

SCHOOL DISTRICT

-Continued from PAGE ONE which also paid for Eastern Promise college credits.

-learned from Dirksen that all the district's teachers were hired before classes started. He said that many districts still had vacancies after the school year began.

-heard from Dirksen that DLR, the architectural firm hired by the district, will make a presentation at the Oct. 12 meeting at Windy River Elementary School in Boardman. DLR presented conceptual building designs/possible school configurations at earlier informational meetings. One of the proposals would be to move all Heppner students to the high school site.

-heard a report from the HJSHS Technology Students Association members and advisor, Dave Fowler, who attended the annual TSA national convention in Dallas, TX.

-approved the following employment action: resignations/non-renewals-Stormy Botefuhr, IJSHS

junior high head volleyball coach, April Dawson, SBE ed assistant, Minerva DeLoera, IES ed assistant, Melissa Lindsay, HJSHS head girls' basketball coach, Donna Maben, HJSHS ed assistant, Cristina Montes, IJSHS ed assistant, Annabel Sosa, SBE ed assistant; employment/promotions/transfers-Heather Adams, SBE ed assistant, Jackie Alleman, HES ed assistant, Andrea Chairez, IJSHS ed assistant, Leah Gadsden, IJSHS junior high science teacher, Celeste Johnson-Maret, SBE one year temporary first grade teaching position, Gary Klinger, MEC part-time assistant custodian, Jessica Lentz, transfer to HJSHS alternative ed assistant, Tamera Lien, HES ed assistant, Wendy McAllister, SBE ed assistant, Byron Mitchell, IJSHS assistant custodian, Cara Osmin, one-year temporary ACH third-grade teaching position, Dulce Pena, SBE ed assistant, Martha Rhodes, IJSHS one year temporary half-time

math teaching position, Jessica Stelk, transfer to HJSHS ed assistant, Mitch Thompson, IJSHS ed assistant; extra duty contracts-Marie Cain, RJSHS high school assistant volleyball coach, Vanessa Gutierrez, IJSHS junior high head volleyball coach, Antonia Nichols, HJSHS half-time cross country coach, Russ Nichols, HJSHS half-time cross country coach, Robert "Jody" Saunders, IJSHS junior high assistant football coach, George Shimer, RJSHS junior high head volleyball coach.

-adopted rescinded, new or revised policies on non-discrimination, tobacco-free environment, truancy, student conduct and discipline, suspension, expulsion, prescription medication and retention of students.

-adopted new, revised or rescinded administrative rules on discrimination complaint procedures, discipline for use, possession, distribution or sale of tobacco products or inhal-

ant delivery systems, prescription/non-prescription medication, request for family and medical leave, FMLA (family and medical leave)/OFLA (Oregon family leave) eligibility notice to employee and interscholastic activities programs structure and emphasis.

-approved the sale of the old Lexington school building.

-approved cooperative sponsorship of the cross-country program with the Lone School District.

-approved the possibility of sale of a piece of district property in Boardman, underneath the Boardman viaduct, by the railroad tracks and zoned residential, which would be of no possible use of the district.

-received the following announcements: Oregon School Boards Association 2015 fall regional meeting, Blue Mountain Community College, Oct. 6; OSBA 2015 annual convention, Portland, Nov. 12-15; next board meeting, Windy River Elementary, Oct. 12.

TRACTOR FIRE

-Continued from PAGE ONE with locals Donna and Joe Rietmann.

"They saw the burning tractor but no sign of me," Carlson said. "When I returned to the scene, I saw the three by the tractor, by the cab, looking in to see if I'd burned."

"Luckily at that time my pickup appeared on the horizon," he added. "They pointed at me as if to say, 'He's alive and well!'"

The Rietmanns loaded Carlson up and drove to meet Betty Carlson on Johnson Grade Road. She then took him to the Pioneer Memorial emergency room in Heppner.

There, they said, Dr. Dan Hambleton was afraid Carlson might have lung damage from smoke inhalation, so Carlson was air-lifted to Kadlec Medical Center in the Tri-Cities,

WA. He spent the night in the hospital for observation, but after his ordeal, Carlson walked away with no lung damage and no broken bones.

He did, however, have first degree burns on both his arms, as well as his scalp, eyebrows and ears.

"All that healed pretty quickly," he said.

Not so quick to heal were the third-degree burns on his shoulder and elbow, which he used to push open the tractor door during his escape.

However, with his narrow escape in the past and the healing underway, Carlson found he wasn't finished with surprises. At their weekly safety meeting the following Monday, the Michels crew that had become acquainted with Carlson passed around a

get-well card and a hat for donations—to be used for a "get-well trip," they said. They then hand-delivered both the card, signed by some 23 workers, and a thick envelope of money the Michels employees had given.

"They wanted to emphasize that this was from the people whom Louis had befriended, and not the company," Betty Carlson said.

"I think it shows a quality of employee that Michels hires on a regular basis," added Louis Carlson.

And that wasn't the end of it. Michels's Chief Safety Coordinator Chuck Mackey visited the Carlsons last week to see if Louis Carlson wanted a private tour of the pipeline the company is constructing. Carlson then spent last Friday getting an on-the-spot tour of the con-

struction, including gifts of a cap and hard hat bearing the Michels logo. At the end of the day, the Carlsons said they invited Mackey, their new-found friend, to have dinner with the family.

Looking back at the last month, Carlson doesn't see any of it as mere luck.

"There are a lot of what-ifs," he said. "What if the universal joint had broken half an hour earlier, when I was out of cell service and inaccessible? What if I hadn't been near the Michels pipeline? I have a whole slug of 'em."

But, he says, the what-ifs aren't the end of the tale.

"Thanks be to God that Michels safety coordinator arrived when he did and Joe and Donna Rietmann took control," he said. "All this wasn't just coincidence. God had His hand keeping me."

~ Letters to the Editor ~

The Heppner Gazette Times will print all letters to the Editor with the following criteria met: letters submitted to the newspaper will need to have the name of the sender along with a legible signature. We are also requesting that you provide your address and a phone number where you can be reached. The address and phone number will only be used for verification and will not be printed in the newspaper. Letters may not be libelous. The GT reserves the right to edit. The GT is not responsible for accuracy of statements made in letters. Any letters expressing thanks will be placed in the classifieds under "Card of Thanks" at a cost of \$10.

A life that mattered

To the editor:

On Tuesday, Sept. 8, I had the privilege of attending a most unique and memorable funeral service. It was supposed to be held inside their home, but the funeral directors from Kennewick were unable to get the casket through the door. The open casket was placed in the lawn near the trees and the creek. Lelia, her brother Ray and his wife Debbie, Liz, Sharon and Dick Jones, myself, two nice men from Hillcrest Memorial Center, and Jan Spears, outside, with the mid-day traffic and the city lawnmower roaring across the street.

Jan led the service; she is a minister and uses sign language to reach out to people who communicate through signing. She gave a beautiful message and read scripture from the Gospel of John as Ray signed it. Jan also sang three songs while signing for Lelia and her family. This was a very special and touching memorial for someone who had few friends in attendance.

Lelia is deaf. She reads lips, she can speak, but it is difficult for most of us to understand. While out on her electric wheelchair, she uses a pad and pencil to help with communication. At home she uses a computer and American Sign Language interpreters via her computer and telephone. Her brother and sister-in-law are also deaf. "Hereditary," Lelia says with a shrug.

And Lester? Lester has been paralyzed from the waist down for many years; I think from a motorcycle accident, or something else, I'm not sure. What I do know is he had many health issues to contend with—he was diabetic, he had a colostomy and a catheter, he was fed through a tube placed through his abdominal wall into his stomach, he had multiple large bed sores.

Over the past year or so he was bedbound, relying on Lelia and his caregivers. Dr. Nichols occasionally made home visits. Not able to leave his bed or his room could have been a horrible existence. For the most part Lester was upbeat and positive.

Lester had a strong faith in God. He was a person. He mattered. Especially to Lelia.

So why am I sharing this? A couple of days after the service, Lelia brought me a thank you card, "(F)or being there for us. And also thank you for coming to Les's funeral. It was a beautiful funeral service." She's so right. It was.

(s) Molly Rhea, Heppner

What is the world coming to?

Dear Editor,

What is the world coming to in Heppner and surrounding area? Why would people steal my rocks? Because I guess they wanted them more than I did.

P.S. No apples for the deer.

(s) Thomas Gonty, Heppner

CITY COUNCIL

-Continued from PAGE ONE reational marijuana producers, processors, wholesalers and retailers. The public building on the hill to save money. He wondered if the sewer system could handle the extra students at that facility. Doherty said since there would be no overall increase in usage associated with the move, it should not be a problem.

The city took no action on the sewer study, but agreed to talk about it during the annual goal setting session in January.

In other action the council voted to move forward with a proposed Ordinance for Marijuana-

na that would prohibit recreational marijuana producers, processors, wholesalers and retailers. The public hearing will be held on the finalized ordinance.

The council also heard from fire chief Rusty Estes who gave the following summary of activity for August: Eight rural wild land fires, secured the helicopter landing zone four times, three motor vehicle accidents, one structure fire, five lift assists, one dumpster fire at the high school, one boat assist at Willow Creek Lake, one search assist with the Sheriff's Dept. and 37 chief calls.

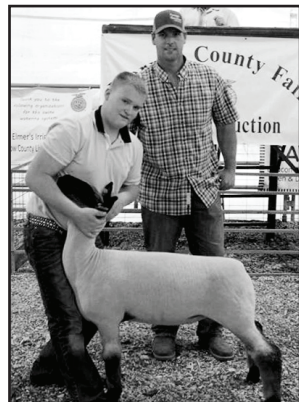
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