears will be flown one more year.

When Irish families see that their flag is missing,

they are asked to understand that the wind destroyed a number of them and age has taken its toll. Some will still be usable on a front porch or wall. The following flags are not flying this year: Brosnan, Cunningham, Currin, Doherty, Higgins, Hughes, Kenny, Kilkenny, Laughlin, Mahoney,

Mollahan, O'Brien, Sweeney, Sweek and Wilson.

Following the celebration, all flags will be retired and may be picked up at the Heppner Chamber of Commerce. An opportunity will be given to purchase a new flag for 2006 and families will be notified.

Backhoe tips during City project



Bruce Nelson, Heppner Public Works Director, was operating the backhoe when one tire slid into a hole and tipped the machine.

While working to install a manhole near Heppner Elementary School, a backhoe being operated by Heppner Public Works Director Bruce Nelson, tipped over. Nelson said he received a few bruises but was not hurt.

The manhole was being installed to help alleviate the sewage problem

that caused HES's flooding Feb. 24. As it was, there was no way for the city to clean roots out of the line near the school. The closest manhole was located near the fairgrounds. Now, if a problem begins to occur, the city can use the manhole to clean the lines.

While working on the construction of the

manhole, one of the backhoe's tires was on the sidewalk and the others were on "level" ground. As Nelson was using the backhoe to shake gravel into place, one of the backhoe tires slipped into the hole and caused it to tip. Nelson said that in his 20 years of experience this was the first time he has had a "close call."

Ione School Board hears greenhouse, bowling team proposals

Ione School District teacher Duane Neiffer outlined plans for the school's greenhouse at the board's regular meeting rescheduled for March 7.

Neiffer told the ISD Board of plans to build a holding area to store soils in the greenhouse and for a community garden. He reported that a \$900 grant for continuation of the greenhouse and a grant for establishing a community garden have been received. He said that he is also looking at an aquaculture program to raise fish and providing additional landscaping down the creek.

Neiffer also outlined a CAPECO funded program that would provide jobs for six students this summer-two for the city of Ione and four for the schools. He said that the program would provide "close to \$30,000 for labor and materials."

Neiffer also requested that the school bowling team be added to the district's Morrow County Unified Recreation District budget for extracurricular activities. He said that the amount requested was a small amount, but noted that the team is comprised of 10-15 students, "close to a quarter of our student body." "It's an ongoing activity enjoyed by a quite a number of students," said Neiffer. He also said that many of the students who participate on the bowling team do not participate in other sports and a number of those participating could be termed at-risk students. The bowling team requirements are the same as for other school sports-students must maintain a specific grade-point average and refrain from smoking, drinking, etc.

Neiffer said that the girls' team finished third in the district. He also commended Terry Lupinacci, owner of the Shamrock Lanes in Heppner, for his work with the students. The board directed the superintendent to add the bowling team to Ione's proposed rec district budget.

Also at the meeting, the board, which was able to obtain a quorum, despite the absence of two members due to illness, approved the second reading and adopted the Ione School District Parent Involvement policy, required by the federal "No Child Left Behind" act.

The board also approved the first reading of the district's "Special Academic Recognition" policy which outlines requirements in determining the school's valedictorian and salutatorian.

In other business, the board:

-approved a one-year contract for 2005-06 for Michelle Stone, a second-year licensed probationary teacher.

-approved two year contract extensions for 2005-06, 2006-07 for teachers: Barbara Collin, Dale Holland, Duane Neiffer, Jim Raible, Ryan Rudolf, Thomas Shear, Lindsay Orem, Karen Holland, Linda Neiffer, Dean Robinson and Steve Schaber.

-heard from administrator Bryn Browning about the need for a new master lock system for the school, since numerous people currently have keys for the present system and the system has not been changed since the changeover from the Morrow County School District.

-learned that the

district had a beginning fund balance of \$318,061 and an ending balance of \$321,909, which, Browning said, was "very good," considering that monies for the school drainage project and costs for becoming a charter school came out of the general fund balance. The district showed revenues of \$1,453,335 and expenditures of \$1,449,487.

-heard a buildings and grounds report concerning repairs and replacement items. Board member John Rietmann told the board that the list is down to "nitpicky items" and added that the district is in "much better shape that we were a year ago."

-accepted the resignation of Dale Holland as head football coach.

-heard the deadline for filing for candidacy is March 17. Ione School Board positions three, four and five, all four-year positions, are up for election.

Omitted from the story on last month's Ione School Board meeting was the following: the board approved staff contract recommendations for Ryan Rudolf, head girls' basketball coach; Dennis Stefani, head boys' basketball coach; and Jim Swanson, assistant boys' basketball coach; and accepted the resignation of teacher Blas Elguezabal.

Account established BEO for home fire victim

An account has been set up at Bank of Eastern Oregon for Joey Van Doorn of Heppner who lost his home last Tuesday in a fire. The fire completely consumed Van Doorn's home and possessions.

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

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