

Ione School District programs largely in tact

From Karl Ostheller, Ione S.D. Superintendent

The Budget Committee of the Ione School District took a first look at the school budget for the 09-10 school year at their meeting Monday, May 11. Earlier this spring, the school board requested Superintendent Ostheller to prepare a list of budget reductions amounting to \$180,000. With the implementation of those cuts and additional paring in the budget, the committee worked through a budget that maintains staffing at the 2008-09 level minus one retirement and one Reduction in Force in the classified ranks.

A caveat is that the budget was not approved at the May 11 meeting as the committee awaits the May 15 State of Oregon Revenue Forecast. The Ione School District Budget was built on a \$5.4 Billion dollar statewide education budget, the low end of the range suggested by Governor Ted Kulongoski. If this is indeed the worse case scenario, the Ione School District will approach next year largely

in tact. While preserving staffing was the number one priority, this budget did make significant cuts in items such as library books, field trips and other items.

A huge factor in making the 09-10 budget work is the \$100,000 commitment from the Ione Education Foundation. However, everyone should be know that the District and the Foundation are both keenly aware that the \$100,000 funding level from the Education Foundation probably cannot be sustained from year to year. With that said though, the district is extremely grateful that the Foundation is willing to step and be part of the solution for the statewide budget crisis.

The Budget Committee will meet again on Monday, June 1 at 6 p.m. Public comment is accepted at these meetings and citizens are welcome to attend. Questions or comments in the meantime may be directed to Karl Ostheller at 422-7131 or by email at karl.ostheller@ione.k12.or.us.

Community Bank opens Heppner branch



Pictured are new customers Don and Jean Bennett, Branch Manager Meghan Bailey and Commercial Loan Officer John Hays. —Contributed Photo

Community Bank opened its Heppner branch on Monday at 127 North Main Street. Personal Banker Rosemary Burns opened an account for Don and Jean Bennett shortly after the bank opened at 9 a.m. The Bennett's were the branches first official depositor. Throughout the day, the bank continued to open several new accounts for local residents.

Chief Credit Officer A.J. Tarnasky, who

was raised in Heppner, said in a statement that "I'm very proud to open a branch in my home town — and by the warm welcome we received from the community. We're eager to provide the people of Heppner with competitive products and what I think is the best customer service of any bank in Eastern Oregon".

The branch will be open Monday-Thursday from 9 a.m. — 5 p.m., and 9 a.m. — 6 p.m. on Fridays.

Dessert contest to be held during Celebrate Heppner

The 2009 Celebrate Heppner's dessert contest will be held Friday, June 12. The contest is open to the public and desserts should be taken to the Senior Center dining room between noon-1 p.m. to be eligible for judging. Judging will take place at 2 p.m.

All entries become the property of the Chamber of Commerce to be auctioned off, starting at 6 p.m. as a fundraiser

for the Chamber. Cash prize awards will be given to the top three desserts selected by our panel of judges. (Adult and Junior Categories).

Criteria for judging: Appearance — 45 points; Taste/Flavor — 45 points; Texture — 10 points. Entry forms may be picked up at the Chamber office.

For more information call the chamber office at 676-5536.

Development staff declares a tie



Pictured left to right are Merilee McDowell and Darrin Umbarger. —Contributed Photo

The development staff of the Oregon Chapter-NMSS declared both the Pendleton and Heppner MS Walk coordinator's winners. "The numbers were so close that we decided that each coordinator deserved special recognition for their hard work," commented one of the staff members.

Darrin Umbarger along with his wife Carol and son Jeremy met with Merilee McDowell, her husband Bill and committee members John and Pat Edmundson for lunch on Friday, May 8 at

Hamley's. The restaurant gave the coordinators a \$50 gift certificate to pay for their meals.

There were many laughs and memories shared around the table about their perspective walks. With a smile, Darrin commented that he could hardly wait until next year. McDowell agreed but suggested that they take a few weeks off to rest.

Everyone agreed that they couldn't have done it without the generous giving spirit from each community.

Dinner-at-the-Cemetery to be held June 13

By Doris Brosnan

"Rails, Riches, and Rejection" is the title of the historical drama to be presented in Heppner on Saturday, June 13, by the Dinner-at-the-Cemetery players.

This fifth production by the thespian group will be included as one of the "Celebrate Heppner" attractions and is scheduled to be performed beside the murals on the agricultural museum. Through the action and dialogue of the play, the history of the railroad in Willow Creek Valley will unfold.

More information on "Rails, Riches, and Rejection" and the dinner that will accompany the event will be offered in the future. Presently, however, the theatre troop wishes to alert the public to the upcoming presentation and to put out a call for help with the props needed in the production. Anyone who can contribute an

item or items to the effort is encouraged to call 676-5382.

Props required include "old" or replicas of suitcases made of cardboard; a baby-carrying basket, as used in the past before more contemporary means; small circular braided rug; wooden tables, one large as would be used in a business meeting and three small as would be used by participants in a courtroom; business clothing for men of 1890 and for men of 1956; a dress for a woman of about 1900; everyday clothing for a young woman, an older and a younger man of 1934; outfits for children of 1890; wigs for men, a gray-haired wig for a woman.

Readers are encouraged to watch the media for more information about the play and to contribute to the success of the production by loaning items used as props.

DA's Report

Morrow County District Attorney Elizabeth Ballard has released the following report:

-Ali Medhi Beheshti, 33, was convicted of unlawful possession of marijuana, a Class B felony, and was sentenced to 90/30 sanction units, 18 months formal probation, complete a drug package, complete 80 hours of community service, other numerous conditions, other conditions, and pay \$1,423 in fines, fees and assessments.

-Robert James Amos, 49, was convicted of theft in the second degree, a Class A misdemeanor, and was sentenced to 180 days incarceration, other conditions, and pay \$458 in fines, fees and assessments.

-Robert James Amos, 49, was convicted of forgery in the first degree, a Class C felony and was sentenced to 13 months incarceration, one year post-prison supervision, other conditions, and pay \$1,833 in fines, fees and assessments.

-Robert James Amos, 49, was convicted of criminal mischief in the first degree, a Class C felony and was sentenced to 13 months incarceration, one year post-prison supervision, other conditions, and pay \$2,294 in fines, fees and assessments.

-Robert James Amos, 49, was convicted of unauthorized use of a vehicle, a Class C felony and was sentenced to 13 months incarceration, one year post-prison supervision, other conditions, and pay \$570 in fines, fees and assessments.

-Robert James Amos, 49, was convicted of burglary in the second degree, a Class C felony and was sentenced to 13 months incarceration, one year post-prison supervision, other conditions, and pay \$2,666 in fines, fees and assessments.

-Robert James Amos, 49, was convicted of attempt to commit a Class B felony (robbery 2), a Class C felony and was sentenced to 18 months incarceration, three years post-prison supervision and other conditions. He was convicted of assault in the fourth degree, a Class A misdemeanor and was sentenced to 180 days incarceration and other conditions. He was also convicted of theft in the third degree, a Class C misdemeanor and was sentenced to 30 days incarceration and other conditions. Total fines, fees and assessments were \$4,323.

A view from the hill

By Doris Brosnan

April showers struggled against unseasonably cold temperatures to "bring May flowers" to Willow Creek Terrace, but gradually plants leafing out and blossoms unfolding are changing the landscape, and the view is great. The view also offers a new outdoor feature on the Hill.

Chilly April was full of celebrations and significant days, including the National Wear-Your-Pajamas-to-Work Day, but someone fell asleep at the switch that day, and no one remembered to lounge around in PJs. No one overlooked Karaoke Week, however, and though no one ventured a karaoke debut, some residents did enjoy dancing to favorite musical selections. Equally enjoyable was the coloring of Easter eggs with five young visitors, and residents also enjoyed making birdbaths during National Bird-Watching Week, as April became May.

May promises some good eatin' because of more obscure national designations: Pizza and Chocolate Chip Day (15th), Strawberries and Cream Day (24th), Blueberry Cheesecake Day (27th), and Hamburger Day (28th). The month also carries some serious commemorations: Cinco de Mayo, Mothers Day (on which several ladies went out with their families), Wear Purple for Peace Day, Memorial Day, and Senior Health and Fitness Day. Food for the tummy and food for thought are not uncommon ingredients in life on the Hill.

May 14th was especially significant for the Terrace. That was Mustang Mop-Up Day in Heppner, and 12 Heppner High School students and Jeannie Collins, teacher, spent the day helping residents and staff with some tasks. By the time they left, they had planted flowers, washed windows, spread gravel (donated by Morrow County Road Department and City of Heppner) in the parking lot behind the Terrace, cleared some brush, moved rocks, and taken three cookies-and-brownies breaks!

In addition to those jobs, they also completed what many residents had been looking forward to for several weeks: They built a trail to and planted the garden planned for the space Dallas Craber had prepared with his equipment. Dallas, Bud Batty, Lois Allyn (who had celebrated her 81st birthday on May 9), Dorothy Odell, and Gloria Klimascheky worked side-by-side with students as the garden took shape. When board member Diana Ball informed Manager George Nairns that she knew nothing about planting potatoes, Nairns knew exactly who to send her to. Bud was the resident potato expert. When some students noted how impressed they were by the work the residents were accomplishing, Nairns was sure the students were learning something useful.

The garden features several rows and four raised containers of vegetable seeds and plant starts (donated by Tom Camarillo, Gail Hughes, Floss Watkins, Terry Tallman, George and Myrna Seiler, and the HHS FFA) that will eventually keep several gardeners busy and someday produce bounty for the Terrace's menus. Residents will now be walking over for a look at the garden, probably daily, watching for signs of success and the promise of produce. And they hope their teenage helpers come by for looks also: Lacey Davison, Afton Clark, Cory Silva, Natalie Rauch, Matilda Hakansson, Julie Meyer, Christina Givens, Nick Kempas, Eric Chick, Brett Harrison, Devin Robison, Donald Mathews. Everyone at Willow Creek Terrace really appreciate these students immensely, viewing them as great positive examples of Willow Creek Youth.

Elementary school students clean up Boardman



Students from Windy River Elementary spent Thursday cleaning up their community. —Contributed Photo

Windy River Elementary School students turned out Thursday to make their community a better place. Armed with garbage bags and gloves, over 230 students and their teachers spent about two hours picking up debris along S. Main Street, and Wilson Lane. The students filled 176 large trash bags and picked up numerous items too large to fit into the bags.

This is the third year the school has participated in the clean up. It is organized each year

by Windy River staff and the City of Boardman's Code Compliance Official. The city provides the gloves, garbage bags, and picks up and disposes of the garbage. The school provides the eager volunteers. "The clean up went very well and the students all had fun," said John Russell, Boardman Code Compliance Official. Each student will be receiving a certificate from the City of Boardman when Mayor Chet Phillips visits their classrooms on June 1.

Jepsen completes Freedom Team Salute training

Jean Jepsen of Ione has finished the required training to become an ambassador for the Freedom Team Salute. She has been a long time supporter of the American Legion Post#95 and Auxiliary Unit in Ione.

The Freedom Team Salute was launched in May 2005. The program is funded by the U.S. Army. There have been more than 1.5 million commendation recipients since the program began. There is ongoing training to keep ambassadors up to date of any new information for the Freedom Team. This is an ongoing program to recognize military veterans.

Large newly remodeled home in Heppner



You have to see this home inside. Completely remodeled including new kitchen counters, carpeting and a completely redone basement. Small barn and lots of room out back for horses or other animals. 3 plus bedrooms and nice big living room. 1.5 acres m/l for your horses or animals. A total of 2856 Square/feet. Call 541-980-5045.

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