

School board reinstates Heppner High School vo-ag

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students who receive free and reduced lunches, are non-English speakers, are physically or mentally handicapped and other factors.

Under the new program, the vo-ag position would be only half time initially, which would enable the teacher to teach other needed subjects. One such subject mentioned was college and career counseling, although those additional subjects have not yet been determined. Students have been surveyed as to their interest in leadership classes, beginning and advanced shop classes, veterinary medicine classes, ag I, horticulture, natural resources, international ag, wildlife management and ag business. According to data released by Daye Stone, HHS principal, of 151 high school students polled, 84 indicated their interest in one or more classes; of 76 junior high students 29 expressed interest. Board members said that additional offerings could only benefit HHS students and may help reduce the large number of work-study classes the kids are opting to take over electives.

Although the vote was unanimous, board member Nancy Vander Does at first spoke against the program and her husband, Victor Vander Does, Morrow County Health District CEO and a member of the audience, advised the board against funding a vo-ag program, stating that he felt district monies would be far better spent for science and technology. "Is this truly any more an agricultural community," asked Vander Does. He added that everything in the vo-ag classes can be taught in the science classes. "It's about science," he said. "It's all about science. This is a world of science and technology." Board Chair Craig Miles, a farmer, later responded by pointing out that science and technology are cornerstone to the modern vo-ag program. "I'm trying to understand

this concept if we add another program, we're going to hurt kids," commented Miles.

Area rancher Mike Mahoney, whose wife is chief financial officer for MCHD, also opposed reinstating the ag program, saying that he felt the program was not beneficial to him whatsoever in college or in his career. He said however, that he approved of the FFA program. Board member Barney Lindsay, a local farmer and former ag teacher, countered Mahoney, saying that he was involved in the same program and it benefited him greatly.

Marcia Kemp, a former school board member whose daughters were active in vo-ag at HHS, said that public speaking and other aspects of the HHS program and FFA benefited them throughout college and into their careers. She said that aspects of the program inspired one daughter to build a career in ag and the other to become a teacher.

Heppner Elementary School teacher Sue Gibbs said that she supports the vo-ag program. "I went through four years of FFA and it was the turning point in my life," she said, adding that the parliamentary procedure aspect of the club was especially beneficial.

Stone, who has been researching the issue and polling students, told the board that the success of the program depended greatly on the teacher recruited for the position.

The board gave its approval with the stipulation that the new program be strictly supervised.

Also at the meeting, the board, voting against a request by the superintendent to delay the opening of school until after Labor Day, approved option C for the 2006-07 school calendar. This option calls for a pre-Labor Day start with teachers beginning on August 21, students beginning on August 28, two-plus weeks at Christmas with school resuming on January 8, students ending

on June 6 and teachers ending on June 8. Burrows asked for a post-Labor Day start so the district would have sufficient time for new teacher training and staff in-service, while still accommodating the Morrow County Fair which is scheduled to be held in mid-August. The option favored by Burrows called for a post-Labor Day start, with teachers beginning August 28, students beginning September 5, two-plus weeks at Christmas with school resuming January 8, students ending on June 13 and teachers ending on June 15.

The board generally maintained that a mid-June ending date was too late for families. A majority of staff also favored option C. The district strives to have as long a Christmas break as possible in order to accommodate many Hispanic families who leave the area during this time for an extended vacation to Mexico or to southern U.S. destinations.

In other business, the board:

- approved meeting date changes for the Community Education Committees. Each committee will meet once a month in October, November, December, February, March and May. The September, January and April meetings will be joint meetings of all the CECs. The September meeting will be an organizational and training meeting. The board may request additional joint meetings.

- approved resignations for: Sara Burroughs from her position as an Irrigon High School special ed one-on-one assistant; Jake Lemmon, Riverside High School health teacher; Gigi Lemmon, Sam Boardman Elementary School fourth-grade teacher; Britnie Winters, Windy River Elementary School sixth-grade teacher; William Coltrin, Irrigon High School vo-ag teacher; James Keyes, Irrigon Elementary School

sixth-grade teacher; and Bobby Rice, Heppner High School/Heppner Elementary School music teacher.

- approved employment for: Melissa Coiner, Heppner Elementary School special ed teacher for the 2006-07 school year.

- approved an extra duty contract for Michelle Kinley, Irrigon Junior High School head track coach.

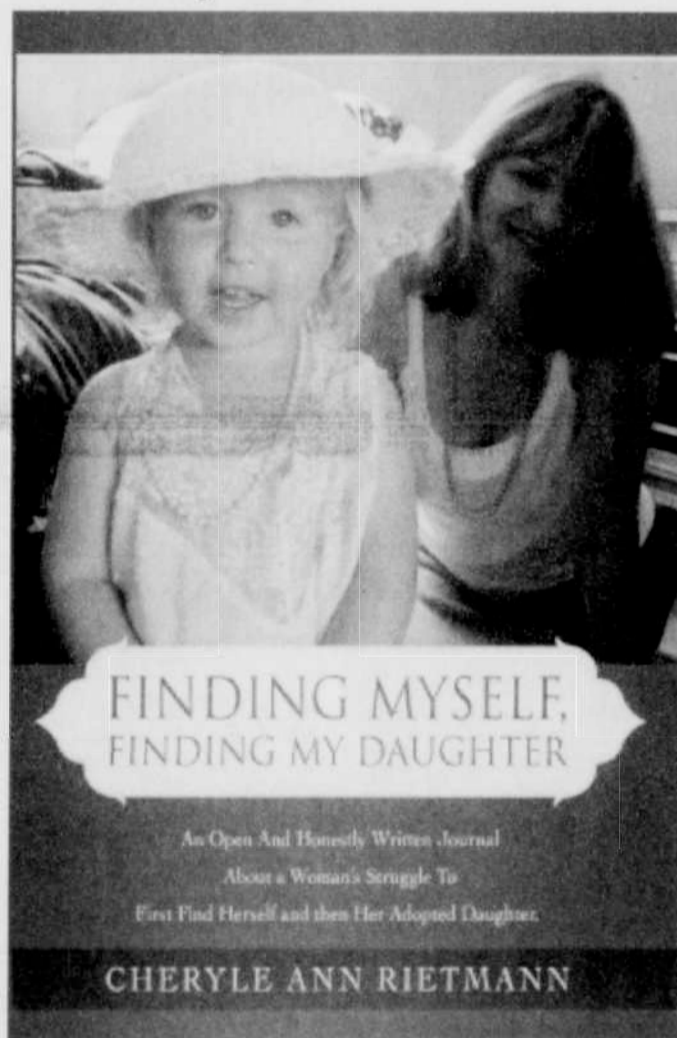
- approved the second reading and adopted the district wellness program.

- approved the adoption of the district's fine art textbooks.

- heard the following announcements: Irrigon CEC meeting, IES, March 15, 7 p.m.; Heppner CEC meeting, March 20, 7 p.m.; Boardman CEC meeting, WRE, March 21, 7 p.m.; Board work session, if needed, March 23; spring break, March 27-31; next board meeting, Irrigon High School, April 10, 7 p.m.; Oregon School Boards Regional meeting, BMCC Student Union, May 1, 6 p.m.

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Book on adoption, life's journeys written by local woman



Cheryle 'Shelly' Rietmann and her daughter Ola

One of Morrow County's own has written a book about the international adoption of her daughter, which evolved into a story about life's journeys.

Cheryle Ann "Shelly" Rietmann, who grew up on a ranch near Heppner and now lives on a ranch near Lone with her husband, Gregg, sons, Tanner, 12, Evan, 11, and adopted daughter, Ola, almost three, wrote "Finding Myself, Finding My Daughter," which has been published.

Rietmann said that the book began as journal of her experiences with the adoption process. "That journal expanded into something more," said Rietmann. "It became more of a memoir. I had always wanted to adopt and I found parallels in my search to find her and my search to find myself. It's a story about our trip to the Ukraine and going through an international adoption, finding each other, love and family, all interconnected."

Her book is now available for \$14.95 at Murray Drugs in Heppner, Sunflower Junction in Lone and on Amazon.com. Rietmann will be available for a book signing during the St. Patrick's celebration this Friday, March 17, during the wine tasting at Murray's from 5-7 p.m.

Ballard announces for DA

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with the victims of domestic violence. "We're trying to provide additional support to provide all the help we can for the victims. It's very difficult for victims to come in and face their abusers in court," she said.

Ballard says she had enjoyed developing a good relationship with the Morrow County Sheriff's Office, the Boardman Police Department, the Department of Human Services and Morrow County Behavioral Health.

Of Irish descent, Ballard adds that she is looking forward to the St. Patrick's Celebration in Heppner this weekend.

Ballard will face Valerie Doherty, Lexington, and John Ballard, Hermiston, in a three-way race in the primary election May 16. If one of the candidates wins by a clear 50 percent-plus-one vote, he or she will win the election. If there is no 50 percent-plus win, the top two candidates will go on to the general election scheduled for November 7.

St. Patrick's Day Grand Marshal

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Teresa Monahan Hoffman, is an Oregon City resident.

Dom's early years were spent on the Monahan ranch which has long since been submerged under the Willow Lake. His family moved to Heppner in the summer of 1949 into the house located at 420 S. Chase. That house remains in the Monahan family.

After graduating from Heppner High School in 1956, Dom attended and graduated cum laude from the University of Portland with an ROTC commission in the United States Air Force. His first assignment was as squadron commander of the USAF Fighter Weapons School at Ellis Air Force Base. He freely admits his title vastly exceeded his responsibilities. After all, he was only a 2nd lieutenant. After his military service he moved to Washington, D.C., to attend law school. He graduated in 1968 from Georgetown Law School and spent a year as a clerk for a federal judge. He then joined the law firm of Dow, Lohnes & Albertson and began a career as a corporate/communications attorney. Dom attributes his long stay in Washington, D.C., to a mild case of "Potomac fever", which took a long time to overcome.

While in Washington, D.C., Dom met and married Judith Baron. Judy was a math major from Buffalo, New York, and an early entrant into the field of computer technology. Together they raised five children: Michael, an attorney living in New Orleans (and soon to move to Chicago); Patricia Amy Monahan Reischauer, also an attorney who resides in Seattle, Washington; Christopher, a recent Peace Corps graduate and now a law student in Seattle; Matthew, a legal assistant in Seattle; and Melissa Suzanne, a senior at the University of Oregon, majoring in Political Science, and in danger of enrolling in law school. In the summer of 1993, Dom and Judy returned to Oregon locating to Eugene where he joined the firm of Luvaas Cobb. Dom's wife Judy passed away in April, 2004. He continues to practice law with the firm in Eugene, specializing in communications law.

Over the years Dom has remained in regular touch with his hometown, with frequent visits to Heppner. Even while living in Washington, D.C., he made it a point to regularly attend St. Patrick's Day celebrations after his cousin, Jimmy Farley, restarted the celebration in the 1980's. Dom has a deep interest in history, particularly the history of Heppner and Morrow County. He takes a special pride in his Irish ancestry, having made three trips to the old country in the last six years and expects to make several more. Dom is active in a variety of interests, serving on the boards of the Oregon Bach Festival; St. John Bosco House; the Chi Rho Symposium, and the Oregon Association of Broadcaster's Foundation. He cooks, reads, collects a little art, and spends entirely too much time in his role as a part-time stone mason, an interest he claims to have inherited from his grandfather, Frank Monahan.



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