

Student population up from last year

By April Sykes

Morrow County School Superintendent Dirk Dirksen, at the district's regular meeting Monday night at Heppner Elementary School, told the board the student population is up 29 students from a year ago and up 39 from the district's conservative projected budget. As of this September, the district reported 2319 students.

The board received the following enrollment report for September: A.C. Houghton Elementary, Irrigon, kindergarten through third grade, had 255 students; Sam Boardman Elementary, grades K-three-340; Heppner Elementary, grades K-six-183; Irrigon Elementary School, grades four-six-221; Windy River Elementary, Boardman, grades four-six-287; Heppner Junior/Senior High School, grades seven-12-169; Irrigon Jr./Sr. High School, grades seven-12-369; Riverside Jr./Sr. High School, Boardman, grades seven-12-437; Morrow Education Center, grades one-12-58; total-2,319.

Dirksen also updated the board on improvements to district facilities with "some noticeable and some, not so." He said Heppner Elementary's exterior lighting was increased for safety purposes; Boardman's Riverside High School's roof was repaired; the Morrow Education Center's basketball area and green space received a facelift; A.C. Houghton Elementary in Irrigon received a remodel of its health room and new playground; the parking and bus loading areas at Sam Boardman Elementary in Boardman were painted and adjusted for improved traffic flow; the entrance area at Windy River Elementary, Boardman, was upgraded; outside speakers were installed for football games at Irrigon High School and a power winch was installed for basketball backboards; and Irrigon Elementary's new modular building, used mainly for robotics, is up and running.

Dirksen said many of the district's electronic devices are now on a one-to-one basis with the student population, with the district having 2,600 Chrome Books, up from 2,319 previously, 628 iPads, which is over a one-to-one ratio, 15 3D printers, 20 3D welders and 34 active panels. He said the district also has seven computers, which are not really even needed anymore because of the electronic devices.

In other business, the board:

that a meeting to start the bond process, planned to be up for a vote in 2021, will be held Wednesday, September 19, at 7 p.m. at Windy River Elementary School in Boardman.

-heard a presentation from Heppner Elementary Principal Dieter Waite concerning an intervention specialist which provides extra teacher support for kindergarten through sixth grade students in reading and kindergarten through fourth grade students in math.

-approved a travel request from four FFA students from Riverside to attend a convention in Indianapolis.

-heard from Dirksen there are 27 online students this year, compared to 40 last year, 22 blended students who are both in school and online and an online teacher has been hired.

-learned from Dirksen the school bus situation is well in hand with Boardman school bus drivers down by only one driver and Heppner drivers down by three, both covered by substitute drivers. He added that drivers are in the pipeline for training.

-received the following enrollment report: Resignations/non-renewals-Brandon Conrad, RJSBS temporary seventh-grade language arts teacher; Lidia Velazquez, SBE ed assistant; Employment/promotions/transfers-Mary Ellen Blessing, IJSBS assistant custodian, Viviana Collin-Torres, WRE temporary fifth-grade teacher, Alejandra Covarrubia, SBE ed assistant; Michelle Hagen, IJSBS ed assistant, Christopher Hardcastle, ACH assistant custodian, Darcee Mitchell, HES ed assistant, Ashlee Muller, IES ed assistant, Jacki Paullus, HES ed assistant, Kalinn Prouty, IJSBS ed assistant, Jon Schade, RJSBS temporary junior high language arts teacher; Stefanie Sweeney, HES behavior technician; extra duty contracts-Ben Millard, IJSBS assistant football coach, Sean Shimer, RJSBS head baseball coach.

-adopted the following rescinded, new or revised policies as follows: unmanned aircraft systems (drones), staff ethics, sexual harassment, domestic violence, harassment, sexual assault or stalking leave, students with disabilities, special education evaluation procedures, special education, expanded options, graduation requirements, sexual harassment, admission of resident students, reporting requirements regarding sexual conduct

with students, public solicitation in district facilities, commercial advertising, school visitation guidelines for law enforcement and juvenile authorities, relations with law enforcement agencies.

-adopted the following new, revised or rescinded administrative rules as follows: staff ethics, sexual harassment complaint procedure, request for domestic violence, harassment sexual assault or stalking leave, special education procedural safeguards, special education, expanded options program notification, sexual harassment complaint procedure, Department of Human Services law enforcement protocol for investigation of abuse of a child.

-approved a renewal agreement with Sodexo America.

-approved a Washington State University principal/superintendent internship agreement.

-heard reports on restraint and seclusion from the director of education services; administration reports, and InterMountain ESD "talking points."

-approved a resolution accepting \$500 in unanticipated revenue from Morrow County Grain Growers for the Irrigon Jr./Sr. High School ASB football program; and \$10,000 from the Wildhorse Foundation for the Riverside High School miscellaneous grant fund.

-received the following notices: board work session, September 19, 7 p.m., WRE, concerning a "facilities vision" by the DLR Group; Oregon School Board Association fall regional meeting, October 16, Pendleton; OSBA annual convention, November 8-11, Portland; next board meeting October 8, RHS.

Hearing set for new solar facility

10-megawatt solar array planned on Lindsay property

By David Sykes

The Morrow County Planning Commission will hold a public hearing Tuesday, Sept. 25 at 7 p.m. at the Port of Morrow Riverfront Center in Boardman on a proposed new solar power facility. The commission will be deciding whether to authorize construction of the new electrical generating facility on Larry and Corrine Lindsay's property north of Lexington on Juniper Canyon Road between Baseline and Strawberry Lane.

Solar Star Oregon I, LLC with headquarters in San Jose, CA is the applicant for the permit which

Chamber announcements and upcoming events

Wednesday, Sept. 12 at 6:30 p.m., Crafty Nights at the Library to be held at the Heppner Library.

Tuesday, Sept. 18 at 5:15 p.m., HatchLab community meeting. HatchLab will be in Heppner to meet with local small business owners and community people interested in starting a business. HatchLab Baker is a Center for Entrepreneurship, a place that provides programs, resources, tools and expertise for entrepreneurs starting or running a business. This meeting is to determine if there is enough interest in starting a Hatch Heppner, which would be an exceptional opportunity for economic development. Contact Kim at 541-980-3465 for more information.

Saturday, Sept. 22 from 12-4 p.m., Suicide Awareness barbecue and entertainment event at the Heppner Fit Park. Hot dogs with all the fixings will be served, along with Tillamook ice cream provided by Morrow County Veterans Services. Music will be provided by

The Jagerbums.

Saturday, Oct. 6 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Annual Morrow County Harvest Festival at the SAGE Center in Boardman. Do you make a unique artisan product? Grow delicious produce? Are you located in or near Morrow County? If you think your products are what we're looking for, then we invite you to apply to become a vendor at the event. The vendor application can be completed online at: www.tinyurl.com/SAGE-2018HarvestFestival. For more information, please contact the SAGE Center at 541-481-7243. Please note we are not accepting direct sales vendors at this event.

Saturday, Oct. 13 at 6 p.m. at the Heppner Elks Lodge, Heppner High School Booster Club's annual steak dinner and auction. More information to follow.

Saturday, Oct. 20, 4th Annual Oktoberfest Auction and Dinner. This event is a benefit for The Woolery Project and will be held

in the big tent on the Port of Arlington peninsula. A prime rib dinner prepared by Paradise Rose Chuckwagon Catering will be served. There will be dinner music by One Hum and Wheeler County Ramblers, a huge silent and live auction (with 2 Henry Tribute Edition rifles). Dance music will be provided by Countryfyed. Tickets are \$35 each and may be purchased at MCGG-Wasco, Thrifty Food Center-Arlington, Condon Chamber, Murrays Drug-Condon and Dinty's Market-Biggs Junction. More information is available on the Woolery Project Facebook page at www.facebook.com/thewooleryprojectinc or via email to info@thewooleryprojectinc.org.

Saturday, Nov. 17 at 5 p.m. at the Riverfront Center, Port of Morrow, Boardman, First Annual Morrow County FFA Dinner/Auction to benefit the Heppner/Irrigon/Ione, Riverside Chapters. There will be a live and silent auction along with a meal.

Quilt show to be held in Boardman Oct. 12 and 13

Boardman's 14th Annual Quilt show will be held Oct. 12 and 13 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Boardman Senior Center, 100 Tatone Street. Kathy Morgan is the featured local quilter this year.

Two quilts will be raffled off Oct. 13 at approximately 3:30 p.m. Tickets are available at the Harvest Festival on Oct. 6 at the SAGE Center, as well as at the door on both days of the quilt show. Tickets are \$1 each of \$5 for a yard of tickets, which equals 18 tickets. Winners need not be present.

All quilters may enter



Two quilts will be raffled on Oct. 13 at the Boardman quilt show. -Contributed photos.

a quilt, including youth up to age 14. Quilts may be a heritage family quilt or a quilt made by the exhibitor. Contact Lila Killingbeck at 541-571-2576 prior to Oct. 1 for registration forms and

information. Prizes will be awarded for people's choice and youth. Vendors will also be onsite during the show.

Annual children's rodeo scheduled in Pendleton

Children from eastern Oregon will fill the Round-Up arena on Thursday, Sept. 13 for the InterMountain Education Service District's (IMESD) annual children's rodeo. This annual event, celebrating 34 years, provides children with special needs, ages five through 10 years, the opportunity to be cowboys and cowgirls inside the famous Round-Up arena. About 40 children from around the region are expected to be rodeo contestants this year. Students

from school districts in Baker, Morrow, Umatilla and Union counties are eligible to participate.

The children's rodeo is sponsored by the Pendleton Round-Up Association and the IMESD. For more information about the children's rodeo, contact Karen Parker, director, at 541-966-3177 or by emailing karen.parker@imesd.k12.or.us. Spectators are welcome at the children's rodeo and admission is free.

DEADLINE FOR ALL NEWS AND ADVERTISING MONDAY 5:00 PM



HEPPNER ELKS 358
676-9181 "Where Friends Meet" 142 North Main

21ST ANNUAL N.E. DISTRICT GOLF TOURNAMENT
SEPTEMBER 15TH, 2018
AT WILLOW CREEK GOLF COURSE IN HEPPNER, OR
REGISTRATION 7:45 A.M.
SHOT GUN START 9:00 A.M.
COST- \$40.00 PER GOLFER
TO REGISTER CALL
MARVIN 541-256-0109 OR
THE ELKS LODGE 541-676-9181

Please join in Willow Creek Valley Economic Group, The Heppner Chamber and The Howard and Beth Bryant Foundation for the

HATCHLAB PRESENTATION

September 18th at 5:00 PM
at Heppner City Hall

Learn about this non-profit organization, and how they are helping new businesses and entrepreneurs



The Howard & Beth Bryant Foundation
Phone: 541-676-9411 • www.HBBfoundation.org
P.O. Box 12, Heppner, OR 97836 • Cell: 541-980-3465 • kimc@HBBfoundation.org



The Heppner Gazette-Times wants to see pictures of your trophy animals from this hunting season. Stop by to have your picture taken, drop off photos, mail them to PO Box 337 in Heppner, email them to editor@rapidserve.net or text cell phone photos to 541-980-6674.