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Ione School District returns Title I funds

By April Sykes

The Ione School Board, at the recommendation of Superintendent Bryn Browning, voted Monday night to return over \$3,000 in Title I funds.

Browning told the board that the cost of completing extensive paperwork required to qualify for the funds would exceed the amount received. She said that if the amount had been greater, completion of the forms would be more cost-

effective. "It's a tremendous amount of work for \$3,600," said Browning. "When it was \$11,000, it was worth it." She said that the district spend around 100 hours on Title I paperwork for 2007-08. She added that projections indicate a 15-percent reduction in Title I funding next year. The funding formula is based on the poverty census, she said. Browning recommended that the district annually evaluate whether to accept the Title I funds.

Also at the meeting the board approved the first reading of the Ione School District directory information policy. According to the policy, "Directory information means those items of personally identifiable information contained in a student education record which is not generally considered harmful or an invasion of privacy if released." Directory information which may be released to the public "through appropriate procedures" include: the student's name, address, telephone listing, electronic address, photograph, date and place of birth, major field of study, participation in officially recognized sports and activities, weight and height of athletic team members, dates of attendance, degrees or awards received and most recent previous school or program attended. Directory information will be released

only with administrative direction. Information considered detrimental to the student will not be released and information will not be released over the phone except in health and safety emergencies.

According to the policy, the district will give annual public notice of information which may be released to parents of students and students who are over 18 or emancipated.

Parents or students who are of age who wish to exclude directory information or who wish to exclude information to military recruiters or higher learning institutions must submit notice in writing 15 days prior to the notice publication.

In other business, the board:

-approved the second reading and adopted a policy concerning parental involvement and interscholastic activities program. The policy lays out the philosophy, program structure and emphasis, administration, athletic program schedules, training, alcohol/drug/tobacco violations, specific code for athletics alcohol/drug violations, specific code for tobacco violations, recommended extra duty assignments, specific assignments and responsibilities, guidelines for non-licensed coaches and club advisors the housing policy for athletics, clubs and organiza-

tions.

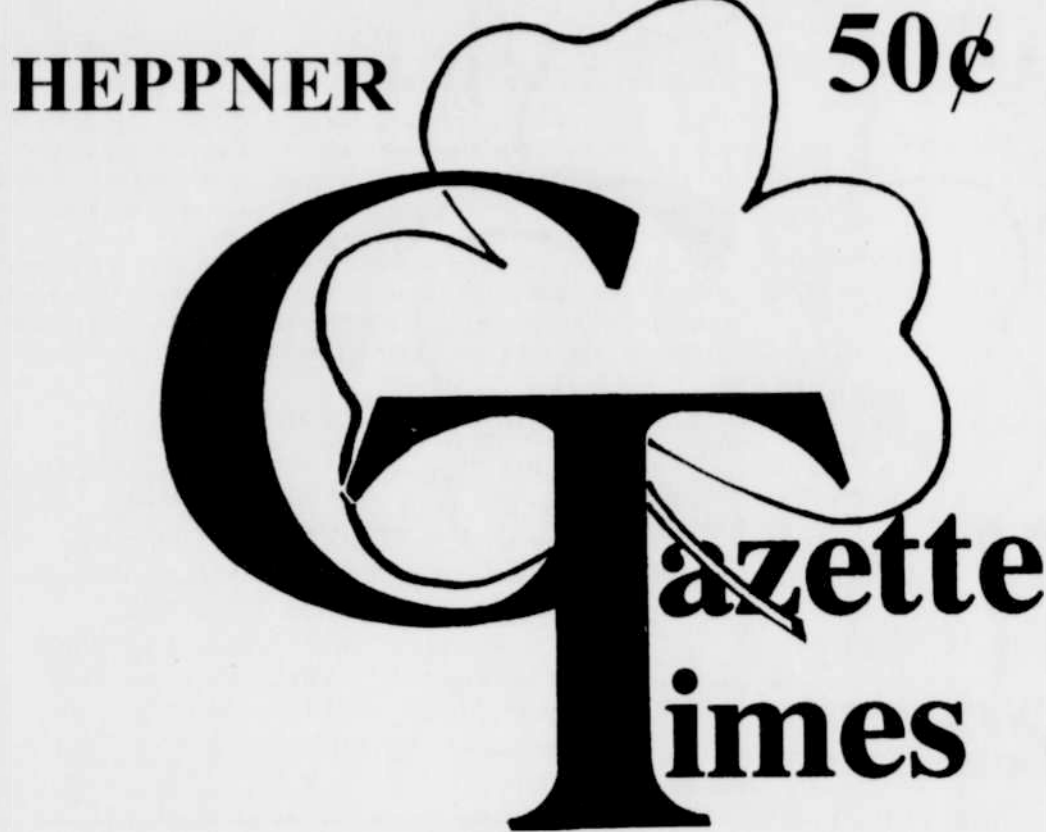
-approved the first reading of required policies concerning the rights of homeless students. These policies spell out requirements regarding the homeless student's assignment to school, enrollment, records, enrollment disputes, services that must be offered, coordination of the provision of services with social service agencies and the district liaison's duties.

-heard the following financial update: the district received \$116,268 in basic school support in March, with \$284,161 remaining for distribution and the March estimate increasing \$59,818 from November due to higher average daily attendance (weighted on several criteria); the district is watching student transportation payments closely as the account is expected to be over budget by the end of the year. The district as a whole will remain under budget, however.

-received a letter in appreciation of Becky Wagenblast, which included the hope that an additional position be funded.

-discussed the possible addition of another teacher and agreed to discuss that issue and related budget issues at a work session planned for Tuesday, April 29, at 6 p.m.

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Grand marshal announced for 2008 Morrow County Fair and Rodeo

By Sue Gibbs

This year's Morrow County Fair and Rodeo grand marshal is a familiar face to Eastern Oregon. With his powerful team of Belgium horses, Sugar and Spice, he has hauled court royalty, city politicians, grand marshals and even the elders for the Umatilla Indian Reservation in his authentic horse drawn wagon. Joe Yocom is known for his willingness to help support and generally be an active part of special events all over Eastern Oregon.

Yocom moved to Morrow County in 1939 where he was raised for a short time by his grandparents. Later, he moved back to Sherman County where he was raised on a cattle ranch and graduated from Wasco High School. He continued his education at Oregon Technical Institute in Klamath Falls. While there, he met Hilda Stanley. "She was my best friend," Yocom remembers. In February of 1953 he was drafted into the army but returned home in November of that year to marry Hilda. He was a paratrooper in the 82nd Airborne, based in North Carolina. Returning home after his discharge, Joe worked for Morrow County Grain Growers for 33 years and raised his four children with Hilda. Debbie, Millie, Jack and Marie were all active in Wranglers, 4-H and rodeo. All four children and nine grandchildren still reside in Eastern Oregon today.

Yocom has always enjoyed a challenge and pushing the limits. He can't say "no" to anyone or anything. Starting around 1960, he enjoyed cow riding, pony express, wild horse and chariot races. "My son Jack has my fancy buckle, but I still have one from the horse race I won in 1970,"

Joe grinned. As time went on, Yocom went from competing to volunteering. He spent nine years on the rodeo board and took part in everything from the grounds keeping, to race director and chairman. He was also on the fair board for three years and a part of installing the new pipeline and the development of the Wilkinson Arena. Yocom feels that the rodeo is vital to our community and it is an excellent attraction and has huge potential for Heppner. "I take my hat off to the rodeo board," Yocom commented.



Joe Yocom

Time has taken its toll on Yocom. He lost Hilda in 1992, but he can still be seen each year at the "Parade of Lights" in Hermiston. In 1993, when Jerry Schubert (wagon master) asked Yocom to participate in a 1,000 mile wagon train, he couldn't say no. Yocom, his children, and his friends refurbished an 1864 John Deer wagon. Sugar and Spice mad the trip from Wyoming to Oregon. He was proud of this and enjoyed the "Welcome Home"

sign greeting him in Cecil. Sugar and Spice have now traveled more than 7,000 miles for Yocom. Today, he is involved in the Pendleton Round-Up and Happy Canyon wagon train. He has been the wagon master eight times during its 27 years.

Yocom met Dwyla Reynolds about seven years ago and was hooked on her after their first wagon ride together. "The harness broke off the horse and wagon jackknifed," remembered Yocom. "I told her to jump for it. That didn't bother her much so I knew I liked this gal."

Friends are true here in Morrow County and that means something. He delights in his nine grandkids and one great-grandchild. Yocom and Dwyla raise paint horses and "Sugar and Spice" are still a fixture in his pasture just on the edge of Lexington. Yocom can't imagine a better place than Morrow County to live and be a part of. He is very proud to have been selected the Morrow County Fair and Rodeo's Grand Marshall for 2008.

Gazette-Times to run senior page

The Heppner Gazette-Times will once again be running a "Congratulations Seniors" page on May 21. Anyone wishing to extend their good wishes to graduating Heppner and Ione students by adding their name can call 676-9228, fax to 676-9211, or send an email to david@rapidserve.net or steph@rapidserve.net by Monday, May 19. The cost is \$10.

Heppner High School graduation will be May 31 at 2 p.m. Ione High School graduation will be May 30 at 7 p.m.

Commissioner candidates ask for Republican support

By Autumn Morgan

This May two candidates are running for Commissioner Position 1 on the Democratic ticket, John Wenzholz, the incumbent, and Leann Rea. Both candidates have been asking Republican voters to also vote for them by writing in their names since no candidate has filed to run on the Republican ticket.

If Candidate B wins the Democratic side and Candidate A wins the Republican write-in side, both candidates will face off again in November with Candidate A running, still as a Democrat, but as the Republican nominee. If Candidate A/B wins both the Democratic side and the Republican write-in, Candidate A/B will then be

running unopposed in the general election.

Republicans can write in any person they wish to vote for, as long as that person meets the criteria of that office. To be eligible for write-in status the person must be a resident for one year prior to the election and must be 18 years old. Commissioner Position 1 is a four year term.

Candidate's forum to be held during chamber luncheon

A county commissioner candidate's forum will be held this Thursday, April 24, during the chamber lunch meeting. Bill Kuhn will be moderating the forum.

Heppner MS Walk success continues



On Saturday 60 walkers ignored the snow warnings and walked a 5k and 10k walk for one reason and one reason only, "For a World Free of MS".

The sky was blue and the wind was brisk as everyone shared this common goal. At the end of their walk they were greeted with a smile and a free breakfast put on by All Saint's Episcopal and Hope Lutheran shared ministry.

A couple of walkers who were there for the first time said, "We had such a great time, we're coming back

next year."

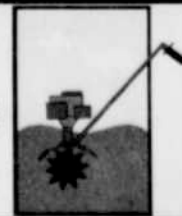
The MS Walk is put on every year by the Oregon Chapter-National MS Society at many sites throughout Oregon. On Saturday the Heppner site celebrated 10 years by raising \$5,500 and funds are still coming in.

"It's because of people in this community and the outlying communities that the walk is such a success," said one of the Co-Chairs.

If you would still like to donate it's not too late. Just call 1-800-344-4867 or go online at www.walkMSoregon.com.

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