

# Kindergarten--part of county school system?

By LIZ CURTIS

The 1973 Oregon legislature passed a bill granting state basic school support monies to those districts wishing to include kindergartens in their school systems.

This year only those school districts with kindergartens already established in the school system could receive state support. Beginning with the 1974-75 school year, any school board may vote to include kindergartens in their operating budget.

The subject of whether or not to include kindergartens in the Morrow County school budget will be brought before the Morrow County School Board in a few days. Currently, private kindergartens are operating in Heppner and Irrigon. In the past lone has had a private kindergarten also.

The largest and possibly oldest, of these, is the Heppner Community Kindergarten. It was organized in 1949 by Jayettes, which later became the Heppner Civic League, then a service club in the community. Inez Meador was the first teacher. As the years passed the other projects of the league were dropped and the league existed solely for the kindergarten. Its membership consisted of mothers of kindergarten children willing to work hard to earn money to keep the kindergarten going.

The Civic League Kindergarten had many ups and downs. In 1971 The constitution was changed, dissolving the Civic League and naming the group the Heppner Community Kindergarten. Forty-five children now attend. The kindergarten is housed in the Heppner Elementary School. Monthly tuition and semi-annual rummage sales fund the kindergarten. Since 1971 it has received some state 4-C assistance and undergoes annual inspection by the state to be accredited for that money. Since 1972 several hundred dollars have been spent in new teaching aids and equipment to update and upgrade the kindergarten. Teacher Dee Jones takes part in state workshops for kindergarten teachers each year.

"Why are kindergartens important?" queries Mrs. Howcome down the street. "When I can teach my Johnny colors and shapes, how to print his first and last name, his telephone number, the days of the week and names of the months, the names of the alphabet and phonetics, how to write numbers, music appreciation and rhythms and art, how to distinguish the right from the left hand, the parts of the body and the left to right approach in reading and writing at home?"

Mrs. Howcome up the street states that she can provide opportunities for her child to express himself creatively.

learn perseverance, develop sense of pride and experience the joy and satisfaction of doing things for himself. These are all goals of the Heppner Kindergarten. These goals can be taught by the parent at home. The problem is that many parents cannot or will not take the time to do these kinds of activities with their children.

Mrs. Howcome and Mrs. Howabout have overlooked one experience that kindergarten can provide which the home cannot. This experience is called socialization. Put simply, it means learning to get along in a group. Pat Edmundson and Linda Riley, first grade teachers at Heppner Elementary, say children who have attended kindergarten are about a month ahead in their social development when they have come into their classes. This means the simple but important things such as listening to the teacher, learning to share in a group and taking turns. If the first grade teacher does not have to teach her pupils classroom habits she is free to begin teaching the skills of reading, writing and arithmetic a month sooner.

The Heppner-Lexington school advisory committee met Nov. 12. Although there was not an official quorum to take a vote, those present favored placing the kindergarten in the Morrow County school budget.



Heppner High School Fillies, who placed second in district tourney volleyball play, are: front row from the left, Jean Christman, Cyde Allstott, Susan Healy, Donna Bellamy and Kristi Haguewood; back row, from the left, Millie Yocom, Tami Toll, Robin Riddle, Kitty Bellamy and coach Dorothy Agee.



Mr. and Mrs. Ron Overguard paid an official visit to Willow Lodge 66 and Lexington, Lone Lodge 168, recently. Overguard is Grand Master of the Odd Fellows Lodges of Oregon.

### MAYOR DEWEY WEST CHAMBER SPEAKER

Dewey West, Mayor of Boardman, will be guest speaker at the Chamber of Commerce noon meeting, Nov. 19.

He will present a series of slides taken over the past 13 years showing Boardman's relocation and growth over this period.

### School has hard time staying open!

Bad weather, parent-teacher conferences, a broken city water pipe, and Veterans Day combined to give the lone school children an extended vacation.

School was held last Monday but dismissed early when falling snow created hazardous road conditions. School was cancelled Tuesday. Grades 1-6 had scheduled parent-teacher conferences for Wednesday and there were no classes for those grades. Grades 7-12 had their regular schedule.

Thursday, a full day of classes was held for all grades. Friday, all classes were cancelled due to a broken water pipe in the city main. There was a holiday Monday of this week.

School will be dismissed at 1:30 p.m., Wednesday, Nov. 21, and there will be no school Nov. 22-23 due to the Thanksgiving holiday.

## Pay taxes, apply for refund after Jan. 1

Homeowners must pay their property taxes to county tax collectors within the time limits set by law in order to avoid interest on late payments, says Charles H. Mack, director of the Oregon Department of Revenue.

Under the new homeowners' and renters' property tax refund program, homeowners apply directly to the Department of Revenue, after Jan. 1, 1974, for a refund on property taxes due Nov. 15, 1973.

"Refunds are based on the amount of the taxpayers' household incomes and property taxes, not on when the tax liability is paid," Mack added.

Property tax refund claim forms will be part of the income tax packet which will be mailed to all Oregon residences about the first of January.

property tax relief procedures, the 1973 legislature provided for all eligible homeowners and renters to receive property tax refunds only from the Department of Revenue.

This is a change from the 1971 homeowners' property tax relief program which provided for homeowners to apply for a tax credit which was subtracted from the total property tax payment due.

"Most homeowners failed to take advantage of this program, so the 1973 legislature attempted to simplify it by replacing the tax credit system with a direct refund," Mack said.

Under the new program the county assesses and collects property taxes completely separate from the property tax refund program, Mack concluded.

## Football players honored

The lone Junior High football players, their fathers and guests, were entertained at party, Nov. 9. The evening started with hamburgers at Beecher's Cafe. Mrs. Bill Rietmann and Mrs. Jerry Martin assisted with the

### GWEN DRAKE ON WINNING TEAM

Gwen Drake daughter of Mrs. Grace E. Drake, is a member of Eastern Oregon State College women's B volleyball team.

This team participated in the Eastern Area Volleyball Tournament at Cheney, Wn., Nov. 2-3 and placed second in the B division. The team record for season is 12-1. The only loss has been to Washington State University.

Other teams participating in the tournament were Eastern Washington State College, Central Washington State College, University of Montana and Whitworth.

### NEW TV CABLE INSTALLED

The lone TV co-op announced that 1,000 feet of new TV cable has been installed in lone.

Mrs. Larry Fetsch, secretary, said future plans call for all existing cable to be replaced. The project just completed is the first phase.

The work in laying the new cable was done mostly by volunteer labor. Those working were Tom White, Bill Rietmann, Mark Rietmann, David Tucker, Eldon Tucker, Howard Crowell and Bill Nichols.

John Edmundson, principal of lone Schools, reported that the Morrow County School Board will be discussing the establishment of district operated kindergartens in 1974-75 at its next regular meeting on Monday, Nov. 19, at 8 p.m. in the district office in Lexington. lone parents of pre-school youngsters are encouraged to attend this meeting and to express their views on kindergarten programs.

Jerry Martin, coach of the team, showed movies of professional football and golf to the group.

Five 8th grade boys completed the season, Ricky Gilbert, Clint Carlson, Brian Rietmann, Leland White and Dennis Thompson.

Other team members are John Lindstrom, Wade West, Bud Kincaid, Scott Sherer, Danny McElligott, Leon Nix, Dennis Stefani, Robin LaRue, John Pienang, Bruce Millman, Jerry Rietmann, Glen Krebs, Todd Sherer, Alan Roberts, John Kincaid, and Leslie Thompson. Managers are Stuart Keene and Jeff Edmundson.



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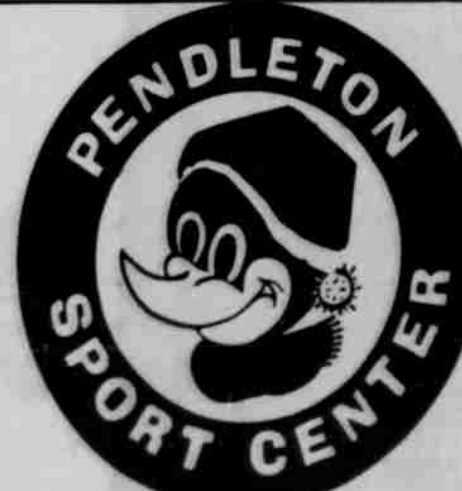
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## Free color portraits to be taken Dec. 1

Those free 8x10 color portraits for new and renewal subscribers during last summer's circulation drive will be made on Dec. 1, the Los Angeles based company announced last week.

The free portraits were promised long ago, but the photographer was unable to return to Heppner as scheduled. All readers who are entitled to the free portraits are asked to be at the Gazette-Times office on Dec. 1, only, between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m., to have the photos taken. The entire family should come, and be dressed in colorful clothing.

The company also announced that anyone who has failed to see their proofs, particularly the people at lone, will have another chance to see them on Dec. 1.

The offer of a free 8x10 color portrait will also be honored from now until Dec. 1 for any person who takes out a new subscription to the Gazette-Times or renews an existing subscription for one year.

## CB updates Lexington system

Columbia Basin crews have completed conversion of the primary voltage system in Lexington.

The system has been updated from an old 2400 volt system to 7200 volts. Much of the old system dated back 40 years or more.

The new higher voltage primary will eliminate much voltage drop and allow for less voltage fluctuation.

New transformers were installed and many new poles installed. Much new secondary was run and many

service drops into homes were run.


There will be some bare secondary wires replaced yet by triplex secondary to improve appearance along the main street. The use of triplex (three wires wrapped together) has helped eliminate many crossarms and has added to the neatness of Columbia Basin facilities in Lexington. The higher voltage will eliminate some line loss on the Columbia Basin system, and moves toward more standardization of voltage.

## Vanishing Wilderness

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