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Sewer Income Lags Below Costs, Auditor Tells Council

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payments, Allan C. Langenwalter, Hermiston certified public accountant, told the city coun-

service here are "exceptionally Councilman Carl Spaulding low," causing the department to expressed his feeling that "trail-

tinue until something is done

about it." Solutions Eyed Two possible solutions were tentatively discussed by the council, one possibility being to raise the monthly sewer fee to users and the other to levy mill-age for redemption of sewer bonds. The latter could be done without being subject to the 6% budgetary limitation because residents voted for the bond isstie some years ago. However, the levy for redemption of the bonds was not imposed because it was felt that it was not need-

Councilmen discussed some of the pros and cons on the two proposals, some saying that they did not favor additional property taxes that even a mall levy for the purpose would bring, but others pointed out that a raise in the fee might cause considerable criticism from the us-

Mrs. Elaine George, recorder, said that the League of Oregon Cities will soon issue statistics on sewer charges by cities in ed first vice president of the the state, and the council may use this to compare fees here with others in the state.

Only bonds outstanding · against the city are water bonds and sewer bonds. The water bonds are general obligation bonds (paid by tax levy) but the sewer bonds are revenue bonds backed with a general ob-ligation feature, meaning that a tax levy may be imposed for their payment if necessary,

The auditor also recommend-ed that the city combine the water and sewer departments

recommendations concern-the citys financial affairs. flux of population to work on the dam in the future might with recommendations concern-ing the citys financial affairs. "It is obvious that the sewer department is not carrying it-self." he told the council. "The water department is funneling money into it." Langenwalter expressed the opinion that rates for sewer

operate at a substantial deficit. "This is pulling the rest of the department down," he said. "It is a problem that will conor courts and found that state

Heppner's sewer department Trailers Talked revenue is not sufficient to cov-er its operation costs and bond zoning, the council tentatively that he visited in Arlington cost discussed the matter of trailer \$1000 per space to set up, he courts. Clarence Rosewall, pres- said. This brought up the quester, Hermiston certified public courts, Clarence Rosewall, pres-accountant, told the city coun-cil Monday night after complet-ing the annual city audit. He made the statement in his report on the audit, together pointing out that a possible in-pointing out that a possible in-the made the statement in his lishment of a court.

The discussion reached no conclusion, but the council re-alized that it faces a potential

brought up by Councilman Bill Collins who said that owner Ari Dyck had approached him about the matter. The fee was not charged last year but was

(Continued on page 8)

Holiday Mail **Schedule Starts** Next Monday

Heppner post office will ex-tend hours of window service on Saturday, December 18, until 5:00 p.m., it is announced by James H. Driscoll, postmaster. From December 13, to December 23 inclusive, the parcel post and stamp window will remain open until 6:00 p.m. The money order window will close at the usual time, 5:00 p.m., with extended service for this purpose confined to the afternoon of Saturday, December 18.

Mail will be received and distributed on two Sundays, December 12 and December 19. The general delivery window

pletion of his trip to Kinzua. All patrons are again urged

to present their mail in bun-dies for "Out of Town," that is other than Heppner delivery area, and "Local," with appro-

each postal box, in a supply Mrs. Avon Melby, chairman box near the letter drop, and al-so distributed to stationery test for the Chamber of Comures in order to save time and year to the lone Grade school stores where they may be pick-merce, announced this week ed when cards are purchased, that to be eligible for prizes

Editorial

Zip Code System--Help or Hindrance?

By WES SHERMAN, Editor

A full page advertisement scheduled to run in this paper is not in print because engravings of pictures that were a central part of the page failed to arrive through the mail from the engraving firm. They were mailed to allow a day's margin, and a telephone call to the firm Thursday brought the information that the pictures arrived to them a day late. They were proccessed immediately and are at least a day late on the return

Through the 20 years that we have dealt with this firm their service has always been extremely punctual. A publisher could count on receiving his engravings within a three day period.

Since the advent of the zip code system, we believe there has been a noticeable deterioration in mail service. First class mail service that formerly took three days is now taking five. We do not feel this can be attributed to the Christmas rush, since it has been happening frequently during the past several months. The local post office reports that mall has been running light to date for this season

This instance means to us a frantic last minute re-make of the entire paper with loss of time, loss of revenue, and a desperate effort to get the paper out on time. News pictures, too, have not arrived and the paper must go to press without them.

Recently we pointed out that we have experienced more difficulty from subscribers receiving their papers on time this year than we have in the rest of our entire newspaper experience. Complaints have been frequent, although the paper has never failed to leave here on time. One reader in western Oregon said that the paper, which normally arrived on Saturdays, is now reaching her as late as Tuesday. A letter printed in this paper about two weeks ago reported the experience of another who was getting her paper late consistently, and she made the comment that she did not feel the postal department felt delivery of the paper was important.

A livestock commission company in Hermiston which runs a market report on our classified page each week had to resort to the telephone to get results of his Tuesday sale to us before Thursday. He experimented by sending duplicate letters from Hinkle, one bound east and one bound west. They both arrived here, some 60 miles away, the third day (Thursday) after they were mailed (Tuesday). He tried again this week with the same result. The same man told us that recently a very important letter was mailed to him on November 18 from Pasco. It arrived in Hermiston November 22.

In visiting with other publishers in the state, we have heard many similar experiences. It makes us seriously question that the zip code system is practical. We do not know the intricacies of the system, but something is going wrong on the routing and in the sectional centers established to sort and dispatch the mail.

It is quite conceivable that it is benefitting volume mallers across the country, or it may be expediting delivery to distant points, but on a regional basis it apparently is not facilitating the flow of mail but seems to be delaying it. In the aggregate this must mean great economic loss and inconvenience, for many firms must share experiences similar to ours.

This paper joined those supporting the rip code system when it was established on the theory that the postal department must have known what it was doing. It now appears that it has plunged into something to which it cannot adapt itself-or at least has been unable to do so as yet. The Gazette-Times went to considerable effort and expense

to zip code its mailing list to comply with regulations. It has weathered the trouble and confusion of revamping its mailing list to pre-sort its papers and bag them according to sectional centers—something that we are inclined to think is properly the work of the post office. After all, patrons are not required to designate sectional centers on their first class mail.

Throughout this ordeal, the Heppner post office and staff has been most accommodating and helpful. It is obvious that they are giving their very best service and go out of their way to be courteous and prompt. Difficulties being experienced can in no way be attributed to them and certainly must be even more harassing to them than to the patrons.

It is our conviction that the zip code system needs thorough scrutiny and investigation, particularly towards what it is doing on an area level-within 200 or 300 miles from the point of departure.

We invite others who have had similar experiences to ours to contact us, and if there is enough additional discontent, we will take the leadership in petitioning our Congressional dele-gation to investigate this matter. At the same time, we would appreciate letters from our subscribers, wherever they may be, to tell us of the service they are getting on their paper delivery as well as other instances which may be appropriate to the point, either pro or con.

After traditionally getting such prompt service from the post office system, it is ironic to have it deteriorate when the department launches into a system with the promise of better service than ever.



home opener Saturday night the jayvee game starting at here, Heppner High's basketball 6:30 and the varsity contest to team will face an outfit that follow. The Rockets have had some of the jet propulsion taken out of their offense from last sea-son, having lost big Rich Mikel shows nine of its 11-member traveling squad reaching 6 feet in height or over. The Mustangs will play a who is now going great guns for Eastern Oregon College. But despite a rather poor showing in their opening jamboree Fri-day night, the Rockets have the potential to give the veteran Mustangs a rugged tussle. Before meeting Pilot Rock, the Mustangs will travel to Walla Walla Friday night to face De-Sales in another non-league affair. Last year a Heppner-Pilot Rock game had considerably more importance because both more importance because both were contenders in the Great-er Oregon league. This year, however, the Rockets have drop-ped back to B status and are in the Morrow-Umatilla B league. Therefore. Saturday night's contest is strictly non-counting except for prestige and as a test of the strengths of the as a test of the strengths of the teams in their continuing good rivalry. GENE HELIKER. 5-8 guard for Of the 11 on Coach Mas Watthe Heppner Mustangs, will be in action when the home anabe's traveling squad, four have previous varsity experience. basketball season opens here Saturday night. He led Hepp-ner scoring against Enterprise there last Saturday night. Topping the list is Terry Ander-son, 6-4 center-forward, who is back as a senior after two years action on the varsity. Mike Mc-Mahon, another tall hooper at 6-3, is also a senior center-for-ward. He has had one year of Cardinals Plunge varsity experience. Two others with a year of action behind them stand an even 6-0, Jack they afternoon. There were 12 inches of snow at the top of the course last Sunday, eight inches at the top of the "burny" run and four inches at the bottom of the course, he said. "We need two more feet of snow to make the course really good," he said. Henry also has been working on arrangements for getting a bus to haul loads to the run on Austion sale that will dispose inches at the bottom of the snow to make the course really. Henry also has been working on arrangements for getting a bus to haul loads to the run on they of Portland as auctioneer. An Mrs. Claude Buschke, own. Miller, senior guard, and Duke Chapman, sophomore forward. Chapman, sophomore forward. Five other six footers join these tall firs: Ron Bond, 6-0 sophomore forward; James O'. Brien, 6-3 junior center; Gene Harrison, 6-3 junior center-forward; Joe Harrison, 6-0 sen-ior guard-forward; and David Standley, 6-0 junior forward. Two 5-10 "shorties" complete the squad, Jim Wright, junior guard; and Glenn Black, also a junior guard. junior guard. Since Coach Bob Clough's tall-est man is Mac Hoskins at 6-2, the Rockets will have a definite height advantage in the open-er but they won't have Mikel, he suffered in the other sport. around whom the team was Pilot Rock, which last year was in the A-2 class, drop-ped into the B ranks this year. The team may lack scoring built last year. Of Coach Clough's probable starters only Hoskins, David Clark and Jim Jacobs, both 6-0, hit the 6 foot bracket, Hoskins now that Rich Mikel is gone, but the boys are big and tall and some of the 1964-65 team is back as a nucleus for this year's club lub. ning mate, is a diminutive 5-8. Among the other seven on the Heppner traveling squad, four This is the only game for Ione this week, but next Friday, De-cember 17, they will come home to be host to their Morrow counattain 6 feet or more, including Tim Driscoll, forward, 6'3';



water and sewer departments for the purpose of expediting and simplifying record keeping. Streamlining' Suggested He also suggested that steps be taken to "streamline" the city's billing and office proced-ures in order to save time and

plate for adults, 75c for school

children to 12 years, and pre-

other duties. In the same con-nection, he proposed that some serving of a full course ham string or strong rubber bands

will be open from 10:00 a.m. to noon on these dates for parceldistribution, and patrons are urged to pick up their mail and parcels during those hours if possible. There is no evening dispatch of mail on these Sun-days, as the Star Route driver returns immediately after com-

each keeping a list of checks, of Beta Omega sorority are pre-be eliminated.

'Adequate control could be maintained with some of this towards a water softener at Pio-duplication elimin at e d," he neer Memorial hospital. A tohe neer Memorial hospital. A to-tal of \$1900 is needed for this said

He estimated total cost of revamping the city's billing and undertaken to sponsor, and record keeping system to be in the neighborhood of \$600 or the \$700.

Arbuckle Course May Open Sunday For Ski Season

Arbuckle Mountain ski course giving. may be open for the season Sunday afternoon, according to announcement by Bob Henry. prime mover behind the oper-hour throughout the afternoon. The winning ticket holder must

ation. "With luck we should get it going after 1 p.m. Sunday." he told the Chamber of Commerce Monday in a report. With Avery Taylor and Herman Winter, afternoon.

Henry got the ski tow at the course in shape last week-end, and hopes to complete the mechanics of getting the tow ready to go by the coming Sunday afternoon.

through the season to cater to wife partnership. other towns with free skiing for Frank Gilliam and a man the First National bank, the those who come from those named Coffey started the firm towns, Henry said. Planned are of Gilliam and Coffey in 1887,

some time in February.

on a daily basis will pay at the rate of \$1.75 per day. The "bun-ny" tow will not be in opera- followed about 1907. Earl Gilli-uwax siu; uon am joined the firm around 1909.

of the work duplicated by the dinner from 12:30 to 2 p.m., in prior to placing in bundle drop treasurer and recorder, such as the school cafetorium. Members or handing to window clerk.

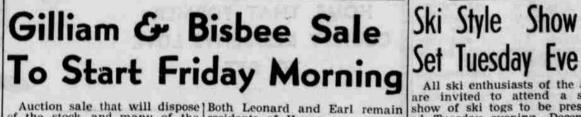
The Christmas card rate is four cents for an unsealed card Proceeds of the dinner will go -with no written message. This can weigh up to two ounces. If sealed, or a written message is enclosed, the rate is five cents project which the sorority has per ounce for all destinations outside the city limits. members are hoping for a large

"Please feel free to call on crowd at the dinner to help swell the fund. At the present any postal personnel for additswell the fund. At the present time, the fund drive is just un-derway with \$125 on hand from a fruit cake sale previously The Hardman Rural Station and Lexington Rural Station and Lexington Rural Station a fruit cake sale previously held by the sorority. The dinner will be \$1.75 per

will operate on similar schedules with the exception of the Sunday window service schedschool children free. A large variety of booths will open at 2:00 p.m. to assure a full afternoon of entertain-ment. Bazaar items will be available, suitable for Christmas ule. There is no extra mail service to Hardman on the Sun-

To Be Ten Days

Christmas vacation for those attending Morrow count y schools will begin after the dismissal on Thursday, De-cember 23, and will continue be present to receive the prize. All residents in the area are invited to attend and enjoy the until classes resume on Monday, January 3, at the regular time.



ent site of Cal's Tavern, beside hardware business was moved to its present corner location at

a Hermiston Day, a Pasco Day, a Pendleton Day, a Condon Day and an Arlington Day. Races are on the agenda for the firm, according to informa-tion from Earl Gilliam. The store proved to be a pros-

Sons of Gilliam and Bisbee perous business and one Family season tickets are available at \$60 and individual season tickets may be purchased for \$25. Those who prefer to ski Thursday farm implements. The partners always worked

Friday Saturday Sunday Monday Tuesday

(Continued on page 8) Wednesday

Guelty-

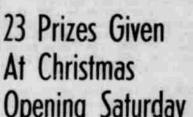
"Inside we've got to use candle-light or we'll blow a fuse!"

leave the lights on and decoratweek, three prizes are given for the best residential lighting and decorations, including a \$25 first prize, \$15 second and \$10 third. In addition a \$10 prize will be given for the best interior residential window display. A cer-tificate of commendation will be awarded to the best commercial window entry.

Entries may be taken until noon on December 23. They will e received at the Gazette Times office either in person or by telephone.

at the community Christmas tree near the main downtown corner in Heppner, Henry states.

with kiddies from 2 to 4 p.m.



Opening Saturday

Twenty-three prizes were given to winners in the annual ions up through New Years Day. Heppner Christmas Opening In the contest, announced last window guessing contest Saturday at the conclusion of a day which found hundreds circulating from store to store. List of the winners, together with the prizes and the firms giving them may be found on page six of this section.

Parking space was at a pre mium in the afternoon Saturday

the crowds of children and adults came to town to join the fun. Santa Claus was surrounded by a mass of young human-ity at the corner of Main and Willow but escaped being smothered by remaining on his perch on the fire truck that brought him to the spot.

He gave out his supply of candy until it was exhausted. It appeared that some youngsters

Henry also has been working on arrangements for getting a bus to haul loads to the run on Saturdays and is hoping to get enough financial support to cut the price per individual round trip to 50c. Schedule calls for a grand opening the first week-end in January, and it is expected to have special days on week-ends through the season to cater to wile partnership. ing in the guessing contest were Rockets children, but the list of winners opener.

Booster Buttons On Sale at Game

Heppner Booster Butt ons will be on sale at a booth at the nigh school gymnasium prior to and during the Pilot Rock game Saturday night, it is announced.

All Heppner sports fans are invited to buy and wear the buttons to back the team. Pro-.01 .01 ceeds from the sale of the but-.03 tons will go to promoting all Heppner school activities.

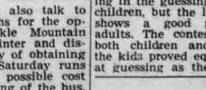
Rockets there in the conference

The Cards can put an all-vet-eran five on the floor and may have Mark Halvorsen, hurt in football season, back for limited action. He is just now get-ting over the broken finger that

The team may lack scoring punch seen in last year's five now that Rich Mikel is gone, but the boys are big and tall and some of the 1964-65 team is

ty rival, Riverside, in a league game.

(Continued on page 8)



Prec

are urged to be present since they will find the meeting of porticular interest.

Those who are interested in skiing at Arbuckle this winter

Low

34 32

Hi

59

64

49

58 64

51

47

WEATHER By LEONARD GILLIAM