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Gazette Times

VOL. 125 NO. 24 10 Pages Wednesday, June 14, 2006 Morrow County, Heppner, Oregon

Two arrests lead to youth drug investigations

Sean Patrick Richards, 18, of Heppner, was arrested on June 2 by Morrow County Sheriff's Office for numerous drug and sex charges involving a 14-year-old female. Richard was charged with Delivery of a Controlled Substance to a Minor x2 (Class A felony), Sex Abuse III x2 (Class A misdemeanor), Rape III x2 (Class C felony), Sodomy x2 (Class B felony) and Sexual Misconduct x2 (Class C misdemeanor). He was taken into custody and lodged at Umatilla County Jail in Pendleton on $95,000 bail. Richards posted bail and will appear in court June 29, said Morrow County District Attorney David Allen.

In further investigation involving the original arrest of Richards, Angela M. Cady, 26, of Heppner, was arrested June 8 on charges of Delivery of a Controlled Substance to a Minor, which is a Class A felony. The charges reflect 21 counts of this crime, which alleges the multiple deliveries of a controlled substance to three Heppner area juveniles between the ages of 15 and 17, said a press release from Sheriff Ken Matlack. Cady was lodged at Umatilla County Jail. She is also being charged of endangering the welfare of a minor involving the same juveniles, added the release.

Cady was recently released from jail as the state has five days to indict a subject after arrest and the state did not meet its burden, said Allen. Cady will be back in court June 22, added Allen.

The investigation is ongoing with additional suspects and pending cases, including a number of Heppner High School students who are alleged to have been involved with possession of a controlled substance (marijuana, cocaine and methamphetamine) stated the release. According to Morrow County School District Superintendent Mark Burrows, "approximately 20 youth, including seniors, those who are not students any more and some students from Ione" are being investigated. Burrows also stated that authorities confirmed that no teachers or school employees were involved.

Nine to 10 of the youth allegedly involved will be back under school jurisdiction next fall, added Burrows. He also stated that while the school "normally doesn't punish for activities off-campus," students found guilty could be suspended from extra-curricular activities for a period of time during the 2006-07 school year.

As of June 13, no other names or charges have been released.

Ione School Board adopts $2.6 million budget

The Ione School District Board adopted a $2,605,271 budget for the 2006-07 fiscal year following a budget hearing during their regular meeting June 12. That amount includes grant monies and carryover. The district's general fund budget for 2006-07 amounts to $2,076,848.

Also at the meeting, the board heard a financial update which showed that the district received $127,578 in basic school support and $2,500 in property taxes for May.

In other business, the board:

-approved the first reading of support services and facilities development policies.

-learned from Superintendent Bryn Browning that the Willow Creek Park District has approved $5,000 for the Ione pool operating budget for the 2005-06 year.

-learned from Browning that she has scheduled a meeting with Morrow County School District assistant superintendent Wade Smith with regard to special education students who are residents of MCSD but who are being served by the ISD.

-heard Browning's superintendent and principal's reports as follows;

-Enrollment as of June 6 was 161 with 63 in grades K-five, 40 in grades six-eight and 58 in grades nine-12.

-Open positions for the 2006-07 school year include a half-time Spanish teacher and half-time music teacher. A half-time special education assistant is no longer needed.

-The deed for the teacherage has still not been received as the title company reported that they had not received the initial paperwork for that property.

-The school library windows damaged in an incident in which a car caught fire at the school have been replaced for $1,600 at the cost of the school district. Replacement of the front double doors, damaged at the same time, is estimated at around $1,000. The district did not receive an estimate to replace or repair the concrete which had been exposed to fire, however the problem was solved with TSP and a pressure washer.

-The 2006-07 course schedule includes new classes-career development for seniors, advanced language arts for juniors and seniors, a middle school entrepreneur class and electives including Spanish 4, geology, lab science and advanced shop. All students in grades six-12 will be enrolled in a math class next year.

-Amy Jepsen was awarded $1,000 from Cargill and the National FFA Foundation for academic excellence. Related to her award, the school library received $200 from Cargill and the FFA Foundation and CLD Pacific Grain donated an additional $300 for the Ione High School agriculture class.

-Summer school for students in kindergarten through fifth grade will begin Aug. 2. The curriculum will include math and literacy.

- B M C C representatives traveled to Ione to assist Ione High School juniors and seniors with the college application process and administer college placement tests on May 30. Browning and the school board credited Allison Rudolf for her work in facilitating the process. Board member Anne Morter also assisted.

The board held an executive session concerning teacher negotiations following the regular meeting.

No board meeting will be held in July. The next meeting will be Monday, Aug. 21.

Two new "ladies" visit Red Hat luncheon

"Alberta" and "Wanda Faye Klump"

According to Glenn Baker of Heppner, the two new "ladies" who visited the Red Hat luncheon in Heppner on June 7 are just "a couple of trollops."

"Us girls just wanna have fun," was Wanda Faye Klump (Baker) and Alberta's (Al Riney of Heppner) reason for taking time out of their day to visit the luncheon.

Baker confided that about every six months he gets an idea in his head and sometimes it can be creative and at the time always seems like a good idea. After seeing meeting notices for the Red Hat Society, Baker inquired as to what it was and was informed that it was a group of ladies who get together for lunch. After learning this information, one morning around 6 a.m. (a time when many of his inspirations arrive) he all the sudden felt inspired by the many Milton Berle shows he had watched and his two years spent in San Francisco and decided that Wanda Faye Klump and a friend needed to visit the Red Hat luncheon. After many others backed out on him, he found a kindred spirit in Al Riney.

"It took a former National Park Ranger and an ex-Marine to pull it off," said Baker. He also confided that he did have inside help in the form of Suzanne Jepsen.

A great time was seemed to be had by all, except a few ladies who were a little confused, said Baker. After the lunch, Wanda Faye and Alberta took a stroll up Main Street and visited many of the businesses.

G-T closed Fri.

The Heppner Gazette-Times will be closed this Friday, June 16, so that staff can attend the University of Oregon commencement ceremonies this weekend.

Jon Bennett, the son of Tom and Bonnie Bennett, will graduate from UO with a bachelor of science degree in political science and Camille Sykes, the daughter of David and April Sykes, will graduate with a bachelor of arts degree in multimedia design.

The G-T office will open as usual on Monday morning.

Columbia Basin Electric says recent power outages unavoidable

"The recent electrical power interruption experienced in the Heppner-Lexington-Ione-Olex areas was unavoidable at the local level," reported Columbia Basin Electric Co-Op. "Bonneville Power dropped our main transmission feed and we lost all power to the area," the spokes person stated.

BPA reportedly had a breaker fail in their Boardman Transmission Substation, which caused the outages. The area is currently being served via CBEC's Alkali Transmission line, back-fed from Olex to the Ione, Heppner and Sandhollow substations.

"We always send a local crew to investigate an outage," said the Columbia Basin spokesperson, "as BPA personnel usually are dispatched out of Walla Walla, which takes a lot of time."

Columbia Basin reminds consumers to call the local office if their power fails. This helps the outage coordinators determine the size and scope of outages.

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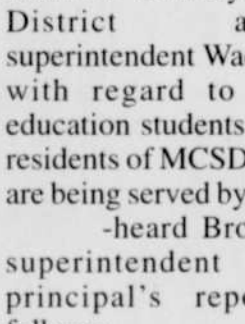
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