

Gothard Sisters to perform during St. Pat's Celebration

The Gothard Sisters will be the Saturday main entertainment at the Heppner Elementary School Gymnasium during the St. Patrick's Day celebration on March 17 this year. Their performance is scheduled from 7-9:30 p.m.

These girls have been playing violin and dancing since a young age, and they grew up performing on stages throughout the Pacific Northwest. They started out with rigorous classical violin training and competitive Irish Dance, which led them to leadership positions in the local youth symphonies and took them to the Irish Dancing World Championships—held in the United Kingdom—to compete in the solo championships for three years in a row.

The three sisters



The Gothard Sisters will perform March 17 during Heppner's Wee Bit O' Ireland celebration. —Contributed photo

have also developed their talents on various other instruments, including guitar, bodhran and voice, in the pursuit of creating a fuller, more compelling show. Their love for music, dance and storytelling is their inspiration for performing and recording.

These days, the sisters can be seen mak-

ing their way across the country, visiting fairs and festivals to share their love of music and dancing with the people they meet. A live show with the Gothard Sisters is likely to include fast fiddling numbers with lively choreography, Irish step-dancing used in a myriad of ways, and special songs and ballads.

11th annual classic car Cruz-In planned

On March 17, the 11th annual St. Paddy's Cruz-In will be held during the 30th annual St. Patrick's Celebration in Heppner. The car-show area will be on Willow Street between Heppner Family Foods and St. Patrick's Senior Center from 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. Anyone who has a classic vehicle and wants to join the show is welcome; registration will start at 9 a.m. and finish at 11 a.m. Registration cost is \$20 per vehicle.

Entries will have the chance to win 21 awards this year, including Leprechaun's Choice, Mustang's Choice, Best Convertible, Teenage Driver/Owner, Best 1910-1920 Truck,

Best of Show and more. Also, car owners themselves will have the chance to vote on a Participant's Choice award.

Judging will begin at noon. The awards will be given out around 2:30 p.m. on Main Street. The event will include a participant's poker walk through five downtown businesses, with first- and second-place cash prizes for the best poker hands.

Members of the public are invited to come and walk through the cars and reminisce as long as they wish, as well as ask any questions they have. The car owners love talking about cars. Depending on the weather, cars from

all over are expected to be attending.

The St. Paddy's Cruz-In Committee would like to thank the following for sponsoring the awards: D&L Auto Parts, Heppner High School, Les Schwab Tires, Lexington Auto Body, Pettyjohn's Supply, Lexington Machine, Lexington Shell Mart, Looslie Towing, Morrow County Grain Growers and Osmin Century Welding.

If anyone has questions, wishes to have a form for the Cruz-In or wishes to volunteer to help, contact Heppner Chamber of Commerce at 541-676-5536 or Gary Jones at 541-676-5456.

SCHOOL LEVY

—Continued from PAGE ONE around \$90,000.

In the third scenario, if the levy fails, the district would need to reduce \$450,000 for the 2012-13 school year with reductions in eight programs.

He said that individual reductions by position will be discussed at the March board meeting.

Dirksen said that he has set up meetings with the union reps and teachers to go over the numbers and collaborate on the reduction on Feb. 21 at 4:30 p.m. at Windy River Elementary School in Boardman and Feb. 22 at 6 p.m. at Heppner High School. He has also scheduled a meeting with the classified union on Feb. 27 at 5:30 p.m. at Riverside High School in Boardman. Community meetings have been planned for Feb. 28 at RHS, Feb. 29 at Irrigon High School and March 1 at Heppner Elementary School, all at 6:30 p.m. A board work session has been planned for March 5 at 6 p.m. at the district office in Lexington to discuss the district's final decision.

He is also seeking volunteers to work on passage of the levy.

Also at the meeting, the board voted to accept "zero" non-resident students for the 2012 school year, based on "current enrollment projections, staffing and/or available resources."

Oregon's new open enrollment law, HB 3681, which took effect on January 1, makes it easier for students to transfer to a different school district or opt to decline altogether. Under the new law, the school district makes the final decision as to whether or not to participate and, if so, how many new students it will accept. If the board had said yes, then they would have had to decide how many openings they would make available. If they had agreed, they would have had to determine how many openings they had and then, by April 1, people from outside the district could apply.

Since Morrow County School District declined, opting instead to use the traditional method of transfer, both the home district and the new district have to agree to the transfer of a student. Under HB 3681, only the receiving district has to agree. If more people apply than there are slots for, then a lottery is held.

With traditional transfers, a student must apply each year. Under the new law, the student is considered a member of the new district until graduation. Districts, however, can decide whether or not to participate in the new law each year. If they do not participate, they will accept transfers only through the traditional method.

Under the new law, districts are not responsible for transportation of students who live outside of their district. Districts, however, can offer trans-

portation to students outside of their district who have transferred. Students who have transferred outside their home district are responsible for their own transportation.

Under HB 3681, districts cannot discriminate as to whom is allowed to transfer, regardless of sex, race, religion, sexual orientation, athletic ability, ethnicity, national origin, disability or English proficiency.

The Oregon School Activities Association is planning to address issues regarding the new law and sports participation.

In other business, the board:

-recognized the Riverside High School soccer team, which had 19 wins and no losses for the season and took the state championship this year. The team members presented the board and superintendents with t-shirts commemorating the team's state win.

-learned that a meeting of the School Health Advisory Committee, which includes discussion of federally-mandated sex education in the classroom, is set for Feb. 21 at Riverside High School at 6 p.m.

-received four calendar options for the 2012-13 school year as follows:

-Option A—a post-Labor Day start with two weeks at Christmas, teachers beginning on August 20, students beginning August 27, Christmas break from December 14 through January 1, students ending on Friday, June 7, with a five day week, secondary teachers ending Monday, June 10, and elementary teachers ending Tuesday, June 11;

-Option B—a post-Labor Day start with two weeks at Christmas, teachers beginning August 27, students beginning September 4, Christmas break from December 14 through January 1, students ending Friday, June 14, a five-day week, secondary teachers ending Monday, June 17, elementary teachers ending Tuesday, June 18;

-Option C—a pre-Labor Day start with less than one and a half weeks at Christmas, teachers beginning August 20, students beginning August 27, Christmas break from December 20 through January 1, students ending Tuesday, June 4, secondary teachers ending Wednesday, June 5, elementary teachers ending Thursday, June 6;

-Option D—a post-Labor Day start with less than one and a half weeks at Christmas, teachers beginning August 27, students beginning September 4, Christmas break from December 20 through January 1, students ending Tuesday, June 11, secondary teachers ending Wednesday, June 12 and elementary teachers ending Thursday, June 13.

-approved a resolution accepting a \$30,000 donation from Swaggart Wind Power with \$15,000 for instruction and \$15,000 for support services, and a

\$40,000 donation for support services from Echo Winds.

-heard a presentation from Chuck Halstead concerning the Gear Up grant that is targeting students in north Morrow County. The purpose of the grant, offered through Washington State University, is to increase the number of low-income students attending college and succeeding in post-secondary education.

-accepted the 2010-11 financial audit and approved the 2011-12 audit contract with Oster Professional Group, CPAs, PC.

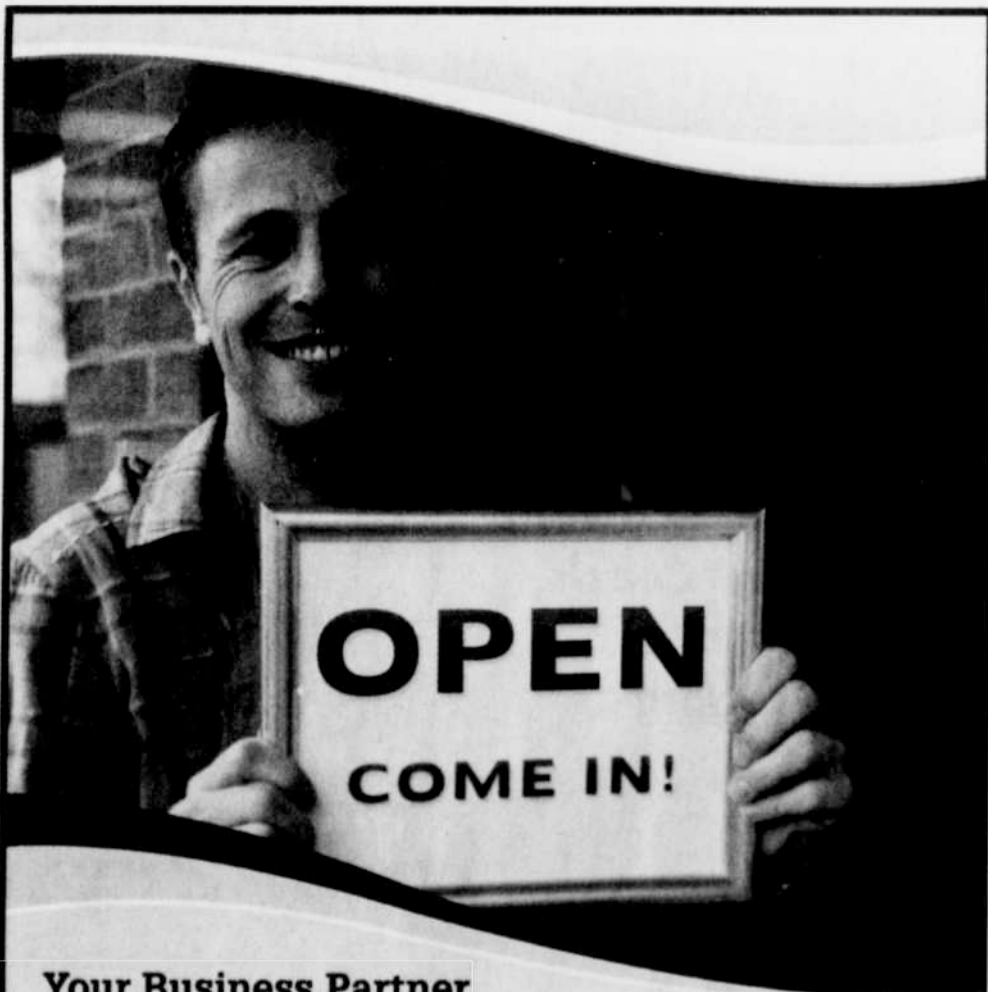
-adopted a resolution approving the Inter-Mountain ESD's local service plan with the district.

-approved the following: resignations for Mark Rouska, Morrow Education Center ed assistant and MCS D licensed substitute, effective January 23, Robert Gruber, Sam Boardman Elementary/Windy River Elementary PE teacher, effective June 11, Robin Stalcup, Riverside High School science teacher, effective June 11, Pam Schmidt, Heppner Elementary School assistant cook, effective February 16, Carl Brock, A.C. Houghton Elementary School assistant custodian, effective February 23, Renee Zielinski, WRE ed assistant, effective June 11; retirement for Dan Van Liew, Heppner Elementary School head custodian, effective January 31, Karen Boardman, ACH assistant cook, effective June 7, Pam Files, SBE elementary teacher, effective June 11, Mavis Edwards, Irrigon Elementary School assistant cook, effective June 7; extra duty resignations for Jason Dunten, Irrigon Junior/Senior High School assistant football coach, Brian Bigham, Irrigon Junior High head track coach; extra duty contracts for Laura Browne, Heppner High School head track coach, Javier Garcia, HHS head baseball coach, Ken Mathis, IJH wrestling coach, Larry Palmer, Heppner Junior High wrestling coach, Aaron Beyers, half time DART contract.

-received the following attendance report for February: A.C. Houghton Elementary, Irrigon-271 students; Heppner Elementary School-186; Heppner High School-187; Irrigon Elementary School-221; Irrigon Elementary School-221; Irrigon High School-339; Riverside High School-409; Sam Boardman Elementary School-310; Windy River Elementary School, Boardman-203; Morrow Education Center-MCSD students-44; MEC-Umatilla School District students-9; total-2179.

-heard the following announcements: President's Day holiday Monday, February 20, next board meeting, Monday, March 12, 7 p.m., A.C. Houghton Elementary School.

-held an executive session following the meeting concerning personnel.



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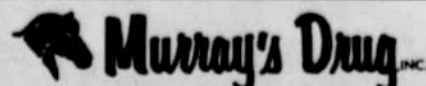
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PRESIDENT'S DAY
Monday, February 20TH

Special Pharmacy Hours
2-6 pm ONLY

Please pick up refills by 6 pm
Friday, February 17th
Monday Store open regular hours
7:30 pm - 6:00 pm



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Wedding Table
Travis Winters &
Laura Browne
Saturday, March 3rd