



Irrigon schools to benefit from bond

By Bobbi Gordon

The schools in Irrigon 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 Irrigon include new secure entries and offices with a reconfigured line of sight, new competition gym and locker rooms, reconfiguration of three classrooms at A.C. Houghton (ACH) Elementary, construction of a new front office at ACH and reconfigured traffic and parking at Irrigon Elementary (IES) and Irrigon Jr/Sr High School (IJSJH).

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 total of \$142 million would be available for proposed projects. "Having the OSCIM



Artist rendering of ACH floorplan.

grant as a match is a good opportunity for the district to receive additional funds

for projects," Superintendent Dirk Dirksen said.

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.



Artist rendering of IES floorplan.

Sheriff's Office recognized for achieving accreditation



Left to Right: Undersheriff John Bowles, Lieutenant Brian Snyder, Accreditation Manager Lieutenant Kristen Bowles and Sheriff Ken Matlack with newly awarded certificate of accreditation.

Members of the Morrow County Sheriff's office were presented last week with a Certificate of Accreditation marking three-years of work to attain the coveted designation.

Scott Hayes of the Oregon Accreditation Alliance Zoomed into the county commissioner meeting March 2 to congratulate the Sheriff's Office for the hard work and dedication it took to obtain accreditation few smaller police forces attain. The program assures the office is doing its law enforcement and communications business with high standards and best practices.

While Hayes mentioned the entire sheriff staff, he especially called out one person in the office for doing the majority of the work to reach accreditation. "I want to recognize the outstanding work of your staff and Accreditation Manager Lieutenant Kristen Bowles for their work in preparing your agency for the accreditation review," Hayes said in making the award. Sheriff Ken Matlack also called out Bowles for her hard work and presented her with a plaque of appreciation. "She did a fine job of preparing for

this. Job well done" he said. Matlack also related how three years ago he discussed with Undersheriff John Bowles about working to get the accreditation ranking, an achievement, which because of time and cost, is usually undertaken only by larger law enforcement agencies. "I've been in law enforcement a long

Tallman to run for county commission position



Jonathan Tallman

Jonathan Tallman, Boardman, has filed as a candidate for Morrow County Commissioner, Position 2. Tallman is a self-employed business owner. Tallman joins Jeff Wenzholz as the candidates

for position two for county commissioner. Positions two and three will both be on the ballot in the primary election.

Tallman listed his education as a graduate of Riverside High School and receiving a certificate in telecom from Perry Technical School.

According to Morrow County Clerk Bobbi Childers, Don Russell, current position two commissioner, has not filed for reelection. The deadline for filing was March 8, 2022.

The primary election will be held May 17, 2022, and the general election November 8, 2022. If elected, Tallman will take over the position in January 2023.

Peterson joins race for county commissioner

August (Gus) Peterson, Ione, has joined the race for county commissioner. Peterson is running for Morrow County Commissioner, Position 3 and is the third candidate to file for that position. Melissa Lindsay is currently the position three commissioner and has not filed for reelection.

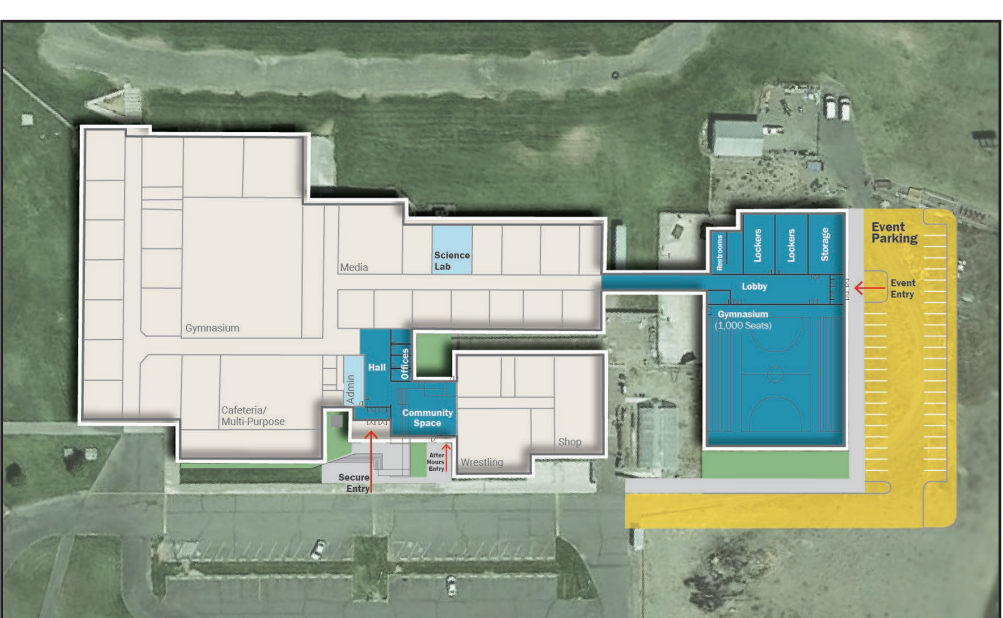


Gus Peterson

Peterson lists his occupation as a farmer who graduated from Ione High School. He also indicated he has bachelor's degrees in political science and agricultural science from Oregon State University.

Peterson joins Mike McNamee and David Sykes as candidates for position three. The deadline for

filing was March 8, 2022, and the primary election will be held May 17, 2022. The candidate who wins the election will take over the position in January 2023.



Artist rendering of IJSJH floorplan.

time and we have heard of accreditation, but it was only the larger ones had the time to put in to get it," Matlack said. "This is great to do something like this for a smaller county," he said.

The accreditation board unanimously voted to grant Morrow County the certification, and to keep it the office will need to go

through the process every three years. "Please extend my sincere congratulations to all members of the Morrow County Sheriff's Office for their efforts in achieving your award of accreditation," Hayes concluded. "This is a great achievement and one to be very proud of."

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