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HEPPNER
Gazette Times

VOL. 130 NO. 42 8 Pages Wednesday, October 26, 2011 Morrow County, Heppner, Oregon

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Ione School volunteers to be subject to records checks

By April Sykes

The Ione Community School Board, at their regular meeting Monday night, approved the first reading of a revised policy concerning criminal records checks.

The "criminal records checks/fingerprinting" policy will now include the screening of volunteers. The policy previously included district employees such as teachers, administrators and classified employees, such as office and food service staff, but now includes "any volunteer who works with children." Volunteers will now be required to undergo a criminal records check.

"We're here to protect kids," said Principal Jerry Archer. "We haven't had an issue here. . . .If someone has a problem with it, I'm going to be really curious as to why they have a problem with it," he added. He said that of special concern is the issue of "grooming," whereby a predator could use his position to become friendly with a child for ulterior motives.

Administrators reassured the board that people can still come to the school for games and events.

"It's not about moms coming with cupcakes," said Collete Blakely, human resources coordinator with InterMountain ESD, who researched and worked on the policy. IMESD has been contracted by the Ione district to provide administrative and other services.

The board also discussed several proposals to review and rewrite board policy to bring the district into compliance with policies and administrative regulations. Option 1 includes a policy rewrite for $7,000; Option 2 includes starting from a "new platform" with a Charter School Sample Policies disk for $3,500; Option 3 is a policy analysis, which would allow the district to "sort and filter" a spreadsheet file "as they please"; and Option 4 would be a special project by IMESD for $120 per hour for "professional time" and $32 per hour for "clerical" work. Based on similar projects, Blakely estimated a cost of around $5,000 with no meetings with the board or staff and contact via email or phone. Option 4 would require a lot more work for the school board.

In other business, the board:

-heard from Archer about concerns about water possibly affecting a wall on the far side of the gym. Archer said that a crack in the wall has developed. "We're trying to figure out where the water is coming from," he said. The possibility of the problem coming from water from the pool or ground was discussed. He said that they will be working to determine the cause in order to correct the problem.

-learned that the school received a "high satisfactory" rating on the 2010-11 Oregon school

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Med student helps make life easier for first responders

Medical information form helps "streamline the process" in emergencies

By Andrea Di Salvo

Medical student Michelle Tully is working to make it easier for Heppner medical responders and physicians to care for patients.

Tully has developed a medical information form that individuals can fill out and leave on their refrigerators. The forms will be printed on bright blue cardstock so EMTs or other first responders who are trained to look on refrigerators for important information will easily find them in emergencies.

"It enables EMTs and physicians to obtain accurate, up-to-date medical information for a patient who is unable to provide it," says Tully.

She says the information could help responders if the patient was unconscious, confused, or anxious and forgetful.

She adds that it could also be helpful if people filled out the forms and took them with them when they visited a new doctor or a specialist, since they would have all their medical history at hand. She says the clinic and hospital would also like to include the form as part of patients' medical charts.

OHSU medical student Michelle Tully points out pertinent features on her new medical information form. Tully hopes the form will make it easier for medical professionals to serve members of the community. *–Photo by Andrea Di Salvo*

The 24-year-old Spokane native obtained a B.S. in biology from Whitworth University in Spokane. She is now in her third year of medical school at OHSU in Portland, and is in Heppner for a five-week rural community rotation. She created the form as a special project for her rotation, and says she got the idea when she saw a need.

"I was working in the ER, and a patient came in who was confused and couldn't remember her entire medical history," says Tully. "A form like this would have been helpful."

That's when Tully, who is in her third week here in Heppner, came up with the idea of a medical information form. She has since worked with Dr. Betsy Anderson and Dr. Russ Nichols to bring it to fruition. They plan to have the forms available next week; members of the community will be able to pick them up at Murray's Drug, Pioneer Memorial Hospital, Irrigon Medical Clinic or Pioneer Memorial Clinic.

Forms are available for anyone who wants to take one home and fill it out, but Tully says she will also be available at the clinic November 1 and 2 from 5 to 7 p.m. to help anyone who needs it.

Tully says the whole idea is to help providers take care of people better. Her medical information forms accomplish that by streamlining the information-gathering process.

"It's especially valuable for anyone with complex health history, memory problems or who takes a lot of medications," she says. "It saves time. In emergencies, saving time can save lives."

County partnership keeps 911 running

On the morning of October 12, a broken cable caused Umatilla County to lose its capability to receive 911 calls.

Immediately, the Umatilla County 911 calls were rerouted to the Morrow County 911 center. Because Umatilla and Morrow counties share the same CAD (computer) and radio system, the Morrow County dispatchers were able to take Umatilla County's 911 calls, enter them in the computer and advise Umatilla County over the radio so they could dispatch responses from their center.

This compatible system will also work if there is ever a problem with Morrow County 911 lines. Umatilla County would be able to receive Morrow County 911 calls, so there would be no lapse in the emergency services.

Sgt. Anne Alleman advised that the system worked the way that it was supposed to and everything went smoothly. She commended Communication Deputies Lee Jeffries, Melissa Ross, Kristen Bowles, Sarah Baker and Erik Patton for the way they handled the extra call volume and kept the emergency services going in both counties.

"It is times like these that you really appreciate a dedicated and experienced staff," Alleman said.

Riverside wrestling coach honored

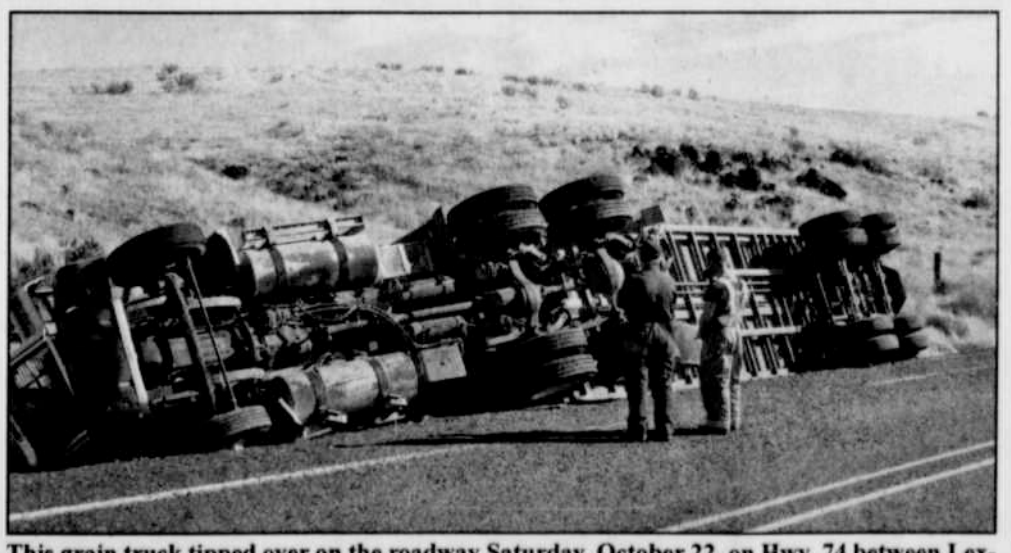
At Tuesday's council meeting, Boardman's Mayor Phillips presented Riverside Jr/Sr High School wrestling coach, David Boor, with the Oregon Governor's Council on Physical Fitness and Sports' 2011 Fitness Leadership Award. Several members of the wrestling team were at the meeting to honor their coach.

(L-R): Councilors Jill Pambrun, Christie Perry, Neil Livingston, Ed Glenn and Steve Doherty with Coach Boor and Mayor Phillips. *–Contributed photo*

The Governor's Council on Physical Fitness and Sports annually presents Fitness Leadership Awards to recognize Oregonians who support the council's mission of promoting physical activity and wellness in Oregon. Each year the Governor's Council asks the mayors of Oregon to nominate persons in their community who they believe should receive the Fitness Leadership Award.

Mayor Phillips nominated Coach Boor for coaching approximately 500 children over the nine years he's been Riverside's head wrestling coach. During that time, Riverside has qualified for state 45 times; six times Riverside Wrestling has produced the state champion.

Grain truck tips over



This grain truck tipped over on the roadway Saturday, October 22, on Hwy. 74 between Lexington and Ione. No injuries were reported. *-Photo by David Sykes*

Halloween Tricks

This pair of unfortunates stuck in a straw bale in front of Community Bank are all part of the fun as Heppner gears up for Halloween. *-Photo by Andrea Di Salvo*

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