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Gazette Times

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School district receives nearly $500 thousand more than anticipated from state school fund

The Morrow County School Board learned, at a meeting that had been rescheduled to June 28 due to lack of quorum, that the school district has received $457,530 more than anticipated from the state school fund. The amount was based on the number of students attending Morrow County Schools. According to business manager/deputy clerk, Rhonda Lorenz, the district has already caught up in student numbers following the secession of Ione.

Lorenz also reported that the district will save $814,000 by refinancing the district's 2001 construction bond over the life of the bond (2028). Savings during the first year amount to around $36,000-$37,000, she said.

Also at the meeting, Craig Miles was elected board chair and Barney Lindsay, board vice chair. Newly-elected board member Nancy Vander Does was sworn in, as were board members Lindsay, Bill Kuhn and Berto Hernandez.

Superintendent Mark Burrows reported that adding four new classrooms at Windy River Elementary School would cost approximately $449,000. The district is not planning to have the classrooms open until 2006-07.

Burrows also said that the West Extension Irrigation has laid pipe to Irrigon Elementary School and that the Port of Morrow has agreed to provide manpower to dig a 1,600-foot trench for the Irrigon Elementary sewer connection. Burrows said that thanks to the Port, the cost of the project has "gone down substantially." He said the Port has offered to put in a septic tank if the sewer is not yet connected.

In other business, the board:

-learned that the Boardman urban renewal plan was not approved. The plan would have cost the district and other taxing entities a loss of tax revenue.

-will split fees with the city of Irrigon for a report on recommendations as to what to do with the old Irrigon City Hall.

-heard a junior high school accountability presentation from administrator Dirk Dirksen which would require summer school and remediation for students who have not passed one to three core classes and would require those students to repeat a grade if they do not pass the summer school class. It would also require students to repeat a grade if they do not pass four core classes.

-approved the first reading for an honors diploma policy which would require 26 credits with honors courses and a 3.25 minimum grade point average until June, 2007; and a 3.5 minimum grade point average or a 3.25 gpa with an 1100 SAT or 23 ACT score after June 2007.

-approved a resolution which supports a change in the way the Oregon School Boards Association conducts elections to a mail-in ballot.

-accepted the following resignations: John Renfro, board chairman, position #2; Stacy Schaefer, A.C. Houghton Elementary School second grade teacher; Lacey DeLange, ACH first grade teacher; Crista Beaty, ACH special education one-on-one assistant; Maria Aguiar, Irrigon Elementary School half-time English as a second language teacher and half-time special education teacher; Nomie Stout, IES food service clerical assistant; Tom Shear, Heppner High School art teacher; Brooke Spencer, Sam Boardman Elementary fourth grade teacher; Debbie Royer, Windy River Elementary Title One teacher; Brandi Orem, SBE elementary school teacher; Krissy Waite, SBE ESL teacher; Lori Monaco, Irrigon Junior/Senior High School health teacher; Jack Walty, Riverside High School assistant custodian.

-approved promotions for: Connie Rodriguez from two-hour assistant cook to three-hour food service clerical assistant/four-hour assistant cook; Ellen Hendergart, from Irrigon Elementary School full-time Title I assistant to halt-time Title I assistant and half-time library tech.

-approved employment for: Michelle Kinley, ACH second grade teacher; Tara Thomas, ACH special ed teacher; Tonya Pomeroy, ACH third grade teacher; Jim Keyes, IES sixth grade teacher; Lara Rowe, IES half-time special ed teacher and half-time ESL teacher; David Westenskow, IJSHS language arts teacher; Danica Harjo, SBE first grade teacher; Elizabet Flores, SBE kindergarten teacher; Brian Jones, WRE fifth grade teacher; Brandi LaLande, SBE kindergarten teacher; Jennifer Barthoude, SBE fourth grade teacher; Nicole Fox, SBE ESL teacher; Eric Keller, IJSH

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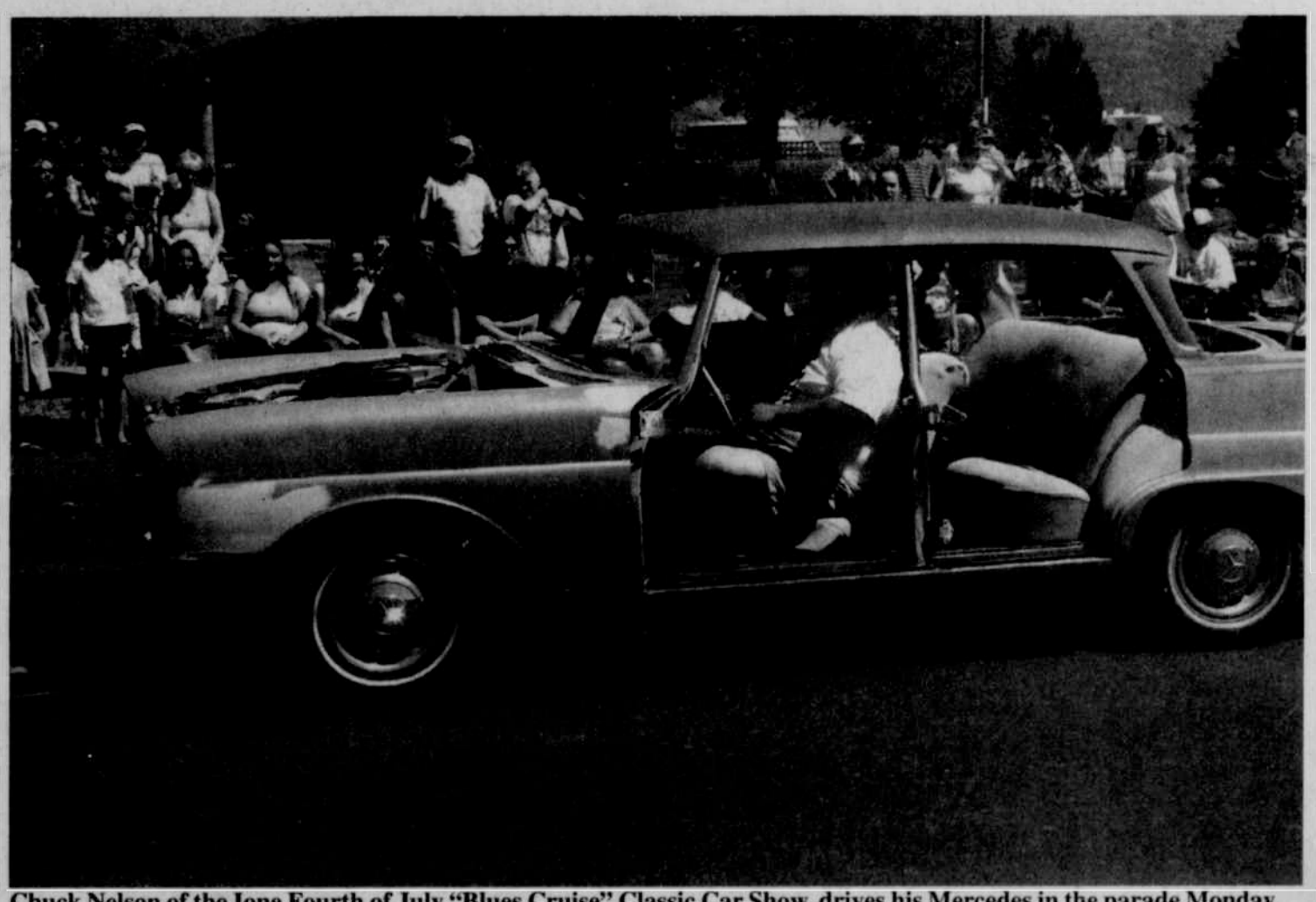
Ione Celebrates the Red, White and Blue Fourth of July weekend



Chuck Nelson of the Ione Fourth of July "Blues Cruise" Classic Car Show, drives his Mercedes in the parade Monday. The car was part of a new category called "work in progress". For more pictures of the Ione Fourth of July celebration please turn to page 5.

Mediterranean Sage found in Morrow County

For the second time in as many weeks a new noxious weed has been reported and documented in Morrow County. Last week leafy spurge was reported for the first time in Morrow County. This week the new invader is Mediterranean Sage. It is also on the "A" list of noxious weeds in Morrow County and should be controlled wherever it is found.

Mediterranean Sage is an aggressive ornamental plant native to the Mediterranean or northern Africa. It is an aromatic biennial, growing 2 to 3 feet tall. In the first season it develops a rosette of large grayish wooly leaves. In the second season the plant will produce multi-branched stems of white or blue-green wooly leaves. Flowers are yellowish-white and are '/z" to 1" long. One plant may produce thousands of seeds and spread as the mature plant forms a tumbleweed. Pastures, meadows, rangeland and other open areas are all good targets for Mediterranean Sage to invade.

Several methods of control may be considered when dealing with this weed. After the plant flowers but before it produces seed it can be cut down and bagged. Mowing is not recommended because the plant will continue to grow over subsequent years until it can successfully produce seed.

Chemical controls will also take care of this plant and some biological controls have been used on larger infestations in other areas. Should you find any Mediterranean Sage or suspicious looking plants please report them to Morrow County Weed Control at 989-9502.

Sagers visit family in Africa

Harley and Bertha Sager display African art and dress they brought back from their trip to Rwanda. Their son Kelly and his wife Laura and children are on a church mission there. Harley gave a program at the Heppner Chamber of Commerce last Tuesday about the trip. "People in the United States don't know how good they have it," Harley said on the hardships the pair witnessed. Harley showed pictures and told about their travels around Rwanda

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

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