

Local superintendents offer support for new OSAA classifications

The superintendents of all 12 Umatilla and Morrow county school districts passed a resolution Jan. 17 in support of the new Oregon School Activities Association (OSAA) classifications and reaffirmed their support of keeping the current governance structure of the OSAA intact.

In October 2005, the OSAA voted to expand the four-category system to six categories, which will divide the 287 OSAA member schools to reduce enrollment disparity between the smallest and largest schools in each classification. According to the OSAA, the basis of the change is to improve competitive balance within leagues, minimize travel and expense for schools and maintain current league alignments wherever possible. The new classifications were implemented last fall.

So far, Dave Williams, athletic director for Pendleton High School, said the reclassification has been beneficial all over the state – not just in Eastern Oregon, where rural schools typically traveled further for

competition than schools on the west side of the state. "The reclassification committee found that the smaller schools, smaller leagues, were less competitive," Williams said. "But now, with the reclassification, we found teams that hadn't been in the playoffs (in the fall) for years were competing in the playoffs around the state, and doing well." Williams said the reclassification is a much more "fair" and establishes "competitive equity" in leagues across the state.

The resolution also offered continued support of the reclassification, the 12 local superintendents also passed a resolution in support of keeping the OSAA governance structure as it is – separate from the Oregon Department of Education. The ODE has expressed interest in moving the OSAA into its department.

The resolution was passed during the Jan. 17 monthly superintendents' meeting at the Umatilla-Morrow Education Service District in Pendleton.

Nominations being accepted for 2007 Crystal Apple Awards

The Umatilla-Morrow Education Service District is proud to announce that nominations for the 2007 Crystal Apple "Excellence in Education" Awards will be accepted beginning today, Feb. 1. Nominations will be accepted through Tuesday, April 3. This year's event will take place Wednesday, May 9, at the Pendleton Red Lion.

This is the seventh year for the Crystal Apple program, which is sponsored by the ESD, Banner Bank, East Oregonian, Hermiston Herald, Schools Plus Community Credit Union, Red Lion Hotel and Mid Columbia Bus Company. The purpose of the awards is to recognize individuals who help to make our school systems the best they can be.

"Outstanding members of our community deserve recognition and praise for their hard work and dedication to educating our young people," said Casey White, Crystal Apple Awards coordinator. "We

want to be able to say a big 'thank you' to these wonderful individuals and those who want to recognize them."

The awards are open to all members of the regular classified and certificated service in Umatilla and Morrow county school districts. It is not open to administrators, though administrators are encouraged to nominate exemplary employees. The award can be given to individuals who work full-time or part-time in any capacity other than administration. The cumulative total of regular service must be at least one year.

A nomination form will be available beginning today on the UMESD's Web site, www.umesd.k12.or.us, or by contacting Casey White (541-966-3115, or casey.white@umesd.k12.or.us). The deadline to make nominations is Tuesday, April 3, at 4 p.m.

New leaders elected to South Morrow County Scholarship Trust

Bill Rietman of Ione was elected president of the South Morrow County Scholarship Trust for the 2007 year at the SMCST's annual meeting in Heppner on January 29.

Barb Hayes was elected vice-president, Del LaRue was elected treasurer, and Sharon Harrison was elected secretary. Board

members are Missy Cutsforth, Martha Munkers, and Carrie Grieb.

The South Morrow County Scholarship Trust was established several ago to provide funds to grant scholarships to graduating seniors from Heppner and Ione High Schools. Applications for this year's scholarships are available in the form of a computer disk at both high schools, starting

in March. Deadline to turn them in will be April 13.

Musicians to hold competition

Inland Northwest Musicians is accepting applications for its seventh annual Young Artists Competition to be held on Sunday, March 4, at the Vert Club Room in Pendleton. The event will be sponsored by the Hermiston Kiwanis Club.

The competition is open to young musicians in four age categories: Elementary Division (through grade 5), Junior Division (grades 6-8), Senior Division (grades 9-12), and Young Adult Division (through age 25). Instrumentalists and singers will perform for a panel of adjudicators. All participants will receive critique sheets and winners will be chosen from each division.

All winners will receive \$100 cash prizes and some winners will be selected to perform with the Inland Northwest Orchestra in its May 2007 conference.

The entry fee for the competition is \$25. The deadline for application is Friday, February 16. For more information and application materials, contact Alice Massey, Young Artists Competition Chairman at 541-276-7430.

Commission to meet

The Oregon Grains Commission will conduct an Administrative Rules Hearing followed by a regular meeting on Tuesday, February 20, at 10 a.m. in the Oregon Wheat Growers League conference room at 115 SE 8th Street, Pendleton. The meeting is open to the public.

For more information call (541) 276-4609, Fax (541) 276-5753, or TTY (503) 986-4762.

Senior Center lunch menu

St. Patrick's Parish will be serving a Valentine's dinner on Wednesday, February 14. The menu will consist of breakfast egg casserole, hash browns and gravy, mixed fruit, cinnamon rolls, biscuits, juice and ice cream.

Marriage Licenses

Morrow County Clerk Bobbi Childers has released the following report of marriage licenses issued:

-January 26 – Lorenzo Ponce Cardenas Jr. 23, and Lorena Morales Pacheco, 20.

-January 31 – Pedro Pacheco Covarrubias, 24, Boardman, and Evelyn Dolores Alverado, 19, Boardman.

Free Tax Preparation

AARP Tax-Aide is the nations largest free volunteer-run tax assistance and preparation service for low and middle income tax payers. This free tax preparation service is again being offered in the Heppner area. Both State and Federal returns are prepared and electronically transmitted free of any charges. This free tax service is available to tax payers of all ages and a wide range of income levels. You do not need to be a member of AARP to benefit from this service.

Preparers will be available to assist tax payers at the OSU Extension Office located at, 54176 Hwy 74, on Fridays from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. If you are interested in taking advantage of this free service, please contact Darcee at 676-9642 to schedule an appointment. This service will be offered from February 2nd to April 13th.

Please be sure to bring all W-2's, 1098's, 1099's and any other documents showing income. If you have paid for child care please bring information showing the amount paid, as well as the providers identification number. If you think there may be a possibility that you would benefit from itemizing on your return, please be sure to bring all information pertaining to prescription drugs, medical care, including mileage to providers, plus property taxes, mortgage interest and charitable contributions. It is important to remember that the Oregon standard deduction is considerable lower than the Federal, so you may benefit from itemizing for the State return only.

Heppner, Lexington and Ione Homes and Businesses Real Estate For Sale



Three bedroom Two bath home in Ione



Very well kept Double Wide (with pod) 1999 Fleetwood. 3 bedroom, 2 bath, with living room, family room and dining room. Features carpeting throughout, Marmoleum floors, spacious island, new cabinets and granite counter tops in kitchen. There is lots of extras in this home including ample storage, underground sprinklers and a shop/ garage. Located on 1.41 m/l acres with lots of room for parking. **\$160,000**
Overlook the town with a great view off the front porch, or enjoy the covered patio in the back.

Restaurant - Lexington



Profitable restaurant and lounge Has Oregon lottery **\$185,000** Real property included.

Member MLS Multiple Listing Service



Commercial building in Ione



5152 sq ft building on 75 X 100 lot zoned commercial. Original building built in 1947, back portion added in 1971. Would make a good business location or use for storage. **\$47,500**

Sale Pending

2 bedroom fixer priced right. Motivated seller. **\$46,000**

2 Bedroom



Good starter home. Ask about financing **\$63,500**

8-Lane Bowling Alley & Restaurant

Great potential. Be your own boss. Sale price includes everything to walk in and operate the business. **\$225,000**

Multi-use shop



Use for storage, shop or start a business. Heated and insulated 3,000 lb crane included. **\$82,000**

Mountain Home With Great View



1975 manufactured 2 bedroom, 2 bath house on 5 m/l acres. New siding, decks, windows and insulation. Guest bunkhouse. Property includes: carport, shed, garage, gazebo and small barn. **\$145,000**

Mountain Property 2 parcels: 40 & 120 Acres m/l



160 acres total **\$160,000**

Residential Lot

Ready to build on. Located in a great neighborhood on hill property with an excellent view. Heppner. **\$15,500**



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2 Bedroom



2 Bedroom, 1 bath. Propane heat. Unfinished attic. Large shop. City water and sewer. 66 x 130' lot. Fenced yard. **\$65,900** *For approved buyer

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