

FFA Students highlight backpack program at school board meeting

Heppner High School FFA students highlighted their Backpack Program at Monday's Morrow County School Board meeting at Heppner Jr./Sr. High School. Students in the program collect food to be sent home with children in backpacks, so the students and their families have food over the weekends and long breaks. They have also instigated a "Make and Take" program in which FFA members and students make meals together and then the ingredients are sent home for the students and their families to make. The programs have received local, statewide and national accolades.

The FFA students, led by HJSHS teacher and advisor Beth Dickenson, have collected over 275 pounds of donated food, including canned food, cereal, mac and cheese and other foods, which they store in their "backpack room" until needed.

Also at the meeting, Heppner football team members introduced themselves to the board and were congratulated for their 2A championship win.

The board heard a "Bonds 101" presentation concerning vital information on bond passage from Lauren MacMillan, of Piper, Sandler & Company. The school district is planning to send a bond issue to the voters in May of 2021. An advisory workshop by the DLR Group is planned for tonight (March 11) at Heppner Elementary School.

In other business the board:

- viewed presentations from Andrea Nelson on the S.O.S. program and granted a travel request from HJSHS teacher Dave Fowler and TSA students to attend a TSA conference.

- received the March enrollment report as follows: A.C. Houghton, Irrigon-232, Sam Boardman Elementary-349, Heppner Elementary-184, Irrigon Elementary-212, Windy River Elementary, Boardman-265, Heppner Jr./Sr. High School-143, Irrigon Jr./Sr. High School-358, Riverside Jr./Sr. High School, Boardman-463, Morrow Education Center, Irrigon-63, total-2,269.

- Boardman community schools are up 20 students, from 1,057 in March of 2019 to 1,077 this year; Heppner schools are down 10 students from 337 to 327; Irrigon schools are down 41 students from 843 to 801; Morrow Education Center gained six students from 57 to 63; and the district total student population lost 25 students, from

2,294 to 2,269. -learned that 133 of the district staff approved starting the school year with a pre-Labor Day start, compared to 47 selecting a post-Labor Day start. The district has traditionally followed the staff's preference of starting before Labor Day.

- approved the following employment action: resignations/non-renewals-Brandon Hammond, Sam Boardman Elementary principal, Alexandra Hobbs, Irrigon Elementary sixth grade teacher, Crystal Marquez Lemus, Sam Boardman Elementary ed assistant, all at the end of the 2019-20 school year, and Hilaree Vanderpas, Riverside Jr./Sr. High School assistant softball coach, retirements-Tom Coffelt, RJSHS head custodian, March 10, Bruce Kernal, SBE assistant custodian, June 4; employment/promotions/transfers-Jerry Bair, full-time assistant custodian, Toni Stanger, assistant custodian, both ACH; Danielle Hoeft, temporary ed assistant and Chelsea Matheny, K-1 teacher, both Heppner Elementary; Jill Ledbetter, vice principal and Doashea Qualls, life skills/special ed, both SBE 2020-21; Ofelia Cisneros Zavalza, Care coordinator, IES/ACH, Christopher Hardcastle, assistant custodian/bus driver, Irrigon, Kaira Rysdam, principal, IES 20/21; Toni Stanger, assistant custodian, ACH; extra duty contracts-Kasey Kroske, assistant baseball coach, Tiffany Locey, junior high head track coach, both IJSHS, Skyler Wightman, assistant softball coach, RJSHS.

- approved the following licensed employment action for 2020-21 (Heppner schools listed only): Heppner Jr./Sr. High School-Mayme Jill Miller, counselor, Katelyn Adams, special education; Heppner Elementary-Chelsea Matheny, fifth grade; 2019-20 contract teachers recommended for extension 2020-21 Heppner Elementary-Lynn Calvert, Melissa Coiner, Rick Drake, Sue Gibbs, Sarah Matheny, Josephyn Piper, Jeremy Rosenbalm, Madison Rosenbalm, Sybil Stewart, Marissa Turner; Heppner Jr./Sr. High School-Jean Collins, Beth Dickenson, Rick Drake, John Flaherty, Dave Fowler, Greg Grant, Troy Morgan, Andrea Nelson, Jason Palmer, Petra Payne and Jeremy Rosenbalm.

- adopted a resolution accepting and appropriating unanticipated revenue as follows: Heppner Jr./Sr. High School-\$1,000-ASB from the Bank of Eastern

Oregon; Riverside Jr./Sr. High School-\$19,550 from the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation; and Sam Boardman Elementary-\$1,082.66 from the Benevity Community Impact Fund.

- approved a budget resolution to appropriate the following changes in the special revenue funds as follows: Revenue: local revenue-\$2,287,914, up \$200,00; state revenue-\$881,950, up \$266,325, federal revenue-\$2,669,103, up \$170,610 interfund transfers-\$1,341,000, beginning fund balance-\$2,238,889, total-\$9,418,856, up \$636,935; Appropriations: instruction-\$4,375,576, up \$621,935, support services-\$1,352,117, up \$15,000; enterprise and community-\$1,242,274; contingencies-\$2,448,889, total-\$9,418,856, up \$636,935.

- approved the first reading of rescinded, new or revised policies on student discipline, suspension-rescind, suspension.

- adopted rescinded, new or revised policies as follows: reporting suspended child abuse, minutes of board meetings, workplace harassment, rescinded drug and alcohol testing-transportation personnel, drug and alcohol testing and record query-transportation personnel, personal electronic devices and social media-staff, rescinded cyberbullying, reporting of suspected sexual conduct with students, compulsory attendance, admission of resident students, rescinded cyberbullying, expulsion, medications, rescinded reporting of suspected abuse of a child, reporting of suspended abuse of a child, rescinded reporting requirements regarding sexual conduct with students, reporting requirements for suspended sexual conduct with students, public complaints.

- adopted new, revised or rescinded administrative rules as follows: work place harassment reporting and procedure, suspected sexual conduct report procedures and form, medications, rescinded reporting of suspected child abuse, reporting of suspended abuse of a child, rescinded sexual conduct complaint form, suspected sexual conduct report procedures and form.

- approved the school district's comprehensive sexuality education plan.

- approved the OSAA cooperative sponsorship of boys' tennis for Riverside and Irrigon high schools.

- heard the following announcements-bond advisory workshop #5 at Heppner Elementary, March 11; end of third quarter, March 19; spring break, March 23-27; next board meeting, Monday, April 13, Irrigon Elementary.

Oregon election security never stronger

Information provided by Morrow County Clerk Bobbi Childers

Election security is a big discussion topic for the 2020 elections. The 2016 election saw the use of misinformation used in connection with elections like never before. We know that no votes were changed in 2016 and we also know that one state voter registration database was compromised. In Oregon in 2016, adversaries tried to get into our voter registration system and we stopped them. Our voting systems were very secure in 2016, but there is more we are doing to make them even more secure for 2020.

For 2020 misinformation is the biggest threat to elections. While we make efforts to educate Oregonians so they are not fooled by misinformation, we are also continually improving the physical and cyber security of our election systems.

In February the Secretary of State partnered with the US Attorney and FBI to host an Election Security Symposium. There were over 160 attendees that encompassed local election officials, members of the legislature, candidates and federal and state partners. The symposium included information on election security risks and threats as well as tools and strategies to minimize and combat those risks and threats. Speakers came from the FBI, Department of Homeland Security, Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency, representatives from Deloitte and Touche and Facebook, as well as the Oregon Titan Fusion Center. The event is being modeled as a best practice for the country.

In 2018 the Oregon TIGER (Threat Informa-

tion Gathering and Election Resources) Team was born. The goal of the team is to identify threats and vulnerabilities to Oregon's election system and to work together using the resources of federal, state, and local governments to mitigate those threats and vulnerabilities. Members of the TIGER Team consist of the Oregon Elections Division, US Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency, Oregon Emergency Management, Oregon Chief Information Officer-Cyber Security Services, Oregon National Guard, Oregon Titan Fusion Center, and FBI.

As part of the work of the TIGER Team, the Department of Homeland Security has been conducting onsite assessments at each of Oregon's 36 county election offices. They are assessing physical and cyber threats and vulnerabilities. Actions are then taken to mitigate those vulnerabilities that are identified. Each of the counties have also been trained on strong passwords and to be cautious of clicking on links. The Elections Division has conducted phishing campaigns targeting the counties to further help them learn how to avoid practices that could leave our systems vulnerable.

In preparation for this year's elections, an exercise was conducted for all of the counties at their annual conference last summer simulating attacks on our elections. During the simulation exercise, official election websites were being hacked. Disinformation was being spread on social media. Electrical power and communications went down. There was also training on avoiding phishing attempts and strengthening

passwords. This exercise helped us be more prepared in case we are attacked.

The Secretary of State's office has multiple layers of defense controls, including hardware and software designed to prevent cybercriminals from gaining access or misusing our systems. We have hired cybersecurity professionals to maintain and defend our election systems. We continue to improve security processes and protections for all systems.

All 36 Oregon counties are members of the Elections Infrastructure Information Sharing and Analysis Center (EI-ISAC). The EI-ISAC was established to support the cybersecurity needs of election administrators. Through the EI-ISAC, election agencies gain access to an elections-focused cyber defense suite, including incident response and remediation, threat and vulnerability monitoring, cybersecurity awareness and training products, and tools for implementing security best practices. These are all things election administrators have had to learn over the past 5 years as we are now on the front lines of defending democracy against attacks.

The security of Oregon's election systems has never been stronger. We thwarted efforts to compromise our system in 2016 and are in an even stronger position now to combat any attacks on our election systems. Security systems are never finished and need to continue to be improved and modernized. We will continue to implement best practices to protect our election systems and you can have confidence your vote is secure.

Chamber Chatter

Now through March 20, Morrow County is holding a junk vehicle cleanup program for the entire county. Types of vehicles allowed are cars, pickup, motorcycles, flatbed trailers and utility trailers. The price will be at a reduced rate and the amount will be decided on a case by case basis. Morrow County deputies will be on the lookout for these types of vehicles on properties and will contact the landowner about possible code violations. Those interested in taking advantage of this program, contact the Morrow County Sheriff's Office 24-hour dispatch at 541-676-5317. Names, addresses and phone numbers will be added to a list to be contacted by a deputy to arrange pickup.

Tuesdays at 7 a.m., Weekly Video Conference Session with Morrow/Umatilla Counties Oregon House Representatives Greg Barreto and Greg Smith and Senate Representative Bill Hansell. The video conference session will be held during the short session, starting every Tuesday at 7 a.m. from Tuesday, February 4 to the end and possi-

bly wrap up calls in March. Heppner video conference will be held in the upper conference room of the Bartholomew Building. Please join us and keep up to date with the discussions that are going on at the State Capitol.

March 11 at 6:30 p.m., Crafty Nights at the Heppner Library. This craft night is for adult crafters only and you will be making a holiday Gnome. Register online at <https://oregonrailploud.net/> or contact the library at 541-676-9964 for more information.

Thursday, March 12 through Sunday, March 15, 38th Annual St. Patrick's "Wee Bit O' Ireland" celebration. See the schedule in this week's issue of the G-T.

Friday, May 15 at 12 p.m., Morrow and Gilliam County Crop Tour. Meet at Starvation Farms, 73117 Strawberry Lane, Lexington. This is a bus tour and will hold seating for 58. There will be direct seed drill demonstrations, OSU and USDA Plot Tours. Live music from the Corey Peterson Band and dinner to follow. Sponsored by PNDSA, OSU Extension, Morrow and Gilliam Wheat Growers. For more information or to RSVP contact Larry Lutchter or Erin Heideman at OSU Extension office at 541-676-9642.

Friday, March 20, 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., Free In-Person Tax Preparation

Service at the Lexington Town Hall. AARP Foundation Tax-Aide offers free tax preparation to anyone of any age - especially if you are 50 or older or can't afford paid tax preparation. AARP membership is not required. There are no scheduled appointments, it is first come first served. Be sure to bring your ID, social security cards and last year's tax forms.

Friday, March 27 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., "In Her Shoes" presented by Domestic Violence Services, Inc. at Good Shepherd Medical Center Conference Rooms 1 and 2. Come anytime during the event and walk in the shoes of a victim of Domestic or Sexual Violence. Registration available via EventBrite, by calling 541-667-3509 or healthinfo@gshealth.org for more info.

Friday, July 17-Sunday, July 19, Heppner High School class of 1965 will be sponsoring a "splendor of the 60's" class reunion. Event schedule and activities are being organized. There will be a no host fellowship Friday evening, dinner and music on Saturday evening; Shot gun golf will be held on Saturday at noon at the Willow Creek Country Club. Everyone is invited to help make it happen. Contact Stuart Dick at 541-377-5451 or Ken Evans.

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