

## WCVEDG ANNUAL MEETING

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board members Nancy Snider, owner Wheatland Insurance, Jeff Bailey, CEO Bank of Eastern Oregon, Kim Cutsforth, Heppner City Manager and David Sykes owner Heppner Gazette-Times and Sykes Real Estate.

Rollins has been in credit and lending for 15 years. He has been with Bank of Eastern Oregon since 2004 and is in his second year of Pacific Coast Bankers School. Ed is past president of Ione Community Agri-Business Organization and president of Grow Ione, Inc. He has been chairman of Morrow County BOPTA, and is active in many other civic activities as well.

Guest speaker at the annual meeting was Scott Fairley, Regional Coordinator for Oregon

Economic Development. Fairley spoke on the successes and challenges facing economic development in Eastern Oregon.

Announced at the meeting were the accomplishments for 2013, which included: Working on housing issues; trying to increase rental homes for families who want to move into our communities; working on temporary housing for temporary workers who will be hired for upcoming projects; serve on The Oregon Consortium/Oregon Workforce Alliance-Board representing the private sector (Chamber and WCVEDG); attended job fairs and distributed relocation information for South Morrow County; attended economic development seminars and

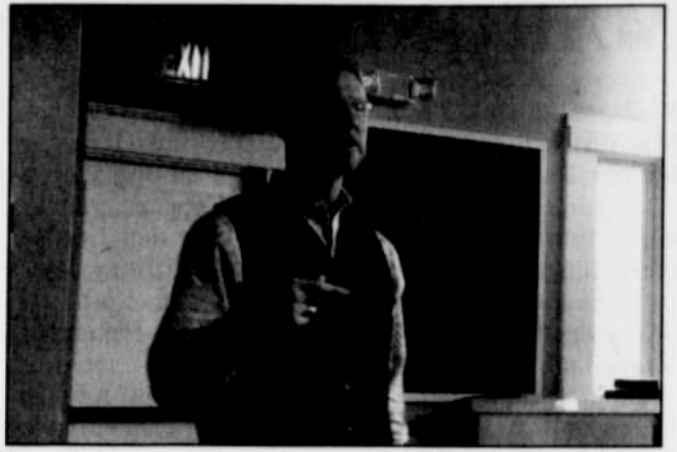
conferences, networking with other businesses and sharing information about each of our communities needs, strengths and successes; promoting the differences between rural and urban communities; promoting tourism to bring economic dollars into our communities; continue to work with CAPECO to keep in touch with funding dollars that can be used within our communities/county to strengthen local workforce and promote new workforce opportunities.

The executive director of WCVEDG is Sheryll Bates.

WCVEDG, which has 43 members, has as its number-one goal job creation and developing plans to create jobs and working with entities private, state and federal to

accomplish this. Its second goal is business retention and to improve the viability and stability of existing businesses in the Willow Creek Valley. It also works to market the livability of the area.

The current members include: Allstott Construction, LLC, Bank of Eastern Oregon, Blue Mt. Investment Management, Jerry and Marsha Breazeale, Delmer and Judy Buschke, Heppner Family Foods, Columbia Basin Electric, Community Counseling Solutions, Lois Duvall, John & Pat Edmundson, Gentry Homes Construction, Heppner Chamber of Commerce, Heppner Gazette-Times, Heppner Ranger District, City of Heppner, City of Ione, Jepsen Pest Control, Bob & Suzanne Jepsen,



Scott Fairly, annual meeting speaker. -Photo by David Sykes

Krebs Livestock, Kuhn & Spicer, Attorneys, Les Schwab Tire Center, Town of Lexington, Larry & Betty Mills, Morrow County Grain Growers, Morrow County Health District, Morrow County School District, Murray's Drug, Inc, OSU Extension Office, Peterson's Jewelers, Pettyjohn's Farm & Builders, Port of Morrow, Leann Rea, Ed

& Tricia Rollins, Sweeney Mortuary, Inc., Treo Ranches, Umatilla-Morrow ESD, Dan Van Schoiack, Wilkenson Ranches, Wheatland Insurance Heppner, Wheatland Insurance Ione and Thomas & Karen Wolff.

Anyone wishing to become a member may contact any board member or call Bates at 676-5536. Dues are \$25 per year.

## BERRETTA RETIRES

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Sacramento, CA, is married with a daughter who is graduating from college this year; son Matthew, Spokane, WA, has a master's degree in English; son Vincent, who is married and living in Seattle, WA, is also in the writing field; son Nick, currently in New York, recently graduated from the University of Washington with a degree in biochemistry.

The Berrettas met in New York while Dr. Ed was in med school and Dr. Jeanne was in college at Marylhurst, doing an exchange program with a sister school in Albany,

NY. They "struck up a friendship," says Dr. Ed.

Pursuing the relationship, he took the opportunity to do an externship at Emmanuel Hospital in Portland. That was in November of 1973. They decided to get married and were wed on December 18, 1973.

At that time Ed was in the process of finishing medical school, so Jeanne moved to Albany. After he finished med school they moved to Hartford, CT.

By then Dr. Jeanne had developed an interest in medicine and went for training in medical technology there. Since she

is part Native American, she got the opportunity to attend the University of North Dakota in pre-med.

It was a two-year program so she then had to transfer to a medical program. Their daughter was born in North Dakota.

The family decided that they had had enough of the brutal winter cold there, so they moved to a place that was almost totally opposite-Alabama, where Jeanne finished med school.

From there they moved to Portland, where Dr. Ed was a practicing physician and Jeanne was completing her residency. They stayed in Portland for three years,

where son Matt was born. From there they moved to North Carolina where Dr. Jeanne finished her training, completing a fellowship in geriatrics. While there, son Vincent was born.

The family then returned to Portland.

That brings the doctors to Heppner and their long-time involvement with MCHD.

Son Nick was born at St. Anthony Hospital in Pendleton.

"We almost didn't make it," said Dr. Ed. "Thanks to Dr. (Ken) Wenberg we were able to get some coverage."

Since he will have a little more free time now,

Dr. Ed plans to pursue his "passion," which is fishing.

He commented that he will "certainly enjoy the generous going-away gift" presented to him by the health district, which is a fishing package for two days for two people at Depoe Bay with the Trade Winds company.

He tries to maintain a running regimen which, he says, is not only physically and psychologically therapeutic, but also puts him in a "good quiet place, in my own zone," he says.

He also enjoys senior softball.

The Berrettas, who are Christian, are also

looking into some mission opportunities and have determined some areas of need in the realm of Native American reservations, particularly Sacred Road at White Swan, WA, where they have been ministering and fundraising.

Dr. Ed's last day with the medical district will be Friday, April 25.

A public reception for him has been planned for Thursday, April 24, with the time and place to be announced.

It's not completely goodbye, however, as Dr. Ed plans to stay on as the MCHD Emergency Medical Services director.

## School district discusses staffing changes

By April Sykes

Replacements for Morrow County School Board executive secretary and human resources director Julie Ashbeck, who will be retiring at the end of the school year, were on hand at the regular school board meeting Monday night at Heppner Elementary School.

Cheryl Costello will take over as executive secretary and human resources assistant and Erin Stocker, current Irrigon Elementary School principal, will become half-time human resources director and half-time principal.

At the meeting the board granted a request from Heppner High School technology students to attend the TSA conference in Washington, D.C.

Heppner Elementary School teachers Mary Ann Elguezal and Sherry Matteson told the assembly that 54 students were out for chess through

their Chess Mates Chess for Success after-school program. Elguezal said that their chess students have qualified for state.

Also at the meeting, Superintendent Dirk Dirksen, in a written statement, apologized for not providing enough support for the Irrigon High School girls' basketball program, which has had difficulties during the recent season.

Dirksen also congratulated the district's sports teams for their success during the school year, including the Riverside High School cheer team who took first in the state championship for 1A, 2A and 3A schools; the Irrigon High School cheer team who took "best 2A team" and finished third; Shrine Team first team pick Jordan Bailey and alternate J.C. Putman, both Heppner High School; state wrestling champions Ryan Smith and Jared Lemon, HHS; and the Irrigon Knights

for taking the 2A state basketball championship, among others.

In other business, the board:

-learned from Dirksen that the Crystal Apple award ceremony will be May 21 with an April 1 deadline for nominations.

-learned that the district math contest will be held April 9 at Irrigon Elementary.

-learned that Riverside High School will be a part of Oregon Gear-Up (Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs). The program was designed to ensure that low income middle school and high school students in Oregon have success in post-secondary education. Irrigon Junior/Senior High School had earlier been selected for that program. Dirksen said that IJSHS had received a \$15,000 grant toward that goal.

-approved the following: a revision

of board policy implementation; new policy on students rights and responsibilities; rescinded and replaced policy on student conduct and discipline; rescinded and replaced policy on weapons in the schools; rescinded and replaced policy on student discipline; revised policy on use of restraint and seclusion.

-approved employment action for licensed staff for 2014-15 as follows (Heppner Schools listed only) 2013-14 probationary teachers-Heppner Elementary-Sybil Stewart; 2013-14 contract teachers recommended for extension: Heppner Elementary-Melissa Coiner, Pam Dowdy, Rick Drake, Mary Ann Elguezal, Terri Gentry, Sue Gibbs, Sherry Matteson, Sharon Morris, Joselyn Piper, Molly Rill and Jeremy Rosenbalm; Heppner Junior Senior High School-Jean Collins, Beth Dickenson, Rick Drake, Mary Ann Elguezal, John

Flaherty, Dave Fowler, Terri Gentry, Greg Grant, Troy Morgan, Andrea Nelson, Jason Palmer, Petra Payne, Joselyn Piper, Jeremy Rosenbalm, Dieter Waite.

-adopted a resolution accepting and appropriating unanticipated revenues in the amount of \$150,000 from the Morrow Education Foundation. Five thousand each will go toward ASB funds for Heppner Elementary, Irrigon Elementary and Windy River Elementary and \$135,000 will go toward technology support services.

-accepted the Oster Professional Group as district auditors and approved a district contract with them.

-learned that classified employees' week is March 3-7.

-held an executive session to discuss personnel, negotiations and real estate.

-received the following enrollment report as of March: A.C. Houghton

Elementary, Irrigon-274; Sam Boardman Elementary, Boardman-335; Heppner Elementary-173; Irrigon Elementary-175; Windy River Elementary, Boardman; Heppner High School-166; Irrigon Junior Senior High School-383; Riverside High School, Boardman-385; Morrow Education Center, Irrigon-35; total-2129.

-adopted the budget calendar with budgets due from departments on March 21, publication notice of budget meeting on April 16, budget document distributed to committee on May 22, first budget meeting on May 5, second budget meeting if needed at regular board meeting May 12, with additional meeting dates to be set by committee if needed.

-heard the following announcements: end of third nine weeks March 20, spring break March 24-28, and next board meeting April 14, Riverside High School, 7 p.m.

## XP or what?

By Pat Struthers

Last year, Microsoft confirmed what it had long threatened: Windows XP, still currently used by about 30 percent of PC users worldwide, would no longer be supported as of April 2014. What does this mean, exactly?

**My computer is long out of warranty. Does it matter whether I get support or not?**

Yes and no. If you live in a cave, everything you depend on works, and you don't care whether you ever join Facebook, you are probably good with what you have. Just don't expect any new hardware or software to work. If you've followed good security practices in the past (don't mix business computing with recreational use, don't open suspicious email, don't spazz out while surfing, etc.) then you already know

the right things to do and you will probably be safe regardless of what version of Windows you use....as long as you are just a casual computer user.

An even higher percentage of business PCs are running XP, and the situation may be a lot different if you are a business user. For instance, responsible POS vendors have in some cases specifically told their customers that they cannot legally support systems with XP machines as part of the mix. If your business uses software that will not run in XP, you should seriously consider upgrades in the next few months.

**I want to stick with XP for a while, so what do I do in the meantime?**

The best way to avoid trouble if you decide to stick with XP? Avoid using any Microsoft

programs that you can (older versions of Office; Internet Explorer; Outlook Express). Third-party software companies and open source organizations have to compete with each other and have a lot more incentive to continue to support excellent products that run on XP because they do not enjoy the monopoly that Microsoft does...and XP will still have a large percentage of the market (particularly among business users) for the foreseeable future.

As far as browsers go, Mozilla Firefox (currently at version 27+) is an excellent choice.

Likewise, Mozilla Thunderbird is an excellent off-line mail program, and a good alternative to Microsoft's Live Mail (an updated version of Outlook Express).

You don't have to pay

large amounts of money to Microsoft every few years just to make sure you can still read Word and Excel files. OpenOffice.org and LibreOffice are free, full-featured office productivity suites that serve admirably on Windows systems, and will continue to do so.

But the most important part of the equation is anti-virus/firewall protection, and there are a number of good alternatives depending on how new and how fast your computer is.

Full security suites such as Norton Internet Security or Avast! Internet Security may slow you computer down so much that it becomes useless, but... both of these also replace the Windows Firewall.

The best solution is to use a good free anti-virus program such as Alwil's avast! Home Edition (<http://www.avast.com>).

**I don't want XP, but I don't want to spend a bunch of money on a new computer either. Help!**

Surprisingly, there is an alternative that won't require you to buy new hardware: use Linux. In addition to being free, Linux has matured amazingly in the years since XP has come on the scene. The vast majority of PC hardware that has been built in the last decade will run handily. Most computer users will find very little they cannot do in Linux that they are used to doing day-to-day

on a Windows PC. And the best part of it all: Linux will probably run faster on your old hardware than Windows XP ever did.

Linux is also a good direction to move if you are already using Firefox, Thunderbird, and OpenOffice/LibreOffice; all of these were originally developed to run on Linux as well as Windows. Once you start using Linux, you will discover dozens or hundreds of other programs that do the same things as you "miss" on Windows and Mac systems.

## Rapunzel performance planned in Boardman

Missoula Children's Theatre and Boardman & Irrigon students invite area residents to join them Saturday, March 29, as the present an original musical adaptation of Rapunzel at Sam Boardman Elementary School, 301 W Wilson Lane, Boardman. Tickets are \$2 for adults and \$1 for youth and are available at the door.