



All-around honors during last weekend's Morrow County Junior Rodeo were shared by Cindy Dougherty, left and Jana Steagall, right. Presenting breast collar to the all-around winners is Rodeo Princess Kathleen Van Schoiack. Cindy was rodeo queen, and Jana a rodeo princess.

Sports eligibility policy to be debated before Morrow County School Board

By Terry M. Hager
Managing Editor

Morrow County students transferring from one school to another within the district are faced with the possibility that participation in athletics may be restricted for up to one year.

The board will take action on an attendance policy at their regular meeting Monday, June 19 at the district office in Lexington. The action follows a decision by the board last month to reconsider the attendance policy established in April of this year.

In addition, the board will hold a brief work session on the attendance policy during a special meeting next Tuesday, June 13 at 12-noon. The meeting will be held at the district office in Lexington and is scheduled primarily for reviewing bids on the district's building bonds which are to be received in Portland that morning. (Please see separate story in box below.)

At the April 17 meeting of the board, an attendance policy was adopted that stated briefly, "Students shall attend school in the attendance area where their parents reside... Students may be assigned to a school other than the one

where their parents or guardians reside upon written application for a variance in attendance assignment... Students whose parents change residence between attendance areas during the school year may complete the year at the school where they have been attending."

The policy then extends itself to athletic eligibility in regards to students transferring within the district. The policy states, "A student who has received approval of a variance in attendance assignment may not begin participation in the athletic program of the new school until one year after the date of transfer between schools, if the student has participated in the interscholastic athletic program of the previous school."

Superintendent Matt Doherty said the policy was adopted by the board in April to help clarify attendance policy throughout the district.

"We allow change for academic reasons and there are several criteria which we use to make the determination on whether or not to allow the change," said Doherty, adding, "Athletics is not a valid reason for wanting to change schools."

"The Superintendent said, 'We have had people that want to transfer for athletic reasons, but give us academic reasons for making the change... it's not difficult to show the reasons why transfer should be allowed academically.'"

Several days after the board had adopted the new attendance policy, the board received a letter from Meg Murray of Lone requesting a variance in attendance for her son, John, a graduating eighth grader at Lone this past year. In the letter, Mrs. Murray also asked the board to reconsider their athletic eligibility policy.

Mrs. Murray made the request for attendance variance for academic reasons—which appeared to have ample justification—but, her son also excels in athletics and under the newly-adopted policy he would be prohibited from participating in freshman level athletics at Heppner High School.

In her letter Mrs. Murray pointed out what she thought to be a "wide disparity of opportunity between the two schools (Lone and Heppner high schools) for broadening one's scholastic scope."

Mrs. Murray states in her letter, "Some items such as Vocational Ag or Home Ec offerings at Lone are readily apparent, but even an examination of the schedules does not tell the whole story. Items such as no drama instruction, no art instruction, no school newspaper to teach practical journalism, and very little interest in band on the high school level (only one girl participates) do not come to mind readily when one just examines the schedules."

At the administration level there is apparent concern that transfers from one high school to another may start occurring for purely athletic reasons.

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Council names city administrator, hires engineer to plan sewer plant repairs

Marshall Lovgren was named city administrator, and a Portland engineering firm was hired to produce a plan to end the city's sewer woes during Monday night's meeting of Heppner City Council.

Lovgren's duties will include acting as the city's purchasing agent, budget director and business manager in his new role as administrator. He has served as city recorder for the past four years.

Before approving by a unanimous vote the ordinance appointing Lovgren, the council amended a section that would have given the administrator power to make personnel changes among city employees. Under the amended ordinance that was approved, any city personnel shifts must first be approved by the council.

In addition to his new title, Lovgren will receive a \$1,500 per year salary increase. His switch to the administrator's post will take effect on July 1. The salary boost that accompanied Lovgren's appointment was provided for in the recently approved city excess levy.

Barrett and Associates of Portland, a consulting engineering firm, was retained to help plot what course Heppner will take to bring its sewer system up to standards. A number of consulting firms were interviewed by the council's sewer committee before Barrett was recommended for acceptance.

Heppner has applied for federal matching funds to pay for sewer plant improvements, and currently stands 92 in line on an Environmental Protection Agency priority list to receive the funding. Mayor

Jerry Sweeney told the council that the city's 92nd position on the list may mean that it will take about two years to receive the funding.

When and if Heppner becomes eligible for the matching funds, the federal government will pay for 75 per cent of the program, with the city picking up the remaining 25 per cent—probably by floating a bond issue.

Although there has been discussion about the possibility of scrapping the city's existing sewer plant and building a new one, Barrett's work will focus on planning a major renovation program for the existing system.

The current sewer plant lacks, among other things, adequate digester mechanisms and chlorine retention facilities.

According to city foreman Randy Krueger, the Oregon

Department of Environmental Quality recommends chlorine treated sewage be retained at least 30 minutes before it is discharged. Under the existing sewer plant's capacity, he said, the retention time "is more like 30 seconds."

City officials speculate that if all plans proceed without incident, it would still probably take at least three years before the major renovation program could begin.

The council met in executive session to approve a \$1,500 annual pay increase for Krueger, after the city foreman reportedly announced that he had received a job offer in the Portland area.

Krueger, city foreman since mid-April, is a state certified treatment plant operator. At the time of his hiring, he was the fourth foreman to be employed by the city within an eight month period. Krueger's term at the helm of city work crews has proceeded without incident.

In a separate employe related development, city attorney Bill Kuhn reported that a lawyer for former city workman Jim Dile has proposed a \$2,000 out-of-court

settlement for overtime payment Dile claims the city owes him. Dile has previously threatened to sue the city for about \$5,000 in overtime payment he claims is owed him by the city.

Dile had been working for the city under the federally funded Comprehensive Employment Training Act (CETA) program.

Complicating the matter is the fact that Dile's work record was filed on CETA timesheets, rather than city work forms.

The council voted unanimously not to agree to the \$2,000 settlement.

In other action Monday night, the council

—Approved a zoning change from industrial to central commercial for a parcel owned by Pettyjohn Farm and Builders Supply Inc., off Windham Way.

—Discussed the possibility of reducing fees for mobile home building inspections and city plan reviews.

—Discussed drafting a formal city policy on city water hookups to homes in outlying sections of town.

Heppner pool prepares for June 17 opening

Water fights on the street of Heppner last week heralded the start of vacation for school age youngsters and the unofficial beginning of summer, but it'll be more than a week before the city swimming pool is available for a cool summertime dip.

City employees are currently working on getting the pool and facilities in shape for a tentative Saturday, June 17,

opening. The pool is being drained and cleaned, racing stripes painted and the dressing and shower building cleaned and floors painted.

Deborah Byrnes will be pool manager this summer, with Dianne Holland acting as senior lifeguard and Scott McEwen as junior lifeguard. Basket attendant will be Carolyn Plocharsky.

The City of Heppner has

not yet established pool hours or season ticket and admission prices.

Meanwhile, on the swim team, swimmers from five to 18 years of age will be doing out-of-pool exercises to get in shape before they start the real thing, hopefully on June 17.

No coach for the team has yet been hired.

Lone pool hours set for summer swim season

The Lone swimming pool will open Tuesday, June 13, with regular hours set from 2 to 5 and 7 to 9 p.m. Tuesdays through Sundays, for the remainder of the season.

On a daily use basis, fees will be 75 cents for adults; 50 cents for students from grade 7-12; 25 cents for grades 1-6, and no charge for preschoolers.

Season tickets will sell for \$25 for families; \$12 for adults; \$7 for grades 7-12; and \$5 for grades 1-6.

Swim lessons will be held in two-week sessions, with the first session scheduled to begin June 20.

Advanced beginners classes will run from 10-11 a.m., and

beginners from 11 a.m. to noon.

Fees for the lessons will be \$2 per person for each session. Registration will be held at the first session.

Joan McElligott, who has several years of experience at the job, will again be the pool manager and swim class instructor.

Thieves steal \$5,000 in Riverside High break-in

Nearly \$5,000 worth of shop tools and equipment was stolen from Riverside High School in Boardman during the weekend, school board officials and police said.

Thieves broke into the school by breaking out a window in the new addition. Once inside the addition, they broke out the glass in a hallway door to enter the main section of the building.

School officials said that the thieves then broke through a sliding door to enter the high school office, where they obtained a set of master keys.

Armed with the keys, the thieves then entered and ransacked a custodial room, taking about \$200 worth of equipment and supplies.

After entering the shop area, the thieves gathered up more than \$4,800 worth of power tools, welding equipment and other supplies.

Damage to the building was set at \$1,000—a conservative figure, according to school board officials.

Insurance will not cover the loss, since the school board has a \$25,000 deductible policy. School officials said they may have difficulty replacing the shop gear in time for the coming school year.

Burglars entered the Lexington apartment of Dale Munkers last week, making off with a Polaroid camera, \$80 in currency, and an undetermined amount of

coins, sheriff's deputies said.

According to a report on the burglary, the culprits may have entered the apartment through a kitchen window.

A Washington man and a Umatilla woman escaped injury last week, when their cars collided on Hwy. 730 about two miles east of Irrigon, according to the Morrow County Sheriff's office.

Deputies said an auto operated by James Long of Richland, Wash., slammed into the rear of a vehicle driven by Lori Jo Nielson of Umatilla.

Long was cited for following too close, and was scheduled to appear in justice court in Irrigon next week.

Nordheim named Morrow 4-H extension agent

John P. Nordheim, 25, a Washington State University graduate, has joined the Morrow County Extension staff, where he will direct 4-H youth programs and serve in livestock and range programs.

An avid 4-Her as a youth, Nordheim participated in more than a dozen club projects, ranging from wheat to tropical fish. While a student at Waitsburg High School in the Walla Walla area, Nordheim received the state farmer degree from FFA, and the Washington state entomology winner in 1968. His parents were both 4-H leaders.

The new extension agent will devote about 60 per cent of his time to overseeing the county 4-H program, with the remaining time to be spent on range management and livestock production educational programs.

Nordheim will receive his master's degree in animal science in August. He is a member of the American Society of Animal Scientists, the American Horse Shows Assn., and the American Angus Assn.

He has been involved with



John Nordheim

commercial beef operations, in farming and range management, and has worked as a farrier, machine parts salesman and mechanic in Washington.

Nordheim's immediate tasks will include organizing the annual 4-H camp set to start June 29, and a July 7 horse show.

The new extension agent fills a vacancy created several months ago with the resignation of former agent Mike Howell.

Portland pilot forgets to put down gear

A Portland pilot escaped injury last week, when his private plane belly landed at the county airport at Lexington.

An airport official said the

pilot, who was not identified, had forgotten to put down his landing gear.

The plane was disassembled and trucked back to Portland.