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of the City of Heppner and the County of Morrow

**Heppner**

**GAZETTE-TIMES**

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## Corps approves request for irrigation water from lake

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water-based recreation use. Sport fishing opportunities may be decreased as the population of largemouth bass and crappie, two popular warm water game fish species, are likely to be reduced by the proposed drawdown. However, the small-mouth bass and bluegill populations will likely increase with reduced competition from other similar species and the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) will continue to stock catchable trout in the lake annually, which will continue to provide recreational fishing opportunities.

"The proposed action includes an earlier and lower drawdown of the lake which will impact the warm water fishery of the reservoir by reducing successful spawning of largemouth bass and pumpkinseed, and decreasing black crappie rearing success. Largemouth bass and pumpkinseed spawn in shallower water and as a result, their nests may be dewatered as the water level in the lake is drawn down during their spawning season. Black crappie spawn earlier, but the young fry tend to move to the pelagic zone which makes them more susceptible to stranding than the more demersal fry of other warm water species. Consequently, the lake would likely become a predominantly smallmouth bass/bluegill fishery since these species spawn deeper and/or earlier. This appears to be an unavoidable impact to these non-native warm water fish species, though the severity of the adverse impact depends upon how much water is withdrawn prior to the end of the annual reproductive season for these species (on or about 10 July each year).

Additionally the Corp said that "On March 21 the Corps, ODFW, Oregon Water Resources Department, and the irrigators met to discuss fishery issues at the project. To minimize spawning impacts to largemouth bass, the ODFW recommended holding the lake level steady from June 10 to July 10. It was also noted that other factors, such as the ongoing water quality concerns in the lake, may impact the overall health of the fishery. It was agreed that although irrigation withdrawals will be required by some irrigators from June 10 through July 10, the irrigation district will work to minimize withdrawals during this period. It was also agreed that an advisory group will be formed to address water quality, fishery, habitat enhancement, and recreational facilities at the project. ODFW will continue annual trout stocking in the lake and in Willow Creek, downstream of the dam."

In an effort to minimize the impact on recreation at the lake that the drawdown will cause, the Willow Creek Economic Development Group (WC-VEDG) has undertaken an effort to have the Corps study raising the lake level by three feet, thus adding more water to the lake during the summer months and offsetting the effects of additional water release. David Sykes of WCVED has been appointed to head up that effort and says a request has been made to the Corp through congressman Walden's office. "So far Greg has been very helpful in getting our request submitted," Sykes said.

A letter was sent to the Corps through Walden signed by Les Paustian, Mayor of Heppner, Nancy Snider, Pres. WCVEDG, Skip Matthews, Willow Creek Park District Board President, Brian Thompson, Irrigation Board member, Willow Creek, Terry Tallman, Morrow County Judge, Representative Greg Smith, R-Heppner District 57.

## School board cuts back north end elementary music/PE; state ups graduation requirements

*-Continued from page One*  
requires only 22 credits, also with nine electives. By 2014, however, the state will also require 24 credits with only six electives, with some additions not already included in MCSD requirements.

Currently MCSD requires four English/language arts credits, two mathematics, two science, three social studies, one PE, one health, one in a second language/arts/career or technical education, one in career education and nine electives for 24 credits. For the 2008 and 2009 graduating classes, the state requires three credits in English/language arts, two mathematics, two science, three social studies, one PE, one health, one in second language/arts/career or technical education, none in career education and nine electives for 22 credits.

For the graduating classes of 2010 and 2011 the state will up its English/language arts required credits to four and its mathematics required credits to three with nine electives. MCSD already requires four credits in English/language arts, but only two in mathematics.

For the graduating classes of 2012 and 2013, the state will add three "lab experiences/scientific inquiries" in the sciences and an additional two credits in a second language/arts/career or technical education. Currently MCSD does not require the lab experiences and the state and MCSD each require one credit in the second language/arts/career category. Electives will be reduced to six.

By 2014 the state will require that students complete three classes in Algebra 1 and above. Currently MCSD and the state require two mathematics credits with no specifications that those classes be Algebra 1 and above.

"This is a massive

change from the state level," said Dirksen.

In addition, "All students must be able to demonstrate that they are proficient in essential skills which are embedded in existing content areas or infused throughout the curriculum." They must be able to:

-Read and interpret a variety of texts and achieve a reading RIT score of 236;  
-Write for a variety of purposes and achieve a writing score of 40;

-Speak and present publicly with speech work samples;

-Think critically and analytically with math and scientific work samples;

-Demonstrate global literacy through a world history class;

-Apply mathematics in a variety of settings with a math RIT score of 236;

-Use technology through "rotation classes"/ senior project;

-Demonstrate civic and community engagement through clubs, organizations or a senior project; and

-Demonstrate career-related learning standards through a senior project.

MCSD high school principals, depending on their particular school, say that currently 30-50 percent of their students would not be able to satisfy the requirements to demonstrate these essential skills, specifically pass the reading, writing and math scores required.

Students will, however, be able to earn credit for proficiency if they complete state career education standards, senior project activities, senior portfolio, exit interview and advisor/advisee activities. A senior project, for example, will allow one full credit in career education after a student provides evidence of meeting career-related learning standards.

MCSD principals

said that they are working on ways to satisfy these new requirements and added that each high school may offer slightly different opportunities to achieve that end

"The frustrating thing is that we really don't know what the target is (for the essential skills)," commented Stone.

In other business, the board:

-heard from Laura Aviles-Valdez who assists students at the Morrow Education Center alternative school and some of the students she has helped. The students spoke warmly of Aviles-Valdez and teacher David Melville and credited the program with their success in achieving their goals towards completing high school and looking beyond to college and careers. Aviles-Valdez had worked with the program while she was employed with Morrow County Children's Services and says she hopes to continue in her new job with Morrow-Wheeler Behavioral Health.

-adopted health education textbooks.

-adopted a new broadened anti-cyberbullying policy, with some changes in verbiage.

-viewed a presentation "Every 15 Minutes" which was implemented at Irrigon High School prior to prom night. The program was intended to discourage drinking and driving by using students, police, EMTs, school personnel, other agencies and the community to portray the dire aftermath of students' decisions to drink and drive.

-approved a request for Irrigon High School for a field trip to Spain during the 2009 spring break.

-approved a screening committee to find a replacement for resigning IHS principal Chris Davis.

-named the following as board representatives

for district graduation ceremonies: Morrow Education Center-Dan Daltoso; Irrigon High School-Pat McNamee; Heppner High School-Nancy Vander Does; Riverside High School-Berto Hernandez;

-accepted the following resignations/retirements: Shirley Donovan, Sam Boardman Elementary School cook; Chris Davis, IHS principal; Johanna Davis, IHS counselor; Marianne Smith, Heppner High School art and social studies teacher; Petra Payne from a position as Talented and Gifted program coordinator at HHS; and Jessica Campbell, SBE elementary teacher.

-approved rehiring classified and confidential staff for 2008-09.

-approved two attendance variances, one from MCSD to Umatilla School District and one from Hermiston School District to MCSD.

-learned that MCSD teacher Gary Hunt will receive the Crystal Apple award.

-received the following attendance report: ACH-346; Heppner Elementary School-191; HHS-231; IES-123; IHS-313; RHS-393; SBE-322; WRE-226; total-2251.

-heard the following announcements: town hall meeting, Heppner Elementary, Monday, May 19, 7 p.m.; Memorial Day holiday, Monday, May 26; MEC graduation, Thursday, May 29, MEC, Irrigon, 7 p.m.; Irrigon High School graduation, IHS, Friday, May 30, 7 p.m.; Heppner High School graduation, HHS, Saturday, May 31, 2 p.m.; Riverside High School graduation, RHS, Sunday, June 1, 2 p.m.; last day of school for students Thursday, June 5; board meeting, district office, Monday, June 9, 7 p.m.; last day of work for staff Tuesday, June 10.

## Luncheon to be held to honor Luke Murray

The St. Patrick's Altar Society will be hosting a Mexican luncheon following the 11 a.m. mass on Sunday, May 18, to honor Luke Murray who recently graduated from Mount Angel Seminary College. Everyone is invited to stop by and visit with Luke who is the first student from St. Patrick's Parish to graduate from Mt. Angel.

Luke graduated with honors on Saturday, May 10, with a degree in philosophy and a GPA of 3.96. He plans to continue his education at Kenrick-Glennon Seminary in St. Louis, MO to study theology towards ordination to the Catholic priesthood.

The luncheon will be served at approximately noon in the Catholic Parish hall.

## Don't ride ATVs in town, city warns

*-Continued from page One*  
ner was not well attended to discuss the project. City Manager Steve Bogart said another public hearing might be held on the ODOT hearing. Heppner Fire Chief and EMT Rusty Estes said he was against closing Willow Street because it was used as a major access between the hospital and the rest of the town. "The best solution is not going to be good for everyone. We need to think about this," said Heppner Public Works Director Brian Harmon.

Harmon also said that a proposal is being considered that would see an electrical generator placed in a water line feeding the city from one of its wells. The generator would produce electricity that would be sold to the local co-op and "might" be enough to pay the city's electrical bill. The water line has pressure reducing devices that could be replaced with electrical generators.

In other action the council:

-Approved a new contract with

## HES holding "Coins for Cancer" drive

A "Coins for Cancer" drive was held at Heppner Elementary School on Monday, May 12. Dr. Betsy Anderson spoke to students in different classes about healthy habits leading to a "cancer free" life. The "Coins for Cancer" drive is a

contest in which the winning class will receive a free Mexican lunch on Monday, May 19, prepared by Mary Ann Elguezabal. The winning class will be announced on Thursday after the money is counted.

the Morrow County Sheriff's Department to provide police protection to the city of Heppner for the coming year.

-Heard that the school kids "did a good job" during the Mustang Mop held last week.

-Discussed removing two to three spruce trees at the city park. The trees are causing damage to the sidewalk and the lawn at the city park.

-Approved a small increase in the city garbage collection fee. Miller and Sons handles collection under a city franchise, and requested the increase because of higher fuel costs.

-Approved a 3% cost of living increase for city employees; okayed an increase in the water and wastewater certification pay to \$50 per certification; increased the bottom and base salary for the public works director position; increased by \$58.33 per month (\$700/yr) supplemental increase to the merit pay for the city treasurer.

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