

# Ione announces spelling bee winners



Ione held its school-wide spelling contest last week. Winners pictured are: Aidan Barresse, first place high school; Alexis Ramirez, second place elementary; Serenity Rodriguez, first place middle school; Kalvin Rietmann, first place elementary; and Daisy Coombs, second place middle school. Not pictured are Henry Padberg, second place high school, and Emma Rietmann, who tied for second place middle school. First-place winners proceed to the regional competition in Pendleton in May. -Contributed photo

# IMESD awarded CTE grant to offer technology events

Pendleton—The Inter-Mountain Education Service District (IMESD) recently received a \$198,000 grant from the Oregon Department of Education as part of the CTE (Career and Technical Education) Summer Program Grant program, the IMESD announced last week. The 18-month grant (spring 2016 through fall 2017) allows the IMESD to offer a CTE Technology Education Program, including a high-school event next month and two programs this summer for high school and middle school students.

The grant is from House Bill (HB) 3072 and HB 5016, which authorized \$1.75 million for the Oregon Department of Education (ODE) to create a CTE Summer Program Grant. The intent of the grant is to support summer programs that are designed to recruit and retain students in career pathways that lead to high wage and high demand occupations and link to existing CTE Programs of Study.

According to the grant Request for Proposal (RFP), the summer programs “should connect high school students with state-of-the-art equipment and facilities that are not readily available in their local school. Programs for middle school students provide an opportunity to explore CTE that is available in local high schools. As a result, students will attain academic and technical skills needed to move successfully into a myriad of public and private postsecondary training and education options, the military, and apprenticeship programs.”

The InterMountain Technology department at the IMESD says it is already committed to providing opportunities for eastern Oregon students to improve their technology skills and discover more about technology careers.

“Being awarded this grant is an amazing next step in our efforts to bring more knowledge and skills to the students we serve in our 18 component school districts. We are excited to create and implement these innovative events where students can actively discover technology for themselves,” said Cheri Rhinhart, Director of Inter-Mountain Technology at the IMESD.

The program that the grant is funding is called STEP—Student Technology Expanded Programs. The IMESD has already planned the spring event, the STEP Tech Expo. It is on April 27 at the Pendleton Convention Center and will allow area high

school students to learn about career paths and skills in the technology sector. Students who attend will be introduced to regional businesses that have jobs in the technology field. Plus, there will be hands-on technical activities.

This summer, the grant will fund two technology camps, one week for high school students and one

week for middle school students. More information will be announced about these camps. The grant also funds opportunities for high school students to do paid internships during the summer and the school year in technology jobs.

For more information, visit [www.imesd.k12.or.us](http://www.imesd.k12.or.us) or ODE at [www.ode.state.or.us](http://www.ode.state.or.us).

# Ione students show their ‘metal’



Top: Jorge Aguilar and Tyson Epperson earned third and fourth at the State FFA Convention at Oregon State University with the projects they designed and created themselves. Both are active shop students in the Ione Agricultural Education Department. Bottom: Students from the Ione Agricultural Education Department deliver 50 metal signs to Lexington Machine shop and Kerry Gorham. The signs, made by Tyson Epperson and Jorge Aguilar, will be used by the machine shop as advertisement for the projects the shop turns out for customers. During the delivery, Gorham also toured students through the shop and talked in detail about what it took to work in a shop and employment requirements. Pictured L-R: Tyson Epperson, Aaron Smythe, Jenna Taylor, Kerry Gorham, Donald McElligott, Anthony Rietmann, JD Aleksa and Jorge Aguilar. -Photos by Erin Heideman

# DA’s Report

Morrow County District Attorney Justin Nelson has released the following report:

-Gloria Inez Rodriguez, 48, was convicted of Conspiracy to Commit a Class C Felony – Deliver Meth, a Class C felony. The defendant’s driver’s license was suspended for six months and the defendant sentenced to 18 months prison time with credit for time served, to run concurrent with all previously imposed sentences. The defendant was also sentenced to two years post-prison supervision. The defendant was also convicted of Delivery of Methamphetamine within 1,000 Feet of a School, a Class A felony.

The defendant’s driver’s license was suspended for six months and the defendant sentenced to 22 months prison time with credit for time served to run concurrent with additional counts. Defendant was also sentenced to three years post-prison supervision. The defendant also was convicted of two counts of Delivery of Methamphetamine, a Class B felony. For each count, the defendant’s driver’s license was suspended for six months and the defendant sentenced to 18 months prison time with credit for time served, to run concurrent with additional counts. The defendant was also sentenced to two years post-prison supervision. Addi-

# JUDGE CANDIDATES

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**-GREG SWEET**  
because I think I have the skills and background to successfully help transition the county court into a county commission. My history with the county will allow for a quick and smooth transition. I want to help improve county government.

**What do you feel is the biggest challenge facing Morrow County?** Besides changing the structure of the county’s governing body, I think the other major challenge is managing the county’s income to adequately finance present and future services, and maintain county infrastructure. I have seen the ebb and flow of county finances and the resulting impacts during my years as county assessor.

**How would you address it as a member of the Morrow County Court?** I want to implement a process to look at the county’s needs for the next three years, five years, and 10 years. Using revenue estimates for the same periods will allow the county to determine priorities for infrastructure and services. The final priorities need to be determined with public input and recommendations from county department heads. Providing reliable levels of service for the long term is critical for the residents of the county.

# Sheriff’s Report

**December 16:** -Morrow County Sheriff’s Office received report of a gray Chevy Cruze with an Oregon Ducks sticker speeding near Irrigon High School on Wyoming Ave. at approximately 100 mph and passing the caller, then slamming on the brakes in front of him.

-MCSO received report of a man yelling and swearing very loudly on Boardman Ave. The caller said he had been behaving like that for the last two weeks.

-MCSO received report from an officer of a male sleeping in a sleeping bag behind Boardman Ave. The officer made contact with the subject.

-MCSO received report of a fraudulent check. The caller said the bank contacted him regarding the matter.

-MCSO received report of a blue Ford Explore speeding and passing other drivers on First St. in Irrigon.

-MCSO received report of a dozen cows out on the road on Eighth Rd. in Irrigon. The caller said he tried to contact the owner, but there was no answer. MCSO responded and was able to get the cows back into the pasture.

**-MELISSA LINDSAY Family:** My husband Todd and I along with our son Jacob (Jake) live on Baseline Road, where we own and operate our farm. Our daughter Maddie is a freshman at Oregon State University studying pre-med/PT. Two of my three sisters and their families live in Morrow County. My third sister and her family lives nearby in Sherman County.

**Prior government experience:** Morrow County Planning Commissioner and Morrow County School District Budget Committee Chairman.

**Why are you running for commissioner?** My grandfather, Gar Swanson, a founding member of the Port of Morrow, had great vision. My father, Ken Turner, was known for being progressive and committed to Morrow County. I want follow their footsteps with that proactive future-looking vision. Strong economic development county-wide is good. I am known for building relationships and am very involved. My biggest asset is my passion for the county. I have great pride in Morrow County and an enormous energy to bring. I have a can-do attitude and always look for the best way to make things happen, not make excuses.

**What do you feel is the biggest challenge facing Morrow County?** What really matters is what the

citizens of our county think are the biggest challenges. I have spent the past six months attending meetings in every community. I have been listening carefully and working hard to understand all of the facts and challenges. I bring a fresh set of eyes and perspective with an open mind. I do believe we must consider the following issues: housing needs, improving infrastructure and roads, increasing economic development for the southern communities, and supporting ways of keeping the north-end economic growth benefits within our county, i.e., keeping families and prosperity within our county.

**How would you address it as a member of the Morrow County Court?** As a servant leader we have to seek to help make others better by creating and building relationships and collaborations, taking proactive steps toward a “we” attitude. I will add focus and common sense to bring people together to tackle issues in transparent and fiscally responsible ways. My banking background gave me the opportunity to work with all of our communities, getting to know the unique needs and issues of the citizens in all corners of Morrow County. This gives me a good perspective. I will foster relationships county and state wide to address these. I will fight for Morrow County.

# Topic club takes in Pendleton sights



Members of the Ione Topic club recently traveled to Pendleton on the Morrow County Transportation bus, “The Loop,” for a private tour of the Pendleton Woolen Mills, followed by touring the museum at Tamastlikt Cultural Institute. The day also included lunch at the Wildhorse Resort. The club is celebrating 88 years in the Ione community supporting education and the Ione Public Library. Pictured are Kristy Crowell and Betty Rietmann in the Tamastlikt gift shop. -Contributed photo

# Community lunch menu

Heppner United Methodist Church volunteers will serve lunch on Wednesday, April 20, at St. Patrick’s Senior Center. Lunch will include ham Alfredo bites, steak fries, seven-layer salad and raspberry parfait.

Milk is served at each meal. Suggested donation is \$3.50 per meal. Menu is subject to change.

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