

HEPPNER

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# G-T Gazette Times

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## School board approves teacher raises

Morrow County ratifies three percent increase in contract 're-opener'

By April Sykes

The Morrow County School Board, at their regular meeting at A.C. Houghton Elementary School in Irrigon Monday night, ratified a three-percent increase in teachers' salaries in a contract "re-opener." The raise increases teachers' salaries to \$33,690 at the lowest step, for a

teacher with a bachelor's degree and no additional college credits, to \$60,517 at the highest, for a teacher with a master's degree and 45 college credit hours.

According to information released by the district, the school work year will not exceed 190 days with no more than 179 student contact days, three

in-service days, four work days and four holidays, including Labor Day, Veterans Day, Memorial Day and Presidents Day.

However, from 1998-99 on, because of the institution of the four-day student week in Morrow County, under Article 15, the school calendar specifies that there will be only 150 student contact days, six employee in-service days, four employee work days, four paid holidays, six additional four-hour Fridays and 18 hours total for conferences to be added by the building principal.

The board approved changes in snow days with the district now setting aside a makeup day within the school calendar. Now, for each full snow day, the staff is expected to work half of that time. For one snow day, the staff will work four hours on the set-aside day; for two snow days, the staff is to work eight hours on the set-aside day, for example.

The yearly steps, which were also increased by three percent, start at \$199 for the first step, for first-year teachers with no additional credits, to \$358 for step 16 for teachers with a master's and 45 credit hours.

From the 10<sup>th</sup> to the 14<sup>th</sup> year step increases will amount to \$250; 15<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> year-\$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> year on-\$850.

Insurance benefit costs were not included in the salary amounts. The district will also provide up to \$1,200 per month in insurance benefits for licensed employees (teachers) from October 1, 2014, to September 30, 2015.

The board also approved an increase in substitute teacher pay to \$171.52 per day.

Also at the meeting, the district released information on coaches' salary schedules. For 3-A schools, the athletic director earns \$3,592 a year at the first step, step 0, to \$4,354 at step four; head coaches-\$3,375 to \$4,245; JV coaches-\$2,612-\$3,048; head golf and tennis-\$2,775-\$3,375; third assistant or C-team golf and tennis-\$1,741-\$2,177. For 2-A schools, the athletic director earns \$2,775 at step 0 to \$3,375 for step four; head coaches and cheerleading coach-\$2,722-\$3,886; JV coaches, head golf, tennis and wrestling-\$2,177-\$2,880; third assistant or C-team coaches (golf, tennis)-\$1,274-\$1,695.

Junior high coaches start at \$1,190 for the head

-See SCHOOL DISTRICT TALKS SALARIES/PAGE EIGHT

## Heppner to crack down on 'nuisance' dogs

After multiple complaints about dogs running free, barking and owners failing to clean up animal waste, the City of Heppner soon will begin to focus on enforcing the dog ordinances.

The city reminds dog owners that dogs are not permitted at any time to run at large anywhere out-of-doors in the city, including all public places and all private property except a yard that has a fence that will prevent the dog from leaving the yard. A dog running at large is considered a nuisance. Any unlicensed dog caught while running at large will be taken to Pet Rescue.

It is also unlawful to allow an animal to disturb people in the vicinity through continued noise and loud barking.

Both of these offences incur a \$100 fine.

The city of Heppner

also reminds pet owners that it is illegal for an owner or keeper to allow a dog to deposit solid waste on any property other than that of the person controlling the animal. No fines will be issued if the person controlling the animal promptly removes the solid waste, but the penalty for failure to clean up after an animal is \$50.

Citizens concerned about nuisance animals in their neighborhoods are encouraged to contact the Morrow County Sheriff's Office.

"The City of Heppner fully supports pet owners," says Heppner City Manager Kim Cutsforth. "We just ask that you control your pet to help us maintain a healthy town for all of the citizens' enjoyment."

Finally, all dogs over six months old are required to be licensed by March 31 annually.

## Getting to know your exchange students

Vicky Gluderer  
Age 17, Junior, Ione

Where are you from?  
Quickborn,

Germany; a town of about 20,000 people about 20 minutes from Hamburg, Germany.

Host Parents: Jerry and Lisa Rietmann (since leaving a Boardman host family in February)

What do you think of Ione/Morrow County?

"Ione is pretty small compared to where I live but I like it because everyone knows everyone. The town I'm from is small for Germany. I really like it (here)."

How has the experience been for you?

"Amazing! I saw so many things. With my organization, I was five days in New York, Washington D.C., Philadelphia. With

my first (host) family, I saw the Oregon coast. With the Rietmanns, I went skiing and to California."

"You would think Germany and here would be the same, but they're not. They (the people) look the same, listen to the same music, and eat kind of the same food, but... School is really different. The laws, what is allowed and what's not, that's really different. I'd be like, 'Wait, that's allowed here?' and they'd be like, 'Wait, that's allowed there?'"

What was the most difficult thing about this experience?

"Leaving family and friends at home and not being able to talk to them a lot because of the time difference. When I'm

-See EXCHANGE STUDENT/PAGE THREE



Vicky Gluderer

## G-T closed Memorial Day

The Heppner Gazette-Times office will be closed Memorial Day, May 26, for the holiday. All news and ad deadlines will be Friday, May 23, by 5 p.m. The newspaper office will reopen on Tuesday, May 27.

## Fire department planning for new hall



The Heppner fire department looks to build a new facility on this vacant lot next to the present fire hall on Willow Street. -Photo by David Sykes

By David Sykes

The Heppner Rural Fire Department has begun the process of planning for a new fire hall, the city council was told at its monthly meeting Monday night.

Council member Corey Sweeney said a three-member committee comprised of himself, Dean Robinson, Steve Rhea and Jay Keithley has been appointed to begin the planning and find funding for the new building. The three-bay facility is to be located on property owned by the city next to the current fire hall. Sweeney said they currently have \$20,000 and have contacted an architect and will soon be writing grants to cover the cost of the facility.

Fire Chief Rusty Estes said since the building is located close to the back side of Murray's Drug building, it will need brick walls on those sides, causing a higher price.

In other business the council heard a report from Judy Buschke of the St. Patrick's senior housing center, who said they still have three vacancies at the apartment complex located in downtown Heppner.

She also said Les Paustian had been appointed to the housing board of directors.

City Manager Kim Cutsforth gave a report to the council and said the Sperry St. Bridge was successfully removed by the Oregon Department of Transportation last week.

She also said paving on some city streets was

supposed to start this week but a problem with the paver's certification caused the work to be delayed until next week.

Cutsforth said she is still working on the Riverside basketball court and is seeking donations at this time. She said local rancher Brian Thompson donated the tilling to break up the turf and make it easier for excavation.

She said several contractors are bidding on the work and that the Willow Creek Park District will take over the project and begin the construction phase.

Cutsforth reported that she had finished the city's Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan and it was well received and that it was good enough to be recommended as an example for other cities.

In other business the city approved a cost of living increase for city employees of 2.5 percent, and voted to keep Barnett & Moro, PC as the city's auditors for the coming year.

**Sheriff's Report for April Traffic-**

There were 13 traffic stops, resulting in one citation. There was one driving complaint.

A deputy investigated a motor vehicle crash.

MCSO received one parking complaint.

**Code Enforcement-**

Ten animal calls were reported. One cat was transported to Pet Rescue.

Deputies worked on seven city code violations concerning trash and abandoned vehicles.

**Theft Complaints-**

A person reported an online scam where the complainant lost money. The gas station reported a drive-off. A deputy is investigating. MCSO investigated a burglary of a residence.

**All Other-**

A resident contacted MCSO regarding a trespassing/property line dispute. A deputy conducted a welfare check on a person. Everything was fine. There were six suspicious persons/vehicle calls. All were unfounded.

MCSO Deputies assisted Community Counseling Solutions with a suicidal juvenile. A resident called MCSO and spoke with a deputy regarding a custody issue. MCSO deputies warned a group of juveniles about curfew.

A person reported juveniles riding bicycles in front of vehicles. A deputy was unable to locate the juveniles.

MCSO responded to four domestic dispute calls. A juvenile was arrested by MCSO for Attempted Arson 1 and Harassment.

MCSO is investigating a residential burglary. An adult was arrested by MCSO for Assault 4.

A person reported an assault. A deputy responded and located the suspect. The victim declined to pursue charges.

MCSO deputies assisted with a funeral escort.

Deputies responded to a false alarm call.

## Primary ballots due Tuesday

Morrow County voters should have received their ballots for the primary election. All ballots are due by 8 p.m. Election Day, Tuesday, May 20. Ballots must be received, not simply postmarked, on that day.

For voter convenience, 24-hour drop boxes are located throughout the

county. Locations are as follows:

**Heppner:** Courthouse parking lot (24 hours) or the Morrow County Clerk's Office, Room 102 inside the courthouse. Open 8 a.m. to noon and 1-5 p.m., M-F and Election Day (May 20) from 7 a.m. until 8 p.m.

**Lexington:** 365 West Hwy 74 (Public Works

Parking lot). Turn off Hwy. 74 onto Tom Street and left into the public works parking lot. Open 24 hours.

**Ione:** Spring St. (in front of the turn to 3<sup>rd</sup> Street). Open 24 hours.

**Boardman:** NW Boardman Ave. (24 hours).

**Irrigon:** 205 NE 3<sup>rd</sup> St. (Irrigon Annex). Open 24 hours.

## G-T offers chance to say good luck to grads

The Gazette-Times will feature a senior page for both Heppner and Ione graduates with their senior pictures included on Wednesday, May 28, with

signatures of people and businesses wishing them well.

All graduates will be included; the deadline to be included among well-

wishers is Friday, May 23. Please call 541-676-9228 or email [megan@rapidsolve.net](mailto:megan@rapidsolve.net) to have your name or business included. Cost is \$10.

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