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NO. 11 8 Pages Wednesday, March 16, 2022

Morrow County, Heppner, Oregon

Wee Bit O' Ireland returns after two year hiatus - deemed a great success



bove: A large group gathered on the steps of the Methodist Church in Heppner Saturday morning prior to setting off on the Friends Helping Friends 5K Remembrance Walk/Run.

Below: The Spark Cheer Club, who took first place in the Irish theme category, entertained a huge crowd during the Great Green Parade Saturday afternoon.

See page eight of this issue for additional St. Patrick's photos. -Photos by Tylynn Cimmiyotti.



School board selects three candidates for superintendent position

By April Hilton-Sykes



Lindsay files for county commissioner

candidate to file for position

2, although one candidate has now withdrawn.

er for six years and chair for two years. She has also been chair of the Morrow

County Cultural Coali-

tion, commissioner for the Morrow County Planning Commission, treasurer of

the Association of Oregon

Counties, member of Local

The primary election

Melissa Lindsay listed previous governmental experience as Morrow County Judge, county commission-



Melissa Lindsay

Melissa Lindsay, cur- Officials Advisory Comrently Morrow County mittee to LCDC, Morrow Commissioner Position County Local Public Safe-3, filed as a candidate for ty Coordination Council, position 2 on March 8, the CAPECO board and the final day to file. Lindsay's Morrow County Broadband current term will end Jan- Action Team. uary 3, 2023. If elected to position 2, she will take will be held May 17, 2022, office in January 2023 as and the general election well. Lindsay was the third November 8, 2022.

'63 Chevy pickup new again



This 1963 Chevrolet pickup was purchased from Royce Fulleton in 1964 by Frank Osmin and has now been fully restored. Osmin had it repainted its original Glenwood green by Stacey Hunt in Fossil in 2018. The pickup took second place in the Great Green Parade on Saturday in the classic automobile class. Riding with Frank was his daughter, JJ, who had her first ride when she came home from the hospital in the pickup in 1970.

County broadband gets \$150,000 funding

COVID dollars to boost rural fast

internet

By David Sykes Federal COVID-19 pandemic relief dollars will be helping expand



The Morrow County School Board has selected three finalists for the MCSD superintendent position to replace current Superintendent Dirk Dirksen who is retiring at the end of the school year. The candidates are Matt Combe, Jose Silva and Chester Bradshaw.

-Matt Combe, Heppner, is the current principal of Heppner Elementary and Heppner Jr./Sr. High School and current director of maintenance and facilities for the school district. Combe has a master's degree from Eastern Oregon University at LaGrande.

-Jose Silva, principal at the Kermit R. Booker Sr. Innovative Elementary School with the Clark County Nevada school district in Las Vegas, has a master's degree in education from Sierra Nevada College and a doctorate in education from Argosy University.

-Chester Bradshaw, superintendent of the Sugar Salem School District in Sugar City, Idaho, has an

Matt Combe education specialist degree Dirksen said the monies from Idaho State Universitv

sessions with the super- was a pretty pleasant call intendent candidates on we received," said Dirksen. Tuesday, March 15, in Heppner and Boardman, and detailed current enrollment scheduled the last session figures compared to proon Wednesday, March 16, at jected enrollment, which, Irrigon Elementary School. for the most part, fall slight-

sen spoke concerning the district's response to the ing bond issue, Dirksen COVID 19 challenge and reiterated that the district is the projected end of the currently operating without pandemic. "Helping kids bond funds. "The levy went through COVID is a great away," he emphasized. feeling," he exclaimed, However, a district bond adding that he was "com- issue will go before the fortable in moving forward. voters on May 17. Ballots It's nice to be in this spot." Dirksen said, "Masking is end of April. now optional, but 20 percent of parents still want board received results of their kids to wear masks."

ed that Morrow County 23 school year calendar, Commissioner Don Russell showing that 70 percent of contacted him concerning district employees preferred monies coming from Ama- the pre-Labor Day school zon. According to Dirksen, start option, compared to Amazon will be donating 29 percent who preferred monies to the school district the post-Labor Day start through Morrow County. option.

Jose Silva

will go through the Education Foundation and will be The district held public put into capital projects. "It

At the meeting Dirksen At the meeting, Dirk- ly short of the projections.

> Concerning the upcomare scheduled to go out the

In other business, the district employee prefer-Dirksen also report- ences concerning the 2022-



Chester Bradshaw

Also at the meeting, the board:

-approved the following licensed employment action for 2022-23 (Heppner listed only): Brook Baker, HES/HJSHS music, Tara Proudfoot, HES fifth grade; Mayme Jill Miller, HJSHS/HES counselor.

-approved the following administrators recommended for extension for 2022-2023: Marie Shimer,

> -See SUPERINTENDENT CANDIDATES/PAGE SIX

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broadband high speed internet access in rural parts of Morrow County, commissioners affirmed last week.

weekly At their meeting March 9 County Commissioners voted unanimously to allocate \$150,000 to the Morrow County Broadband Action Team's effort to bring higher internet speeds to those parts of the county without it. The money comes from the federal American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 when congress passed a \$1.9 trillion package to combat the COVID-19 pandemic. Some of that money came to Oregon which was then funneled down to the county level.

The money will not be used for actual interinfrastructure, but net head of the county broadband team Aaron Moss said the money would lay

ARIS

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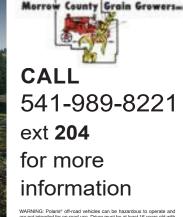
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2022 POLARIS LINEUP WE'LL HELP YOU LOCK IN WHAT YOU WANT.

County broadband leader Aaron Moss

the groundwork to attract more funds for the actual build out. "The biggest one is design," Moss told the commissioners of the areas the money would be spent in. He said that once the county's rural broadband system is designed, he will then be able to use that plan to go out and seek additional funding to build the actual system. There will a large pool of funding available from the \$1 tril-

> -See BROADBAND/PAGE SEVEN



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