

## HHS principal reports that President Obama calls HHS teacher's aide

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softball team that took the 2009 state championship. The win is all the more exceptional, said the educators, because the Irrigon Junior/Senior High School has only been in existence for five years and has only been playing varsity sports for four.

Parents Andre and Kathy Meyer attended the meeting and asked for clarification about the change in direction at Heppner High School, since they will have two seniors at HHS this fall. Kathy Meyer expressed concern that the students may be "guinea pigs for an untested system that has not been proven to work." "I'm really concerned when I see a number system in exchange for an ABC system. Why change from ABCs to a one-six system. What is the benefit?" asked Meyer. The new system at HHS is a pilot program and no other high schools in the district will convert.

Stone told Meyer that she may have some misconceptions about the new proficiency system and commented that the "Rubric" is not that different from the current system, and basically is what the district is doing now. He added that while there will be a numbered system, students will still receive letter grades. "If indeed we're actually doing it now, then why are we changing," asked Meyer.

At the May meeting Stone had outlined a change from seven to eight periods per day at HHS and subsequent change from a curriculum based on "seat time" to one based on proficiency. According to Stone and Burrows, beginning this fall, HHS students will be tested to determine their proficiency before they move on to a higher level, however, they will still receive letter grades. The administrators said that currently HHS has 132 hours of "seat time" instruction, while the state requires 130 hours. This fall with the change to an eight-period day, the hours of "seat time" instruction will fall to 118, below the state requirements, however, the school's change to a proficiency system will still ensure state certification. Stone also said that with

the new system, the grading criteria will also change. No 'D's will be assigned. Students will receive 'A's, 'B's, 'C's or 'F's.

Board member Bill Kuhn commented that the change will allow students to take more elective classes and assured the Meyers that the change would be beneficial to students. "It will allow HHS to become more diversified . . . a stronger school," said Kuhn.

In other business, the board:

-recognized board member Nancy Vander Does for her service on the board. Vander Does will step down when her term runs out. Vander Does said that she and her husband, Victor Vander Does, who will retire soon as Morrow County Health District CEO, plan to travel.

-recognized Tony Barnhart, CEO of Mid Co. Bus Company, for Mid Co's contribution of a \$500 scholarship for a graduating senior at each high school in the district.

Barnhart said that the district's bus transportation costs for next year will be approximately the same as this year with the same service level, barring any extenuating circumstances, and remarked that the company has driven five million miles for the district with no major accidents or injuries.

-heard from Burrows concerning the passage of the May 19 serial levy. Burrows expressed his thanks for district patrons for approving the levy. He said that while the estimated state education funding amount is down because of the economy, the district is confident in funding its programs with the current state-wide estimate of \$5.6 billion. "We have definitely tightened out budget," said Burrows.

-heard from Burrows concerning the possibility of Riverside High School in Boardman qualifying as a "small school." He said a bill to that effect has passed out of the state House and is now in the Senate. He said that if that occurs, it would mean an additional \$400,000 to the district in this biennium.

-heard from Burrows that overall two thirds of district students passed

reading and math benchmarks, which is "pretty good," especially considering 25 percent of the students are English Language Learners and 12-15 percent are special education students. "It's pretty good," remarked Burrows, "but in Morrow County we don't want to be pretty good." He said the results were a little better than last year.

-accepted a resignation from Lori McCombs, Sam Boardman Elementary School ed assistant; accepted a retirement for Cecilia Drake, A.C. Houghton Elementary School reading teacher.

-approved employment for Josh Bettesworth, RHS assistant custodian.

-approved extra-duty coaching contracts as follows (Heppner schools listed only): Heppner High School: Greg Grant, athletic director, head football coach, head golf coach; Les Payne, assistant football coach; Kevin Payne, assistant football coach; Josh Coiner, assistant football coach; Pam Dowdy, head volleyball coach; Petra Payne, assistant volleyball coach, head softball coach; Janelle Healy, assistant volleyball coach; Mark Lemmon, head wrestling coach; David Norton, head boys' basketball coach; Ken Grieb, assistant boys' basketball coach; Mark Dowdy, head girls' basketball coach; Chris Rauch, assistant girls' basketball coach; vacant-head baseball coach; Troy Morgan, assistant baseball coach; Melissa Coiner, head track coach; Jason Palmer, assistant track coach; Heppner Junior High: David Norton, head football coach; Dennis Peck, assistant football coach; Wendy Cannin, head volleyball coach, head track coach; Mindy Wilson, assistant volleyball coach, head girls' basketball coach; Larry Palmer, assistant track coach; vacant-head boys' basketball, assistant boys' basketball, assistant girls' basketball, head wrestling.

-approved extra duty non-coaching positions (Heppner schools listed only): Heppner Elementary: Jannie Allen and Pam Dowdy, Talented and Gifted program coordinators; Karen Smith-Griffith, DART program; Mary

Ann Elguezabal, English Language Learner site coordinator; Heppner High School: Wendy Cannin, annual; Joe Lindsay, half-time band; Virginia Grant, rally advisor; Jodi Chapa, drama; John Flaherty, TAG and DART.

-approved the 2009-10 substitute teacher daily rate at \$154.72.

-approved the May 19 election results.

-adopted the 2009-10 board calendar as follows: July 2009-no meeting; August 10-district office; September 14-HHS; October 12-SBE; November 9-Morrow Education Center, Irrigon; December 14-Irrigon Elementary; January 11, 2010-Heppner Elementary; February 8-RHS; March 8-ACH; April 12-Windy River Elementary; May 10- HIS; June 14-district office.

-approved annual organizational details.

-approved and adopted the 2009-10 budget with an amendment to move \$25,000 from the general fund to food service.

-approved the first reading of policies on non-discrimination, Americans with Disabilities Act, Equal Employment Opportunity, Family Medical Leave, Credit for Proficiency and Students.

-approved an attendance variance for a student within the Morrow County School District to attend school in Hermiston.

-approved early graduation for two students.

-heard the following announcements: June 10-last day for students; June 12, last day for teachers.

-approved the following OEBB plans for 2009-10: medical plans 4, 5 and 7 with pharmacy plan A; medical plan 8 with pharmacy plan C; dental plans 1, 2 and 6, all with orthodontia; vision plan 2; long term disability plan 1, optional and to be paid by employees; life insurance, optional and to be paid by employees. "Employees have the option to choose any of the medical plans adopted," said Deputy Clerk Rhonda Lorenz.

-held an executive session to discuss legal issues and negotiations.

## Residents to see increase in city water rates

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Deputy Randy Rayburn who said the man driving a pickup which struck the St. Patrick's Senior Center May 30 causing some damage and destroying a bench, would be given a citation.

The man had pulled into Heppner Family Foods parking lot and it was believed that he was suffering from a heart attack or stroke causing him to speed through the parking lot and run into the senior building. Rayburn also reported that he was one of the first on the scene of the accident, and that it was Wacy Coil of Heppner who arrived at the scene and jumped in the pickup and turned off the engine while it was still running at a high rate of speed after the collision. The man did not die as was rumored, but was life-flighted to Portland.

Rayburn also reported several other incidents the past month including the judge's car getting egged and three students caught smoking marijuana at the ball field above the high school. All three were cited for procession less than an ounce of within 1,000 feet of a school, which is a class C misdemeanor.

It was also reported that one of the construction workers on the Court Street project had been causing a problem. He was apparently intoxicated and "cussing a lot" at the park and the ball field below the elementary school. The problem was handled, his supervisor notified, and the sheriff's deputy was told that if the worker keeps causing problems in town that he would be fired and sent home. The sheriff's department anticipates no further problems with the subject.

The deputies were successful in catching a golden Labrador that has been causing problems on Jones Street. The dog was held at the Heppner sewer plant and then transported to Pet Rescue in Hermiston.

The deputy was told by Pet Rescue that the dog had dug out of the kennel and is now running around in the Hermiston area. Another dog was picked up at the Shell station and transported to the sewer plant and then taken to Pet Rescue. Shell station employees were told to quit feeding the dogs when they come around.

### Discussed shortening city hall hours

The council discussed, but took no action on a plan to open city hall an hour later, at 10 a.m. instead of at 9 a.m. so staff would have more time to get work done instead of waiting on the public. The office would be closed during the lunch hour, then open from 1 to 5 p.m.

The council also heard from DeMayo who said the city needs to have the new position of utility billing clerk working as soon as they can after July 1, 2009. The new part time (35 hours week) position was approved by the city budget committee and approved by the city council Monday. The city is going to change the personnel manual so that part time can be defined as 35 hours per week instead of 20 hours. This means that unless an employee worked 35 hours a week or more, they would not qualify for benefits.

In other business the council appointed the following people to the city planning commission: Tamara Lien, Vi Wilgers and Don Stroerber.

## A Resolution Adjusting Water and Sewer Rates In The City Of Heppner

**Whereas**, in 1989 the voters in the City of Heppner voted for a General Revenue bond in the amount of \$625,000 to upgrade and repair its Wastewater plant to comply with requirements dictated by the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (ODEQ), as a result a "Sewer bond" fee of \$8.90 was assessed each property owner, and **Whereas**, the work of repair and upgrading the Wastewater plant was finally completed in 1994, and **Whereas**, in 1996 an opportunity to refinance these bonds and save \$11,546 dollars in interest was available, the City Council, as good stewards of the citizens monies did so by passing Resolution 259-96 (a vote of the people was not necessary), refinancing the same. Due to Measure Five, the "bond fee" was paid from the Sewer charges rather than from property taxes, as originally designed, and **Whereas**, in the year 2007, repairs and an upgrade of the Wastewater plant was necessary, and some of the debt from the previous improvements remained, the City Council authorized a loan with Bank of Eastern Oregon in the amount of \$300,000 to accomplish this. Resolution 681-07 was approved. The "Sewer bond" fee was renamed "User Repair and Maintenance fee" and applied directly to repay this debt, and **Whereas**, in the Spring of 2009, a member of the Utilities commission made a proposal that the Beginning Fund Balance of the Debt Service fund be used to payoff this debt in full and that the "User Repair and Maintenance fee" could then be used to make the payments of \$130,701 due annually for the Water Improvement Project (WIP) completed in 2005. The payments had been delayed due to litigation issues with the Construction company, and **Whereas**, the Utility commission, the Budget Committee and the City Council have reviewed and deliberated over this proposition and have arrived at a consensus of what action should be taken on this issue. The Beginning Fund Balance in the Debt Service fund, on or about July 1, 2009 shall be used to payoff the remaining debt for the Wastewater plant repairs and improvements. Any remaining monies shall be applied to the annual payment on the Water Improvement Project loan. The City Manager shall effect the necessary actions to enable the annual payment of \$130,701 to be made on December 1, 2009 due to the State of Oregon for the Water Improvement Project loan. As soon as possible, on or about July 1, 2009 all Sewer bills shall no longer include either a "Sewer Bond" fee nor a "Maintenance and Repair" fee. All Water utility bills will reflect a base rate increase of \$10.90. This money shall be disbursed as follows: \$8.00 shall be applied towards the WIP loan, \$1.00 shall be applied towards the Fleet Reserve account (used for vehicle purchases) and \$1.90 shall be applied to the Infrastructure Emergency fund.

## Heppner, Ione graduations held



Graduation ceremonies were held this past week for Heppner High School and Ione Community School. Left photo: Bo Foster and Lenka Dobosova make their entrance for their graduation ceremony. Right photo: Ione graduates await their diplomas. -Photos by David Sykes



### Beaver tee ball season ends

The Beaver Tee Ball closed their 2009 season on Tuesday, June 2. The team, made up of five, six and a couple of seven-year olds, traveled to Ione to take on IRT. The last scheduled game was cancelled due to severe weather conditions. The team pizza party and awards program also had to be cancelled due to the weather.

The Beavers had a great season playing teams from Heppner, Ione, Fossil, Condon and Arlington. There was going to be a team pizza dinner and awards in the park follow-

ing the last game, however was cancelled due to the weather.

Awards went to the following: Most Valuable Player, Jackson Lehman; Most Enthusiastic, Blane Mahoney; Loudest Cheerer, Marlee Mitchell; Most Inspirational, Madelyn Nichols; Most Improved Hitter, Kaden Combe; Most Improved Thrower, Hunter Greenup; Most Improved Fielder, Angel Matthew; Overall Most Improved, Harley Ann Anderson; Best Sportsmanship, Trevor Linnell.

The Beavers were



Pictured are members of the Beavers with their coaches, Darcee Mitchell and Jessica Lehman. -Photo by Sandy Matthews

sponsored by Colin and Erin Anderson and coached by Darcee Mitchell and Jessica Lehman.