

## SCHOOL DISTRICT

*-Continued from PAGE ONE*  
ing, 61.7 percent fifth grade math, 83.9 percent sixth graders not chronically absent, 50.3 percent eighth grade math and 79.8 percent ninth grade not chronically absent, with an additional category of ninth graders on track to graduate-79.9 percent; for disadvantaged students-kindergarten assessment-97 percent, third grade reading-58.3 percent, fifth-grade math-51.5 percent, sixth-grade not chronically absent-83.5, eighth-grade math-44.3 percent, on track to graduate-76.3 percent, ninth-grade not chronically absent-79.2.

MCSO's 2014-15 goals for all students are: kindergarten assessment-100 percent, third-grade reading-69.2, fifth-grade math-64.7 percent, sixth grade not chronically absent-86.9 percent, eighth-grade math-53.3 percent, ninth grade on track to graduate-82.9 percent, ninth-grade not chronically absent-82.8 percent; for disadvantaged students the goal is: kindergarten assessment-100 percent, third-grade reading-61.3, fifth-grade math-54.5, sixth-grade not chronically absent-86.5; eighth-grade math-47.3 percent; ninth-grade on track to graduate-79.3 percent, ninth grade not chronically absent-82.2 percent.

MCSO Assistant Superintendent George Mendoza said that the district has really shown a lot of growth in reading, but added that one of the district's goals is to increase students' math proficiency.

The district will submit the final version of its compact to the Oregon Education Investment Board on Oct. 15.

Also at the meeting, Superintendent Dirk Dirksen

told the Gazette-Times that Chief Financial Officer Andy Fletcher has resigned to take a position with Columbia Basin Electric Co-op. Dirksen said that Fletcher has already begun working for CBEC, but has agreed to continue to serve the school district as chief financial officer and maintenance consultant for the time being, until the district can find a replacement for him.

In other business, the board:

- heard a presentation on Windy River Elementary's science program from teacher Anna Browne;
- approved an early graduation request from an Irrigon Junior/Senior High School student.

- adopted rescinded, new or revised policies on: board member ethics and conflicts of interest, board member ethics and nepotism, hazing/harassment/intimidation/bullying/menacing/cyberbullying, personal electronic devices and social media-staff, instructional resources/instructional materials, and animals in district facilities.
- approved appointment of Shannon Boor to Position #5 on the budget committee and Janet Dezelle to Position #4.
- adopted a resolution, the "Promise of Oregon," an Oregon School Board Association resolution that promotes education and sufficient education funding. Dirksen said that OSBA has made it clear that they oppose any education reform that comes without funding.

- received the following enrollment report for October: A.C. Houghton Elementary School, Irrigon-297, Sam Boardman Elementary-358, Heppner

Elementary-187, Irrigon Elementary-174, Windy River Elementary, Boardman-202, Heppner Junior/Senior High School-168, Irrigon Junior/Senior High School-404, Riverside Junior/Senior High School-397, Morrow Education Center-27, total-2,214.

Dirksen remarked that he was pleased with the enrollment figures and said that district-wide enrollment had increased across the board.

- approved the following employment action: resignations-Andy Fletcher, chief financial officer/business manager, Vanessa Gutierrez, RJSHS ed assistant, Troy Johnson, IJSHS JV boys' basketball coach, Phil Joyce, IJSHS junior high assistant boys' basketball coach, William Salisbury, Irrigon schools facility coordinator; employment/promotions/transfers-Minerva DeLoera, RJSHS ed assistant, Andy Fletcher, chief financial officer/maintenance consultant, Bret Maddox, SBE ed assistant; extra duty contracts-Melissa Coiner, IJSHS junior high assistant girls' basketball coach, Adam Doherty, HJSHS junior high head girls' basketball coach, Jarrett Thompson, RJSHS head baseball coach.

- received the following announcements: Oct. 21-Oregon School Boards Association fall regional conference, Condon, Oct. 30-end of first quarter, Nov. 10-next board meeting, IJSHS, 7 p.m., Nov. 11-Veteran's Day holiday, Nov. 13-16-OSBA's 68th annual conference, Portland.

## Ione FFA earns fourth in first soils contest



The Ione FFA Chapter participated in its first-ever soils judging contest last week in Irrigon. The entire horticulture class attended and the advanced team earned fourth place. Pictured (L-R): Hannah Padberg, Ivy Sandford, Katie Gilbert, Jennifer Hernandez, Miranda Taylor, Danny Doherty, Amir Bayanayev, TJ Patton, David Smidmajer, Sam Gilbert, Daniel Holtz, Joe Doherty and Brandon Peck. -Photo by Erin Heideman

## Lexington Grange rooted in the past, looks to the future

The Lexington Grange (#726) was officially reinstated July 10, 2014.

Granges have been present, especially in agricultural communities, for more than 100 years. Granges across the country strive to provide a meeting place for people from all walks of life who wish to provide for their community, and forms a brotherhood not rooted in ritual and pomp, but of service, charity, community and family. As organizations evolve and new generations take charge, new ideas of what is necessary in our community come forward.

Lexington Grange Master Hannah Lankford explained her excitement for the reinstatement of the grange by stating, "I like the freedom the grange provides to choose what we will support. We aren't restricted to specific causes, so we can look at our community and provide assistance or programs that aren't currently available. We also hope to offer a place where local events can be held, from weddings to stockholder meetings."

"Currently we are working to rejuvenate a building that is steeped in Morrow County history with records that go back to the 1920s. It's very exciting to see what the grange has done for this area in the past and gives us an inspiration for what we can continue to do in the future," Lankford added.

Some of the improvements that have been done to the historic building include painting the exterior, fixing drainage and plumbing issues, and painting the side rooms of the building. The building will be available to rent.

## Local schools outperform comparison schools on state report cards

Local school districts report that their students have outperformed most other comparable schools in a state rating system.

Morrow County School District has reported that its students outperformed comparison school districts data on five of six outcome performance measures as it relates to what students are achieving in high school. MCSO has eight schools within the district. Half of the schools within the district yielded strong performances based on the new state school-rating criteria,



Lexington Grange #726 has been reinstated and restored, and its members are full of plans for the future. -Contributed photo

clade painting the exterior, fixing drainage and plumbing issues, and painting the side rooms of the building. The building will be available to rent.

At the first official meeting, 23 new members and one returning member were initiated into the Lexington Grange. Members joined for different reasons.

"I am fairly new to the Morrow County area," explained Grange Secretary Haley Winters when asked why she took an interest in reinstating the Lexington Grange. "It seemed a shame for the building to go unused when it is so beautiful and such a great place for events. My interest in reinstating the grange was to get the building up and running again and to serve the community by hosting events, completing service projects and having fun in the process."

And the fun is coming soon, grange members say. Several events are already planned for this fall and winter.

The first event will be a Pumpkin Picking Party on Oct. 26, including a photo booth, costume contest, pumpkin painting tables, carnival games, and an FFA hands-on learning experience.

A craft fair will be held Nov. 22-23; the entry fee will be a can of food or \$2, all of which will go toward food baskets for those in need. Anyone interested in being a vendor, fill out and submit an application online at <http://lexgrange726.wix.com/grange>.

Although the date has not been set, a soup and stew cook off will be held late January. Grange members say they look forward to hosting movie nights, dances, educational lectures and programs, and potlucks in the future.

Anyone interested in becoming a Lexington Grange member, visit the website and contact an officer with questions. Minutes of our meetings and a calendar of events are available for review.

Irrigon Junior/Senior High, Riverside Junior/Senior High, and Sam Boardman Elementary achieved Level 3 performance, while Irrigon Elementary School obtained a Level 2 rating.

Ione School District's Ione Community School received a Level 4 rating for the second year in a row.

As part of the state's federal waiver application, Oregon developed a new accountability system with a greater focus on student learning and growth. Schools also receive a rating that compares them to "like" schools. Schools are rated as below average, about average, or above average as compared to similar schools. This is intended to provide parents and community members with another perspective on achievement at the school.

For more information, go to your child's school site main office and ask for a copy, or visit <http://www.ode.state.or.us/data/reportcard/reports.aspx> and select your school district.



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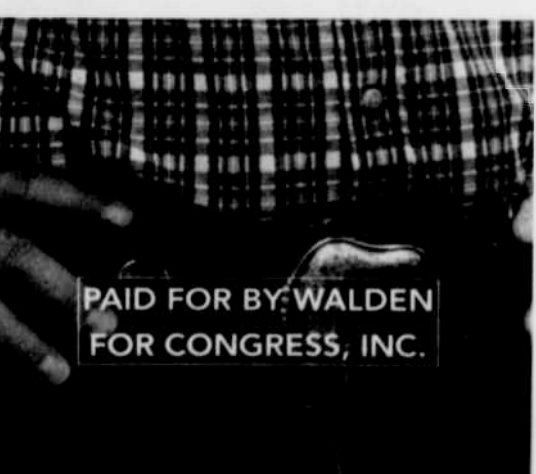


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