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# John Rietmann resigns as Ione School Board chair after relative appointed to board spot

**By April Sykes**

In a surprise move at the Ione School Board at their regular meeting Monday night, board Chair John Rietmann abruptly resigned and left the meeting after his sister-in-law, Lisa Rietmann, was appointed to the board.

In resigning, Rietmann said that he did not think that it would be appropriate to have close relatives serving on the board. He said that he believed it was okay for cousins to serve together (his cousin Gregg Rietmann and he served together on the board), but did not think it best that closer relatives served together, because of community perception.

**Ione School Board Chair John Rietmann swears in Lisa Rietmann to board position.** *-Photo by April Sykes*

The board appointed Lisa Rietmann to fill the spot vacated by previous board Chair Joel Peterson who resigned, as per district policy, when his wife, Lea Mathieu, was hired as a teacher by the district.

John Rietmann abstained from voting for the replacement board member.

The board said they had considered four "excellent" candidates to replace Peterson before naming Lisa Rietmann. Rietmann had served on the Ione School District budget committee prior to her appointment. Her appointment will leave a vacancy in the budget committee.

Joe McElligott took over duties as board chair.

Also at the meeting, the board gave an update on the proposed $2.8 million ISD bond levy. According to a board release, if approved at the November general election, the bond will add classrooms and renovate existing buildings. "The purpose of the bond levy is to reduce annual operating costs and provide classroom space," said the release. "Renovations and upgrades to our buildings through this bond levy will lower heating and cooling costs as well as repair costs that must be paid with general fund money each operating year."

Bond expenditures are outlined as follows:

-Add two new classrooms to the elementary school building. This will provide individual classrooms for every grade. All teachers would have their own classroom-$938,256.

-Renovate high school and shop with new roofs, energy efficient windows, air-conditioning, and lighting. Modernize science rooms, bathrooms, and paint interior and exterior of all buildings-$1,324,829.

-Replace high school gym floor-$181,188

-Renovate swimming pool to extend life-$106,324

-Modernize classroom technology-$98,000

-Reduce sound problem in elementary gym and replace poor carpet in elementary-$83,113

-Repair and seal parking lot and playground blacktop-$36,985

-Replace roof and renovate bathroom in school district house-$31,302

"This measure would cost property owners an estimated average of $2.43 cents per $1,000 of assessed value for the first year," said the board release. However, they said, "It may drop to $1.98 for the remaining life of the bonds as new windmills are added. The bond would be retired in no less than 16 years." New windmills will add more assessed value to the Ione School District, and thus reduce overall tax rates.

"One of two countywide school bonds was retired in 2006," continued the release, "and it was costing property owners $2.27 per $1,000 of assessed value. The current county wide school bond that we are paying on is at the $.81 cents per $1,000 of valuation and will be retired in 2021."

In other business at the meeting, the board:

-heard a report from Superintendent/Principal Karl Ostheller.

Ostheller said that student enrollment is up this year with 176 students, including 13 foreign exchange students, "an excellent start for the year." He said that

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# Ione Education Foundation to hold 6th annual fundraising dinner

**Pictured are some of the entrepreneur class students with some items which will be auctioned off on September 27 at the annual Education Foundation dinner.** *–Contributed Photo*

The sixth annual Ione Education Foundation meeting, dinner and auctions will be Saturday, September 27, at the Ione American Legion Hall. The meeting will begin at 5:30 p.m. and will be followed by a 6 p.m. social hour with dinner to follow.

The dinner menu will consist of prime rib, crab, shrimp with all of the trimmings, dessert and beverages.

Tickets are available at the Bank of Eastern Oregon in Ione. Tickets may be reserved by calling 422-7435. The cost is $25 for adults, $10 for children 7-12, and free for children six and under.

An auction will follow the dinner and will include Ione School memorabilia, as well as items from the Ione School shop and entrepreneur classes. The Ione middle school and high school classes have worked as partners with the Ione Education foundation to promote shop education. The students build and donate a number of projects throughout the school year, which the Education Foundation will auction off during the annual fundraiser. In return the Education Foundation offers grants to the Ione shop program, which helps provide funding for these projects.

Items built by students for the auction include: a bird feeder by Jose Mejorada and Cristo Ruiz; a rocking horse by Jordan Peterson; bear end tables by Shadow Kendrick and Cassie Arbogast; bird baths by Adam Collins and Christine Raible; a coat rack and napkin holder by Marry Rietmann; bear and moose signs by Emily Holland and Jaqueline Juarez; a wooden rustic bench by Kirk Haguewood; a chest by Makenna Ramos; a bed frame by Kip Krebs; and a bear and moose picture by Shannon Metcalfe and Alisha Taylor.

There will also be items donated by community members and businesses, such as golf packages, a spa package by Adrienne Swanson of Ooh-La-La Salon in Pendleton, and a quilt sewn out of Ione School jerseys, as well as a wine package by Sandra (Carlson) Richardson of Wheatridge Winery, an overnight package from The Woolery House Bed and Breakfast in Ione.

The highlight of the auction will be the opportunity to experience riding an ocean barge with three of your friends as she is launched into the Willamette River. This package includes a traditional maritime launching ceremony and a celebration reception to follow.

This year the Ione Education Foundation dinner and auction is the primary source of income for the Tier I grant for the school to hire a new English and Language Arts teacher.

The dues collected every year are used for the Tier II grants that fund many school activities such as: Camp 5, theme oriented enhanced learning classes, OMSI field trips, and biology and crop science field trips. As well as books and materials for special classes in reading and math, mapping software for GPS units and supplies for the school, shop and entrepreneur classes.

Enjoy a fun evening and help support the Ione School. For more information call (541) 422-7435.

# Hardman Oyster Feed cancelled for 2008

The Hardman Community Center regrets to announce that the annual Hardman Oyster Feed has been suspended for 2008.

Because of the local economy and the cost of food, the Hardman Center would not be able to prepare the same high quality Oyster Feed that our customers have been accustomed to enjoying

The Hardman Community Center Board appreciates all the help provided for the meal and the customers that came out every year.

The Community Center Board hopes that in the future they can once again serve the surrounding communities the famous Hardman Community Oyster Feed.

# Reward offered in poaching of six deer near Heppner

The Humane Society of the United States and The HSUS Wildlife Land Trust are offering a $2,500 reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the person or people responsible for illegally killing six deer near Heppner in late August.

According to published media reports, Oregon State Police troopers were investigating the illegal killing of five deer, including one whitetail doe and four mule deer does, when they discovered a sixth deer. The deer were killed between Aug. 20 and Sept. 1 and found along Balm Fork Road and Sand Hollow Road in the Heppner area. According to officials, all six deer appear to have been killed in the same manner, during evening hours on private property. The Oregon State Police Fish and Wildlife Division is asking for help from the public to track down the person or people responsible.

"This case is another disturbing example of how callous and irresponsible poaching is," said Scott Beckstead, Oregon state director for The HSUS. "This is a crime that all too often goes unpunished, and The Humane Society of the United States applauds Oregon State Police for their strong and committed enforcement of anti-poaching laws."

Anyone with information about this case is asked to call Trooper Mayer at (541) 561-7581 or the TIP hotline at 1-800-452-7888.

## VanArsdale shoots first buck

**Kylie VanArsdale, 16, shot her first buck with a bow this year.** *-Contributed Photo*

*The Heppner Gazette-Times wants to see pictures of your trophy animals from this hunting season. Stop by to have your picture taken, drop off photos, or email them to editor@rapidserve.net.*

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