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Gazette Times

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Will close early this year

Ione Pool leaking water

The Ione Pool is losing several inches of water a day, Ione School Superintendent Bryn Browning reported Monday evening at the regular ISD Board meeting. Browning said that water leaking from the pool into a sump pump and into the drainfield resulted in a sinkhole, causing a light pole on the side of the school tennis courts and a back fence to shift. The board opted to close the pool after Labor Day to determine the cause of the problem, instead of keeping it open until the original closure date of September 30.They usually keep the pool open so that students could use it during school. Browning said they hoped to get problems resolved quickly, so they could open as soon as possible in June. They weren't able to open the pool until July 4 this year.

Also at the meeting, the board began deliberating regulations which could restrict or ban students from driving to school. Guidelines were created in response to concerns heard at a safety meeting held earlier. Students had been observed not following Oregon Driving Laws, such as driving without insurance, speeding, having extra passengers and passing a school bus.

The new regulations would require each student to sign a "student driving consent form" which requires parental permission and school approval. Students must show proof of a valid driver's license and proof of insurance.

The regulations also require that:

-vehicles remain on campus during the entire school day unless permission has been granted by a school official;

-student drivers must not display "show-off" or reckless driving behavior in the school zone;

-student drivers must adhere to all Oregon driving laws, including restricting the number of passengers for new drivers, observing all speed regulations (20 miles per hour in school zones and five mph in the school parking lot) and wearing of seatbelts. Violation of these regulations will be considered reckless driving.

For the first minor driving violation, the student will be issued a warning and a letter will be sent to his parents. For the second violation, the student will lose driving privileges for at least a week. A first violation for recklessness will result in suspension of driving privileges for at least two weeks.

Students will also be reminded that they need to "model conscientious and safe behavior for the younger students."

Ralph Morter, a member of the audience, voiced some concerns at the meeting about the student driver policy. "If a student is having discipline problems, discipline them, don't take away their driving privileges," commented Morter.

Browning also reported that the issues concerning special education funding for Morrow County School District students who attend the Ione Community School have been resolved. According to the agreement worked out between her and MCSD Assistant Superintendent Wade Smith, Morrow County will claim the students both on the special education census and on the resident district census. ISD will bill MCSD for half of the MCSD's average daily attendance after the second quarter and the remaining half at the end of the school year for basic student support monies.

MCSD's special ed director, BJ Wilson, will meet with Lindsay Orem of ISD at the beginning of each school year to review the students' individual education plans and determine the special education weighting (an Oregon State Department of Education formula which determines how much additional state monies a school receives, depending on the number of special ed students), based on services that Ione provides. ISD will bill MCSD for the special ed weighting, based on the services it provides.

Also within the agreement, Ione will assist in Child Find services, MCSD will work with Ione to schedule and notify parents or guardians of IEP meetings and Wilson or a representative will be present at all IEP meetings to assist in decisions concerning service delivery.

In other business, the board:

-approved an agreement with the Morrow County Unified Recreation District to receive $84,000 to fund extra-curricular

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Shane Erickson takes All-Around and Mike Currin Calf Roping at OTPR

1st place bull rider Andy Crozier on "Hard Time." Photo by Sandy Matthews.

The Oregon Trail Pro Rodeo was held in Heppner at the Morrow County Fairgrounds, Aug. 17-19. The rodeo is part of the Northwest Pro Rodeo Association. Stock Contractor for the year was B Bar D Rodeos. Delene Durfey and Heather Buchanan served as timers. Rough stock judges were Pat Shannon and Benny Ruda. Jim Crozier served as field flagger. Announcer for the event was Curt Robinson. Bill Hamilton was the bullfighter and Cody Sanford served as the clown/barrelman. Norm Durfey and Dan Durfey were this year's pickup men.

Bareback: 1st- Sam Storts, Coquille, $909.15; 2nd- Ryan Schmeizer, Terrebonne, $752.40; 3rd- Caleb Bayes, Payette, ID; 4th tied- Jacob Fiddy, Veneta and Grant Richie, Walla Walla, WA, $360.53 each; and 5th tied- George Gillespie, Midland and Kirk Giovanini, Pendleton, $78.38 each.

Saddle Bronc: 1st- Jack Field, Yakima, WA, $1019.35; 2nd- Jared McFarlane, Adrian, $843.60; 3rd- Mark Gage, Jordan Valley, $667.85; 4th tied- Ty Wilkins, Arlington and Levi Bunch, Durkee, $404.23 each; and Frank McKay, Burns, $175.75.

Bull Riding: 1st- Andy Crozier, Aumsville, $1092.50; 2nd- Cody Ford, Umatilla, $950; 3rd tied- Garrett Faulhaber, Redmond and Dan Morse, Ellensburg, WA, $736.25 each; 4th- Aaron Kafka, LaGrande, $522.50; 5th- Joe Oakes, Metolius, $380; 6th tied- Jake Rupp, Payette, ID and Jimmy Floyd, Prineville, $166.25 each.

Bull Riding Day Money: 1st performance, $144 each- Jake Rupe, Payette, ID, Zach Bright, Ephrata, WA, Dan Morse, Ellensburg, WA, Garrett Faulhaber, Redmond and Cody Ford, Umatilla; 2nd performance, $93.33 each- Aaron Kafka, LaGrande, Andy Crozier, Aumsville, Jimmy Floyd, Prineville, Joe Oakes, Metolius, Charlie Barker, Terrebonne and Kasey Collier, Prineville.

Tie Down Roping: 1st- Shane Erickson, Terrebonne; 2nd tied- Chase Taylor, Pendleton and Ryan Gallagher, Merrill, $1247.83 each; 3rd- Jared Sharp, Dayton, $944.30; 4th- Dave Cannon, Heppner, $741.95; 5th- Brett Hale, Tenino, WA, $539.60; and 6th tied- Del Foley, Roseburg and Luke Jefferies, Homedale, ID, $236.08 each.

Steer Wrestling: 1st- Michael Reger, Redmond, $1245.45; 2nd- Anthony Verdino, Pasco, WA, $1083; 3rd- Ryan Matteson, Heppner, $920.55; 4th- Sterling Lambert, Fallon, WA, $758.10; 5th- Chris Irzyk, Moro, $595.65; 6th tied- Luke Jefferies, Homedale, ID and Joe Irzyk,

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Spruce Lane to become one-way

As of Sept. 28, Spruce Lane in Heppner, coming down the hill from Heppner High School and connecting to Fuller Canyon Road, will no long be a two-way street. After several issues, including road width, guard rails and drainage, were brought to the attention of the Morrow County Road Committee, they concluded that the best correction to the problems would be to redesignate Spruce Lane as a one-way street. The Morrow County Court approved the decision Aug. 16.

"Spruce Lane will upon posting on Sept. 28, be a one-way street going north or down the hill from the high school," said Burke O'Brien, Morrow County Public Works Director.

The redesignation will also allow for a pedestrian and bike lane on the road, as well as the installation of new guard railing. "We sincerely hope that any inconvenience to the motoring public will be offset by the increased safety," commented O'Brien.

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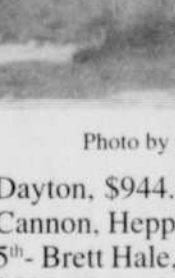
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