

School district to implement new ed format at Heppner High School

By April Sykes

Heppner High School Principal Daye Stone outlined a new educational direction for HHS students at the Morrow County School Board meeting Monday night in Irrigon.

Stone said that the pilot program measures outcome through proficiency. Rather than advancing students based on "seat hours", the new program will advance students

based on what they can do. Stone said that students will advance based on "what they know, not how long they sit." He said that the plan will "place students in charge of their own education."

Stone said that students will receive credit for a subject based on their ability to show proficiency. He said that this standards-based assessment requires "higher standards, higher expectations and a more focused curriculum." "It's really an individual education plan for every kid," Stone said. But, he added, while it is "uncharted territory," "We're really not doing anything different than what we're doing now, just packaging it differently."

The pilot program will entail a switch to eight periods per day, instead of the current seven, and will provide extension classes for those students who need extra instruction. It will also increase the number of electives so that each student can take an elective course. In an eight-period day, no one has less than three electives," Stone said.

With the new plan, no 'D's will be given and students will receive no credit for a 'D' in an elective class. Stone also said that currently too many students leave campus each period for work study or teacher's assistant placements. The number of electives offered will also cut down on the number of students leaving the school. The number of credits required for graduation will also increase to 32. Currently 24 credits are required for a diploma and 26 are required for an honors diploma. Stone said that going to the new system will provide for 32 credit options, rather than the current 28 credit options. No credits will be awarded for extension lab classes and extension ready and math classes.

Stone said that the new program will create challenges for the teaching staff, who will be required to teach more classes, and in less time. Each

of the eight periods will be 45 minutes long. It also shortens teacher prep time, he said. However, commented HHS shop and technology teacher, Dave Fowler. "As a staff member, I feel it is right for kids. We need to reach those kids not meeting benchmarks."

Also at the meeting, Superintendent Mark Burrows announced the following recipients of the Umatilla-Morrow ESD Crystal Apple "Excellence in Education Awards: Theresa Proctor-Reese, Windy River Elementary English language learner teacher; Sherry Matteson, Heppner Elementary School first grade teacher; Susie Lemmon, Morrow Education Center ed assistant; and Kathy Cutsforth, Heppner Elementary School assistant custodian.

In other business, the board;

-heard a report from Irrigon High School teacher Heather Miller on an IHS science inquiry class concerning a hands-on study of the local ecosystem.

-heard a report from Jenny Chavez of the Wellness Committee, who reported that the committee would like to see less soda offered at the schools, fewer instances of food offered as a reward, recommending prizes, games and other rewards, instead, and fewer instances of using PE as a reward or punishment.

-approved a request from the Irrigon Multicultural Arts Center for the school district to donate to the group the old Irrigon school building (also formerly Irrigon City Hall), including the land in front of the building out to Highway 730, with the stipulation that the school district retain an easement for the parking lot and that if the center does not succeed, the property will be returned to the district.

-assigned the following board member volunteers to represent the district at graduation ceremonies as

follows: Morrow Education Center, Thursday, June 4, 7 p.m.-Barney Lindsay; Irrigon High School, Friday, June 5, 7 p.m.-Pat McNamee; Riverside High School, Saturday, June 6, 10 a.m.-Nancy Vander Does; Heppner High School, Saturday, June 6, 2 p.m.-Bill Kuhn.

-heard Burrows express the district's appreciation to the Yes for Kids committee, consisting of Larry Mills, Carmen Velasco, Lisa Mittelsdorf, Barb Huwe and Lisanne Currin.

-received the following attendance report as of May 4: A.C. Houghton Elementary-348.5; Heppner Elementary School-187; Heppner High School-225; Irrigon Elementary School-120; Irrigon High School-317; Riverside High School-389; Sam Boardman Elementary-314; Windy River Elementary-238; district-wide-2242.5.

-accepted the following resignations/retirements: Brenda Newport, English language learner ed assistant, ACH; Tracie Kennedy, WRE special ed assistant.

-approved the following employment: Lindsay Orem, HHS special ed teacher, replacing Sam Thurston; Maribel Torres, RHS counselor, replacing G. Ann Thomas; Jennifer Matlack, promotion to ACH assistant custodian.

-approved the following extra duty contract: Jake McElligott, IJSH head boys' basketball coach.

-approved 2008-09 classified/confidential personnel recommended for rehire for 2009-10.

-heard the following announcements: May 19-election day; May 25-Memorial Day; May 29-last senior day; next board meeting-June 8, district office, 7 p.m.; June 10-last school day for students; June 12-last teacher work day.

-held an executive session to discuss negotiations and a student expulsion.

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HEPPNER

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Company backs out of co-gen plant

This past March, Cascade Renewable Energy entered into a 100-day option to purchase the empty Kinzua power plant site outside of Heppner. Cascade Renewable

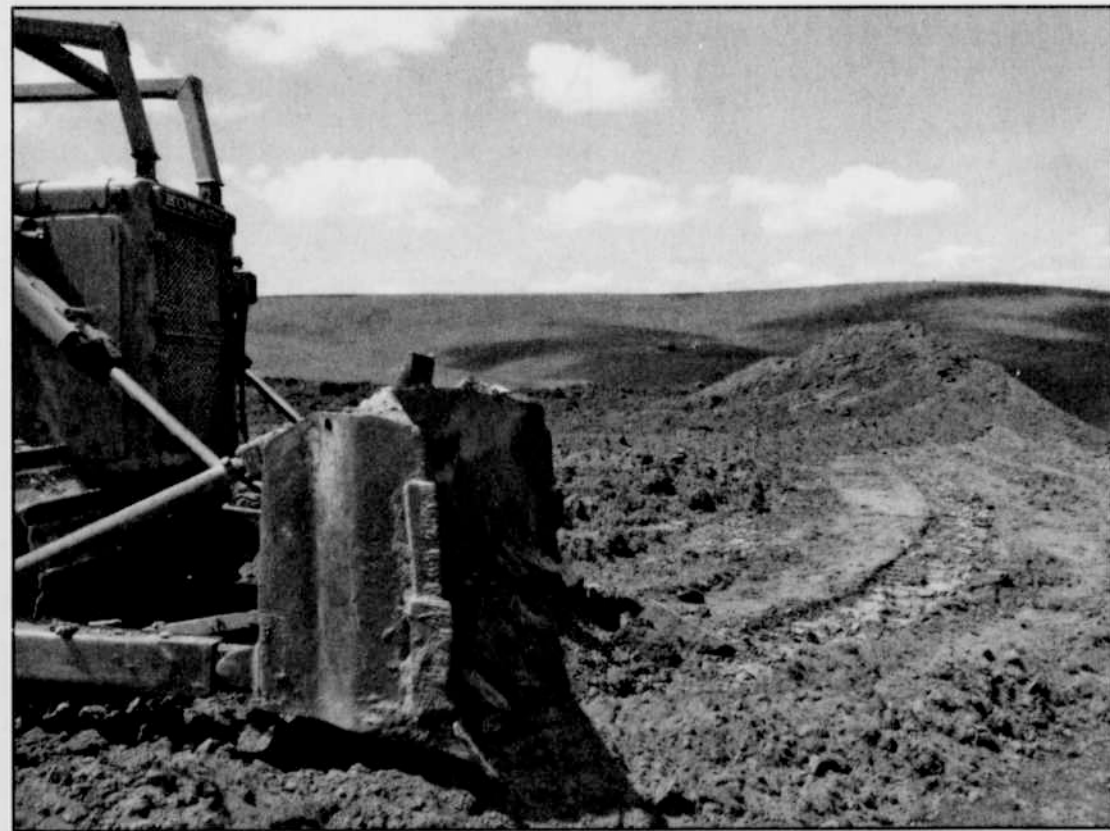
Energy recently sent a notice stating that they were no longer interested in purchasing the property.

The company had planned to purchase the 25

acres where the power plant is located along with 20 adjacent acres.

Kinzua closed its doors in 1998 and has been empty since.

Secure Residential Treatment Facility breaks ground in Heppner



A bulldozer begins work on the site for the secure mental health facility in Heppner. -Photo by Andrew Sykes

A new eight-bed, 6,200 square foot secure residential treatment facility broke ground in Heppner this week, with construction expected to be completed in September or October of this year.

Located on a 15 acre parcel across the highway from Lakeview Heights on

the Willow Creek Highway, the secure mental facility has been in the planning stages since last summer.

Developers say the facility will give an economic boost to the area providing 15 to 20 full time positions paying \$30,000 to \$65,000 in wages. The annual operating budget would be around \$960,000

and construction costs of the facility would be \$1.2 million. In addition, most supplies for the facility would be purchased locally, including food, medications, transportation and general supplies.

When built, the facility will be administered by Community Counseling Solutions.

Ballots due May 19

Ballots are due back to the Morrow County Clerk's Office by Tuesday, May 19. If anyone has not received their ballot they should call 676-5604.

ALL NEWS AND ADVERTISEMENT

DEADLINE:



MONDAYS AT 5:00 P.M.

Repeat property offender sentenced to 57 months

Robert James Amos, 49, of Bellingham, WA was convicted of multiple charges in Morrow County Circuit Court on May 7, 2009. He was convicted of attempted robbery II, assault IV, theft III, burglary II, forgery I, criminal mischief I, unauthorized use of a motor vehicle and theft II.

All the crimes oc-

curred in Morrow County over approximately three months last fall and involved six different victims. Amos was extradited from Washington state to face these charges.

Circuit Court Judge Christopher R. Brauer sentenced Amos to 57 months incarceration with the Department of Corrections, and

further ordered that Amos pay \$7,948 in restitution to his victims, among other conditions. The sentence was the result of a negotiated settlement with Morrow County District Attorney Elizabeth Ballard, representing the State, and Jon Lieuallen of Milton-Freewater, representing the defendant.

Three men arrested in altercation

On May 6 the Morrow County Sheriff's Office received a report at approximately 1:30 p.m. in regards to an assault that had occurred outside of Boardman. A deputy was dispatched to the scene and a description of the suspect vehicle was broadcast.

Within five minutes the vehicle was spotted in Boardman by Officer Nat Hughes of the Boardman Police Department. The vehicle

was stopped and three men were detained until Deputy Gordon Adams of MCSO arrived. A subsequent investigation resulted in the arrests of the following suspects:

-Eusevio Chavallo, 48, of Boardman was charged with harassment, strangulation, menacing, theft by extortion, disorderly conduct-II, and criminal trespass-II.

-Edgar A. Juarez, 41, of Boardman was charged with

disorderly conduct-II, criminal trespass-II, conspiracy to commit theft by extortion, and conspiracy to commit harassment.

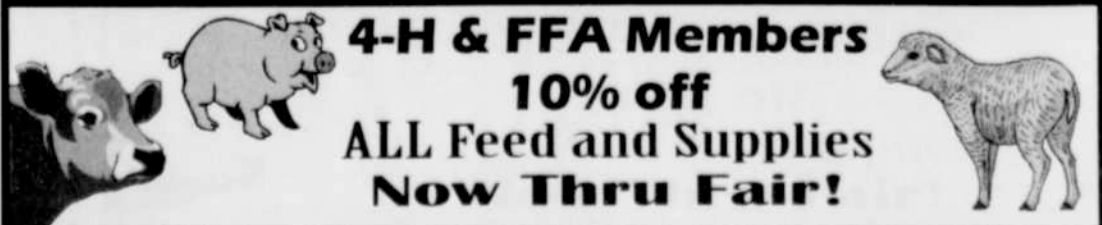
-Ascencion M. Garcia, 29, of Boardman was charged with disorderly conduct-II, criminal trespass-II, conspiracy to commit theft by extortion, and conspiracy to commit harassment.

The incident is still under investigation.

Heppner/Ione graduations fast approaching

Ione Community School will hold its graduation ceremony on Friday, June 5, at 7 p.m. Heppner High School will hold its graduation ceremony on Saturday, June 6, at 2 p.m.

Any parents or businesses interested in having their name on the "Congratulations Seniors" page can call the Heppner Gazette-Times at 676-9228 or send an email to megan@rapidsolve.net. The cost is \$10.



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