

School board reviews emergency drill plan

Morrow County School Superintendent Dirk Dirksen reviewed the scheduled emergency drill plans with the school board at their Monday night meeting at Irrigon Elementary.

The emergency drill, planned for Friday, Apr. 13, at Riverside High School in Boardman, will use a mock emergency to assess the district's emergency preparedness plans. Dirksen said the drill will help the district prepare in the event of a real emergency in the schools and will also involve the Boardman Police Department, Ambulance and Fire, the Morrow County Sheriff's Office and Oregon State Police, among other agencies. (See MCSD plans emergency drill story, page 1.)

In other business at the meeting, Dirksen said that the school district will add 12 online classes through InterMountain ESD. He said that plans are to recruit online teachers for those classes.

He also noted an anticipated increase, possibly by 80 students, in the three-four-year-old preschool program in all communities, especially in Boardman and Irrigon. He said the program is "running out of slots", especially with

construction of a 120-unit apartment complex underway in Boardman. "We want to prepare for that," he noted.

He also said the district is trying to get a price to purchase two modular buildings, currently empty and federally owned through Head Start. Dirksen said until purchase of the buildings can be negotiated, the district is working to rent the facilities.

Dirksen also told the board a triangular piece of property on Elder Street in Heppner the district recently planned to sell was actually gifted to the city of Heppner in 1980-81. However, since the transaction had not been recorded properly, the district agreed to re-gift the property to the city. Dirksen said the property had a "good deal of infrastructure on it." "It's so small, there's nothing you can do with it," added board member Brian Kollman.

In other business, the board: -viewed a presentation "Teaching with Intention-How Irrigon Elementary School made the shift to standards-based instruction," by Irrigon Elementary teachers.

-voted to accept an audit proposal from the

accounting firm Dickey and Tremper, LLP, based in Pendleton, with board member Barney Lindsay dissenting. Lindsay said that he felt the district should continue to stay with their previous auditing firm, the Oster Professional Group, CPAs, based in John Day. The contract with Dickey and Tremper is for a three-year term with an option to renew for three additional years. Dickey and Tremper are currently auditors for InterMountain ESD.

-adopted a resolution accepting and appropriating unanticipated revenues as follows: \$1,000 from Family Health Associates to the Irrigon Jr./Sr. High School football program.

-approved the first reading of rescinded, new or revised policies as follows: CM-Compliance and reporting on standards; GBH-JECAC-Staff-student-parent relations; GBK-KGC-Prohibited use, distribution or sale of tobacco products and inhalant delivery systems; IBDJA-Relations with home-schooled students; IGAC-Teaching about religion-rescind; IGAC-Religion and schools; IGACA-Recognition of religious beliefs and customs-rescind; IGDJ-Interscholastic

and co-curricular activities program-rescind; IGDJ-Interscholastic activities; IIA-Instructional resources; IIA-Instructional media selection-rescind; IKF-Graduation requirements; JHHB-Trauma informed schools.

-adopted new, revised or rescinded administrative rules as follows: BDDH-AR-Public comment at board meetings; GBEB-AR-Communicable diseases-staff; GCDA-GDDA-AR-criminal records checks-fingerprinting; JHCD-JHCDA-AR-Precription-non-prescription medication-rescind; JHCD-JHCDA-AR-Medications; KBA-AR-public records; KBA-FORM 4-9-18-rescind.

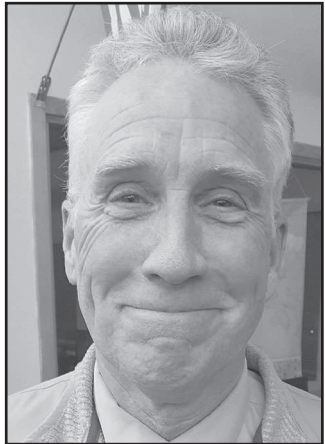
-approved travel requests from Riverside Jr./Sr. High School teacher Rhonda Fox-Brennan and Heppner Jr./Sr. High School teacher Jason Palmer for students to travel to the regional Kidwind Challenge event in Seattle and for some students to attend the national event in Chicago. The Kidwind Challenge events are mock turbine building contests.

-approved changing the May board meeting and budget meeting from May 15 to May 14.

-received the following

enrollment report for April: A.C. Houghton Elementary, Irrigon, grades K-three-284; Sam Boardman Elementary, Boardman, grades K-three-352; Heppner Elementary, grades K-six-170; Irrigon Elementary, grades four-six-210; Windy River Elementary, Boardman, grades four-six-259; Heppner Jr./Sr. High School, grades seven-12-167; Irrigon Jr./Sr. High School, grades seven-12-352; Riverside High School, Boardman, grades seven-12-414; Morrow Education Center, Irrigon-79; total-2,287.

-approved the following employment action for April: resignations/non-renewals-Tristan Holechek, RJSHS math teacher, Virginia Kernal, SBE ed assistant, Kevin Payne, HJSHS half-time assistant football coach, Steve Sheller, IJSHS science teacher, head football and assistant softball coach, yearbook advisor to the end of the school year, Eric Solis, IJSHS junior high assistant boys' basketball coach; non-renewal/termination-Robert Weems, WRE sixth grade teacher; retirement-Kim Carlson, HJSHS head cook until the end of the school year; employment/promotions/transfers-Katelyn Adams, SBE elementary life skills/



Superintendent Dirk Dirksen

special education teacher, 2018-19, Melissa Dunn, WRE food program coordinator, 8 hours per week, Tammy Ellis, SBE second grade teacher, 2018-19, Kaylee Hunter, IJSHS special education teacher, 2018-19, Crystal Marquez Lemus, SBE ed assistant, Joselyn Piper, HES special ed/foundational math/language arts teacher, 2018-19, Caitlin Shimer, SBE first grade teacher, 2018-19, Stephanie Simpson, RJSHS advanced math teacher, 2018-19.

-heard the following announcements: emergency drill, RJSHS, Friday, April 13; teacher appreciation week, May 7-11; budget committee meeting, Monday, May 14, RJSHS, 6 p.m.; next regular board meeting, Monday, May 14, RJSHS, 7 p.m.

Chamber announcements and upcoming events

Friday, Mar. 9 – Friday, Apr. 13, Willow Creek Valley Economic Development Group offers a grant for Community and Public Enhancements for south Morrow County communities. The applicant organization must be a local organization, club, special district or a governmental entity who resides in the south Morrow County service area; must have at least a 50 percent match (may include in-kind and cash contributions from local and regional sources) for the total project budget committed before applying. Contact the Heppner Chamber to receive a grant application and eligibility and exclusions information sheet at 541-676-5536 or via email at heppnerchamber@centurytel.net. All grants must be received by the Chamber office, no later than Friday, Apr. 13.

Thursday, Apr. 19 from noon to 1 p.m., candidates forum for Umatilla-Morrow County Circuit Court Judge

at the Heppner Chamber lunch meeting in the Heppner City Hall conference room. Candidates Michael Breiling and Rob Collins will participate in the forum, with Bill Kuhn as the moderator. Lunch is available for \$10 and an RSVP is required to attend to allow enough meals and seating. Tacos Hometown will be catering the lunch, offering a choice of a small chicken or beef burrito with beverage and dessert. RSVP's are required no later than Tuesday, April 17th, by contacting the Heppner Chamber at 541-676-5536 or email at heppnerchamber@centurytel.net.

Saturday, Apr. 28 from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m., 5th Annual Walk In Her Shoes at the Riverfront Park in Hermiston. Walk in the shoes of a victim of domestic or sexual violence. Register online at dvs-or.org or call 541-676-3322 for more information. Registration is \$15 per person and raffle

tickets are available for \$1 each or six for \$5.

Wednesday, May 2 through Wednesday, May 23, Crisis Line training through Domestic Violence Services, Inc. When training is completed, participants will be able to answer calls on the 24-Hour Crisis Line and have the opportunity to advocate for victims of domestic and sexual violence. Contact 541-276-3322 or volunteer@dvs-or.org to become a volunteer and/or to get more information.

Saturday, May 5 at 1 p.m. at the county road department in Lexington on Hwy 74 and 4 p.m. at Riverside High School in Boardman, the Morrow County Sheriff's Office will be hosting a safety event and a BMX show featuring Robert Castillo's BMX Freestyle Team. This event is free to the public and there will be hotdogs and beverages for everyone. There will also be a bike raffle, free helmets and fittings, a bike safety course and boating, 4-wheeler and fire safety information.

Thursday, May 17, Mustang Mop Up Day. If you have a project you would like to have the students help with during the Mustang Mop Up Day, please contact Greg Grant at Heppner High to get on the list.

Students compete in Oregon Battle of the Books



Battle of the Books team members were (L-R): Delilah Saucedo, Sophie Qualls, Journey Cavan, Rebecca Ellsworth and Aden Lathrop. -Contributed photo.

Heppner Elementary students competed in the regional Oregon Battle of the Books competition in Hermiston on Saturday, Mar. 17. The team made it to the bracket round before losing to the eventual champion.

MS Join the Movement walk scheduled



Pictured are participants in the 2017 Walk MS event. -Contributed photo.

The MS Walk to raise funds for multiple sclerosis will be held on Apr. 21 at the Roy Raley Park in Pendleton this year, instead of in Heppner. Registration is at 9 a.m. with the walk beginning at 10.

Sign-up online at www.walkms.org, register the day of the event or plan a

virtual walk wherever you are. Donations will be accepted at Murray's Drug in Heppner throughout the months of April and May.

A bus will be available for rides to Pendleton for those interested in participating. The bus will leave All Saints Episcopal

Church in Heppner at 7:30 a.m. on Apr. 21.

For more information, contact Merilee McDowell at meri0120@gmail.com or 541-571-5853.

Participating in Walk MS is designed to help create a world free of multiple sclerosis.

Help Repeal Oregon's defacto Sanctuary Law
 Go to: www.StopOregonSanctuaries.org
 Sign the petition to give Oregon voters the opportunity to vote NO on dangerous sanctuary policies shielding criminal illegal aliens from Federal Immigration Authorities.
 Simply PRINT, SIGN and MAIL - it's that easy!
 Do it today! 503.435.0141

LES SCHWAB WOULD LIKE TO APPLAUD THE HEPPNER HIGH SCHOOL DRAMA CLUB AND THEIR UPCOMING PRODUCTION-

Rodgers & Hammerstein's Cinderella

Tuesday, April 17th @7pm
 Wednesday, April 18th @ 7pm
 Thursday, April 19th @ 7pm

@ HJSHS Cafe/Stage

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