

MCSO RECEIVES GIFT

-Continued from PAGE ONE
the monies were to be used for, but made suggestions.

Other Morrow County Education Foundation members besides Russell include Sherry Smith, Heppner, Ed Rollins, Ione, Barb Huwe, Irrigon, Kathy Neal, Boardman, and the other four Port of Morrow Commissioners, Joe Taylor, Boardman, Larry Lindsay, Lexington, Jerry Healy, Heppner, and Marvin Padberg, Ione.

Russell said that the Morrow County Education Foundation had received a private donation and a substantial donation from the Columbia River Enterprise Zone (CREZ) of which Russell is the board chair. CREZ was established to receive payments in lieu of taxes from businesses locating at the Port of Morrow in Boardman, and dispenses the monies at the discretion of the appointed board as it has no budgetary process. The CREZ monies, which are negotiated between the businesses and the Port of Morrow, allow the businesses to escape paying taxes to Morrow County taxing districts for a negotiated period of time.

Other CREZ Board members are Gary Neal, Port of Morrow manager; Leann Rea, Morrow County Commissioner, Heppner; Greg Sweek, former M.C. Assessor, Heppner; Karen Pettigrew, Boardman; and Linda Tom, Boardman. Alternate members are Lisa Mittelsdorf, Port of Morrow director of economic development, Boardman; Ken Grieb, Morrow County Commissioner, Lexington; Marc Rogelstadt, Boardman Fire Chief; and Terry Tallman, Morrow County Judge, Boardman.

Also at the meeting, the board learned that all Morrow County School District high schools placed above the state average in the percentage of students graduating with a diploma in four years and in five years. The state average for students earning a four-year diploma is 68.7 percent, compared to the MCSO with 71.43 percent, Irrigon High School-81.25 percent, Riverside High School-70 percent and Heppner High School-84 percent. The state average for students graduating in five years is 81.52 percent, compared to MCSO with 82.53, Irrigon-85.71,



Don Russell (left) and MCSO Chair Thad Killingbeck. -Photo by April Sykes

Riverside-87.84, and HHS-93 percent.

Also at the meeting, the board:

- voiced its confidence in Superintendent Dirk Dirksen's performance. Board Chair Thad Killingbeck said that "Mr. Dirksen has done an excellent job. We are satisfied and pleased with the work he has done." Dirksen replied that it was an honor to get to work for the district and commented that he appreciates the board's positive support. Dirksen is in his third year as superintendent.

- rescinded and replaced policy on student conduct and discipline. The revised policy reads that students may be expelled for any of the following circumstances: when a student's conduct poses a threat to the health or safety of students or employees, when other strategies to change the student's behavior have been ineffective or when required by law. Restitution may be sought for willful damage to district property. Additionally, a student's driving privileges or the right to apply for driving privileges may be suspended for violations of Oregon statutes. A referral to law enforcement may also be made for violations of the law. Students shall be subject to discipline, suspension or expulsion for misconduct including, but not limited to: assault, hazing, harassment, intimidation, bullying, menacing, cyberbullying or teen dating violence, coercion, threats of violence or harm, disorderly conduct, bringing, possession, concealing or

- using a weapon, vandalism/malicious mischief/theft, sexual harassment; use of tobacco, alcohol or drugs; use or display of profane or obscene language, disruption of the school environment, open defiance of a teacher's authority, including persistent failure to comply with the lawful directions of teachers or school officials, violation of law, board policy, administrative regulation, school or classroom rules, all as prohibited by board policy.

- rescinded and replaced policy on weapons in the schools as follows: students shall not bring, possess, conceal or use a weapon on or at district property, activities under the jurisdiction of the district or interscholastic activities administered by a voluntary organization approved by the State Board of Education (Oregon School Activities Association).

The term "weapon" includes a dangerous weapon attempted to be used or threatened to be used that is capable of causing death or serious physical injury; a deadly weapon, meaning any instrument article or substance designed for and capable of causing death or serious physical injury; a firearm means any weapon, including a starter gun, which could be converted to expel a projectile by the action of an explosive, frame or receiver of any such weapon, any firearm silencer or any destructive device; a destructive device means any explosive, incendiary or poison gas or any combination of parts designed or intended for use in converting any device into a destructive device.

- Weapons may also include, but are not limited to knives, metal knuckles, straight razors, noxious or irritating gases, poisons, unlawful drugs or other items fashioned with the intent to use, sell, harm, threaten or harass students, staff members, parents and patrons.

- Under this policy, even replicas of weapons, fireworks and pocket knives are prohibited.

- Students violating these policies, bringing, possessing, concealing or using a firearm in violation of the policy or state law will be expelled for not less than a year.

- heard a presentation from Irrigon Elementary teachers on their language arts program and student learning.

- discussed the Oregon kindergarten assessment figures and noted that while Morrow County School students come into school significantly below the state level in knowing letter names and numbers, MCSO students generally end up testing above state levels later.

- approved a request

- from HHS FFA students to attend a trip to Washington, D.C.

- rescinded and replaced policy on the use of restraint and seclusion.

- accepted and appropriated unanticipated revenues of \$300 for each high school in the district from the AFSCME local union 2479.

- adopted a resolution for InterMountain Education Service District to provide the ESD's local service plan.

- approved a resolution to accept no non-resident students, based on current enrollment projections, staffing and available resources. The district will continue to abide by its policy for individual student inter-district transfer consideration.

- approved the first reading of new policy on student rights and responsibilities.

- rescinded and replaced policy on the use of restraint and seclusion.

- received the following enrollment report: A.C. Houghton Elementary School, Irrigon-273; Sam

- Boardman Elementary, Boardman-328; Heppner Elementary-173; Irrigon Elementary-173; Windy River Elementary, Boardman-201; Heppner High School-164; Irrigon Junior/Senior High School-387; Riverside High School, Boardman-384; Morrow Education Center-31; total-2,114.

- approved the following employment action: resignations- Kyliene Cody, IJSHS/RHS temporary Spanish teacher; employment/promotions/transfers-Stacy Oglevee, from RHS special ed assistant to IES head cook, Rubi Cisneros, ACH/IJSHS special ed assistant; extra duty contracts-Jim Kindle, HHS head baseball coach, Todd Lindsay, HHS assistant baseball coach, Rhonda Boor, RHS assistant softball coach.

- held an executive session concerning personnel and an expulsion.

- heard the following announcements: Presidents' Day holiday, Monday, Feb. 17; next board meeting, Heppner High School, Monday, March 10, 7 p.m.

Ione elementary school announces perfect attendance



The following Ione elementary students had perfect attendance for the month of January: Gus Cayce, Lizzy Doherty, Carter Eynetich, Sophie Qualls, Hadley Wright, Michael McElligott, Martin Medina, Mason Orem, Hailee Peck, jerson Peralta, Corey Rice, Finnegan Simpson, Kelly Doherty, Karensa Jones, Cameron Proudfoot, Ethan Lopez-Ramos, Luis Lopez-Ramos, Jolene Serrano, Elisabet Calvillo, Nevaeh Chamberlin, Carson Eynetich, Alexandria Gurinko, Madison Orem, Calvin Rietmann, Bryce Rollins, Andrew Stanger, Daralynn Teeman, Callie Ann Yates, Morgan Alldritt, Emily Ehrmantraut, Hailey Heideman, Faviola Alvarez Juarez, Grace Ogden, Lucas Parker, Haylie Peterson, Taylor Rollins, Jordan Rollis, Jayne Simpson, Julianna Teeman, Gary Walls, Larysa Gurrigh, Mackenzie Gurinko, Tiffany Hollis, Jessica Medina, MaLinda Morter, Hunter Padberg, Madison Alldritt, Lilianna Chamberlin, Elaina Ehrmantraut, Shaun Epperson, Jacob Heideman, Mackenzie Heideman, Annabelle McDaniel, Josalyn Nichols, Matthew Orem and Emma Rietmann. -Contributed photo

Ione announces elementary students of the month



Ione Community School has announced its elementary-level students of the month for January. The trait for January was perseverance; students were working hard doing things despite difficulty or delay in achieving success. Those who received awards were: kindergarten, Carter Epperson; first grade, Liam Heideman; second grade, Ethan Ramos-Lopez; third grade, Alex Ramirez; fourth grade, Jordyn Rollis; fifth grade, Laryssa Burrigh; and sixth grade, Madison Alldritt. -Contributed photo

Irrigon student wins Elks most valuable student state scholarship

Jordan Connell, an Irrigon High School senior, was chosen out of 450 girls across the State of Oregon to win first at the state level for the Elks Most Valuable Student Scholarship. Each year both a boy and a girl are chosen for the scholarship at the state level.

Connell began by winning the local Most Valuable Student scholarship awarded to her by the Hermiston

Elks Lodge #1845 in the girls division. Her scholarship application then went on to win the district scholarship.

She proceeded on to state, which was held at the Elks Lodge #1805 in Gresham, OR,

where she was awarded first place in the girls division. Connell will speak at the annual Elks convention



Jordan Connell

will be held in Oregon City, OR.

Connell, along with other applicants who went to state, will have their applications judged at the national level.

The top 20 applicants will be flown to Chicago to compete for the first-place prize of \$50,000.

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