

HEPPNER

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Nelson family suffers double hardship; bank fund established

The John and Alita Nelson Family of Heppner is in need of assistance following the auto accident of their daughter Kellie, 17, and John's diagnosis of a life-threatening illness.

Kellie, a senior at Heppner High School, was in a near head-on collision on March 17 on the Umatilla River Road. According to Shannon Boor, a family friend, Kellie was transported to Good Shepherd Medical Center in Hermiston with a fracture of her left femur in two places, a fracture of a vertebrae and a shattered knee cap with tendons, ligaments and muscles in the knee damaged. Kellie has undergone surgery.

Kellie was transferred from Good Shepherd to Kadlec Medical Center in



Photo of Kellie Nelson's vehicle after the accident

Richland, WA, on March 23, so that she could get the physical therapy she needs. According to Boor, the doctors at Kadlec believe she now has an infection and is likely to have to undergo more surgery.

The family also recently found out that John Nelson has a bone marrow disease and will require a bone marrow transplant to survive. According to

Boor, John's siblings are being contacted in hopes of finding a donor within the family. After they find a donor, it is expected that John will be off work for a year during the process.

Anyone who would like to help the family out may donate to them through a medical fund that has been set up at the Bank of Eastern Oregon under "Nelson Medical Fund."

Jerry Archer retires as Ione school principal

The Ione School board reluctantly accepted the resignation of Principal Jerry Archer at their March 19 meeting.

The much-loved principal, who has been with the Ione district for the past three years, said, "It is time," in his resignation letter to the board. "I know myself well enough to know when it's time to make a personal change." Archer had been officially retired prior to his stint with Ione.

Archer commended his staff for their hard work and the Ione community for its support, saying, "It takes a team to make this happen. I'm going to look back on these last three years extremely fondly." He commented that the "Ione board was the most visionary leadership team I had the pleasure of working with in my career. It has been truly rewarding to see what can happen when everyone really works together in supporting the needs of students."

"I can honestly say that working with Ione staff, parents and community members has truly been one of the highlights. The

support that ICABO and the Education Foundation has given the Ione Community School, as well as to me, has been outstanding as we wouldn't have been able to move forward so quickly without their generosity.

"You have a district that you should be extremely proud of and I am honored that I was able to be a part of it. Thanks for the great memories."

"You just came and fit in so well," responded ISD Board Chair Anne Morter. "Jerry, you were just what the doctor ordered."

An official letter from the district noted that Archer had received his third very favorable review at the February board meeting and commented that "Jerry has been a consummate professional whose experience and passion significantly moved the Ione School District forward." The letter credited Archer with an increase in student achievement based on district goals, completion of an extensive bond project and facility upgrades, completion of district compliance in state and federal programs and the establishment of community networks to obtain

outside funding for one-to-one computing project.

The letter also commended Archer for his "strong work ethic and ability to forge positive relationships" thereby creating a "students first" culture within the district and his "even-handed and high energy leadership which pulled the staff, students and community back together and put the Ione School District back on the right track."

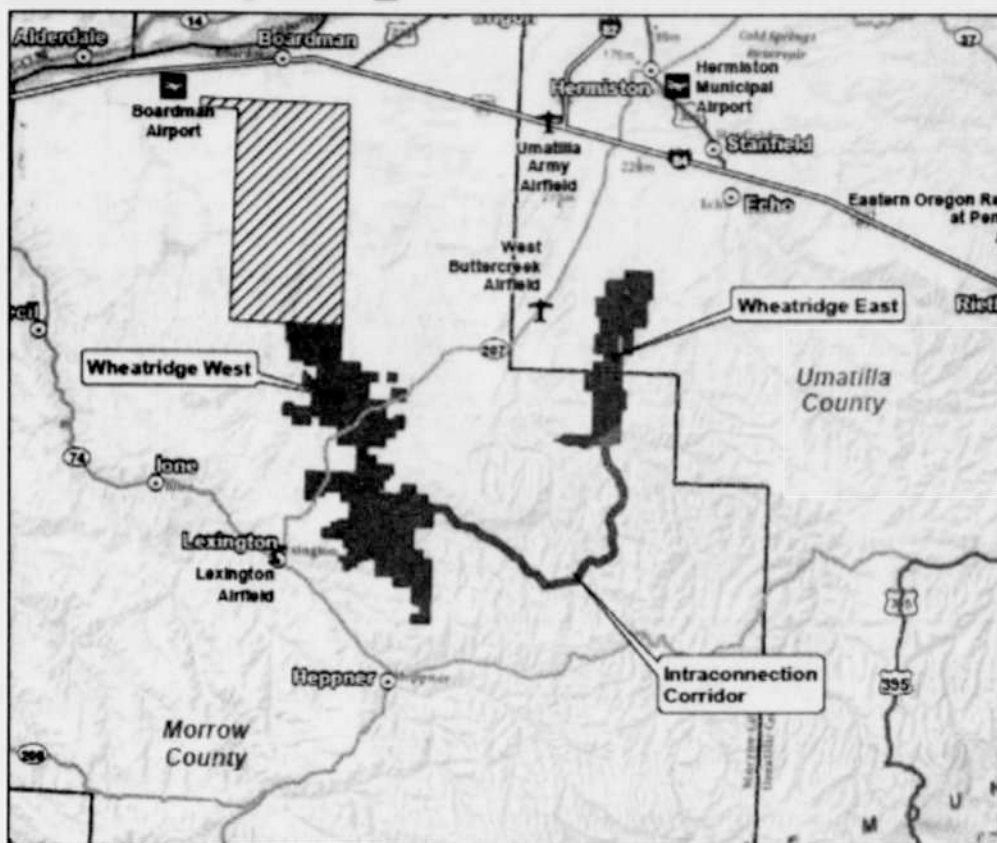
The district is also facing the retirements or resignation of three others. Long time employee Vickie Wagenblast will be retiring after 18 years with the district, and Dale Holland and Mike Garrett have announced that they will resign as coaches.

In other business the board:

-heard a positive financial update from Superintendent Mark Mulvihill who reported that the current state funding projection is a healthy \$6.55 billion for kindergarten through 12th grade schools. Oregon schools are currently funded at \$5.7 billion. Mulvihill said that the rosy projection does not even include

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Public comment on new wind generation project due by April 15



Map showing proposed Wheatridge wind generation project

300 windmills proposed near Heppner

As many as 300 new windmills could grace the skyline north of Heppner if the Oregon Department of Energy approves a plan submitted by Wheatridge Wind Energy, LLC.

Wheatridge filed a Notice of Intent with the state for a 500 megawatt wind generation facility on March 13 and residents are encouraged to comment on the proposed plan before an April 15 deadline.

The proposed project has three components: Wheatridge West, Wheatridge East and an "intracorection" corridor connecting the two. In all, the development would cover approximately 50,000 acres of private land.

Wheatridge West will be located entirely in Morrow County and will lie approximately seven miles northwest of Heppner.

According to a legal description of the project, the land comes to within 2 miles of the Willow Creek Country Club golf course. From the top of Dee Cox Canyon Rd. it is about one mile to the project's nearest property line. As the crow flies, the property comes to within about 2.5 miles of Lexington. The northern most piece of the Wheatridge West component lies along the south border of the U.S. Naval bombing range. Wheatridge East is approximately 16 miles northeast of Heppner, crossing the Umatilla County line.

The number and size of turbines has not been determined but, according to a notice filed by the Oregon Department of Energy, there could be as many as 300 1.7 - 3.0 megawatt turbines.

Included in the plan is a number of supporting facilities including a collection system; collector substation; communication system; operations and maintenance building; permanent meteorological tower; access roads, a temporary concrete batch plant and rock quarry and a temporary staging area.

More information about the project is available online at: www.oregon.gov/energy/Siting/Pages/WRW.aspx or at the Oregon Trail Library, Heppner.

Public comments are due by April 15 and must be submitted in writing by mail, e-mail, hand delivery or fax. Please send comments to: Andrea Goodwin, Siting Analyst, Oregon Department of Energy, 395 E. Highland Ave., Hermiston, OR 97838. E-mail: andrea.goodwin@state.or.us.

Sunrise Easter service at fairgrounds

A Sunrise Service will be held Sunday at 7 a.m. in the grandstands at the Morrow County Fairgrounds. The service is open to the

public and is sponsored by the South Morrow County Ministerial Assoc. Nazarene Pastor Norm Lee will present the sermon

with participation by other members of the clergy. A good-will offering will be taken for the Ecumenical Ministerial Fund.

Easter egg hunts set for Saturday

The annual Easter Egg Hunt, sponsored by the Heppner Elk's Lodge, will be held on Saturday at the City Park in Heppner. Preschool and kindergarten age children will begin at 10 a.m. and first and second grade students will follow at 10:30 a.m. Third and fourth grade students will begin at 11 a.m. The Easter Bunny will be on hand during the festivities.

Ione's Annual Easter Egg Hunt will also held Saturday at 10 a.m. in the Ione City Park. Children up to the fourth grade are invited to participate.

Cal Sherman delivered the Easter Bunny to Heppner. File Photo



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