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Gazette Times

VOL. 125 NO. 15 12 Pages Wednesday, April 12, 2006 Morrow County, Heppner, Oregon

Irrigon community rallies around Ron Anthony

Members of the Irrigon community rallied around Irrigon Junior/Senior High School Principal Ron Anthony at the Morrow County School Board regular meeting Monday at the school.

Anthony had earlier been suspended by the board for improper use of the school's computers and is currently under investigation by Oregon Teacher's Standards and Practices. Larry French, athletic director/coach at the school, resigned in the wake of that computer-related incident. Previously some members of the Irrigon community had criticized Anthony for his handling of a separate incident involving a Hispanic student and a coach.

Confidentiality rules preclude the board divulging details of the cause of Anthony's suspension, except to say it involved improper use of the school's computers, the resignation of the athletic director/coach or the previous incident with the student and the other coach.

Parents of children at the school testified Monday night in support of Anthony, saying he was a good principal, supported the school, was hard working, had helped their children succeed in school and was active in fund raising and Booster Club activities.

"I can't think of a better principal than Ron Anthony," said Greg Barron, a member of the Irrigon community who has a son at Irrigon High School. "We should be thanking him rather than crucifying him." He maintained that the district's treatment of Anthony has not been fair. "I think it's gone way overboard. This community wants Ron Anthony to stay right where he's at," commented Barron, who said he had worked previously as a substitute teacher.

Barron's wife, Carma, listed some of their son's accomplishments, both athletic and academic, specifically in vo-ag and FFA, and credited Anthony for his encouragement of their son.

Barb Huwe, owner of Huwe's Has It All mini-mart and gas station in Irrigon and mother of a son at IJSHS, asked the board and community to be more positive and "put a stop to this negativity." "It's affecting our kids and we don't like it." She also asked that the board "stop going back into the past and go into the future."

"Believe me," responded board Chair Craig Miles. "We want to get this behind us as much as you do."

District Superintendent Mark Burrows criticized the media's coverage of the recent issue with Anthony, and said that he had scheduled a meeting with the publisher of the East Oregonian. "Hopefully we're going to get some corrections. Absolutely the coverage was not appropriate," he said.

In addition to articles in the EO and the Tri-City Herald, which Burrows and the board maintain contained inaccuracies, the EO had conducted an on-line poll asking residents to indicate whether or not they were in support of Anthony.

Also at the meeting the board:

-heard a presentation from Chris Davis, IJSHS vice principal, concerning the school's "culmination experience," which guides student learning and helps the students outline a plan for their high school and post high school development.

-heard a report from Davis and IJSHS teachers concerning an Oregon Middle Level Association educational conference they had attended. Davis said that the group asked them to return next year to speak on the seven-12 configuration.

-approved the second reading and adopted policies concerning: graduation requirements, which would require students receiving a standard diploma, beginning with the 2006-07 year, to have four language arts credits, two mathematics credits, three social science, one applied/ fine arts/second language, one physical education, one health, one career education and nine electives for 24 credits. An honors diploma would require four language arts credits (one in advanced/ honors/college level classes), three mathematics, three science, three social science, two foreign language, one health, one PE, one career ed, one advanced course, one technology ed and six electives for 26 credits.

An honors diploma requires a 3.25 minimum grade point average through June 2007, and a minimum 3.5 gpa after June 07 or a 3.25 gpa or better with an 1100 SAT or 23 ACT score.

A basic diploma is designed for students with specific learning needs.

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MS Walk has another record-breaking year in Heppner

Over 100 people gathered for the annual MS Walk in Heppner.

The supporters of the MS Walk proved, come rain or come shine, that their vision is to find a cure for MS. On Saturday, April 8 over 100 people walked down Heppner's Main Street to finish a 3-mile or 6-mile trek. They brought with them not only their pledges but also their love for those who have MS.

Teams and individuals from Pendleton, Hermiston, Estacada, Eugene, Heppner and Ione turned in pledges equaling $10,883. "This is the most we have ever raised in the last eight years," said Walk Chairman Merilee McDowell. "I am so proud of everyone who was involved in making this another successful year."

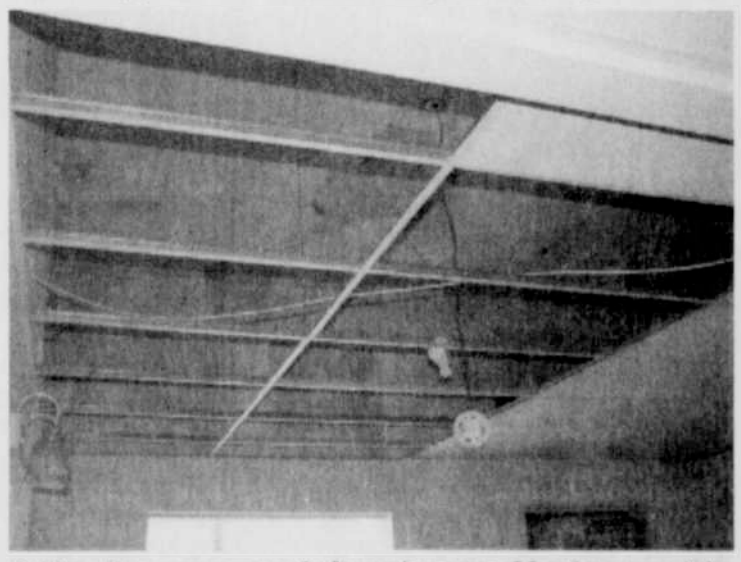
The Mighty Myelins raffled off a handmade quilt to raise money for the walk and West Coast Auto Glass and Creative Hutch in Hermiston donated gift certificates to be raffled off. A new sponsor for the walk, Thrivent Financial for Lutherans, donated funds for advertising. Also, Kim Southworth from the Oregon Chapter came and helped with the walk.

A breakfast was served to the walkers and volunteers at All Saint's Episcopal Church after the walk. "All in all this was one of our greatest walks," stated McDowell, "and I appreciate everyone who walked, volunteered, pledged and donated items. I hope to see you next year."

Voter registration deadline April 25

Tuesday, April 25 is the last day to register to vote for the May 16 election. It is also the last day to change your party affiliation. Ballots will be mailed out on Friday, April 28.

Senior Center apartment suffers damage from Monday's heavy rains



Ceiling tiles were removed after rain waters Monday caused the ceiling to cave in and caused water damage on the walls.

Ceiling tiles in the first floor apartment at St. Patrick's Senior Center collapsed due to heavy rains on Monday, said City Manager David DeMayo. It is suspected that water could not be diverted from the building properly and flowed into the apartment. There was also about an inch of water on the apartment floor. Nobody was hurt in the event, but the apartment resident has been displaced and is currently staying at Northwestern Motel while O So Kleen has been put to work to clean up the water and dry the apartment out.

There was also some water damage in the center's kitchen pantry and the upper floor apartments were being investigated to make sure there was no water damage in them.

Ione ready to hold sixth annual TV shoot April 22

The sixth annual 1000-yard TV shoot will be held on Saturday, April 22 at the Frank and Joe Halvorsen Farm, 64686 Halvorsen Lane, Ione. The fee is $20 per person per shot. Registration is 8:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.

An all you can eat lunch will be available for $6 for adults and $3.50 for kids 10 and under. The meal will include BBQ chicken, brats, hot dogs, baked beans, potato salad and beverages. The lunch price also includes breakfast pastries, juice and coffee in the morning.

All proceeds will be used to purchase children's prizes and events for the Ione Fourth of July Celebration.

The prize is $100 for hitting and breaking a 27-inch TV tube. Lindsay Kincaid is sponsoring a $100 prize for hitting a small TV, 10-12 inch size, at 1000 yards.

It is asked that participants not bring their dogs.

There will also be clay pigeon shooting as well.

For more information or to help sponsor this event and have your company's name on the reader board, contact Tanna Padberg at 422-7276.

Guns are displayed before the shoot. These were many of the guns used in last year's TV Shoot.

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

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