



Day care fun

Four-year old playmates Amy (l), daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Greg Greenup, and Shannon, daughter of Nova Gaylord, are two of the more than 20 children that regularly use the Heppner Child Development Center. The Center will be

forced to close its doors October 1 unless suitable housing can be found. An appeal has been made to the County Fair Board for temporary use of the 4-H Annex building, but the Center has been turned down once on that request already.

Day care fate in doubt, must move by October 1

Unless the Heppner Child Development Center can find a new home by this Saturday, October 1, it will be forced to close its doors.

The gymnasium at the Seventh Day Adventist Church has housed the center since its beginning three years ago, but the church now needs the room for youth programs of its own. Numerous attempts to find a new building since December have failed, leaving the center in a desperate situation this week.

Operating as a non-profit corporation, Heppner's day care center is presently certified for 30 children, from ages six weeks to 10 years, and is used extensively by area mothers—on a full-time, drop-in, or after school basis.

Members of the center's Board of Directors met Monday morning to discuss the emergency situation. The group considered the possibility of using the dormitory building at the fairgrounds, but expressed concern about whether it would be large enough to house the center. A recent request to use the 4-H Annex building has been turned down by the fair Board because of possible usage conflict and heating problems.

Monica Swanson, Dawn Stuchell and Kathy Hazen, members of the Development Center's Board of Directors, explained some of the difficulties they had encountered. Knowing that the Adventist gymnasium had to be vacated, the Board found what it thought to be a suitable building in December only to discover in June that modifications costing \$2,000 would be

required to meet certification requirements. Constant efforts since that time—checking out possible church or public buildings—has met with dead end results.

Swanson, the original director of the center, emphasized that money and staffing were not the problems. She said that financial problems of the past had been overcome and the center is now operating in

the black. "And we think the staff is one of our strongest assets," Swanson said.

Building specifications to meet state and federal certification include 35 feet of space per child, one bathroom per 15 children, and an outside playground area. Inspection is done by the fire marshal, state sanitarian, and Children's Services Division.

"We have community support," Swanson commented, "otherwise we wouldn't have 20 odd warm little bodies here today." But, she said, support from working mothers isn't the influential kind helpful in obtaining a home for the center. Letters from 17 mothers and supporters had been received expressing concern over the fate of the center, which the board planned to present to County Judge D.O. Nelson in an attempt to enlist his support and help in obtaining use of a county owned building.

The board wanted to emphasize that the center is not state or federally funded, though a few low-income, working mothers receive child care subsidies through the 4-C Council. Parents are charged on a fee schedule based on age of child, number of children and hours of care.

The exact number of families using the Development Center's services was difficult to determine, though from about 12 up to a maximum of 30 children are there daily. Doubts about the continued existence of the center have already caused many mothers to find private child care.

Four or five full-time staff members care for the children daily—giving snacks and hot lunches, playing games, providing general supervision—while several substitutes are on call when an overflow of children shows up. Certification requires the presence of one adult per four children under 30 months, one per five children from 30 months to four years, and one per seven children over five years old.

A comment of Eva Griffith, employed through the Foster Grandparent Program, summed up the feelings of the staff about possible closure of the center: "I don't know what a lot of these mothers are going to do. They'll have to try to find private babysitters. There is a real need for a day care center in Heppner."

With time running out, the Heppner Child Development Center Board of Directors, continues to explore last minute options. Member Kathy Hazen remarked, "We have to move one way or another—either into a new building or out on the street."

Center asks fairgrounds use

Armed with letters of support from mothers, businessmen and concerned community members, representatives from the Heppner Child Care Development Center and the Children's Services Division met with Judge D.O. Nelson Tuesday to discuss their critical need for a new building to house the Center by Oct. 1.

The group asked the Judge's help in persuading the Fair Board to reconsider its decision not to allow the Development Center to use the 4-H Annex at the fairgrounds, a building they considered perfect for its purposes.

The Fair Board turned down the request at a meeting on Sept. 22, but the group felt the case for day care facilities in the community was not thoroughly presented.

The possibility of using the dormitory building at the fairgrounds was eliminated Monday after it was found to be too small.

Center advocates said they would be more than willing to vacate the premises for a month during fair time and felt some kind of arrangements could be worked out for other usage conflicts. One advocate explained, "Eleven months of day care is better than none at all. We've exhausted every other possibility."

The group called another

Fair Board objection—possible heating inadequacy—invald since the same type of ceiling heating is used in the present center lodging.

Judge Nelson discussed the problem with the day care group and commented they couldn't have picked a worse night to make their first request to the Fair Board, since many problems had to be ironed out that night and the Rodeo Board was meeting at the same time.

He said that while the County Court would refuse to go against any decision made by the court-appointed Fair Board, he would talk to members of the board and see if they would be willing to meet with the Development Center group again.

"I think you should make your presentation again," Nelson said.

The Center representatives emphasized that they were not asking for financial help and would pay utilities or rent for any building the Center used.

As a closing point, Judge Nelson said the 4-H Annex or any other publically used building could only be considered a temporary measure and not a permanent answer to its housing problem.

As of press time, no further action had been taken and the fate of the Heppner Child Development Center remained in doubt.

Wheat growers meeting set

The Oregon Wheatgrowers League will conduct its fall workshop next Tuesday and Wednesday, Oct. 4-5 at Indian Hills Motor Inn in Pendleton.

Groundwork for the organization's goals and direction for the coming year will be planned and wheat growers from throughout the state are urged to attend.

According to Wes Grilley, executive vice-president of OWGL, "A series of questions that are seeking answers" will be formulated and later sent to the counties for recommendations. The issues will

then come to a vote at the OWGL state convention next year.

Areas of concern to be covered by committees at the workshop include; national legislation, marketing, membership, wheat use and research, public affairs, taxation and legislation, safety and health, production and use, transportation and Wheat Hearts, a women's group connected with OWGL.

Wheat growers wanting to have a voice in the direction of OWGL next year are invited to be part of the workshop.

Mollahan hired as city officer

Heppner Police Chief Dean Gilman Tuesday announced the hiring of John Mollahan as a patrolman for the city.

Mollahan, who will begin his duties Oct. 1, fills the vacancy on the force left by Doug Rathbun's resignation earlier

this month. Rathbun is moving to Sweet Home where he will be employed as a city police officer.

Mollahan formerly worked four years as a city patrolman under Gilman before serving eight years as Morrow County Sheriff.

Lowe is top grid picker

Rallying for a comeback in last weekend's Football Contest, Lyle Lowe of Heppner went eight-for-ten in the regular games and edged out two other prognosticators for first place and a \$10 cash award.

Roberta Klaus of Heppner finished second—picking up \$5

This week's contest page 7

for her efforts—with eight correct picks. She missed the tie-breaker score by a total of 23 points.

Not far behind Mrs. Klaus was Bob Ployhar of Heppner with an 8-2 record, missing the tie-breaker by 23 total points.

A new contest appears in this week's issue of the Gazette-Times and readers are urged to fill out their entry forms and return them to the Gazette-Times office before 5 p.m. Friday.

Minnesota's upset win over UCLA stymied everyone except entrant Gene Pierce this past week and many missed on the Florida-Mississippi game. Heppner's loss to Riverside of Boardman also threw more than a few entrants.

Lowe and Mrs. Klaus can pick up their checks at the Gazette-Times.

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State office relocation plan brings remonstrance from Judge Nelson

Plans to relocate the state offices of Welfare, Adult and Children's Services from Heppner to Boardman are moving ahead, according to supervisory personnel within one state agency, but opposition to the move has surfaced locally.

Morrow County Judge D.O. Nelson told the Gazette-Times this week that he is "upset about the move."

"We use the Children's Services department here every day or so and I hate to see them move," said Nelson, who is Juvenile Court Judge for Morrow County.

Nelson said the County Court had not yet officially met to discuss the proposed move, but said he personally opposes the relocation of offices.

Tony Williams, Pendleton, area supervisor for Children's Services, said about 65 percent of the case load in his department was from the Boardman-Irrigon area with the remaining case work being done in Southern Morrow County.

"We feel the justification for the move is clear-cut," said Williams, adding, "We don't

feel that Heppner and the area in south Morrow County would suffer from the move."

If and when the proposed move takes place, case workers from Welfare, Adult and Children's Services would travel to Southern Morrow County. The state agencies would not have an office here, but Williams said some attempt would be made to use another agency's office as needed.

One of the issues concerning local government officials is the move of state offices from the county seat.

One official questioned the feasibility, especially in the Children's Services division, where Judge Nelson is called upon in many of the juvenile cases. Juvenile court is held at the courthouse in Heppner.

Asked if he would travel to Boardman to hear cases if the offices move, Judge Nelson replied, "No, I wouldn't and couldn't put myself in the position of traveling to hear juvenile cases because that's all I would be doing is traveling."

Additional information concerning the relocation of the

News Briefs

Kyd new commissioner

Charles Kyd, Boardman, was recently appointed to the Port of Morrow Commission replacing Mike Conley, who left the area for a banking position in Montana.

Kyd is currently vice-president of Sabre Farms and is a past president and general manager of that organization.

Before coming to the Boardman area, Kyd was affiliated with the Extension Service in Washington and later was involved in cattle ranching in Montana. Along with some of the other Montana ranchers, Kyd was one of the driving forces responsible for the establishment of Sabre Farms.

Sumner hired as Heppner foreman

The Heppner City Council Tuesday accepted the application of Paul Sumner for the position of city foreman.

Sumner was hired to fill the vacancy left after the Council dismissed Don Penney earlier this month. Currently employed by the State Highway Dept., Sumner has given notice to the state and is expected to begin his city duties the second week in October.

Historical Society meets

The officers of the Morrow County Historical Society announce the society's annual meeting will be held at Heppner in the 4-H building at the fairgrounds beginning at 1 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 2.

There will be a potluck dinner with meat provided by the society. Secretary-treasurer Ruth McCabe reminds everyone that annual dues, \$1.50 for the county society and \$7.50 to be an affiliate of the Oregon State Historical Society, are now due and payable to her.

A special program is being planned and everyone interested in learning more of the history of this area and of Oregon is cordially invited to attend.

Boardman hires officer

Ralph LaFontaine, a former Olympia, Wash., resident will begin duties as public safety officer in Boardman Oct. 1.

The new position combines police responsibilities with volunteer fire fighting. LaFontaine was selected by the city last week from three finalists gleaned from a field of 14 applicants.

Boardman's new public safety officer has a long list of law enforcement and fire training to his credit. His record includes law enforcement officer for the Nisqually Indian community in Yelm, Wash.; reserve deputy for Thurston County, Wash.; investigator for the Washington Senate and arson investigator for the U.S. Marine Corp.

LaFontaine is certified by Washington state in jail operations and fire investigation.

Weather

	HI	LOW	PREC.
Wednesday, Sept. 21	59	45	.17
Thursday, Sept. 22	65	38	
Friday, Sept. 23	58	48	.19
Saturday, Sept. 24	63	55	.14
Sunday, Sept. 25	63	45	.09
Monday, Sept. 26	63	35	
Tuesday, Sept. 27	60	45	.09

Inside

McCurdys celebrate page 4

Hunters take to woods page 5

Cardinals whip Mt. Vernon page 7

Navajo cowboy rides page 10