

## SCHOOL BOARD

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 ment. Of the remaining half (\$570), 80 percent (\$456) will go into an insurance pool and be divided among the remaining active employees who are enrolled in the OEBB plans.

The district also agreed to an increase in teachers' bereavement leave from 24 hours paid to 32 hours paid upon the death of a member of the teacher's immediate family or even a person who is not a member of the immediate family, but who is "perceived as a family member."

The policy defines family member as a spouse, same-sex domestic partner, custodial parent, non-custodial parent, adoptive parent, foster parent, biological parent, grandparent, parent-in-law, parent of the employee's same-sex domestic partner or a person with whom the employee is or was in a relationship of "in loco parentis (in place of a parent)." It also includes the biological, adopted, grandchild or foster child or stepchild of an employee, child of same-sex domestic partner or a child with whom the employee is or was in a relationship of "in loco parentis."

In the event of a death involving someone other than those mentioned, only the superintendent may approve the leave request.

The teachers are also granted 24 hours non-cumulative personal leave per year with the first 16 hours at no cost to the employee with reimbursement for employees who do not take the first and second day of leave in an amount equal to a substitute teacher's pay for each unused day.

Teachers' step salaries based on years of service in MCSD are as follows: beginning of the 10<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> years-\$250; 15<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> years-\$400; 20<sup>th</sup>-24<sup>th</sup> year-\$550; 25<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup> year-\$700; 30<sup>th</sup>-plus years-\$850.

The board also approved changes in the employee evaluation process to conform with Senate Bill 290, which requires the district and teachers association to collaboratively update the district's evaluation policy by creating a committee comprised of teachers' association members and district administrators.

The MCEA representative complimented Superintendent Dirk Dirksen for his work in negotiating with the teachers during the current economic "hard times" and for the way Dirksen made cuts "from the top down" to adjust to reductions in education funding. Starting this fall, with the resignation of HHS Principal Daye Stone, Heppner Elementary and Heppner High School will have just one principal. Current HES Principal Matt Combe will tackle both positions.

New head teacher positions at HES and HHS have been created, with Melissa Coiner named the new HES head teacher and Greg Grant named the HHS head teacher.

Other administrative personnel changes are as follows:

-Matthew Matz will be assigned to Irrigon Elementary School as principal and Irrigon Junior Senior

High School as half-time assistant principal. Teacher Erin Stocker will be transferred from A.C. Houghton Elementary to become head teacher at Irrigon Elementary;

-Mark Jones, current Windy River Elementary principal in Boardman, will become principal of both A.C. Houghton Elementary and the Morrow Education Center. When Jones is at ACH, Assistant Superintendent George Mendoza will provide administrative oversight as his office is in the building.

-Joel Chavez, current Irrigon Elementary principal and English Language Learner director, will be transferred to Windy River Elementary, where he will be half-time English Language Learner director and half-time principal with support from Marie Shimer, Riverside High School assistant principal.

Current ACH Principal John Sebastian has announced his retirement at the end of this school year. The following administrators will remain in their current positions: Dirksen, superintendent; Mendoza, assistant superintendent; Craig Benson, Irrigon High School principal; Robert Elizondo, RHS principal; and Jacque Johnson, Sam Boardman Elementary principal.

In other business, the board:

-discussed possible solutions to the ongoing flooding program at Irrigon Elementary School.

-heard a presentation from Irrigon Junior Senior High School teacher CJ Johnson concerning her work with students in order to help them pass OAKS tests and to prepare to apply for scholarships.

-received the following attendance report: A.C. Houghton Elementary-271; Heppner Elementary-185; Heppner High School-183; Irrigon Elementary School-220; Irrigon High School-333; Riverside High School-401; Sam Boardman Elementary-305; Windy River Elementary-198; Morrow Education Center-MCSD students-42; MEC-Umatilla School District students-11; total-2149.

-approved the following employment action: resignations-Michelle Stone, half-time Heppner Elementary School music teacher, Daye Stone, HHS principal; Public Employee Retirement System retiree/rehire-Pat King, RHS special ed teacher; extra duty resignations-Javier Garcia, Heppner Junior High School assistant football coach and head girls' basketball coach and HHS head baseball coach; employment/transfers-Marissa McCabe, Irrigon Junior/Senior High School special education teacher for the 2012-13 school year, Erin Stocker, transfer to head teacher position at Irrigon Elementary School for the 2012-13 school year; extra duty contracts-Melissa Coiner, HES head teacher for the 2012-13 school year, Greg Grant, HHS head teacher for the 2012-13 school year.

-learned that the district has submitted a request for proposal for food service

management for the 2012-13 fiscal year. Presentations will be heard by the selection committee on May 24. The final scoring of vendors and selection is planned for May 31 with the final award issued on June 13 for a one-year contract. Dirksen said that the district's food service management will be reassessed after the first year of the new program. "I hope we look at taking the program back ourselves," commented board member Bill Kuhn. He also noted previous complaints the district had received from mothers concerning the quality and amount of the children's lunches. More information concerning the request for proposal for food service management is available at the district's website: [morrow.k12.or.us](http://morrow.k12.or.us).

-approved the second reading and adopted policy on compulsory attendance, removing the financial penalties for parents not sending their children to school.

-rescinded previous policy for students with disabilities concerning the use of restraint and seclusion of students and adopted the first reading of new policy which redefines the use of physical restraint as not including mechanical, chemical or prone restraint of a student, as those methods are prohibited by Oregon law. The policy also provides for an annual review of the use of physical restraint and seclusion.

-rescinded and replaced policies on records of students with disabilities and education records.

-approved the purchase of new books.

-approved policy which provides for some leeway in allowing parents' requests for students' early admission to kindergarten if the child turns five before October 1 of that year, upon approval by district screeners.

-appointed the following board members to represent the district at graduation ceremonies: Morrow Education Center-Bill Kuhn; Irrigon High School-Barney Lindsay, who was not in attendance; Riverside High School-Berto Hernandez; Heppner High School-Becky Kindle.

-heard the following announcements: last day for seniors-May 24; Memorial Day holiday, May 28; Morrow Education Center graduation, Thursday, May 31, 7 p.m., Riverview Lodge, Boardman; Irrigon High School graduation-Friday, June 1, 7 p.m., IHS; Riverside High School graduation, Saturday, June 2, 1 p.m., RHS (The time of the RHS graduation ceremony has been changed from the original 10 a.m. time to accommodate RHS Principal Robert Elizondo, whose daughter is graduating from another school at the same time); Heppner High School graduation, Saturday, June 2, 2 p.m., HHS; last student day, Thursday, June 7, last teacher work day, Monday, June 11; next board meeting, Monday, June 11, 7 p.m., district office; teachers begin 2012-13 school year, August 20; students begin 2012-13 school year, August 27.

## Thompson chosen for Girls State

Ladies Auxiliary Post #95 of Ione has announced the selection of Lacey Lee Thompson, daughter of Kim and Leslie Thompson, to attend the 72<sup>nd</sup> annual Girls State week-long program at Willamette University in Salem June 17-23.



Lacey Lee Thompson

Girls State is an intense, one-week program based on leadership, volunteerism and citizenship. Goals include expanding delegates' knowledge of governmental processes, both state and

local, through interactive, hands-on activities. The goal is for girls to become active participants in their own community, and develop the attitude that even one person can make a difference. One participant will be chosen to attend National Girls State in Washington, D. C.; another will be selected to participate in the opportunity to receive a Samsung Scholarship.

The girls will also have time for "Follies Night" in

which each of their fictional "counties" will present a skit to an audience of their peers on the stage at Willamette University. Other activities include singing on the steps of the Capitol for a local audience and touring the Capitol Building.

Funding for Thompson is provided by the Ladies Auxiliary Post #95. More information about Oregon Girls State and Oregon Boys State is available through a local Post or Auxiliary member and online at Girls State of Oregon or Boys State of Oregon.

## Students conquer tough words at spelling contest

Three Morrow County students will have the opportunity to spell their way to a state title after winning their respective county divisions during the annual InterMountain Education Service District's Spelling Contests May 7. Morrow County division winners are Olivia Schmidt of Heppner Elementary (Division 1), Ryan Ibarra of Riverside Jr.-Sr. High School (Division 2), and Ky-Leigh Nelson of Riverside High School (Division 3).

The contests were held for Umatilla and Morrow county students on May 7 at Blue Mountain Community College. All of the participating students were crowned spelling contest

champions at their respective schools, a requirement to compete in the county contest. First-through fifth-grade students competed in Division I; sixth- through eighth-graders in Division II; and ninth-through 12<sup>th</sup>-graders in Division III. The winner from each division is invited to the State Spelling Contest at the Oregon State Fair in Salem on Sept. 1.

Unlike a spelling bee, in which participants are asked to spell words out loud, the spelling contests require students to write the words down, as if taking a test.

The complete list of Morrow County winners is as follows:

Division 1: 1<sup>st</sup> place - Olivia Schmidt, Heppner Elementary; 2<sup>nd</sup> place - Jared Miller, Windy River Elementary (Boardman); 3<sup>rd</sup> place - Jillian Rudolph, Ione Community School

Division 2: 1<sup>st</sup> place - Ryan Ibarra, Riverside Jr.-Sr. High School (Boardman); 2<sup>nd</sup> place - Olivia Dominguez, Irrigon Jr.-Sr. High School; 3<sup>rd</sup> place - Demi Schmidt, Heppner Jr.-Sr. High School

Division 3: 1<sup>st</sup> place - Ky-Leigh Nelson, Riverside High School (Boardman); 2<sup>nd</sup> place - Kaitlynn Linnell, Irrigon Jr.-Sr. High School; 3<sup>rd</sup> place - Tanner Bass, Ione Community School.

## HEPPNER WIND FARM

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Energy project ("Heppner Wind") is to be located in Morrow County, Oregon on approximately 60,000 acres of private land near the community of Heppner. With an excellent wind resource, the area is an optimal location for a successful wind project. If developed to its full potential, the Heppner Wind project could include up to 310 wind turbines, for a total rated nameplate capacity of up to 502 MW. This equates to enough power each year to supply clean, renewable energy

to approximately 125,000 homes.

"Heppner Wind would provide substantial, long-term economic benefits to the local community. As planned, the project is expected to generate approximately 100 jobs on-site during a six-month construction period, as well as approximately 25-30 permanent operations and maintenance jobs. In addition, the project is expected to generate several million dollars annually to the local economy in the form of property tax revenue, lease

royalty payments to project landowners, and employee salaries.

"The Notice of Intent we've filed for Heppner Wind marks the formal start of the thorough State of Oregon Energy Facilities Siting Council application review process that will include extensive stakeholder participation. We look forward to working closely with our host community, contributing to its economic development, and harvesting a new supply of clean, renewable energy in Oregon."

## Ione student performs with PSU opera

Ione High School senior Rebecca Jepsen recently played harp in the Portland State University orchestra in five performances of the university's spring opera production of Dialogues of the Carmelites. The opera, written by French composer Francis Poulenc, is based on the true story of 16 Carmelite nuns who, during the French Revolution in 1794, chose martyrdom rather than denying their faith.

The opera was performed at the Lincoln Performing Hall in Portland on April 27-29 and May 1, 4 and 5, and received a standing ovation each night. Dr. Ken Selden conducted the



L-R: PSU student Catherine Stone and Rebecca Jepsen of Ione at their harps in the orchestra pit. -Contributed photo

Jepsen had performed with the PSU orchestra before, but this was her first time in the orchestra pit for an opera.

"Playing in an opera orchestra was challenging, but it was a great experience," said Jepsen

Jepsen had performed

**The Heppner Gazette will be publishing our graduation section, featuring the graduating seniors from Heppner & Ione. If you would like to be included please contact Megan at The Heppner Gazette-Times 541-676-9228 or [megan@rapidsolve.net](mailto:megan@rapidsolve.net) The cost to be included is \$10. Deadline to be included in the section is Monday, May 21st at 5:00 pm**

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
**NOTICE OF BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING**

A public meeting of the Budget Committee of the Willoe Creek Park District (District name) Morrow (County) State of Oregon, to discuss the budget for the fiscal year July 1, 2012 to June 30, 2013, will be held at Heppner City Hall (Location)

The meeting will take place on May 22, 2012 (Date) at 5:00 (Time)  a.m.  p.m. The purpose of the meeting is to receive the budget message and to receive comment from the public on the budget. A copy of the budget document may be inspected or obtained on or after May 22, 2012 (Date) at Heppner City Hall (Location) between the hours of 9:00 (Time)  a.m.  p.m. and 5:00 (Time)  a.m.  p.m.

This is a public meeting where deliberation of the Budget Committee will take place. Any person may appear at the meeting and discuss the proposed programs with the Budget Committee.

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 Affidavit