

## Irish boxing a knockout event

Everyone is reminded to take in the fifth annual Amateur Irish Smoker boxing event Friday, March 16, at the Heppner High School gym. The event is sponsored by the Heppner Chamber of Commerce and Y102 Haystack Broadcasting.

Doors open at 6:30 p.m. and the event will begin at 8 p.m. Admission will be \$10 for adults over 12; \$5 for kids eight to 11 and free for those under 7.

Though boxing is the main event, there will be much more to the evening. There will be sumo wrestling entertainment throughout the evening, sponsored by Tom Denchel Ford. There will be a 50/50 drawing, and Heppner High School seniors will be selling raffle tickets for prize baskets. Attendees will also be able to purchase 2012 St. Patrick's buttons for \$3 for a chance to win \$100. The first drawing will be Fri-

day night. Representatives from the National Guard will be shooting out t-shirts throughout the evening.

This year's fight card sponsors are Tom Denchel Ford, Devin Oil, Sweeney Mortuary and Northwest Farm Credit Services; corner sponsors are John Britt Logging and Bruce Young Logging.

A shuttle service will be available from Heppner Family Foods to the high school beginning at 6:15 p.m. (earlier if the shuttle fills up). The shuttle will repeat trips until all riders have been delivered to the high school. The shuttle will also be stopping at the back door of Bucknum's at 6:45 p.m. and 7:15 p.m. and will bring passengers back to their original pickup location at the end of the evening.

Questions, call the chamber office at 541-676-5536.

## Ione sewer system discussed at ICABO

By David Sykes

A plan to replace Ione's septic systems with a central waste water treatment plant was discussed at the annual meeting of the Ione Community Agri-Business Organization.

Ione Mayor Mark Bruno told the dinner crowd that the proposed four-year project would cost \$4 million and the city must "stay proactive on this because if we don't do it now the federal and state government is going to make us do it," Bruno said.

Bruno said the city is in the middle of a \$25,000 feasibility study and that the project will take three years of engineering and funding and one year of construction. He went on to say it should free up property in town because homes will not need such big lots with-

out the septic systems. He also pointed out that some people may be forced out of their homes if their septic systems fail and they are not able to reconstruct them.

ICABO chairman Ed Rollins echoed Bruno's remarks.

"Some people might have to move out if there is septic failure," he said.

Bruno also said it is time for someone to step up and take the reins of the city because, after 14 years as Ione's mayor, he will not be running again.

"I don't have the energy or the time to do this anymore," he told the crowd.

"I want to see the town move into the future. People need to take the bull by the horns," he urged.



Ione Mayor Mark Bruno

## Ione senior competes in poetry contest



Kaytee Burghard, a senior at Ione Community School, competed in the regional division of Poetry Out Loud, held in Portland on March 11. She recited from memory both "Fairy-Tale Logic" by A.E. Stallings and "Invictus" by William Ernest Henley. -Contributed photo

## Youth spring turkey hunt April 7-9

Youth spring turkey season is April 7-9 this year.

Hunters are asked to note that the season dates are wrong in the 2011-12 Oregon Game Bird Regulations. Hunters 17 and under can hunt Saturday, Sunday and Monday this year.

Due to the Morrow County Fee schedule order No. OR-20-2011 as of January 1, 2012 the Morrow County transfer stations will increase their fees 20% for removal of waste. Due to inflation of annual operating cost and other expenses beyond our control.

Morrow County would like to encourage and remind you the free disposal of latex and enamel paints, computers, computer towers and televisions free of charge. Remember residence are still allowed to dump the large appliances and household items such as refrigerators, stoves, dishwashers, washer/dryers, water heaters, mattresses, sofa, loveseats and lounge chairs free of charge. Thank you. North end Transfer Station, 69900 Frontage Lane, Boardman, OR 97818. South end Transfer Station 57185 Hwy 74, Lexington, OR 97839. Both hours of operation 9:00 - 4:00 Saturday and Sunday. Any questions or concerns may be addressed to (541) 989-9500.



## MCSD MAKES CUTS

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"An awful thing to do was done quite well," said Killingbeck.

At the meeting, the board adopted a resolution to put a \$560,000 five-year local option serial levy before the voters in the May election to make up for the loss of funds. The actual amount the district will receive will be less because of a complicated tax compression formula. The resolution notes that funding for Oregon schools has decreased by \$300 million from the previous biennium and the district has been using \$1.8 million in one-time federal stimulus money that is no longer available. The resolution also says that the previous three-year serial levy afforded the district continuation of eight election programs that the district would otherwise not be able to afford.

Also at the meeting, the board recognized A.C. Houghton Elementary and Principal John Sebastian. ACH was selected by the Oregon Department of Education for being an outstanding school.

In other business, the board:

-approved the Option A calendar for the 2012-13 school year with a pre-Labor Day start, two weeks at Christmas, with teachers beginning on Monday, August 20, students beginning on Monday, August 27, two weeks at Christmas with Christmas break from Friday, December 14 through Tuesday, 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. A majority of administrative, licensed and classified employees selected this option.

-introduced Juan Garza, MCSD GEARUP coordinator. The GEARUP program was designed to increase the number of Boardman and Irrigon students attending college, starting with seventh-graders.

-approved a cooperative sponsorship for baseball and softball for 2011-12/2012-13 between Ione and Heppner high schools.

-approved the following employment action: resignations-Gerald Turner, Riverside High School science teacher, Laura Owens, RHS Spanish teacher, Heather Hancock, Sam Boardman Elementary School education assistant; retirements-John Sebastian, ACH principal, at the end of June 2012; extra duty

contracts-Stuart Dick, Irrigon Junior Senior High School assistant girls' basketball coach, John Qualls, Heppner Junior High head track coach, Amber Steinhoff, Heppner High School assistant track coach, Jerry Gentry, HHS assistant baseball coach.

-approved renewing the 2011-12 probationary teachers as follows: Contract teachers-Lisa Connell, Jason Duntun, Sam Cornelius, Randal Olsen, Leah Thompson; third year teachers next year-Jeremy Rosenbalm, Joni Hawthorne, Jennifer Cornelius, Kelli LaFramboise, Ricky Fay, Kaira Rysdam, Robert Gruber, Joselyn Piper, Tyler Barrie, Kristine Martin, Ashley Nicodemus; second year teachers next year-Kristin Anderson, Molly Blatz, Louise Kienzle, Jolene Stensland, Sybil Stewart, Sarah Poole, TaMara Thornton, Heather Stephens.

-approved non-renewal of temporary teachers: Pam Norton, Marissa Turner, George Shimer, Yadira Gonzalez.

-approved the following administrators: contract administrators-Dirk Dirksen, George Mendoza, Mark Jones, Matt Combe, Joel Chavez, Daye Stone, John Sebastian, Jacque Johnson, Craig Bensen, Matthew Matz; second year administrators next year-Robert Elizondo, Marie Shimer.

-approved the following 2011-12 contract teachers recommended for extension: ACH-Carma Barron, Brian Bigham, Franca Drake, Lori Frank, Gail Horning, Brenda Kitzelson, Jill Ledbetter, Sherrie Lennox, Darlene Marquardt, Michelle Morgan, Laurie Pearce, Kelly Phillips, Marilyn Post, Trixie Pullen, Laetitia Schreier, Deb Sherman, Erin Stocker; IHS-Rosemary Allport, Aaron Byers, Lisa Constantine, Sarah Eakin, Blaine Ganvoa, Lenn Greer, Marvin House, Gary Hunt, Andrew Johnson, CJ Johnson, Jake McElligott, Dave Melville, Sarah Miller, Juana Santillan, Jeff Seales, Alice Thomas; IES-Brian Bigham, Bob Carson, Angela Dames, Cynthia Hodgdon, Franca Drake, Sherrie Lennox, Fred Long, Rachel Luke, Darlene Marquardt, Anglica Prongua, Laura Rowe, Juana Santillan, Dawn Sharp; RHS-Claude Birt, David Boor, Karen Brown, Dawn Callow, Kyle Carpenter, John Christy, Clair Costello, Rick Drake, Robin Graff, Thomas Grimes, Pat King, Cynthia Kuckenbecker, Ron Prindle, William Pul-



A.C. Houghton artist-in-residence Kelly Thibodeaux leads a group of students in a violin concert. -Photo by April Sykes

len, Rebecca Renfro, Jay Rogers, Sonia Sanchez, Betsy Shane; SBE-Florence Bankston, Clara Beas, Stephanie Bigham, Sarah Christy, Pam Files-retiring, Jill Fletcher, Barb Harrison, Melissa Hocker, Mike Jeppeson, Debra Kennedy, Sarah Matheny, Kevin McClenahan, Brenda Proffitt, Michelle Raible, Rose Sebastian-retiring, Carol Wilson; WRE-Charlene Baker, Paul Beagle, Rhonda Boor, Anna Browne, Paul Keefer, Cara Osmin-retiring; Cathie Prindle, Theresa Proctor-Reece, Alecia Strebin, Stacey Wainwright; HES-Janine Allen, Karen Clough-retiring, Melissa Coiner, Pam Dowdy, Mary Ann Elguezabal, Sue Gibbs, Mary Haguewood, Sherry Matteson, Sharon Morris, Molly Rill, Karen Smith-Griffith, Michelle Stone; HHS-Jean Collins, Beth Dickenson, John Flaherty, Dave Fowler, Terri Gentry, Greg Grant, Joe Lindsay, Troy Morgan, Andrew Nelson, Jason Palmer, Petra Payne, Dieter Waite.

-heard a report by Assistant Superintendent George Mendoza, who outlined the MCSD kindergarten through grade 12 "achievement compact measures." The compacts outline the district's goals, projections and targets for students demonstrating proficiencies. He reported that the state had applied for a waiver for the federal "No Child Left Behind" program. Mendoza said the state's waiver has been rejected, but it would continue to do so until its waiver is accepted. The governor has eliminated the elected Oregon school superintendent's position, opting instead to head it up himself and create the Oregon Education Improvement Board, which will replace the No Child Left Behind Program. Mendoza said that the OEIB will hold school districts and other education institutions accountable for the goals contained in achievement compacts, but will allow flexibility as to how that is achieved.

"It's difficult to know until we get direction," said Dirksen. He said that the "Common Core" is

the new curriculum.

-learned from Dirksen and principal reports of the emergency and safety procedures put in place in the event of a school emergency.

-learned from Michael Lasher from the ESD that the Eastern Promise program is moving forward with college classes being offered for high school students this fall.

-learned that a suicide and anti-bullying workshop was held at Heppner High School and is scheduled for Irrigon and Boardman high schools.

-learned from Dirksen that he is looking at three proposals from different food service companies and has scheduled a meeting for March 20 at the district office at 1 p.m. to review the proposals.

-heard a musical presentation by an artist in residence and ACH violin students.

-received the March attendance report: A.C. Houghton Elementary School-271; Heppner Elementary School-187; Heppner High School-187; Irrigon Elementary School-219; Riverside High School-404; Sam Boardman Elementary School-309; Windy River Elementary-200; Morrow Education Center (Morrow County School District students)-45; Morrow Education Center (Umatilla School District students)-14; total-2174.

-approved a long list of items to be surplus.

-approved a field trip request for Heppner High School technology students to attend the 2012 national Technology Student Association conference in Nashville, Tennessee, June 21-25.

-held an executive session concerning personnel and student issues.

-received the following announcements: deadline for local option serial levy-March 15; end of third nine weeks-March 22; four-hour work day-March 23; spring break-March 26-30; next board meeting-April 9, Windy River Elementary, 7 p.m.

## MILC requirements Funds available for dairy producers organic producers

Morrow County FSA Executive Director Kyle Carmine reminds dairy producers that they must meet Milk Income Loss Contract (MILC) program requirements in order to maintain program eligibility in the event that prices drop and trigger a MILC payment.

MILC compensates dairy producers when domestic milk prices fall below a specified level. Eligible dairy producers can apply for program benefits anytime through Sept. 30.

"At this time, MILC payments are not being made," said Carmine. "FSA just wants producers to stay on top of eligibility requirements should there be an opportunity for payment."

To maintain program eligibility, MILC participants must notify their

local FSA office of any operation changes.

In order for dairy producers to receive a MILC payment, they must meet adjusted gross income requirements.

Dairy producers who want to enroll in MILC must select a start-month. Current dairies that participate in MILC can make changes to their start-month with certain restrictions.

According to Carmine, any start-month changes must be made on or before the 14th of the month before the selected MILC production start-month and before the original MILC production start-month has passed. The change must also be made before requesting payment.

For more information, contact the Morrow County FSA office at 541-676-9011.

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Oregon State Conservationist Ron Alvarado reminds potential applicants to contact their local NRCS office soon to find out if they are eligible for the agency's Organic Initiative. Applications for the second ranking period of 2012 are due at NRCS offices by close of business on March 30.

"The Organic Initiative has been a great tool in assisting both existing organic producers and those transitioning to organic farming for nearly four years now," said Alvarado. "Growers received financial assistance to implement conservation practices that can improve not only production, but the health of the land."

Nationwide, NRCS has nearly \$50 million in

financial and technical assistance available to certified organic producers, those who want to make the transition to organic production, and producers who sell less than \$5,000 in organic products annually.

Organic Initiative practices in Oregon include buffer strips, conservation crop rotation, cover crops, drip irrigation, fencing, field borders, mulching, nutrient management, pest management and others.

Changes for the 2012 signups include three ranking periods for current and transitioning producers; a threshold ranking score that can speed up approval for qualified applicants; required conservation practices that promote the consistent use of those practices; and an expanded list of conservation activity plans.