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HEPPNER
Gazette Times

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VOL. 130 NO. 44 8 Pages Wednesday, November 16, 2011 Morrow County, Heppner, Oregon

Morrow County school receives $50,000 technology grant

By April Sykes

The Morrow County School Board, at their regular meeting at the Morrow Education Center in Irrigon Monday night, learned that Irrigon High School has received an additional $50,000 for technology through the GEAR UP program. The school already receives $30,000 from the grant annually.

The Federal Department of Education awarded a $37 million grant to Washington State University-Tri Cities to expand the GEAR UP program (Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs). The program entails sending staff and funding to mostly low-income schools to improve students' chances of attending college.

The funding goes to already established programs in 16 school districts in southeast Washington and to start new programs in Morrow County, Kennewick, Mabton, Prosser and Warden, WA.

According to an article in the Tri-City Herald, the new grants will increase the number of students served from around 10,000 to 16,000 and will create around 60 new jobs, including part-time tutors in the schools, one director in each school and around five employees on the campus in Richland. In addition to bringing tutors into the schools for one-on-one assistance, the grant funds the purchase of additional computers and other technology, gives teachers additional professional training, provides financial aid classes for parents and increased parent outreach at the schools, and offers students career counseling and field trips to college campuses.

Also at the meeting, Assistant Superintendent George Mendoza detailed the current trend in federal education standards, the Common Core Standards, which, he says, will dramatically increase course rigor. Mendoza said the new standards, which should be implemented by 2015, are "much "more demanding," more "intense and purposeful" and will require "a lot of accountability." He said that the Common Core Standards are more aligned to college and work expectations.

"Our government is putting a lot of money into Common Core Standards. It's going to be the future," Mendoza said, adding that so far 46 states have signed on to the new standards.

Board member Barney Lindsay told the board that he recently attended a program on suicide prevention in Condon, which has been inordinately affected by youth suicide.

"It was a powerful presentation," said Lindsay, who recommended that a similar program be held in Morrow County.

In other business, the board:

-learned that the next step in establishing a health/sexuality curriculum is to create a school health advisory committee. Superintendent Dirk Dirksen proposed that an all-inclusive meeting be held in regard to that topic and then a committee be established from that meeting.

-adopted resolutions on attendance and student absences and excuses.

-See TECHNOLOGY GRANT/PAGE SIX

City buys into county-wide marketing plan

Multi-media campaign will focus on attracting short-term tourists to Morrow County

By David Sykes

The city of Heppner voted Monday to participate in a $15,000 multi-media marketing campaign aimed at attracting short term tourist visitors to Morrow County. Heppner's share of the campaign will be $5,000, with Boardman and Irrigon each reportedly set to kick in $5,000 apiece.

Heppner Mayor Les Paustian told the city council that the campaign is a good idea for Heppner and would eventually not only help local businesses but also attract more people to live here. He said when people visit here and see what a good community Heppner is, they will eventually want to settle here.

"We can get more people to live here and work outside instead of the other way around," Paustian explained.

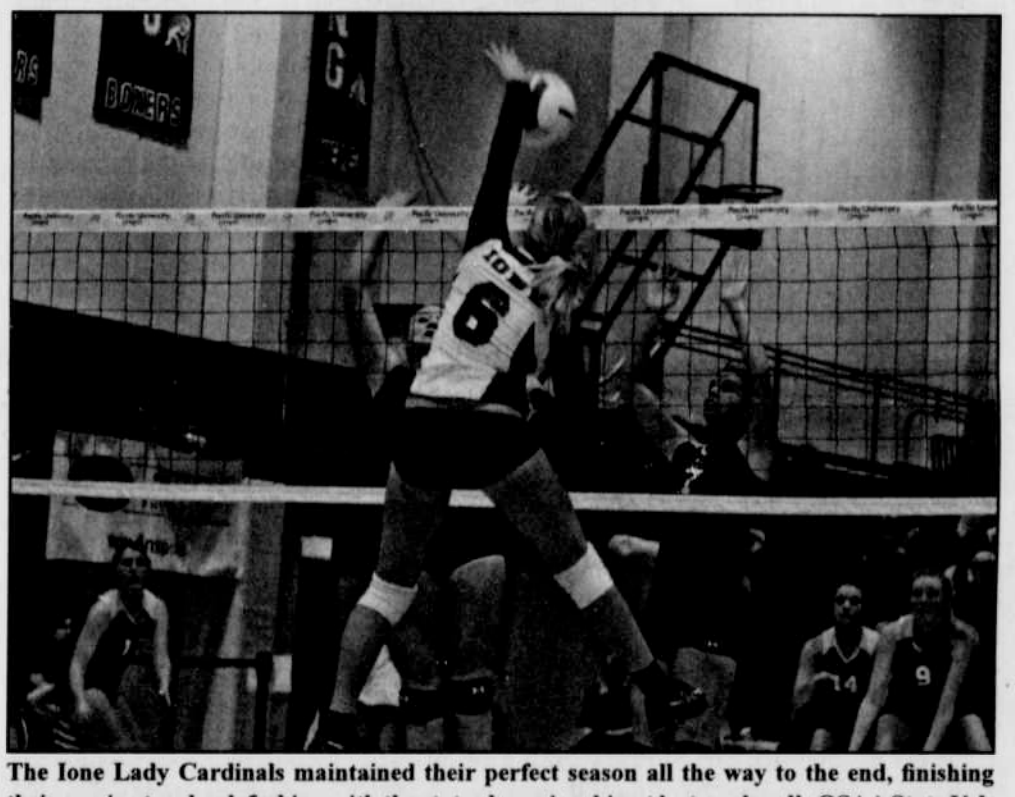
The council has been discussing the marketing plan for several months now and had asked in the past to see more detail from the Pendleton advertising agency ArtiFx, now named AMI Advertising Agency, regarding just what the campaign entailed.

At Monday's meeting the council received more detail, including what kind of media AMI, which is putting together the campaign, will purchase. AMI plans to use print, online/digital, public relations, social media, the web and email in the campaign.

"The fun, playful campaign is designed to attract visitors to experience all of the five cities and all the great attractions the cit-

-See CITY COUNCIL/PAGE EIGHT

Lady Cards provide storybook season end

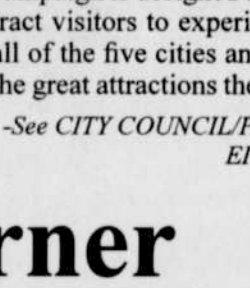


The Ione Lady Cardinals maintained their perfect season all the way to the end, finishing their run in storybook fashion with the state championship at last weekend's OSAA State Volleyball Championship at Pacific University in Forest Grove. The Cardinals marched through the bracket with a 3-1 win over opening round opponent, Adrian, on Friday and a straight set victory over Hosanna Christian that same evening. That set up the championship match with Powder Valley on Saturday night. Clearly the two best teams in the tourney rose to the top, and those teams provided the vocal crowd with their money's worth in a five-game match. The Cardinals took the championship match 25-21, 23-25, 25-16, 16-25, 15-10. Exchange student Dominika Senkerikova, pictured, was a unanimous first team, All-State Tournament selection. JoAnna Patton was also named to the first team. See full story on PAGE FOUR. *-Photo by Zech Hintz*

GT Trophy Corner

Top: Jake Lindsay shot this buck during archery season. Bottom: Fifteen-year-old Elaine Verstoppen of Nampa, ID shot this elk—her first—in Montana. Elaine is the granddaughter of Dale and Marda Adlard of Heppner. *–Contributed photos*

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.



ALL NEWS AND ADVERTISEMENT DEADLINE: MONDAYS AT 5:00 P.M.

Reservoir Algae advisory lifted

Oregon Public Health Division confirms reduced blue-green algae levels

A health advisory prompted by high algae levels found in Willow Creek Reservoir near Heppner was lifted November 9 by the Oregon Health Authority's Public Health Division and Morrow County Health Department officials. The advisory went into effect September 7.

Water monitoring has confirmed reduced levels of blue-green algae that can produce toxins harmful to humans and animals. These reduced levels are not likely to be associated with dangerous toxin concentrations in the water, according to World Health Organization guidelines.

Oregon health officials advise people who recreate in Oregon water bodies to always be alert to signs of algae blooms. People and their pets should avoid water contact if there are visible clumps of algae in the water.

For local information, contact the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Willow Creek Natural Resource Management Office, 541-676-9009.

For health information, contact the Harmful Algae Bloom Surveillance program at 971-673-0400 or the Morrow County Health Department at 541-676-5421.

Closed for Thanksgiving

The Heppner Gazette-Times will be closed in observance of the Thanksgiving Day holiday Thursday, November 24 and Friday, November 25. Normal business hours will resume Monday, November 28.