

Principals honored for school excellence

-continued from page one teachers and students, but included a three-week Christmas holiday from December 20 to January 14, students ending June 11 and teachers ending June 13.

Burrows said that while Option C was somewhat radical, it would help the district in two ways. Students who traditionally leave for the Christmas holiday in Mexico would have more time to return and would not miss school and fall behind. Secondly, the district would not be penalized financially for those students who do not return from the holiday within the traditional one or two-week time period.

Burrows added that a pre-Labor Day start would not give the district enough time to schedule staff workshops and training sessions. He had requested a post-Labor Day start last year also, but the board voted otherwise. "The vast majority of schools are starting post-Labor Day," said Burrows.

In other business, the board:

-adopted policy affirming parental rights, required by the No Child Left Behind Act.

-approved a cooperative sponsorship for tennis between Heppner High School and Lone High School.

-heard a report from Wade Smith and Julie Ashbeck, executive secretary and personnel director, concerning the onerous number of forms (estimated at 70-80) they are required to submit to qualify the district for state and federal funding. Smith said that "accountability increases while funding decreases," and added that if the district "didn't go through the hoops" it wouldn't get its federal funding." The district is

scheduled for an on-site audit next year.

-accepted the following resignations/retirements: Robin Mulder, Sam Boardman Elementary School special ed assistant, Irrigon Junior High volleyball coach; Jake McElligott, IH head girls' basketball coach; Gerald Smith, Riverside High School assistant custodian; Elaine Miller, Heppner Elementary School secretary; Dean Peck, Riverside High School social studies teacher.

-approved employment for David Chavez, Irrigon High School assistant custodian, replacing Norma Smith; Jose DeLoera, SBE assistant custodian, replacing Juan Ayala; Larry Berry, RHS assistant custodian, replacing Gerald Smith.

-approved the following transfers/promotions: Lloyd Bowman, from Windy River Elementary assistant custodian to IHS head custodian, replacing Grace Sandlin; Norma Smith, from IHS assistant custodian, replacing Lloyd Bowman.

-approved the following extra duty contracts: Eric Lougee, IHS head tennis coach; Abel Burnett, IHS assistant track coach; Susan Hisler, Heppner Junior High head track coach; Larry Palmer, HJH assistant track coach.

-approved the following 2006-07 probationary teachers (HES and HHS listed only): HES- Melissa Coiner, special ed, three-year probationary teacher for 2007-08; Michelle Stone, kindergarten/first grade, two year probationary teacher for 2007-08; HHS- Petra Payne, Spanish, contract teacher for 2007-08; Josh Browning, language arts, contract; Marianne Smith (HES/HHS), PE/art, contract;

David Melville, math/PE, second year; Joe Lindsay (HHS/HES), music, second year; Beth Dickenson, vo-ag, second year; Troy Morgan, advanced math, second year; Sam Thurston, special ed, second year.

-approved the following 2006-07 administrators through 2007-2010: John Sebastian, A.C. Houghton Elementary School principal, contract; Dirk Dirkson, RHS principal, contract; Thad Killingbeck, Day Stone, HHS principal, contract.

-approved the following 2006-07 administrators through 2007-08: Jack Thompson, HES principal/counselor, third year; Phyllis Danielson, Irrigon Elementary principal/counselor, third year; Chris Davis, IHS assistant principal, third year; Mark Jones, RHS assistant principal, third year; Matt Combe, alternative ed director, third year; Tom Crane, IHS principal, second year.

-approved the following contract teachers (HES and HHS listed only): HES-Jannie Allen, Karen Clough, Pam Dowdy, Mary Ann Elguezabal, Sue Gibbs, Mary Haguewood, Sherry Matteson, Sharon Morris, Molly Rill, Karen Smith-Griffith; HHS-Jean Collins, Mark Dowdy, John Flaherty, Dave Fowler, Terri Gentry, Greg Grant, Darlene Marquardt, Jason Palmer, Petra Payne, Dieter Waite.

-learned from Burrows that the state on-line testing program "has crashed" because of a breakdown in negotiations between the Oregon Department of Education and the testing vendor. "This is really bad news," said Burrows, who added that students will now have to take state mandated assessments with paper and pencils. The board voted to

send a letter of disapproval to Susan Castillo, state superintendent of public instruction.

-heard concern from Burrows about the monies estimated to be earmarked for state education by the Oregon legislature. Burrows said the estimated \$6 billion (statewide) was "disheartening", especially considering the \$360,000 that is expected to be lost by Morrow County in federal title program monies. "We're just barely breaking even," lamented Burrows. "We're going the wrong way."

-heard concerns from board member Ken Matlack over after-school use of district buildings. He said that the district should encourage rather than discourage use of its buildings to help kids stay out of trouble through after-school programs and called for a change in policy, which, he says, currently requires school staff on site for these events and requires purchase of an insurance policy. Smith said the policy was written with loopholes purposely to allow such use. "We will take a stab at rewriting policy in a more flexible way," added Burrows.

-approved writing letters of congratulations to numerous students and teams for academic and athletic successes.

-voted to change the joint Community Education Committee meeting to 6 p.m., prior to the next regular board meeting on Monday, April 9, at 7 p.m. at Irrigon High School.

-heard the following announcements: deadline to file for May elections in March 15; end of the third nine weeks is March 22; spring break is March 26-30; the next board meeting will be held at Irrigon High School at 7 p.m. on April 9; OSBA spring regional meeting will be held at BMCC at 6 p.m. on April 19.

A Wee Bit O'History

By Claudia Hughes

Top O' the morning will soon be heard as Heppner turns green for the 25th time! After so many years of thinking green, there's still a checklist going off in my head, but I've been doing a pretty good job of hiding under a shamrock, and know that all is in very capable hands! New events and people have been added. The concert, Tarish has been moved to Friday evening. O'Farley's social hour and the O'Shanty races are returning with the new O'Kiddie tricycle races. What's tradition is here to stay!

Seems like yesterday when Jim Farley organized that small KUMA Coffee Hour, March 1982, in his Ford dealership showroom and invited Irish families to share their stories and songs of the old country. Soon the Sheep Dog Trials were added, and each year would find Farley cornering people with a "bit of the bribery" to bring in sheep, provide this and that, and give donations for advertising. People remember Charles Hutchinson (Hutch) of Hutch's Printing and his wife Linda (the first chairmen of the event) helping and all businesses pitched in.

What started as the KUMA Hour continued to grow with a lamb barbeque, lamb cook-off, St. Patrick's ham dinner, a parade, and Irish Singers. Fundraisers such as the auction and casino came and went over the years.

Farley's party soon became more than a short-term event. It became evident to David Sykes, who served as chairman for 4 years after Hutch, that it was pretty difficult to run a printing business, newspaper, and handle all the Irish calls coming in. Somehow, shortly after the Hughes family was honored, David encouraged this leprechaun to stick her nose into the mix, joining Diana Ball who worked at the Gazette. Sykes continued to be a valuable asset to the committee, and for many years chaired the coffee hour. Eventually, Cara Osmin, then mayor, came on board as co-chair when Sykes talked her into taking over the coffee hour. Jim Farley continued to keep us lined out and we checked out any ideas with him to make sure they passed muster!

Father Condon started writing plays. The Cruz-In, Motocross, vendor's square, stew feed, races, and family flags were added. The celebration became known as A Wee Bit O'Ireland in Heppner and grew to four days, most recently adding Road Bowling on Sunday afternoon. Leprechauns began to appear and traveled to a Portland T.V. station and other events to promote Heppner. Heppner grew the biggest shamrock in the world.

For a while, the St. Pat's Committee stood on its own with many committee members of Irish heritage coming from outside the City limits with no specific location. Then, as Heppner's celebration grew, it became evident that more than a committee and treasurer were needed to manage the event; thus the funds were handled through the City of Heppner. Being co-chair and then Chamber manager meant an abundance of St. Pat's calls were coming to the office, so the Heppner chamber included the Irish event in their goals, and, with the City, has taken on the responsibility of keeping the Wee Bit O'Ireland celebration ongoing.

The secret is, were it not for the entire community, your Chamber, your City, and all of you faithful hard working individuals, committees, and organizations in Morrow County, Farley's Party would have died out long ago and gone the way of shriveled up toad stools. You make the difference, you make it happen! Luck of the Irish to one and all! There's no better spot for the wearing O' the green than Heppner, Oregon!

"May the road rise up to meet you, the wind be always at your back, the rain fall gently on your fields, the sun shine warm upon your face, and until we meet again, may God hold you in the palm of his hand."

Arts and crafts to be seen at Les Schwab

Morrow County Creative Arts and Crafts will be at the Les Schwab showroom on Friday, March 16, from 10 a.m. until 6 p.m. and on Saturday, March 17, from 8:30 a.m. until 4 p.m. for the St. Pat's celebration.

Among those members putting on the sale and show will be Mary Ella Johnson with her hand crocheted cotton rugs and sister Beverly McCloud with her wool crocheted rugs and pot holders. This is something we all have heard our grandmothers talk about or did. What a nice gift or special rug for yourself.

Betty Christmas and Lorene Montgomery will have a country collection of blankets and home decorative items and many

gift items. This is a very extensive selection of items all done by these two creative people.

Sandra Haynes will have her painting and drawings of animals and western art on display also. Mary Ella will be taking care of her display while she attends the Russell show in Montana.

New this year is Ed Patton with his frontier art items of knives and jewelry.

Roquel Herrera will have aprons and homemade tamales.

Come and see the variety of things the local artists make and take home a special gift or some new home decoration.

Correction

In the Wednesday, March 7, edition of the Heppner Gazette-Times, in the "Grand Marshal announced for St. Patrick's Festivities" story, a daughter Alisa Halvorsen (deceased) was inadvertently listed as Jimmy Farley's daughter. She should have been listed as the daughter of Trisha Huddleston.

Cardinal Booster Club meets and discusses weight room project

The Cardinal Booster Club met Monday, March 5, at the school library. 10 members were present. The club discussed the weight room project. The school board has discussed the plan and asked for further information before giving their final approval. Keith Morter expressed concern the bleachers would be in the way of getting equipment to the site to dot the work.

Superintendent Browning will check to see if the bleachers can be moved for construction if needed and then put back in place. Lynn Dee Ramos, project coordinator, will contact a

professional to draw up the plan the club has approved. Once the drawing has been completed, Ramos will set up a meeting to estimate projected costs. That committee will consist of Ramos, Vince Alleman, Loyal Burns, Joe Vandever, Keith Morter, Lisa Rietmann, Arlynda Gates and Joe McElligott.

Betty Gray reported that from February of 2005 through February of 2007 the group recycling cans has generated \$3,753.60 in income for the booster club. Cans are donated from community members and sorted by Gray, Laurel Cannon and Wayne Hams. Gray expressed appreciation

to Collier's Market for processing the cans through their store.

The framed motivational posters the club purchased have arrived and will be hung in the high school hallway.

Ione Community Agri-Business Organization is planning their annual fall meeting for Wednesday, March 14, at the Legion Hall. They have asked Cardinal Booster Club for a report on the past year's activities. Ramos agreed to represent the club at the dinner meeting.

The club discussed upgrading the quality of the basketball programs. Browning will contact the ESD about printing a colored program cover with the supporting business members' names on the back. The school will print the Ione team information inside the cover and provide an insert with visiting team information. If the cost of

printing the programs is reasonable the club may also print programs for volleyball and football.

The club voted to provide \$100 for the LaRue family to help with expenses for Kevin to attend the Geography Bee competition.


The next meeting of the Cardinal Booster Club will be Monday, April 2, at 7 p.m. at the school library.

Marriage Licenses

Morrow County Clerk Bobbi Childers has released the following report of marriage licenses issued: -March 6 - Keith E. Ames, 46, Heppner, and Cruz M. Lopes, 26, Heppner.

- F e r n a n d o Madrigal, 22, Boardman, and Faviola Macias, 21, Irrigon.

Little League Meeting
There will be a meeting of the Heppner Little League at the Heppner Neighborhood Center on Thursday, March 22 at 7 p.m.



Kenneth Deane Graves
1967 ~ 2006
In Loving Memory of Our Kenneth

It has been one year since we lost you but it seems like yesterday. We know you are walking on streets of gold and have the biggest set of wings. We miss your big smile, loud laughter, and kind and caring ways. Your empty chair at holiday meals isn't right. Your family and fiance Renee miss you ever so much, little Kenny. We will hold you in our hearts and dreams forever until we meet again, son.

Your loving family: Deane, Bonnie, Renee, Doris, Kenny and Candy, Rita, Grama Connie and Dorris. All your cousins and friends.

Not your typical "Irish" meal, but it has been prepared by many an Irish hand!

~ PIT HAM DINNER ~
Saturday, March 17th • 4:00 - 7:00 p.m.
St. Patrick's Church Parish Hall • 525 Gale Street
Cost: Adults \$7 / 12 & Under \$4

Menu: Ham, Irish Potato Casserole, Irish Flag Salad, Corn, Homemade Rolls, Homemade Pie, Coffee or Juice

And enjoy live musical entertainment by the Lindsay Family!

CUSTOM BANNERS
Heppner Gazette-Times
676-9228