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## New faces join staff of Heppner schools

Heppner Elementary School started off the new year with a new principal. Matt Combe took over the reigns from Jack Thompson to head the school.

Combe and his family moved to Heppner from Pendleton where he has lived for the past five years. Before coming to Heppner, Combe was the principal at the alternative school in Irrigon for the last four years. He has worked for 11 years

in the education system, including seven years teaching alternative education and four years as principal with the Morrow County School District at the alternative school in Irrigon. Combe received his degree from Eastern Oregon University.

Combe moved to Heppner with his wife, Kami, and his children Madison, who is in first grade, and Kaden, who is three years old and in preschool. The Combes are expecting their third child, a girl, in November.

Combe says he is "excited to be here and is excited about the opportunity to live in Heppner and meet the people."

Wendy Cannin joined Heppner High School this year as the new junior high math teacher. She also works half a day at HES as the P.E. teacher.

Cannin grew up in Pilot Rock and graduated from Pilot Rock High School but jokingly asks that the residents of Heppner "don't hold it against her."

This is Cannin's first teaching job but she has been a substitute for the last year. She received her degree in elementary education from Eastern Oregon University. While her degree is not in mathematics, Cannin is working to get the extra endorsements for a certificate.

Cannin moved from Pendleton with her husband, J.J. and she has two chil-



Matt Combe took over the position of principal at Heppner Elementary School.



Wendy Cannin



Brandi Sweeney

dren, Noah who is three, and Thaiden who is one. She also has a stepdaughter, Jaydn who is two. Cannin says she is "very excited to be in Heppner."

A new face in the front office of HES is that of Brandi Sweeney. She took over the position vacated by Elaine Miller.

Sweeney has worked for the past two years as a one-on-one aide at the elementary school. She began

her new position on August 1.

Sweeney has lived in Heppner for the past 16 years. She is married to Corey and has two sons, Kane and Jorden, both students at HES.

Ione Community School also has a new teacher. Stefanie Spivey is teaching second grade. Her interview will be featured in next week's edition of the Heppner Gazette-Times.

HEPPNER

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Gazette  
Times

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## School district ratifies MCEA, OSEA contracts

The Morrow County School District Board Monday night ratified contracts with the Morrow County Education Association and the Oregon School Employees Association. Both contracts had been ratified by the two employee groups on August 30.

MCS D's two-year contract with MCEA called for an increase in insurance premiums paid by the district from \$786 to \$890 per teacher per month during the first year of the contract and from \$890 to \$940 in the second year. The district will also pay six percent of the teachers' salaries into the Public Employees Retirement System for the second year of the contract.

In addition, the district will provide a longevity stipend to the teachers who opt to stay with the district beyond 10 years.

There will be no increase in teachers' salaries during the two-year period with the exception of step increases already in place.

The district will also pay PERS for those eligible OSEA employees for the second year of their three-year contract. The district-paid portion of OSEA employees' insurance will go from \$810 per month per employee to \$890 in year one. In year two the district-paid portion will go to \$940 and in year three to \$965. Leave time for classified employees went from 10-plus days of annual leave to two days of personal leave and three days of family illness leave with the exception of maintenance and custodial staff leave, which will remain the same.

Steps will be given to those classified employees eligible to move and this year a one-time stipend will be given to those on Step 15

as of June 30 of this year.

There will be no change to the classified employees' salary schedule this year.

Also at the meeting, MCS D Superintendent Mark Burrows told the board that the district's emphasis on curriculum paid off with each school in the district meeting the state's "average yearly progress" criteria with the exception of Riverside High School. Burrows congratulated the staff at Riverside High School, which improved from not having met the criteria last year. Burrows said only 43 percent of schools met the AYP. "Kudos for a job well done," he said.

In other business, the board:

-heard a report from Burrows and Kristen Marshall and Dale Boyd from the Heppner Ranger District on a new program for high school seniors through the Umatilla National Forest Service and the school district. Burrows said that Heppner District Ranger

Tom Mafera received a grant which would fund a week-long "Fire and Fuels Career Orientation Camp" for up to 16 high school seniors.

The career orientation camp is free of charge and offers workshops on fire ecology and natural resource management. Students selected for the opportunity will learn about a range of programs and degrees offered by a variety of colleges and universities. They will also learn about agency job prospects and get assistance in applying for future agency jobs. The camp will be held at the Tupper Work Center, 35 miles from Heppner, October 21-26. Seniors must apply for this opportunity.

-approved changes to the district's Community Education Committees policies.

-received the following budget committee recommendations: Nancy Vander Does nominated Nicole Mahoney to the budget committee and Barney Lindsay nomi-

-Continued on page two

## City puts garbage service on notice

The Heppner City Council voted unanimously Monday to give Heppner Garbage 20 days to "totally comply" with its franchise agreement or lose the franchise.

The garbage company operates within the city under a contract that spells out how the business will be operated. Monday several council members said they didn't want to take the drastic measure, but were frustrated in dealing with David Green, owner of Heppner Garbage.

In a letter to Green dated August 23 city manager David De Mayo said "The mechanical breakdown of your garbage truck during the period of August 6-15, 2007, generated a number of complaints from the public as garbage was accumulating with no immediate remedy to correct the problem. This situation has brought to a head several major violations of your franchise agreement with the city of Heppner."

De Mayo also said that Green was recently issued a citation in April because of a truck full of garbage parked in the city limits for period of time, and that the city has received many complaints about service in the past which Heppner Garbage has made no effort to rectify. He said the city was forced to pay Hermiston Sanitary \$1,641 to pick up trash in the city while Green's trucks were broken down; money the city has so far not been reimbursed.

Specifically the city is



Waste that was illegally dumped at recycling center in Heppner is hauled off by city crew. Citations will be issued according to public works director. Only recycle material should be left at the metal containers (right).



considering terminating the franchise for the three following reasons:

1. Failure to provide a regular weekly schedule to the city and your customers of when garbage will be picked up.
2. Failure to notify the city of unforeseen breakdowns and a backup plan for any delay of greater than 24 hour duration.
3. Delinquency of franchise payment to the city by at least one quarterly payment.

Monday the council said if Heppner Garbage did not "totally comply" with the franchise it would terminate the franchise and negotiate an agreement with another company.

"We are all behind Dave (Green), but he has been given ample time. He has had difficult times," said Mayor Les Paustian.

"He goes over and above

his duties," said council member Judy Buschke, "and I hate that this has come to this."

In other business the council heard from Public Works Director Brian Harmon who said that people have been illegally dumping garbage at the recycling station on Riverside in Heppner. The city has had to haul off loads of garbage left on the ground around the recycling bins. Tuesday Harmon said "several" people would be cited for dumping there.

The new traffic devices installed at the Heppner Elementary School were also discussed. The city has been grappling with ways to make the crossing between the two school buildings on Stansbury Street for some time. "It looks great," commented one council member.

The council also heard that the St. Patrick senior center elevator is now working. There had been multiple

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## Hunting party has success



Dale Pearson (left) of Portland had a good day Sunday, when he bagged this nice six-point elk near Heppner. With Pearson is Mike Rose of Damascus (right) and Mike's son Jacob, center. The hunting party was headed back out Monday afternoon saying they had seen and called in other elk in their hunting area.

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