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Gazette Times

VOL. 126 NO. 47 8 Pages Wednesday, November 21, 2007 Morrow County, Heppner, Oregon

More time for comment on lake irrigation proposal

By David Sykes

The Army Corps of Engineers has extended the deadline until Dec. 15 for comment on a proposed long-term withdrawal of irrigation water from Willow Creek Lake.

The Corps is planning on making long term agreements to release up to 2,500 acre-feet of water from Willow Creek Lake each year for use in irrigation of farm land down stream from the dam. In the past the Corps has released extra water for irrigation, but was authorized to do so only under emergency drought conditions. The current action would make the additional water available permanently.

Irrigators are seeking permenant water contracts from Willow Creek Lake

In a draft environmental assessment posted on the internet the Corps describes how much and when the water would be released, and the possible economic impact to recreation and agriculture of the release. Anyone wanting to make comment on the proposal now has until Dec. 15 to do so. A link to the environmental assessment and the public notice and where to

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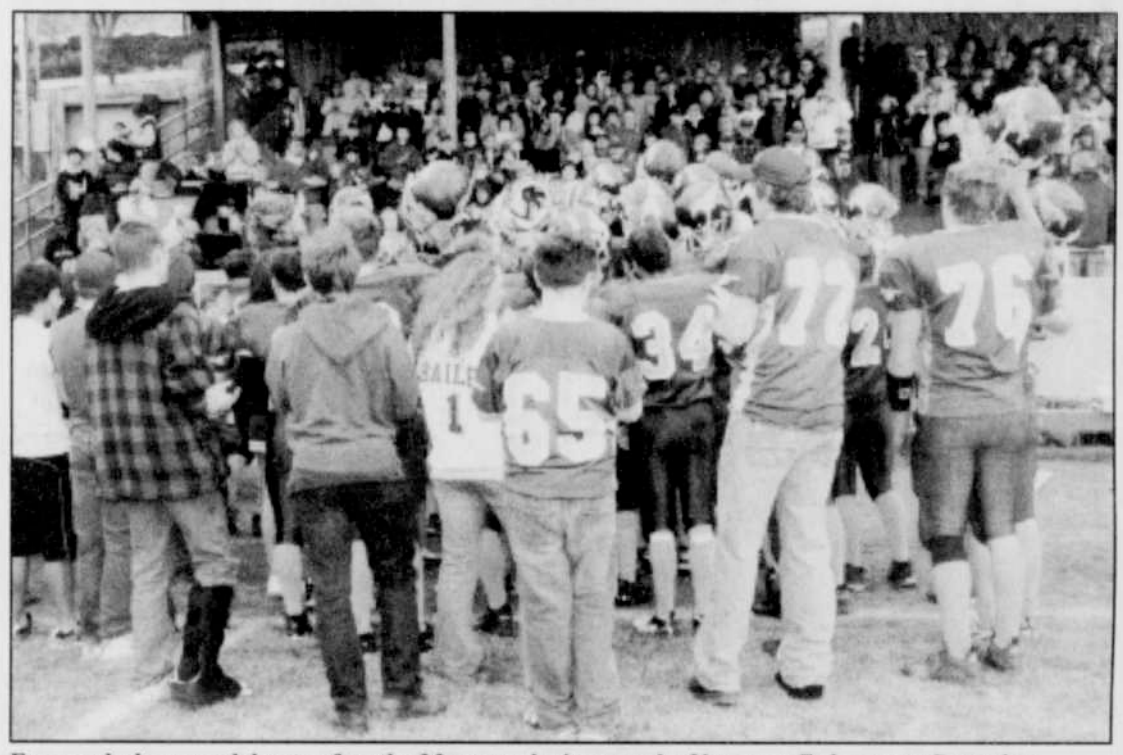
A time to celebrate



Fans and players celebrate after the Mustangs' win over the Nestucca Bobcats on Saturday, November 17. The win advanced the Mustangs to the semifinal round of state playoffs. The game will be played on Saturday, November 24, at Willamette University in Salem at noon. *–Photo by Sandy Matthews*

Morrow County School Board gives superintendent vote of confidence with raise, contract extension

By April Sykes

The Morrow County School Board gave Superintendent Mark Burrows a vote of confidence with a raise, a one-year extension on his rolling three-year contract and good-to-excellent ratings on all evaluation goals.

The board, at the regular meeting at the Morrow Education Center in Irrigon November 13, approved a five-percent raise for Burrows which will make his salary in the neighborhood of $105,200 annually. Two-percent of the raise was as per contract and three percent was tied to his performance.

"I appreciate the confirmation that I'm doing a good job," said Burrows.

Also at the meeting, the board viewed a program about the Irrigon High School and Irrigon community's efforts, through donations of money, time, equipment, and labor, towards installing lights on the IHS football field. The lights were installed just in time for their homecoming game.

The board also heard a program about the Heppner High School FFA trip to the national FFA convention in Indianapolis, which was organized by HHS Vo-ag teacher/FFA advisor Beth Dickenson. Dickenson and HHS Principal Daye Stone chaperoned the event. Irrigon FFA students and advisor also attended the convention.

In other business, the board:

-approved a "compensation adjustment" for the MCSD business manager and human resources director/executive secretary. Burrows said that the adjustments were made to make the salaries more competitive with similar positions in surrounding districts. The human resource/executive secretary's salary was increased from $48,500 to $53,000 annually. The business manager's annual salary was increased from $55,200 to $62,000.

-heard a report on the improving attendance report for the Morrow Education Center from MEC head teacher Dave Melville.

-heard the first reading of an expanded options program which would allow juniors and seniors to take college courses.

-approved an early graduation date for an Irrigon High School student.

-appointed Kimberly Harper to the Boardman Community Education Committee.

-approved surplusing a 1999 Buick, a 1992 Ford Van and 30 hi-tech lights from the HHS gym and cafeteria.

-approved resignations for: Kay Horn, retiring from Sam Boardman Elementary School special ed one-on-one assistant position; Sherry Bishop, SBE special ed one-on-one position.

-approved employment for: Kim Finley, SBE special ed one-on-one assistant, replacing Sherry Bishop; Lea Nunamaker, Irrigon Elementary School assistant cook, replacing Mavis Edwards; and Joy Hearn, Windy River Elementary special ed on-on-one assistant, replacing Lucia Zavala.

-approved extra duty contracts for: Raul Alvarado, Irrigon Junior High boys' basketball coach; Amy Tolar, Irrigon High School assistant girls' basketball coach; and Mike Cates, IHS assistant girls' basketball coach.

-heard the following announcements: Thanksgiving holiday, Thursday and Friday, November 22-23; next board meeting, Irrigon Elementary School, Monday, December 10, 7 p.m.

-held an executive session to discuss real estate, legal issues and the superintendent's evaluation.

Closed for the holidays

The Heppner Gazette-Times will be closed on Thursday, November 22, and Friday, November 23, for the Thanksgiving holiday. All deadlines will remain the same.

Six out of seven tags filled

Danielle Looslie, Mindy Wilson, Dale Wilson, Steve Wilson, and Kyler Wilson show off their spike elk taken at Skinner Creek during second season spike elk. The group had seven tags and filled six of them.

Two Ione students finalists in state-wide scholarship competition

By April Sykes

The Ione School Board, at their regular meeting Monday night, learned that two Ione students were finalists in the Oregon Wendy's Heisman scholarship competition. Emily Rietmann won the girls' competition and Kip Krebs was in the top 10 of the boys' competition. Rietmann will go on to compete at the national level.

Also at the meeting, the board discussed the possibility of putting a bond before the voters in May to pay for maintenance and capital items. The board has a meeting scheduled to hear cost estimates for the improvements prior to scheduling a public meeting on the issue.

In other business, the board:

-adopted continuous improvement goals which address Oregon Department of Education standards.

-learned that the district was to receive School Improvement Funds on November 20.

-received draft kindergarten through-12th grade writing goals.

-learned that enrollment as of November 19 was 158 students: 66 students for kindergarten through grade five; 40 for grades six through eight; and 52 for grades nine through 12. Two students enrolled since the October board meeting.

-learned that the district was granted a variance by the Oregon Department of Education to use motor coach buses for school activity transportation through April 22. Mid-Columbia Bus assisted in the process.

-learned that the maintenance company has performed the quarterly heating and air conditioning maintenance.

-received a bid for $6,800 from Purswell Pump to replace valves and deteriorating pipes in the Ione School pool.

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Former exchange student returns 12 years later for visit

By Autumn Morgan

In 1994 Jim and Monica Swanson of Ione decided to host an exchange student in their home for the 1994-1995 school year. Little did they know that 12 years later he would be back to visit them.

Thierry Delbart came to the Swanson's home from France and spent his year abroad enrolled at Ione School. Like many students in a small town, Thierry became very involved in sports. In fact, Thierry made second team for state in basketball and was named MVP in the All Star game in 1994. He also went to state in tennis. "I didn't know what to expect when coming, I knew it was a small town and I took it like it was," said Thierry. "I had a great time (in Ione)."

Thierry returned home to France and once again, in 1999, decided to become an exchange student, this time in Brazil. Thierry spent the 1999-2000 school year as an exchange student at a university in Brazil. It was during that year in Brazil that Thierry met Celeste Fernandez. After that school year, Thierry returned to France. Celeste also made the move to France. For the next few years the two began talking extensively

Thierry Delbart was an exchange student in Ione during the 1994-1995 school year.

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ALL NEWS AND ADVERTISEMENT DEADLINE:
MONDAYS AT 5:00 P.M.

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Lexington 989-8221 • 1-800-452-7396 For farm equipment, visit our web site at www.mcgg.net