

School district updates policies for cell phone use, cyber bullying

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to law enforcement officials may be made. Devices brought to district property or used in violation of the policy are subject to confiscation and will be released to the student's parent or the property owner.

Most high school principals said that if a student is caught using a cell phone at school, it will be confiscated for a period of time, usually a week. If the student is caught a second time, generally parents will be called in for a conference and then may retrieve the phone or other device.

The board and administrators broadened the district's bullying policy to include "cyber-bullying," which could include use of any electronic device, such as cell phones, MySpace or other internet websites, to demean, menace, intimidate or otherwise intimidate students. The far-reaching policy states that "harassment, intimidation or bullying, including cyber bullying, means any act that substantially interferes with a student's educational benefits, opportunities or performance, that takes place on or immediately adjacent to school grounds, at any school-sponsored activity, on school provided transportation or at any official school bus stop, and that has the effect of: physically harming a student or damaging a student's property; knowingly placing a student in reasonable fear of physical harm to the student or damage to the student's property; creating a hostile educational environment."

Staff found in violation of the policy will be subject to discipline, including dismissal. Students found in violation of the policy will be subject to loss of privileges and discipline, including expulsion. Other persons found in violation will be "subject to appropriate sanctions as determined and imposed by the superintendent or board." The district may also report individuals to law enforcement.

Also at the meeting,

the board adopted federally mandated revisions to special education policies and policies concerning Title I, homeless students, students with disabilities and parental involvement which were determined to be required following an audit by the Oregon Department of Education. Superintendent Mark Burrows told the board that the district was already following the ODE requirements, but needed to update policy.

In other business, the board:

-approved the following 2007-08 probationary teachers for 2008-09 (Heppner listed only): Heppner Elementary School: Melissa Coiner, special ed contract; Michelle Stone, Title I, music-third year; Wendy Cannin, PE, math-second year; Heppner High School: Joe Lindsay, music; Beth Dickenson, vo-ag; Troy Morgan, advanced math; and Sam Thurston, special ed, all third year.

-approved the following 2007-08 administrators for 2008-09: Phyllis Danielson, assistant superintendent-contract; Chris Davis, Irrigon Junior/Senior High School principal-contract; Mark Jones, Windy River Elementary School, Boardman, principal-contract; Matt Combe, Heppner Elementary School principal-contract; Daye Stone, Heppner Junior/Senior High School principal-received contract 2007-08; Joel Chavez, Irrigon Elementary School principal, received contract 2007-08; Jacque Johnson, Sam Boardman Elementary School principal-second year; Craig Bensen, assistant principal, second year; Donna Barton, assistant principal, second year. Principals John Sebastian, A.C. Houghton Elementary, and Dirk Dirksen, Riverside High School, are in the first year of their three-year cycle and will be recommended for extension next year.

-approved the following contract teachers for extension (Heppner listed only): Heppner Elementary-Jannie Allen, Karen Clough,

Pam Dowdy, Mary Ann Elguezabal, Sue Gibbs, Mary Haguewood, Sherry Matteson, Sharon Morris, Molly Rill, Karen Smith-Griffith; Heppner High School-Josh Browning, Jean Collins, Mark Dowdy, John Flaherty, Dave Fowler, Terri Gentry, Greg Grant, Darlene Marquardt, Jason Palmer, Petra Payne, Marianne Smith and Dieter Waite.

-approved non renewal for temporary teacher Dean Mason, ACH half-time music teacher.

-accepted the following resignations/retirements: Kathy Hyder, SBE head cook; Jan Coe, HES assistant cook; Lola Davidson, SBE assistant cook.

-approved the following employment: Joyce Hensley, ACH half-time special ed one-on-one assistant.

-approved the following extra duty contracts: Brian Bigham, Irrigon Junior High head track coach; David Baker, Irrigon High School head track coach; Troy Morgan Heppner High School assistant baseball coach; and Wendy Cannin, Heppner Junior High head track coach.

-received the following enrollment report: ACH-356 students, kindergarten through fourth grade; HES-190, K-six; HHS-228, seven-12; IES-124, five-six; IHS-319, six-12; RHS-394, seven-12; SBE-315, K-three; WRE-226, four-six; total-2249.

-approved the following attendance variances: accepting three students to attend MCS D from Hermiston School District; releasing a student from MCS D to attend Hermiston School District.

-heard the following announcements: end of third nine-weeks-Thursday, March 20; spring break-Monday, March 24-Friday, March 28; next board meeting-Windy River Elementary, Boardman, Monday, April 14, 7 p.m.; town hall meetings-Boardman, Monday, April 21, Irrigon, Monday, April 28; and Heppner, Monday, May 19.

Wee bit O'...

By Claudia Hughes

Heppner's rolling "Irish" hills are showing tinges of green and leprechauns continue to immerse from under snowdrifts. As usual this time of the year finds the "wee ones" of all shapes and sizes scurrying hither and yon to one again prepare for "A Wee Bit O' Ireland in Heppner."

CenturyTel Leprechauns with our mayor and friends saw to it that the Irish family flags were flying on Main Street. These flags continue the tradition of recognizing the families who settled in County Morrow in the 1800's or who recently moved to Heppner from Ireland. Congratulations to 2008 honoree Larry Lindsay and family who bring a Celtic heritage to us and have shared their musical talent over the years.

The first time ever Irish Amateur Boxing event will be held on Friday night. The sport of boxing historically has given the opportunity for people of all minority groups to become famous and that includes Irishman John L. Sullivan who held the heavyweight championship title for 10 years and became a member of the boxing Hall of Fame. Sign up, climb in the ring, and have some excitement. Then, if that's not enough, head for the Motocross on Saturday and Road Bowling on Sunday.

Leprechauns come in all shapes and sizes, as Mrs. Allen's class is proving with the innovative leprechaun catching traps her class has been working of for weeks. The project has inspired calculation, creativity, packaging and presentations among students with

the goal to convince their audience they indeed have the best trap. Fortunately these traps aren't big enough to catch the large infamous leprechauns who will be out and about encouraging visitors to once again enjoy the variety of music during the KUMA Coffee Hour and the Ceili all day Saturday; Father Condon's play; the Great Green Parade; Cruz-In; Pipes and Drums; Fiddlers and more throughout the weekend. You'll see these Heppner leprechauns dancing a jig with the likes of the Irish Singers, Mulligan Stew, The Wambeke Family, Dan Shaufler, Lindy Gravelle, and more.

Fortunately, the previously mentioned "leprechaun catchers" won't interfere with the Lil Leprechaun Race on Main Street prior to the parade; rather they will be encouraging visitors to take in the many festivities both old and new in downtown Heppner. Don't forget the Sheepdog Trials as raising sheep gave many local Irishmen their start. 'Tis a sport in itself.

There's fun, food, and shenanigans for all ages and all interest in Heppner this weekend... come one, come all. And the community would be thankful all of ye behind the scenes leprechauns who keep the celebration going with new faces and new events. Have a great green "Irish weekend."

Irish thought: "Wishing you always, walls for the wind, and a roof for the rain, and tea beside the fire. Laughter to cheer you, and all your heart might desire."

Ireland native visits Heppner

Ciáran Mollahan, 31, of Dublin, formerly of County Leitrim, stopped by the Heppner Gazette-Times on Monday. Mollahan was in Oregon visiting relatives. His father, John Mollohan, is a first cousin to John Mollahan of Lexington.



Ciáran Mollahan

Mollahan arrived in Portland and then came to Heppner on Saturday. "I came just in time for Sunday Mass (at St. Patrick's Catholic Church)," said Ciáran. He met Father Condon who is also from Dublin. Mollahan's grand-uncle Pat came to Heppner in the early 1900's.

Mollahan, who left Heppner Monday afternoon for Ontario, plans to return to Ireland on March 17. He and his wife Ciára have a seven month old baby.

Boxers needed for Friday smoker

The Heppner Chamber of Commerce and UROCK Radio will be sponsoring an amateur boxing smoker event at the high school gymnasium on Friday, March 14 at 8:30 p.m. Gates will open at 7:30 p.m. Admission is \$10 for adults, \$5 for ages 8-11, and children 7 and under can get in free.

There are still openings for boxers, both male and female. Bouts will consist of three, one-minute rounds. Proceeds from this event will go to the Chamber of Commerce.

For more information or to sign up, call the Chamber office at 676-5536.

Senior Center Menu

St. Patrick's Parish members will be serving lunch on Wednesday, March 19. The "Easter Dinner" menu will include baked ham or leg of lamb, au gratin potatoes, mixed veggies, Jell-o fruit cocktail, hot rolls, and peach bread pudding.

Rummage for Russia

Willow Creek Baptist Church is currently accepting donations of items for a rummage sale to be held on March 15 at the fairgrounds annex building beginning at 8 a.m. Furniture, toys, tools, sporting goods, appliances, hardware and clothes are all being accepted.

Donuts, coffee and hot chocolate will be served beginning at 8 a.m. A soup luncheon will be held around noon at the same location. The cost for the luncheon is \$5 and includes soup and all the fixings.

Proceeds from the sale and luncheon will be used to help offset costs incurred as the church prepares for a mission's trip to Russia.

For more information or to donate items contact Sharon at 676-9166 or 676-9157.

And the banners go up



CenturyTel donated a company lift truck and the time of their employees, Dale Bates and Jack Pickerd, so the Irish banners could be placed and ready for the Irish festivities. Of course it wouldn't be the same without one of our friendly Leprechauns and our mayor to help make the job just a little bit easier. This is what being a "community" is all about.

8th grade class selling raffle tickets

The eighth grade class at Heppner Jr. High School will be selling raffle

tickets for two baskets. A booth will be set up in front of Hair I Am on Main Street from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday. The baskets will include a one night stay at the Marriott in the Portland or Vancouver, two wine glasses, chocolate, candles and more.

Tickets are \$1 each or six for \$5. Raffle proceeds will benefit the eighth grade graduation.

For more information or to buy tickets contact Petra Payne at 676-9138, Alita Nelson at 676-8733 or 377-7300, Merry Chandler at 676-5429, or any eighth grader. The drawing will be held on Sunday after Road Bowling. You do not need to be present to win.



St. Patrick's Day Celebration This weekend!

Get your St. Patrick's Day stuff here!

Murray's St. Patrick's Day Celebration hours:

Friday, March 14 from 7 a.m. - 7 p.m.

Saturday, March 15 from 8 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Sunday, March 16 from 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.

(We also have lots of Easter items in)



Espresso Special of the Month:

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Serving the Willow Creek Valley: Heppner, Lexington, & Ione

REGULAR HOURS: Monday - Friday 7 a.m. - 6 p.m. / Saturday - 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Happy St. Patrick's Day!

EASTER BUFFET

at

JOHN'S PLACE

Sunday, March 23rd

from noon - 6 p.m.

Enjoy Baked Ham, Lamb & Turkey, plus salads galore and dessert!

Price: \$14.95

(Kids 6 and under eat for free)

John's Place

Main Street, Heppner