



Boardman schools to benefit from \$138 million school district bond

By Bobbi Gordon

The schools in Boardman will benefit from the Morrow County School District \$138 million bond if it passes in the May 17 election. If passed, the proposed bond measure would fund projects in all three communities the district serves: Boardman, Heppner and Irrigon. Projects would be completed at all of the district's eight schools and at the District Office.

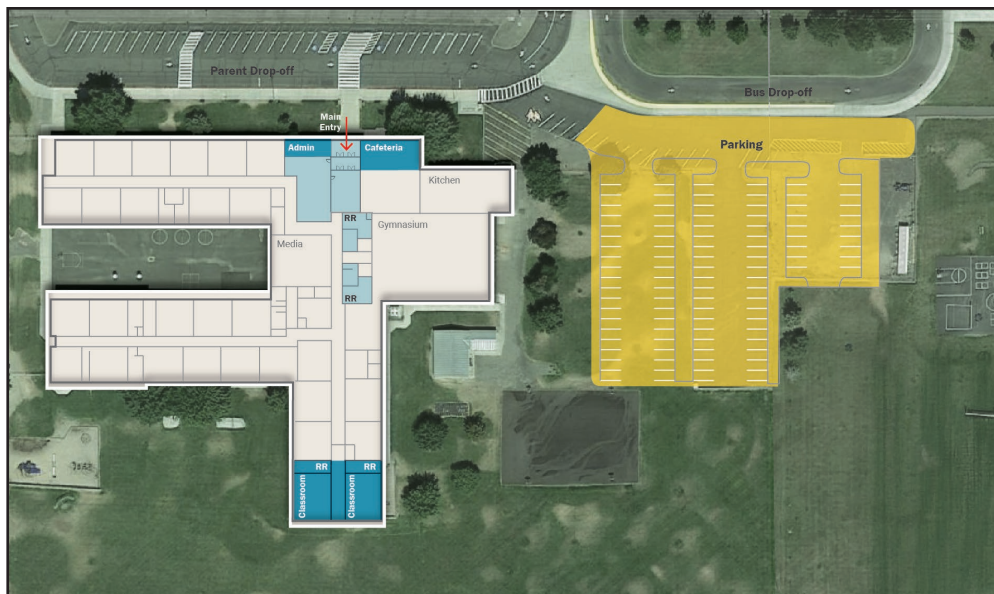
Proposed projects for Boardman include new secure entries and offices with a reconfigured line of sight, new competition gym and locker rooms, the addition of four new elementary classrooms and four new Jr/Sr high classrooms and reconfigured traffic and parking between Sam Boardman Elementary and Windy River Elementary.

Superintendent Dirk Dirksen said the school board and the district will be sharing information about the bond in the next few months. "We want to ensure that our district families and communities are informed about what this bond would mean at their schools and for the success of all students at MCSD," Dirksen said.

If passed, the proposed bond measure would raise \$138 million, and MCSD would be awarded a matching grant from the Oregon School Capital Improvement Matching (OSCIM) Program of \$4 million. A



Artist rendering of RHS floorplan.



Artist rendering of SBE floorplan.

total of \$142 million would be available for proposed projects. "Having the OSCIM grant as a match is a good opportunity for the

district to receive additional funds for projects," Dirksen said.

If the proposed measure passes, the bond would

mature in 20 years or less and the bond rate would be an estimated \$2.67 per \$1,000 of assessed property value, although the actual

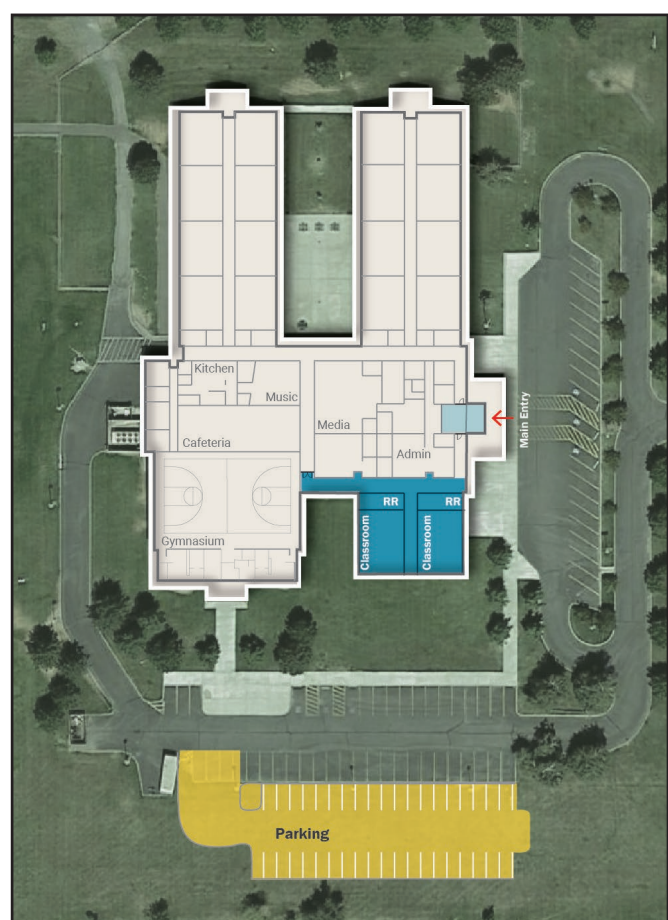
Correction Money sought for cricket control would be used in Morrow County

An article in last week's Gazette-Times about Morrow County Cricket control had several errors that need correcting. The news story stated that money sought from Morrow County for cricket spraying would be used in Gilliam County. This is incorrect. The funds sought from the county by Extension Agent Larry Lutchter would be used to spray for crickets inside Morrow County, he told the Gazette.

The article also stated that "County officials have not had much luck getting the Navy to commit to fighting the insects

on the 48,000-acre parcel of ground they own in the county, and apparently the Nature Conservancy will not use chemicals on its land." This is not accurate. The County has not yet begun to have conversations with the Navy or the Nature Conservancy about control efforts. According to Lutchter those conversations will likely occur in the not-too-distant future.

Also, Gilliam County had been spraying 105,000 acres and an additional 240,000 acres last year. This should have said \$105,000 and \$240,000 dollars instead of acreage.



Artist rendering of WRE floorplan.

levy rate may differ. If the proposed measure passes, it is estimated that a taxpayer who owns a house assessed at \$200,000 would pay approximately \$534 per year.

For more information

about the bond, please visit the district website at www.morrow.k12.or.us or contact Dirk Dirksen, Superintendent, at 541-676-5705, dirk.dirksen@morrow.k12.or.us.

City prepares for St. Pat's celebration



Heppner maintenance workers repaint the shamrock in preparation for the Wee Bit O' Ireland St. Patrick's Day celebration to take place March 11-13 and 18-19. The event will provide fun for the whole family, including a parade, games, food, entertainers, beer and wine and bull-riding. -Photo by David Sykes.

February averages slightly cooler

According to preliminary data received by NOAA's National Weather Service in Pendleton, temperatures at Heppner averaged slightly cooler than normal during the month of February 2022.

The average temperature was 37.7 degrees which was -0.6 degrees cooler than the normal average temperature for this month. High temperatures averaged 48.7 degrees with the high of 70 degrees being recorded on the 11th. Low temperatures averaged 26.7 degrees with the low of one degree being recorded on the 23rd.

There were 22 days

when the low temperature was below 32 degrees, and three days when the high temperature was less than 32 degrees.

Precipitation was below normal during February, totaling 0.45 inches, which was 0.62 inches below normal. Precipitation of at least .01 inch was reported on two days. The heaviest amount of precipitation was 0.23 inches, which was reported on the 22nd. Snowfall for the month totaled 4.0 inches. The heaviest snowfall was 3.0 inches reported on the 22nd. The highest snow depth was three inches, occurring on the 24th.

AARP Taxaide assistance now available

AARP Foundation Tax-Aide assistance is now available, by appointment only, in Hermiston and

Boardman. Assistance is provided free of charge to anyone, with a special focus on taxpayers who are 50 or older or who have low to moderate income.

Appointments are available from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. at New Hope Community Church, 1350 S Highway 395 in Hermiston, on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays, now

through April 13 and at the Port of Morrow, 2 Marine Drive in Boardman, on Mondays through April 11.

To request an appointment, call 541-612-1307. People who are requesting tax service do not need to be AARP members or even seniors. For more information, visit www.aarp.org/money/taxes.

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