

The Heppner GAZETTE-TIMES

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Football Scores

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An unidentified pedestrian walks along Main Street during first snowfall of the winter last Friday. The snow did not stay on the ground long, and was almost all gone by Saturday.

Funds for gifted program to be included in next year's proposed school budget

Money for a traveling district teacher to work in a talented and gifted student program will be included in next year's proposed Morrow County School District budget, the school board voted Monday night.

Meeting at Sam Boardman Elementary School for their regular monthly meeting, the board voted to include funds to start the new program.

The district has no talented and gifted program now, but, if approved, the program would start next year, said Matt Doherty, district superintendent.

Doherty said the administration would probably set up criteria and entrance requirements into the program for students who show extraordinary ability.

In other business at the Monday meeting, the board gave permission to apply for a grant to fund a "Fox Fire" program. Students would go into the community and document cultural and historical places, people and customs for inclusion in an on-going yearly book to be started under the program. "We have a need for this in Morrow County because there are gaps in the history," said Doherty. The program would be open to upper level grade school students and high school students, he said.

Doherty directed the superintendent to investigate the possibility of the district providing transportation to students who live in the Blake's Ranch area near Willow Creek, southeast of Heppner. There are presently nine students living in the area, and, in the past, the district has given supplemental payment to the parents for bringing these students to school. Doherty said a four-wheel drive vehicle may be employed to bring the students the five miles down to Willow Creek road where they

would be picked up by a school bus. The road into the ranch area is too rough for a school bus itself to travel, he said. Doherty instructed the superintendent to investigate the possibility of having a footpath installed near Boardman Elementary school. There is presently only a bike path on Wilson Rd. in front of the

school and parents are concerned for children's safety.

Doherty voted to participate in Umatilla Educational Service District programs which include audio visual aids and aids for hearing-impaired and mentally retarded students. The cost is \$30,000 per year to the district, plus other funds from federal grant programs.

Doherty agreed to ask for bids for the district's insurance agent of record. The present agent is Turner. Van Marter and Bryant in Heppner. Bids for agent of record will be accepted by the district until Dec. 11.

Doherty discussed suggested eligibility policy for the district (see story this page).

Jepsen appointed to newly formed Wheat Industry Council



Bob Jepsen

Ione farmer Robert H. Jepsen recently was appointed by Secretary of Agriculture Bob Bergland to be a member of the newly formed Wheat Industry Council, representing eight states in the Western region.

Jepsen presently is in Washington D.C., attending the first meeting of the council, which was scheduled to begin Nov. 18.

The purpose of the council is to start a program including

wheat growers, millers, bakers and consumers, to enhance the quality of, and make the most efficient use of American wheat.

Jepsen, who will spend five days in Washington, will serve on the council three years and represent Oregon, Idaho, Washington, California, Nevada, Arizona, Alaska and Hawaii.

"The national wheat program is being established to seek ways to improve the quality of wheat and to

encourage more efficient use of wheat in the American diet," says a news release from the department of Agriculture.

Funding for the program will come from the assessment of a one-cent duty per hundredweight on commercial bakers at the time they purchase processed wheat, and from voluntary contributions from other segments of the industry. Processed wheat sold for export would not be assessed.

Jepsen has long been active in wheat promotion and other wheat related activities, including: membership in the Wheat & Wheat Foods Foundation; National Association of Wheat Growers' Special Projects Committee; director for "Day of Bread"; past state chairman of the Oregon Agricultural Stabilization & Conservation Service; State President of the Oregon Wheat Growers League; chairman of National Association of Wheat Growers' Extension Wheat Industry Resource Committee, among others.

"Wheat producers in your area have nominated you for this important position and in so doing have indicated their high regard for your ability," Bergland wrote to Jepsen in announcing his appointment.

Proposed eligibility changes meet adamant disapproval of community

A proposal to bring Morrow County school's eligibility requirements for student participation in sports in line with state guidelines met with adamant disapproval from some members of the Heppner community last Thursday evening.

The proposal specifies that students must "meet all requirements set forth by the Oregon School Activities Association," that they be:

"Enrolled in school, attending regularly and doing passing work in at least four subjects;

During the preceding semester was enrolled in school, attended regularly, and passed four subjects."

Opponents to the proposal maintained that adoption of the Oregon School Activities Association guidelines would be a lowering of Heppner school academic standards.

Presently Heppner High School requires passing grades in five subjects. Heppner and Ione schools require the same standards for sports eligibility. Boardman schools follow OSAA standards.

While opponents to the proposal maintained that Heppner's higher requirements set incentives for the students, Heppner Elementary Principal, Don Cole, Heppner High School coach John Sporseen, and HHS Librarian, Marion Abrams said that grades were not a critical issue in most cases,



Advisory Boardmember Steve Peck listens as Irene Anhorn gives her opinion on eligibility changes

and that students who did not participate in school activities often had more trouble scholastically than did those who do participate.

Other opposition to the proposed requirements was that student grades should be checked more often than quarterly to determine sports eligibility.

Community disapproval of the proposed guidelines prompted the Heppner School Advisory Committee to oppose adoption of the guidelines by Morrow County schools.

In a resolution, the advisory committee, composed of Steve

Peck, Brok Tucker, Judy Wright, George Koffler, Judy Buschke, Gail Hughes and Sharon Harrison, recommended that the Morrow County School Board reject the proposal because:

"There has been inadequate time for evaluation by local committee.

"The apparent majority of our community is opposed to lowering the standards.

"It does not allow for community differences.

"A county wide policy is not necessary.

"The proposed standard would be ineffectual due to a

need for evaluation on a more current basis.

"the OSAA standards are offered as a minimum."

The resolution was sent to a Morrow County School Board meeting for consideration Monday evening, but the board did not make a decision. The matter was sent to the board eligibility committee, which is chaired by Jim Bier.

No specific deadline was set for the committee's decision.

Twelve persons attended the Monday night meeting to speak against lowering standards; three were in favor.

Boeing to get re-hearing on zone change request

The Boeing Co. will get a re-hearing on its request to rezone 1,700 acres of land near Boardman from agricultural usage to industrial.

The Morrow County Planning Commission turned down a Boeing request to rezone the property for industrial use, Oct. 27, saying that Boeing should ask to rezone the land in smaller pieces.

The planning commission has decided to re-hear the zone change request on Dec. 1, saying that the original denial was nullified by a conflict of interest on the commission.

Planning commission member, Gene Allen, was also a member of the Port of Morrow board of directors, and Boeing maintains this is a conflict which should have

been announced at the hearing.

Allen resigned from the planning commission about one week after the hearing, but, when contacted later, said his resignation had nothing to do with the Boeing matter.

The new hearing will be held at the A.C. Houghton school in Irrigon.

Boeing has asked for the zone change because it is negotiating a possible lease of part of the property to two wood products firms interested in locating shipping facilities there.

The 1,700 acres is located west of the Tower Road interchange and between the Columbia River and State Highway 1-84.

County juvenile program approved by state

The Morrow County Juvenile Services Commission's juvenile program has been approved by the state juvenile services commission. Approval means funding in the amount of \$13,300 for the county-wide program.

Local commission members Nancy Moore, Paul Sumner, and Bill Sheirbon traveled to Portland Nov. 6 to present the county program before the state commission.

Wheat Growers' League elects officers at annual meeting

The Morrow County Wheat Growers' League elected Charlie Anderson, Heppner,

The program met with immediate approval, said a commission spokesperson, and it is hoped that funding for the county program will be forthcoming by the end of November.

The county plan, which was approved by the Morrow County Court in Oct., is designed to provide recreational activities for Morrow County young people.

The plan includes a Latch

Key program which will be implemented in the Boardman-Irrigon area to provide grade school children of working parents with supervision before and after school.

In the Heppner, Lexington and Ione areas, a recreational program is planned which includes both summer and

winter sports.

The recreational program, directed by Jim Ackley, will include a winter Colt basketball program for 4th through 8th grade boys and girls; a junior bowling league for 5th through high school boys and girls; and summer arts and crafts.

Man dies of apparent self inflicted wound

A 55-year-old Rhea Creek man died Monday morning, Nov. 17, of an apparent self inflicted gunshot wound to the head.

Joseph Charles Baker, a cook and hired hand on the

Jim West Ranch, was found at 9 a.m. by Jim West in a trailer house where Baker lived on the ranch.

Baker had worked for West for approximately three years.

Fair Board meets

The Morrow County Fair Board met Monday night at the fairgrounds.

Board members discussed setting a date and desired

improvements for next year's fair.

No action was taken.

The board meets the second Monday of the month at 7:30 p.m. at the 4-H Annex.

Holiday contest coming up for kids

A holiday coloring contest for kids, sponsored by the Heppner Merchants' Association, is coming up Nov. 27 through Dec. 5.

Kids and parents should look in next week's issue of the Gazette-Times for more details.

Valuable gift certificates to be redeemed at local participating businesses will be given away as prizes.